



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.

Presentation Of The Lord

February 2, 2025

Tue. Feb 4 7:00 pm † Intentions of Guido Garden Req'd by Florence Ricard and
† Joseph Moore Req'd By
Bert & Helen Moore

Wed. Feb 5 9:00 am **MASS IS CANCELLED**

Thu. Feb 6 9:00 am **MASS IS CANCELLED**

Fri. Feb 7 9:00 am **MASS IS CANCELLED**

Sat. Feb 8 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

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

Lectors

Sat. Feb 8 Maxine Schmidt

Sun. Feb 9 Colleen Dalla Costa

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

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Feb 8 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Aytton

Sun. Feb 9 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord you seek will come to the temple.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24:7,8,9,10

The Lord is the king of glory.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus became like us in order to save us.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40 (Shorter Form: Luke 2:22-32)

Simeon recognizes the infant Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Background on the Gospel

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. The Presentation, which is celebrated 40 days after Christmas, is not mentioned in the other Gospels. Only Luke tells the story, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians who are not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. In addition, the intent of Luke's Gospel is to show that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extends to Gentiles.

Luke recognizes Joseph and Mary as faithful Jews who bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they present their firstborn son to the Lord. Jesus is

thus consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Present in the temple at this time are Simeon and Anna. Both are awaiting the restoration of God's rule in Israel.

Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Savior, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all. www.loyolapress.com

Family Connection

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Discuss with the family the persons of Simeon and Anna as they meet Jesus. (Luke 2: 25-40)

Because Simeon and Anna lived lives of prayer and fasting in the Temple, they were filled with the Spirit of God. That is why they were able to identify Jesus as the Savior even though Jesus was only a baby. To these two holy people, he was recognizable as the Redeemer who had been promised. Simeon described Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

We too are called to recognize Jesus as Lord. Together as a family discuss ways to recognize Jesus as Lord by praying and attending Mass, fasting, and serving others. As a family, decide on one specific sacrifice you can make in order to alleviate the suffering or need of someone you know.

February 2025 Pope Francis Prayer Intention **For vocations to priestly and religious life.**

"Let us pray that the ecclesial community may welcome the desires and doubts of young people who feel called to serve Christ's mission in priestly and religious life."

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





COFFEE SUNDAY

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

Diocesan Calendar-February

"Pray to the Lord of the Harvest"

Mon –Rev. James Petrie	Thu –Parents & Guardians
Tue – Rev. Charles Galea	Fri –Rev. Pablito Labado
Wed –Hospitaller Order of St.John of God, O.H.	Sat –Rev. William Meehan



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.

Contributions

St. Mary of the Purification: to follow

St. Peter Mission: to follow

St. Thomas Mission: to follow

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



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

16th Annual Dynamic Women of Faith

Conference – This conference will bring together Catholic women to share in hearing informative presentations, enjoy delicious food and fellowship with all those present The event will be held on

Saturday March 22, 2025 from 9:00am-4pm at the Old Mill (includes light lunch) in Toronto. For more information see [Recharge Your Spirit at the Dynamic Women of Faith Conference 2025](#); to register go to [Dynamic Women of Faith Conference 2025](#); to register go to [Dynamic Women of Faith Conference 2025 Tickets, Sat, 22 Mar 2025 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#).

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!**

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!” We are all invited to journey through this year drawing closer to God through prayer, service and experiences of renewal. Six churches have been marked 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 made available on the Diocesan Website: www.hamiltondiocese.com.

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/>

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH #166 Family love is one of the most complex loves to navigate. Siblings often love each other but also know clearly all the buttons to push to make other members react negatively. Children challenge parents as they age, generally trying to define and discover whom they are as an individual, and sometimes personalities just clash. These are hard moments, so work to stay connected with good moments that bring you together. Nature walks, movie nights, game nights, and brunch following Mass on

the weekend – any actions that will remind everyone that family is our greatest support. Putting in the effort to plan fun moments will have lifetime benefits to all members of the family!

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

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH #146 February is known as the month of love, but love needs to be part of our thinking 24/7! Love is an action word, so take some time to reflect on your contribution to your married relationship. Do you use kind words, compliment, apologize, when necessary, show love through action in what you do for your spouse, pray for your spouse daily and make the time to be together and share your day? These will all build love and keep it strong.

ENHANCING SELF-ESTEEM - This program provides the opportunity to increase your self-awareness and to learn specific skills for building a positive self-esteem, which will assist you to feel stronger in all areas of your life. Issues covered during the course include taking responsibility for your own thoughts and feelings, positive ways to behave assertively and setting realistic goals for your future. The program will be offered from March 24 - June 9 (no sessions April 21 & May 19) and are held at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West Hamilton. Cost is \$35 for materials. To register go to hamiltondiocese.com and look for the date under Upcoming Events, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, or e-mail familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS OF HOPE During Lent this year, the Liturgy Office invites all Liturgical Ministers to gather for a Lenten retreat on the theme of Liturgical Ministers of Hope. Saturday, March 22, 2025, Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph, ON, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or Saturday, March 29, 2025, St. Matthew Parish, Oakville, ON, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or Saturday, April 5, 2025, Annunciation of our Lord Parish, Hamilton, ON, 10:00 to 12:30 p.m.



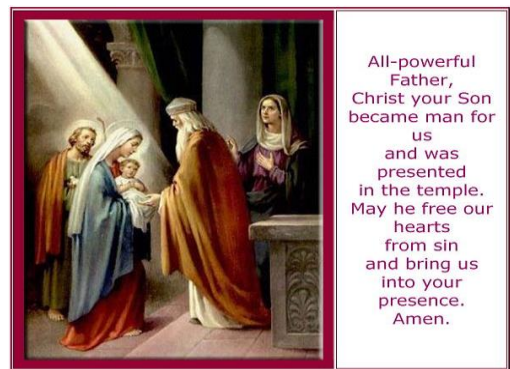
The Story of the Presentation of The Lord

At the end of the fourth century, a woman named Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives an unprecedented glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany, the observance of Christ's birth, and the gala procession in honour of his Presentation in the Temple 40 days later. Under the Mosaic Law, a woman was ritually "unclean" for 40

days after childbirth, when she was to present herself to the priests and offer sacrifice—her "purification". Contact with anyone who had brushed against mystery—birth or death—excluded a person from Jewish worship. This feast emphasises Jesus' first appearance in the Temple more than Mary's purification.

The observance spread throughout the Western Church in the fifth and sixth centuries. Because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25, the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days after Christmas. At the beginning of the eighth century, Pope Sergius inaugurated a candlelight procession; at the end of the same century the blessing and distribution of candles which continues to this day became part of the celebration, giving the feast its popular name: Candlemas.

Simeon said when he met the child Jesus in the temple: "For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32). Jesus is the Light of the World, the Messiah who has come not just for the Jew but the Gentile; not just the righteous, but the sinner. On this feast day, the Church blesses candles for use throughout the year. The candles represent the fact that the light of the world is here; the light is coming into a dark world as the Church progresses towards the brightness of Easter.



All-powerful
Father,
Christ your Son
became man for
us
and was
presented
in the temple.
May he free our
hearts
from sin
and bring us
into your
presence.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and
forgive us our trespasses as we
forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil.
Amen.

