



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

manderson@hamiltondiocese.com
stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca
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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 9, 2025**
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekday Mass
cancelled
(Feb. 11-14)

Sat. Feb 15 4:00 pm † People of the Parish
Sun. Feb 16 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Feb 15 Florence Ricard
Sun. Feb 16 J. von Westerholt

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 15 5:30 pm † People of the Parish
ST. PETER'S, Ayton
Sun. Feb 16 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.



HOPE YOU FEEL BETTER SOON

Let us all keep Father Mike in our thoughts and prayers while he recovers from recent surgery. Best wishes Father, and we hope you have a speedy recovery.





Father Ed Hinsperger will be replacing Father Mike this weekend and next weekend for Mass services. Please introduce yourself and give him a warm welcome!

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



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

PHISHING SCAM ALERT

It has been brought to our attention that emails are once again circulating in Father Mike’s name, asking for gift cards/money! Please do not open or respond . Father Mike would never send emails asking for assistance in this regard.

1. Recognize the signs of phishing

One of the best ways to prevent phishing is to know how to spot phishing emails. While every message may look a little different, there are red flags to help you spot phishing. **Common warning sign of phishing include:**

- 1)Unfamiliar greeting or tone
- 2)Unsolicited messages
- 3)Grammar and spelling errors
- 4)Sense of urgency
- 5)Suspicious links or attachments
- 6)Requests for [personal information](#)
- 7)Inconsistencies in email addresses, links, etc.
- 8)Unusual requests-i.e. asking you to purchase gift cards
- 9) Alerts that you’ve won something . If the email in question checks any of these boxes, it could be a [phishing scam](#).

2. Don’t respond to a phishing email If you’re ever suspicious about a message in your inbox, it’s best to avoid sending a response. By responding, you’re letting the scammer know that they’re dealing with an active email address. This can prompt them to continue trying to scam you in the future.

3. Report suspicious messages to your email provider

After noticing a suspicious message in your inbox, it’s best to report it as soon as possible. If the phishing message was sent to your work email, be sure to also inform your company’s IT department. This can help them stay on top of potential phishing threats and keep you and your coworkers' inboxes safe.



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

CWL NEWS

- Next meeting is Tuesday February 11, at 1:00 pm in the England room
- 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
- St.Mary Auxiliary (HNS) meeting will be held Wednesday Feb. 12, at 7:00 pm in the England Room



Who & What Do Catholics Celebrate on February 14?

February 14 is an interesting day for **Catholic Christians**. We live in the midst of a secular culture that celebrates Valentine’s Day, which supposedly marks the joy of romantic love in our lives. However, the Catholic faith prescribes that we celebrate the Memorial of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, a monk and a bishop whose lives did not include romance as we think of it.

So, who and what are we called to celebrate on February 14 each year? Let’s begin by examining what little is known about the life of St. Valentine, the namesake of Valentine’s Day. St. Valentine of

Rome lived and ministered as a priest during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius, in the early 200s. Claudius began to understand that single soldiers fought more vigorously and valiantly than married soldiers, that is, they were willing to die more readily for the Empire. So, he made it illegal for young men to get married. In direct violation of the Emperor's edict, Valentine performed clandestine marriage rites for the young couples. That's how he came to be a patron of young lovers. For these illegal, but Christ-centered acts, Valentine was martyred in about the year A.D. 269. Within a few generations, the Catholic Church began to establish her liturgical calendar, celebrating feast days of certain saints. It is possible that February 14 was chosen as St. Valentine's memorial to supersede the pagan love festival of Lupercalia, which was, more or less, a city-wide orgy coupled with animal sacrifice. Obviously, that festival was antithetical to the Christian understanding of love, marriage, and sex.

Take note, though, that St. Valentine was not simply a patron of *romance* in the way we think of it today. He was committed to uniting young men and women in the Christian understanding of marriage: one man and one woman, until death do they part. He was a priest of the Catholic Church, and he was martyred for his faith in the Lord, and for his commitment to Christian love and marriage. Even if we are to celebrate St. Valentine, we should do so from this angle.

In 1969, as one of the effects of the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church implemented an update liturgical calendar. The new calendar removed the celebration of St. Valentine's feast day because there was so little that could be accurately known about his life (although still celebrated in the Extraordinary Form). In its place on that day, the Church began celebrating the Memorial of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the apostles to the Slavic peoples of Europe. Cyril and Methodius were brothers born in the 820s in Thessalonica, a city in Macedonia on the Greek peninsula (the same city to which St. Paul wrote two of his New Testament letters). These brothers took up the call to go and evangelize an eastern European culture that did not yet know the Gospel. They traveled to Khazaria (what is roughly the Ukraine, today), lived in a monastery, learned the native language, and brought many of these people to conversion by their dedication and charity. After years on that mission, they were called to Moravia, in central Europe. To find success in their new mission, Cyril developed an entirely new alphabet by which they could translate the Bible and other liturgical texts for the people to understand. (This was the precursor of the modern Cyrillic alphabets, including Russian.) During these years, the brothers worked

diligently to allow people to read sacred texts and worship in their vernacular language. They did so in the face of opposition from bishops in the Holy Roman Empire who wanted to allow only the use of Latin for purposes of Church mission and ministry. Cyril, the younger brother, died on February 14, 869, just 50 days after entering a cloistered monastery. The words of his dying prayer give us an indication of his heart for mission. To the Lord, he prayed, "Inspire the hearts of your people with your word and your teaching. You called us to preach the Gospel of your Christ and to encourage them to lives and works pleasing to you. I now return to you, your people, your gift to me." This reveals that his whole mission was to bring people into transformative relationship with God; and Cyril knew that he played only one small part. Cyril's dying wish was that his brother would continue the missionary work they had begun. Shortly after his brother's death, Methodius was appointed and ordained a bishop. This allowed him to continue the mission of evangelizing the Slavs, despite opposition from bishops within the Empire. His efforts were interrupted by three years in prison when those bishops made him a political enemy of the Empire. Despite such obstacles, Methodius succeeded in translating most of the Bible, and other important religious texts, into the Slavonic language. Again, the guiding vision of mission prevailed.

What, then, do we learn from the lives and works of these three men whom we celebrate on February 14? Regardless of whether we prefer to celebrate St. Valentine or Sts. Cyril and Methodius, it is most appropriate and fruitful for us to celebrate *agapé* love, the charity that it takes to lay down one's life for the good of another. And, we celebrate mission, the tireless efforts of men and women to bring that love to individuals and societies who do not already know. See, mission is the expression of love, and *agapé* is the essence of mission. All three of these men went on mission because they were driven by *agapé* for others. On this February 14, let's celebrate nothing other than *agapé* (charitable love) and zeal for mission. That is the way that we will change the world.



