



# Welcome to St. Mary of the Purification Parish

We are delighted you could join us for today's Mass

Tel: 519-323-1054 [www.stmarymountforest.ca](http://www.stmarymountforest.ca)  

**OFFICE HOURS: Closed Monday Open Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**

### **Parish Staff**

**Pastor** Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P.  
**Bookkeeper** Annette Connolly  
**Secretary** Dee Dee Eurig  
**Custodian** Virginia McComiskey

### **Email:**

[manderson@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:manderson@hamiltondiocese.com)  
[stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca](mailto:stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca)  
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**St. Mary of the Purification**  
230 Queen St. E, Box 128 Mt. Forest



**St. Peter's Mission**  
943 Caroline St, Ayton NOG 1Co



**St. Thomas the Apostle**  
#5800 Hwy 89, Harriston NOG 1Zo



## **OUR LORD'S DAY LITURGIES**

### **SATURDAY**

St. Mary: 4:00 pm Mass  
St. Thomas: 5:30 pm Mass

### **SUNDAY**

St. Mary: 9:00 am Mass  
St. Peter: 11:00 am Mass

## **WEEKDAY LITURGIES**

Please refer to page 2 of the bulletin

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Tuesday: 5:30 pm-6:30 pm or by appointment. Kindly contact the parish office.

**MARRIAGE:** Please notify the Pastor at least 6 months in advance.

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:**

Please contact the parish office.

## **PASTORAL CARE NEEDS:**

Please contact the parish office if you require:  
- A priest to administer the Sacrament of the sick (please call at the onset of illness)  
- Holy Communion to the sick.  
- Home, hospital and nursing home visits.

## **FUNERAL:**

When death of a loved one occurs in the family, please contact the parish office.

**VOCATIONS & RELIGIOUS LIFE:** For information or assistance, see [www.hamiltonvocations.com](http://www.hamiltonvocations.com)

## **DIOCESAN**

**NEWSLETTER:** Visit the Diocese of Hamilton to subscribe to the online diocesan newsletter visit [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

## **PARISH SCHOOL:**

**St. Mary Catholic School**



**Mount Forest**

Building Character  
Through Christ

390 Parkside Dr, Mt Forest 519-323-2586  
[www.stmarymountforest.wellingtoncdsb.ca](http://www.stmarymountforest.wellingtoncdsb.ca)

## **PARISH REQUESTS:**

Keep love for your parish alive in your Will & expression of sympathy.

**ADORATION:** 1st Friday every month after Mass. All are welcome!

**Please note: The deadline for Bulletin submission is Wed. a.m.**

## 1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024



**Tue. Dec 3 7:00 pm** † Theresa Manion Req'd by Staff of St. Peter & St. Paul's School, Durham and † Michael & Madeline

Tobin Req'd by Kathleen Boone

**Wed. Dec 4 9:00 am** † Braedon Coburn Req'd by Adell Mueller

**Thu. Dec 5 9:00 am** † Dec'd members of the DeSheplo & Huffman Families Req'd by Mel & Jane Seniuk

**Fri. Dec 6 *First Friday – Adoration after Mass***  
**9:00 am** † Dec'd members of the Seniuk & Batiuk Families Req'd by Mel & Jane Seniuk

**Sat. Dec 7 *First Saturday***

**9:00 am** † Harold, Kathleen & Kenneth Lehman Req'd Wayne & Cheryl Allen

**4:00 pm** † People of the Parish

**Sun. Dec 8 9:00 am** † People of the Parish

### Lectors

**Sat. Dec 7** Florence Ricard

**Sun. Dec 8** Colleen Dalla Costa

**CONFESSION:** Tue. 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm or call Father Mike at 519-323-1054 ext. 7

### ST. THOMAS, Harriston

**Sat. Dec 7 5:30 pm** † Bogdan Rogelj Req'd by the Family

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

**Sun. Dec 8 11:00 am** † People of the Parish

### This Sunday's Reading

#### **First Reading**

*Jeremiah 33:14-16*

The Lord will fulfill his promises to Israel and Judah.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 25:4-5,8-9,10,14*

The Lord will teach us his paths.

#### **Second Reading**

*1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2*

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be holy and to please God.

#### **Gospel Reading**

*Luke 21:25-28,34-36*

Jesus teaches his disciples to be vigilant so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes in glory.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair.

Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world. [www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources)

### **Family Connection**

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples against the fatigue that can emerge if one becomes consumed by the anxieties of daily life. Many families are too familiar with the kind of fatigue Jesus refers to here. We may be concerned about a family member's health, our job security, our children's education, or any number of other concerns. All these are important matters. Jesus does not promise an end to daily worries and fears, but he does teach his disciples that they will have the strength to withstand anxiety if they stay focused on him, remaining vigilant for his return and praying for strength to endure all tribulations. Through prayer, God helps us stay focused on that which is most important in our lives.

As you gather as a family, recall the tradition of making New Year's resolutions in preparation for the new calendar year. Observe that today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the new Church year. During the season of Advent, our Gospel readings ask us to consider what is most important to us as we prepare for Jesus' coming, at his birth and at the end of time. Read today's Gospel, Luke 21:25-28,34-36. Jesus describes signs that may disturb many people, but he says that these should not disturb his disciples. Why? (because these signs indicate that redemption is near) What does Jesus say that his disciples should do? (Be vigilant and pray for strength.) At this start of the new Church year, consider as a family what "Advent resolutions" your family might make to help you stay focused so that you will be prepared to receive the salvation we celebrate at Jesus' birth and anticipate at Jesus' second coming. Pray together for God's help in following through on these resolutions. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 25. [www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources)

### **Pope Francis –December Prayer Intentions**

For pilgrims of hope: Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope. [www.livingwithchrist.ca](http://www.livingwithchrist.ca)

**\* Coffee Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday All Welcome \***

### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**



#### **Christmas Eve - Tuesday Dec 24**

**Mt. Forest 7:00 p.m.**

**Harriston at 5:30 p.m.**

#### **Christmas Day- Wednesday Dec 25**

**Mt. Forest at 9:00 a.m.**

**Ayton at 11:00 a.m.**

#### **New Years Eve –Tuesday Dec 31**

**Mt. Forest 4:00 pm**

**Harriston 5:30 pm**

#### **New Years Day Wednesday Jan 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Ayton 11:00 am**

**HOPE-PEACE-JOY-LOVE**

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation-Advent Season**

During the season of Advent there will be more opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please come to the place and at the time most convenient for you:

**St. Thomas Harriston**- Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup>  
5:30pm-7:30pm

**St. Peter Ayton**-Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>  
5:30pm-7:30pm

**St.Mary of the Purification Mt.Forest**- Friday  
December 20<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-12:30pm; 1:30pm-4:30 pm;  
5:30pm-9:30pm

### **CWL**

Tuesday Dec. 10, 2024 will be the CWL Christmas Dinner/ meeting .Being held at 5 pm with mass at 7 pm. All ladies of the parish are welcome. \$15 pp. A sign up sheet will be posted at the back of the church. CWL dues must be received before Jan. 15/25. Thank you.

Ramoth House donations are now being accepted. Please leave your item(s) in the box provided before December 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

### **Holy Cross Cemetery Board**

1. The Holy Cross Cemetery Board is looking for a person to fill a part time position as Cemetery Care Taker. If interested, please send your resume to the Parish Office with

cover letter. We will be taking applications until January 1, 2025

2. The Holy Cross Cemetery Board is looking for people who are interested in serving as a board member. This is a voluntary position where individuals help with the management of the cemetery, oversee special projects and help keep our cemetery up to date. If you are interested, please contact Father Mike. Thank you.

### **2025 Offering Envelopes and Sunday Missals**

Our 2025 offering envelopes are now available for pickup for each of our three churches. If you don't currently have envelopes and would like to use them, please call the church office at (519) 323-1054 and we will happily provide you with a box. Alternatively, if you would like to make your donations to the church by EFT (electronic fund transfer), call Annette at the same number, ext 6.

**Sunday Missals** are also now available for pickup. If you are registered with the Parish and receive offering envelopes, please take one home. We kindly ask you take only one missal per household. If you require any further, please contact the office. Thank you.



### **Christmas Cantata**

Come join us for this year's Christmas Cantata. Directed by Derek Moore, Sunday Dec. 22 at 2:30 Mt. Forest United Church and Monday Dec. 23 at 7:30 pm at St. John the Evangelist Church in Arthur.

### **Christmas Remembrance Service**

**Saturday December 14, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at Mount Forest United Church, hosted by England Funeral Home.** This is a non-denominational service held in loving memory of those who have passed away. It is a time of reflection to honour the lives of those who have graciously touched ours. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP by Thursday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> by calling 519-323-2631 or visit [www.EnglandFuneralHome.com](http://www.EnglandFuneralHome.com)

### **The Month of December**

**Dedicated to the Immaculate Conception**



The title of the Immaculate Conception recognizes Mary's privilege of coming into the world free from sin. Through the power of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, every human being can be freed from sin at Baptism. Through that same power, Mary was always free from sin, even from that very first moment of life. On December 8, the Church celebrates this special privilege given to Mary. At the liturgy we thank God for all his blessings he has given to the people. And we can thank Mary for watching over and protecting our people.

*Collect prayer from the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:*

**O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that as you preserved her from very stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw so through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Knox Conn Annual Nativity Display Presents Over 500 Nativities**



Come and get in the Christmas spirit. Enjoy a wonderful display of nativities. Also includes a collection of Nativity Christmas cards, angels, and International Traditions and have a cup of apple cider. Knox Conn Presbyterian Church, 8015 Hwy 89, **Friday December 6th 5-8 pm**  
**Saturday December 7th 10 am – 4 pm**  
**Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> 1-4 pm**

