



# 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)  
[stmarymtforest@wightman.ca](mailto: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.**

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**January 19, 2025**

**Tue. Jan 21 7:00 pm** † Intentions of Madeline

Ray Rundle Req'd by Florence Ricard

† Cynthia Ferguson Req'd

by Verne & Pauline Mills

**Wed. Jan 22 9:00 am** † Theresa Wells Req'd by

Doris Tone

**Thu. Jan 23 9:00 am** † Paul MacMillan Req'd by

Doris Tone

**Fri. Jan 24 9:00 am** † Repose of the Soul of Paul

MacMillan and Intentions of Mary MacMillan Req'd

by Dan O'Neill

**Sat. Jan 25 4:00 pm** † People of the Parish

**Sun. Jan 26 9:00 am** † People of the Parish

### Lectors

**Sat. Jan 25** Maxine Schmidt

**Sun. Jan 26** J. von Westerholt

**CONFESSION:** Tue. 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm or call

Father Mike at 519-323-1054 ext.

### ST. THOMAS, Harriston

**Sat. Jan 25 5:30 pm** † People of the Parish

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

**Sun. Jan 26 11:00 am** † People of the Parish

### This Sunday's Reading

#### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 62:1-5*

God delights in Israel and will rejoice as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 96:1-2,2-3,7-8,9-10*

A song in praise of God's marvelous deeds

#### **Second Reading**

*1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

All spiritual gifts originate from the same Spirit.

#### **Gospel Reading**

*John 2:1-11*

Jesus performs his first sign at a wedding feast in Cana.

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

This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle (Cycle C), our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his first miracle.

To situate today's reading within the context of John's Gospel, we note that John's report of this

event follows Jesus' call of his first disciples. John tells us that Jesus and his disciples were invited to this wedding at Cana, as was Jesus' mother, Mary. There is no parallel report of this miracle at Cana in the Synoptic Gospels.

In the Church's liturgical history, the wedding feast of Cana is closely associated with the baptism of the Lord and the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus' divinity.

Yet awareness of Jesus' impending passion and death is ever present in John's Gospel. Even in this report of Jesus' first sign, the language used anticipates Jesus' passion. When Jesus says to his mother that his hour has not yet come, he protests against her wishes in language that John will use again when reporting Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. When introducing the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, John writes that Jesus knew that his hour had come. In John's Gospel, Jesus is very much in command and aware of all that is to happen to him. Here, as elsewhere in John's Gospel, Mary is not mentioned by name, but is referred to instead as the mother of Jesus. Mary is influential in Jesus' first sign. She will also be present at his Crucifixion, a witness to the final manifestation of his divinity.

John's Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus' identity to his disciples. John never speaks of these signs as miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus' identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the disciples are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened. Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God's salvation and the Kingdom of God. Here at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, John's Gospel seeks to establish that Jesus is going to re-interpret and fulfill Yahweh's promise to Israel. Jesus establishes the New Covenant. A hint about what this New Covenant will be like is made evident in the deed that Jesus performs. Asked to do something to address the awkward situation that the absence of wine at a wedding feast would create, Jesus' miracle produces vast quantities of wine—six jars holding thirty gallons each are filled to overflowing with choice wine.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It

challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfillment among us. [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)

## Diocesan Calendar-January

*"Pray to the Lord of the Harvest"*

Mon-Rev. James Curtin	Thu-Rev. Scott Whitfield
Tue-Rev. Edward Hampson	Fri-Rev. Michael Bennett
Wed- Youth Ministers	Sat-Rev. Ron Cote

### Contributions

#### **St. Mary of the Purification:**

PAR \$3582.50; PAR Maintenance \$526.50; Dec 22 \$1622.00; Dec 25 \$9106.00; Dec 29 \$3958.75; Dec 31 \$300; Maintenance \$255

#### **St. Peter Mission:**

Dec 22 \$1150; Dec 25 \$605 Dec 29 \$287

#### **St. Thomas Mission:**

PAR \$89.50; Dec 21 \$285; Dec 24 \$1150; Dec 29 \$230

***Thank you for your continued donations. Your contributions are greatly appreciated as we seek to encourage all with God's Love and Word!***

### Kenilworth teen selling cookbooks to raise money for the purchase of a new mobility van

15 year old John Ray has published his own cookbook, sharing recipes that are perfect for using the ingredients he sells. It's called *Big John's Farm Fresh Recipes: Quick, Healthy, Easy* with all proceeds from the sales of the book going toward the purchase of a new mobility van. Ray has congenital muscular dystrophy and has never been able to walk. The cost of the cookbooks are \$25 each. Ray's goal is to raise between \$5,000 and \$6,500.

If you are interested in purchasing a cookbook, you can visit Trina Reid-Weber, Ray's mother, at Hybrid Hair & Detox Spa in Mt. Forest.

### **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.

### *The Month of January.....*

### *Dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus*



**Warning! Ice and snowy conditions. Please exercise caution when using the Church's walkways and parking lots. These areas may be covered with ice or snow. We do our best to keep all areas clear from snow and ice, and apply salt and sand but as we all know, the weather can be intense at times, so PLEASE BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS.**

### **CWL NEWS**

1. No CWL meeting in January. The next meeting is Feb. 11, 2025 at 1 pm in the England Room.
2. No Auxiliary (HNS) meeting in January.
3. The CWL North Regional Meeting is on Saturday March 29, 2025 at 9 am. More details to follow.



**DIocese of Hamilton**



### **COFFEE SUNDAY**

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

**THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS – SAVE THE DATE!** Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2025? 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](http://hamiltondiocese.com).

**THE BISHOP'S DINNER FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS**, sponsored by the *Wellington Catholic District School Board* last October, raised almost \$28K through donations and sponsorships. The funds were distributed to the *Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington*, the *Canadian Mental Health Association of Waterloo and Wellington*, the *St. Vincent de Paul Society*, and the *Central Wellington Food Bank*. The funds help support breakfast and nutrition programs in schools, mental health services for families, food for families facing food insecurity in Wellington County, and food vouchers and supports for families in need in Guelph. Congratulations to the *Wellington Catholic District School Board*! Great news as we begin the Jubilee Year of Hope!

**JANUARY 26 IS SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD or Bible Sunday!** Instituted by Pope Francis at the conclusion of the Holy Year of Mercy, Bible Sunday is celebrated each year on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. The theme this year, to coincide with the Jubilee Year of Hope, is taken from Psalm 119:74: **"I hope in your Word!"** Our celebration of Bible Sunday is a call to listen to how the Bible speaks in our hearts and within our communities of faith. This year we celebrate Sacred Scripture as a source of hope for the faithful. The Pastoral Offices of the Diocese have prepared a wide variety of resources for youth and adults to celebrate Bible Sunday 2025. Visit our website at [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

**PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH Parenting Tip #165** Family time matters, as much when our children age as when they are young. It helps to ensure this happens by building traditions that everyone partakes in regularly. Traditions that everyone looks forward to and enjoys - pizza and movie nights, a special breakfast after attending Mass, games night – anything that brings you together for fun will do. The emotional health of children with these kinds of connections is stronger throughout their lifetime. As a family, plan your together time weekly and remember to share meals together daily, whichever meal of the day that has to be. With a solid family foundation, your connectedness can and will stay intact as your children grow older.

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

## **MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH Marriage Tip #145**

January is a perfect time to sit together as a couple with a good cup of coffee or hot chocolate and do a little year in review. Did we spend enough time with each other and with our families? What went well for us and where do we recognize challenges? Discuss how these things could be better in 2025 and commit to making it happen for your couple relationship. A little marriage reflection and tune-up can keep the sparks alive!

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)



## **SAINT SEBASTIAN FEAST DAY JAN 20**

Sebastian was the son of a nobleman who was a Christian. He joined the Roman army in the year 283 and kept his Christian beliefs secret so he could be a spy in the army. Some Christians who knew the truth about Sebastian brought a woman named Zoe to him. She had lost the power of speech. Sebastian prayed with her and she quickly recovered. As a result, many people who knew her became Christians. Around the same time, Emperor Diocletian promoted Sebastian to be guard of the Praetorian Guard, a regimen that acted as the emperor's own bodyguard. Diocletian hated all Christians and had no idea someone in his trusted office was leading a double life.

Some time later, the authorities discovered Zoe and some of her friends were Christians. They were arrested and sentenced to death. It was too much for Sebastian. He went to see the emperor and announced he was a Christian too. Diocletian was furious. He ordered that Sebastian be put to death in a terrible way. Sebastian was stripped and tied to a tree. His fellow officers used him as a target for archery practice, and arrow after and arrow were shot into him. A Christian woman named Irene came to rescue his body and was amazed to discover that Sebastian was still alive. She cared for his many wounds and nursed him back to health. As soon as he recovered, Sebastian went and hid in a passageway and approached Diocletian as he walked by. Sebastian told him what he thought of his cruelty. Diocletian was shocked to see him alive and said nothing. But as soon as he recovered, he ordered Sebastian to be put to death. This time Sebastian was beaten to death with heavy clubs and his body was thrown into one of the city's sewers.

