



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  

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:

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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

DIOCESAN

NEWSLETTER: Visit the Diocese of Hamilton to subscribe to the online diocesan newsletter visit 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

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.

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025

Tue. Jan 14 7:00 pm † Josie Vandepas Req'd by
CWL **MASS CANCELLED TONIGHT**

† Stella McCabe Req'd by
Helen & Bert Moore

† Bev Mothersell Req'd by
The Family

Wed. Jan 15 9:00 am † Repose of the soul of Paul
MacMillan & Intentions of Mary MacMillan Req'd
by Dan O'Neill **MASS CANCELLED THIS MORNING**

Thu. Jan 16 9:00 am † Stephan Zurav Req'd by
The Family **MASS CANCELLED**

Fri. Jan 17 9:00 am † Joe McCann Req'd by
Denise McCann **MASS CANCELLED**

Sat. Jan 18 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun. Jan 19 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Jan 18 Laura Cherrey

Sun. Jan 19 Melissa Reid

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

Christmas Floral Tributes: \$425.00

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Jan 18 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Jan 19 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 (The first reading from Cycle A
may also be chosen, *Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7*.)

Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 104:1b-4,24-25,27-30 (The psalm from
Cycle A may also be chosen, *Psalms 29:1-2,3-4,9-10*.)

A prayer praising God's greatness

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 (The second reading from
Cycle A may also be chosen, *Acts of the Apostles*
10:34-38.)

Jesus Christ saved us and renewed us with his Holy
Spirit.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:15-16,21-22

Jesus is baptized by John.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the
Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel
accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist

address the confusion of the people who thought
that John might be the Messiah. In response, John
contrasts the baptism that he performs with the
Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist
says that he has baptized with water, but that
someone will come and baptize with the Holy
Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was
not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for
Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven
and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. The
baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three
Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke.
Clearly, it was an event of great significance for
Jesus and for the early Christian community. The
Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from
Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is
addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's
Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to
everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit
descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after
his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show
Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws
regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray
to his Father.

The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation
of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the
last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals
to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and
Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all
three members of the Trinity are manifested here:
God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit
descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of
his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important
information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses
that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus,
tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person,
Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We,
the children of Adam and Eve, are again made
children of God through Baptism.

www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources

Family Connection

Every family has a unique identity that is defined
by the behaviors, attitudes, and expectations that
govern a family's daily life. This identity is
influenced by the family history of the parents, but
each family's expression of this history is unique. In
today's Gospel, we learn that Jesus' behavior,
attitudes, and expectations were governed by his
identity as God's beloved Son. In our Baptism, we
were made children of this same heavenly Father.
This identity as members of the family of God, and
as brothers and sisters of Jesus, also shapes our
family's daily life.

As you gather as a family, identify some of the expectations and behaviors that govern your family life by answering the question, “What are some of the things that make our family life unique?” Celebrate these things about your family life. Read today's Gospel, Luke 3:15-16,21-22. Observe that Jesus' identity as the Beloved Son of the Father governed his behaviors, attitudes, and expectations. Recall that at our Baptism we were made children of this same heavenly Father. How does this identity as a member of the family of God govern and shape our family life? Conclude in prayer together that we will remain faithful to our baptismal identity as children of God and as brothers or sisters of Jesus. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.



THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS – SAVE THE DATE! Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2025? Then you are cordially invited to join Bishop Crosby and couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, June 1, 2025**, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you require assistance). Registration will be available online in January at hamiltondiocese.com.

January 2025 Pope Francis Prayer Intention
For the right to an education: Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL Join us **January 23, 2025, 7:00 – 9:00 PM** for *She Rises Up*, a revealing look at the power of women’s economic participation. The film follows radically different women from Sri Lanka, Peru, and Senegal who are working to build businesses, create job opportunities for women, and contribute to the reduction of poverty in their communities. **Film Director, Maureen Castle Tusty and Executive Producer James Tusty will join us as guest speakers.** In 2008, they founded Sky Films Inc. to produce documentary films that inform, uplift, and inspire. **The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register and view our full schedule of events at: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/reel-justice-film-festival/>** A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.

***The Month of January.....
Dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus***



COFFEE SUNDAY

Please join us in the TD Smith Parish hall following mass on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of every month. All are welcome !


Ramoth House
 A ministry of Ramoth Life Centre
 Helping women discover their parenting potential
WE ARE HIRING!
Ramoth House ,119 Wellington Street, West, Mt.Forest, is looking for women to join our team!
Support Staff Needed for Weekend-Day Shifts
If you are interested , email your resume to Brenda Tubman, Executive Director, office@ramoth.ca. For more information, visit www.ramoth.ca or call 519-323-3751
Volunteer Opportunities are also available!

JUBILEE OF HOPE, 2025 The Diocese of Hamilton joins the celebration of the Global Church in this Ordinary Jubilee Year, 2025, as “Pilgrims of Hope!” All invited to journey through this year drawing closer to God through prayer, service and experiences of renewal. Six churches have been designated as pilgrimage sites across the Diocese, welcoming you as a visitor over the course of the Jubilee to come and pray. Resources, information and locations of the pilgrimage sites are all available on the Diocesan Website: www.hamiltondiocese.com.

On December 29, 2024, the Feast of the Holy Family the Jubilee Year was inaugurated in our Cathedral Church and all parishes in the Diocese of Hamilton.

Each month in the Diocese of Hamilton, we will pray for *Heroes of Hope* – those members of our parishes and communities who offer hope to those in need by their ministries and service. During January, we pray for those who serve in Parish Ministries:

Lord God, by the grace of our baptism,
you have given us new life in Christ and
called us to serve as pilgrims of hope.
We pray in thanksgiving for those who have
responded to your call
to be leaders in our parish community
and for the volunteers who dedicate their gifts
for the building up of your Church
and the service of their sisters and brothers.
Through their varied ministries,
may they touch the hearts of all in our
community
who long for the hope, born of our Christian
faith,
that never disappoints.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Saint Paul the Hermit Feast day January 15th

St. Jerome wrote, or at least translated from the Greek, a little biography of St. Paul the Hermit. Some speculate that he did so in order to establish St. Paul's reputation as the "first hermit" and to let the world know that the great St. Anthony had a predecessor. Others regard the story as so full of fables that they treat Paul as a type of a third-to-fourth-century hermit rather than as a historical individual.

A Christian from his youth, Paul was orphaned at age 15. In 250 the persecution by Decius forced him into hiding, first at a friend's house and then, fearing exposure, to a cave in the Egyptian desert. He had planned to return home after things quieted down, but the peaceful solitude of the desert seduced him to stay. A palm tree and a spring near his cave provided him food, clothing, and water until he turned 43. After that time, as it had happened for Elias, a raven brought him half a loaf of bread each day.

In Paul's 90th year in the desert his presence was revealed to St. Anthony, who immediately went to find him. Anthony met Paul in his cave, and the two

hermits became friends overnight. They shared a whole loaf of bread brought by the raven, discussed world events, and prayed. Anthony thought he had found a companion, but Paul knew that God had sent Anthony to help him die. The biography described their meeting:

Blessed Paul said to Anthony: "For a long time now, I have known that you dwelled in these regions. And for a long time God had promised you to me for a companion. Since my hour of eternal sleep has arrived, and because I have always desired 'to be dissolved and to be with Christ' (see Philippians 1:23), having 'finished the course, . . . a crown of justice' (see 2 Timothy 4:7-8) remains for me. You have been sent by God to bury my miserable body, rather to return earth to earth."

Anthony listened to these words with tears and groans, begging Paul not to leave him behind, but to accept him as a companion on that journey. Paul answered: "You ought not seek your own interests but those of another. It is indeed profitable for you to cast off the burden of the flesh to follow the Lamb, but it is also profitable for the rest of your brethren that they may be the more instructed by your example. I beg of you, hasten, if is not too much to ask, and bring back the cloak which Athanasius the bishop gave you, to wrap about my wretched body."

Now, blessed Paul made this request, not because he cared at all whether or not his body decayed covered up or naked, since for a long time now he had been wearing garments woven from palm leaves, but because he wanted to spare Anthony the grief of witnessing his death.

Anthony went to get the cloak. When he returned he found Paul kneeling with arms outstretched, but already dead. Two lions dug Paul's grave and Anthony buried him. But he kept Paul's outer garment woven from palm leaves, which he treasured from that time and which he always wore on great feast days.

Paul was spared a lonely death because he found a friend in Anthony. His experience suggests that we become friends with the sick and elderly and provide them companionship in their last days. And that we make friends with younger people ourselves as insurance against loneliness in the autumn of our lives.

