



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

Email:

Pastor Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P.
Bookkeeper Annette Connolly
Secretary Dee Dee Eurig
Custodian Virginia McComiskey
Music Dir. Rick Wildeman
Organist Melissa Van Stavern

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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.

Week of **February 16, 2025**
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Weekday Mass
cancelled
(Feb. 18-21)**

Sat. Feb 22 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun. Feb 23 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Feb 22 Susan Thurston

Sun. Feb 23 Melissa Reid

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

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Feb 22 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Feb 23 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Put trust and hope in the Lord, not in human beings.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 1:1-4,6

Blessed are those who follow the law of the Lord.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20

Our hope for resurrection is sure because Christ has been raised from the dead.

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:17,20-26

Jesus teaches the crowd the way to happiness.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Last Sunday we heard Jesus call Peter to be his disciple. Jesus then travels with Peter and the other disciples. Luke reports acts of healing (a person with leprosy and a paralytic man) and the call of Levi, the tax collector. Jesus also replies to questions from the Pharisees regarding fasting and the observance of the Sabbath. In the verses immediately before today's gospel reading, Jesus is reported to have chosen 12 men from among his disciples to be apostles. *Apostle* is a Greek word that means "one who is sent."

Today's gospel reading is the beginning of what is often called the Sermon on the Plain. We find a parallel to this passage in [Matthew 5:1-7,11](#) that is often called the Sermon on the Mount. As these titles suggest, there are differences and similarities between these gospel readings.

When spoken from the mountaintop in Matthew's Gospel, we can't miss the impression that Jesus is speaking with the authority and voice of God. The mountaintop is a symbol of closeness to God. Those who ascend the mountain see God and speak for God; recall the story of Moses and the [Ten Commandments](#). As Luke introduces the location of Jesus' teaching, Jesus teaches on level ground, alongside the disciples and the crowd. Luke presents Jesus' authority in a different light. He is God among us.

Another distinction found in Luke's version is the audience. Luke's Sermon on the Plain is addressed to Jesus' disciples, although in the presence of the crowd; Matthew's Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the crowd. In keeping with this style, the [Beatitudes](#) in Luke's Gospel sound more personal than those in Matthew's Gospel—Luke uses the article "you" whereas Matthew uses "they" or "those." There is also a difference in number: Matthew describes eight beatitudes; Luke presents just four, each of which has a parallel warning.

The form of the Beatitudes found in Luke's and Matthew's Gospel is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms and in Wisdom literature. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God. The word *blessed* in this context might be translated as "happy," "fortunate," or "favored."

As we listen to this Gospel, the Beatitudes jar our sensibilities. Those who are poor, hungry, weeping, or persecuted are called blessed. This is, indeed, a Gospel of reversals. Those often thought to have been forgotten by God are called blessed. In the list of "woes," those whom we might ordinarily describe as blessed by God are warned about their peril. Riches, possessions, laughter, reputation . . . these are not things that we can depend upon as sources of eternal happiness. They not only fail to deliver on their promise; our misplaced trust in them will lead to our demise. The ultimate peril is in misidentifying the source of our eternal happiness.

The Beatitudes are often described as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. We are challenged to examine our

present situation in the context of our ultimate horizon, the Kingdom of God.

Family Connection

Today's Gospel offers a contrast to many of the messages we hear in our society today. If we were to accept uncritically the "get ahead" messages of our culture, we would think that happiness means having money, being successful, and having many possessions. In this way, we are not unlike the people who heard Jesus teach on the day that he taught the Beatitudes. They too associated happiness with possessions and success. The report of the Beatitudes in Luke's Gospel, however, takes things one step further. Not only will we not find happiness through the "get ahead" messages of the world, but relying upon these messages will cause us harm. The warnings spoken are particularly challenging because they suggest that our way of life must change if we are to gain the lasting happiness of eternal life.

Talk together as a family about what society tells us makes a person successful. Make a list of the traits that you associate with a successful person. Then read together today's Gospel, Luke 6:17,20-26. Reflect on Jesus' description of blessedness in the Kingdom of God. Then consider the warnings. Why are these surprising and challenging? What, then, is the measure of success in the Kingdom of God? Together write prayers of petition based on your discussion. Pray these prayers together, asking God to help your family seek the blessings of the Kingdom of God.



-- HOPE YOU FEEL BETTER SOON --

Thank you to everyone for the kind well wishes and prayers for Father Mike. He is recovering nicely. And thank you to all the volunteers in our Parish for the extra time and attention over these past few weeks. It is greatly appreciated. God Bless !

➡ **Tax Receipts**

The 2024 donation tax receipts are now available for pick up . Any receipts that are not picked up will be mailed the following week. Thank you. Please contact the office if you have any questions. St.Peter & St.Thomas will be mailed next week.

The Month of February..... Dedicated to the Holy Family



COFFEE SUNDAY



Please join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Sunday every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

CWL NEWS

-CWL dues must be in by the end of February, 2025
-CWL North Regional meeting is on Saturday March 29, at 9:00 am at Holy Family Parish in Hanover, Please bring brown bag lunch

Contributions

St. Mary of the Purification: Jan 12 \$1521; Jan 19 \$1187.10; PAR Jan 20 \$4127; Jan 26 \$1448; Feb. 2 \$1951; Feb. 9 \$1121
St. Peter Mission: Jan 12 \$125; Jan 26 \$142; Feb 2 \$120; Feb 9 \$5,235
St. Thomas Mission: Jan 12 \$245; Jan 19 \$355; Jan 25 \$260; Feb 2 \$160; Feb 9 \$ 1220
Thank you for your continued donations. Your contributions are greatly appreciated as we seek to encourage all with God's Love and Word!



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. Please also, before entering, stamp or brush the snow & salt off your boots. This will greatly help Virginia as she tries to keep our floors clean and tidy. Thank you



Be Sober: Have you chosen sobriety or are you struggling with addiction? Or are you a family member of someone who does? The Sisters Poor of Jesus Christ offer an ongoing 12-step program to support you. The **Be Sober** meetings are held every Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the basement of St. Ann Catholic Church, 120 Sherman Avenue N. Hamilton. The evening is organized into three key components: prayer, training on the 12 steps and spirituality, and group sharing. For further information, please contact: (905) 512-8493 or e-mail: besober.skateri@ocaminho.org. **All are welcome!**

OPENING THE HOLY DOOR: SPRING BOOK CLUB The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invites you to join us for a four-week virtual book club, exploring the new book by Joan Watson, *“Opening the Holy Door.”* Tuesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **March 18-April 8, 2025.** Together we will reflect on the beautiful images of mercy and hope found on the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, open to pilgrims and visitors throughout the Jubilee Year. Join us for this time of prayer and conversation, drawing into deeper fellowship during this Jubilee of Hope. Registration can be made here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/>

Jubilee Pilgrimage to Italy, Medjugorje, Croatia & Slovenia, under spiritual guidance of Rev. Joe S. Selvanayagam, **Aug 4-17, 25 14 days CA\$5,390** (taxes & tips inc.) , Toronto Departure. Travel arrangements by QS Travel & Tours Inc. 905-412-2242 or 1-800-565-3619 visit www.qstours.com



***Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto
Feast Day February 20***

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, May 13, 1917, three children were laughing and chatting as they kept watch over their families’ sheep. This afternoon they were building a playhouse out of brush and rocks. Suddenly a bright light flashed. They thought it was lightning. Then it flashed again. They saw a ball of light descend upon a little green evergreen tree. Within the light was a beautiful woman dressed in white.

The children were Lucia dos Santos, who was 10 years old, and her cousins Francisco Marto (9) and his sister Jacinta (7). These children lived in Portugal, in a small village near Fatima. The shining woman told them not to be afraid and that she was from heaven. She told them she would return on the 13th day of each month for 6 months, and she asked them to meet her at this place, Cova da Iria. Many people including Lucia’s family did not believe the children. People laughed, ridiculed, harassed, threatened them and put them in jail for two days. But nothing could change the truth. During the summer, on the 13th day of each month, the Blessed Mother Mary appeared to the children. More and more people accompanied to the Cova. Each time Mary told them to pray the Rosary for peace in the world and to sacrifice for sinners. On October 13, the last day of apparition, more than 70,000 were waiting. This time the Lady of the Rosary asked them to build a chapel on the rocky hillside. The entire crowd saw a remarkable sight. The sun seemed to dance in the sky. It was spinning like a top and shooting off brilliant colors of the rainbow. Suddenly the sun dropped treacherously close to earth. People dropped to their knees, and the sun just as quickly returned to its play in the sky.

You might think that if the Blessed Mother of God appears to you and speaks to you, you are a saint. But that is not necessarily true. What is true is that Mary chose to come to children who the year before had been visited by the Angel of Peace, children who had listened to the angel’s message and prayed the prayer the angel taught them. They responded to Mary in the same way and prayed the Rosary and offered sacrifices for sinners and for the conversion of the world. They were children who wanted to please God.

Francisco and Jacinta died within a short time, as the Lady had said they would. They were beatified on May 13, 2000. At that time Lucia dos Santos was a Carmelite nun in Portugal. Sister Lucia died February 13, 2005 at age 97. Pope Francis canonized Francisco and Jacinta during a May 13, 2017 Mass in Fatima. Pope Francis declared Sister Lucia “venerable” in 2023.



