



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:

manderson@hamiltondiocese.com
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

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.

Epiphany of the Lord
January 5, 2025

Tue. Jan 7 7:00 pm † Stella McCabe Req'd by Helen & Bert Moore **MASS CANCELLED** and
† Bev Mothersell Req'd by

The Family **MASS CANCELLED**

Wed. Jan 8 9:00 am † Joe McCann Req'd by Denise McCann **MASS CANCELLED**

Thu. Jan 9 9:00 am † Theresa Wells Req'd by Doris Tone **MASS CANCELLED**

Fri. Jan 10 9:00 am † Paul MacMillan Req'd by Doris Tone **MASS CANCELLED**

Sat. Jan 11 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun. Jan 12 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Jan 11 Cesar Arruda

Sun. Jan 12 Emma Westendorp

Contributions: Dec.01 \$2738; Dec.08 \$2,459;
Dec.15 \$1,531.65 Dec.08 Main. \$460; Dec.19 \$5,000

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

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Jan 11 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

Contributions: Dec.01 \$110; Dec.08 \$165; Dec.15
\$295

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Jan 12 11:00 am † People of the Parish

Contributions: Dec.08 \$422; Dec.15 \$230.99

This Sunday's Reading

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13

Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt.

Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that

is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana. www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources

Family Connection

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."

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



COFFEE SUNDAY

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

Bowl for Kids Campaign 2025 Lane Sponsorship Opportunity

Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Wellington runs an annual campaign to raise money to support our many programs for children within our communities. We try to involve as many people in the community as possible. Some bowl, others sponsor a bowler, or some give corporate donations. We also offer lane sponsorships. We would like to offer that to you! For \$250 you could have a professionally made sign representing your company displayed at the Bowling Lanes for the full 3 weeks of the campaign. For \$200, your sign would be displayed for 2 weeks and \$150, your sign would be displayed for one week of the campaign. If this is something you would like to be involved in, please send your business card and a cheque, and we will look after the rest.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this opportunity to advertise your business and to support our Bowl for Kids campaign 2025. If you have any questions please feel free to call 519-323-4273 and ask for Teri or email

teri.dykeman@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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 *Heros 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.

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)

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.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR MARRIAGE – Does your marriage feel like it is more trouble than joy, does it feel stagnant or disconnected? Is it causing you constant stress? The solution is Retrouvaille – whose one purpose is to help couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. This is a practical program, where sharing is not required except between the couple themselves. It is designed to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. For struggling couples, including those who may be considering separation or divorce. The next Retrouvaille weekend is March 7-9, 2025. For more information call 905-664-5212 or email 1013r@helpourmarriage.org.



Saint Simeon the Stylite Feast Day January 5th

Many Christians give up something meaningful to them during Lent. Lent is a reminder of the 40 days when Jesus lived in the desert while he prepared himself for his work of teaching and healing. For him, it was a way to get away from everyday life and having to concentrate on praying without interruption.

Some Christians give up everyday comforts for more than 40 days. One such person was Simeon the Stylite. Simeon was the son of a shepherd, and by the time he was 13, he was already working as a shepherd himself. One snowy day he couldn’t take the sheep out to pasture, so he went to church instead, something he didn’t do very often. That Sunday, he heard the words spoken by Jesus during the Sermon of the Mount. “Blessed are the pure in heart...Blessed are the peacemakers...Blessed are those who mourn...All these people will find their blessings.” Simeon asked the preacher to explain more about the Christian faith. Simeon listened hard. Some time later, he had a dream. He dreamed he was digging a hole in the ground for the construction of some building.

Whenever he stopped, he heard a voice that said, “Dig deeper.” At last, he had dug a foundation deep enough for any building. And then, in his dream, he saw a tall pillar. When he became 18, he became a monk in a local monastery. But the rules of the monastery did not seem strict enough to Simeon because he felt he should give up everything to serve God. He disciplined himself by eating less food than the other monks and praying more hours a day. Gradually, Simeon began to realize that to live a more holy life he must get away from other people.

He left the monastery to live in the mountains, surviving on little food and no shelter from the weather. But people still came to see this holy man. He was still not alone. This time, he followed his dream more closely. He dug a hole in the ground with a platform on top. The platform was where Simeon chose to live. People kept coming to see Simeon, leaving him less time to pray. So he built a taller platform. His food and water had to be sent to him on a pulley and chain. He lived this way for 20 years, able to pray without distractions but still able to talk to his visitors when he wished.

