



# 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.ca*  
*stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca*  
*stmarymtforest@wightman.ca*

**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.**

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024



**Tue. Dec 10 7:00 pm** † Martin Pronk & Dec'd Family members Req'd by Corrie Pronk and Rita Tangney Req'd by CWL

**Wed. Dec 11 9:00 am** † Dec'd members of the Mogensen & Gates Families Req'd by Betty Mogensen & Family

**Thu. Dec 12 9:00 am** † Lou DeSheplo Req'd by Mel & Jane Seniuk

**Fri. Dec 13 9:00 am** † Mary Ann McGann Req'd by John & Joan Jeffery

**Sat. Dec 14 4:00 pm** † People of the Parish

**Sun. Dec 15 9:00 am** † People of the Parish

### Lectors

**Sat. Dec 14** Laura Cherry

**Sun. Dec 15** Emma Westendorp

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

### ST. THOMAS, Harriston

**Sat. Dec 14 5:30 pm** † People of the Parish

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

**Sun. Dec 15 11:00 am** † People of the Parish

### This Sunday's Reading

#### **First Reading**

*Baruch 5:1-9*

Jerusalem shall see the splendor of God's glory.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 126:1-2,2-3,4-5,6*

A song of praise for God's great deeds

#### **Second Reading**

*Philippians 1:4-6,8-11*

Paul prays for the Philippians.

#### **Gospel Reading**

*Luke 3:1-6*

John preaches repentance and baptizes in the region of the Jordan.

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

This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptizes for

repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation.

The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke—attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3.

The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry.

In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did. [www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources)

#### **Family Connection**

During the season of Advent, we choose to add many activities to our family's schedule to prepare for our celebration of Christmas. John the Baptist reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out this sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Talk about how John the Baptist called upon the people

to prepare the way of the Lord through repentance. Together as a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas. Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around the family Advent wreath. Read again from today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive his or her sins. Pray together the [Act of Contrition](#). Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing the sign of peace with one another. [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)

### **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.



### **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)

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

The Wellington Catholic District School Board will be accepting new registrations for kindergarten at our schools beginning January 6, 2025!

To be eligible for registering in kindergarten, children;

- must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2025, to attend Year 1 Kindergarten
- must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2025, to attend Year 2 Kindergarten

To register we ask that you visit

[https://www.wellingtoncdsb.ca/registration/kindergarten\\_registration](https://www.wellingtoncdsb.ca/registration/kindergarten_registration) and complete the online student pre-registration form. Once you have completed this form you will receive a follow-up email to complete the registration process. We ask that you have the following documents available;

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Parent Or Child's Baptismal Certificate
- Proof of Tax Support for Families New to the System (i.e., Most Recent Tax Bill)
- Proof of Address (Government Document, Mortgage or Rental Agreement, Hydro Bill, Credit Card Statement)
- Immigration Documentation (If Applicable)
- Custody Documents (If Applicable)

During the registration process, school administration are available to assist you with any questions you may have. Please note:

- Students currently attending a Wellington Catholic Year 1 Kindergarten program are **NOT REQUIRED** to register for Year 2 Kindergarten.
- Should you have any questions about registration procedures or requirements, please contact your local Catholic school.



**DIOCESE OF HAMILTON**

**CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHOSEN: December 12, 2024 (7:00-8:00pm)** The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invites you to a live virtual viewing party of "The Shepherd", a special Christmas episode of "The Chosen," reflecting on the birth of Christ through the eyes of a young shepherd. This one hour gathering will include prayer, free streaming of the 20-minute episode, and well wishes for the Advent Season. Gather your friends and family, make the popcorn, and join us for this wonderful opportunity to prepare for the coming of our Savior! Registration is free and can be made here: <https://bit.ly/ChristmaswiththeChosen2024>

**Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter's in Rome on Christmas Eve**, inaugurating the Jubilee Year. In Cathedrals around the world and in our Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, the Holy Year will be inaugurated on December 28-29, 2024, the Feast of the Holy Family. The year will be officially launched in each Parish in the Diocese on this same day. The Jubilee Year of Hope will conclude on January 6, 2026.

"In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring... may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope."

Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*.

### 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 every 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.**

