

# 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  
**Music Dir.** Rick Wildeman  
**Organist** Melissa Van Stavern

### 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.**

Week of **March 16, 2025**



## 2nd Sunday of Lent

**Fri. Mar. 21**    **7:00 pm**    **Stations of the Cross**  
**Sat. Mar. 22**    **4:00 pm**    † People of the Parish  
**Sun. Mar. 23**    **9:00 am**    † People of the Parish

### Lectors

**Sat. Mar 22**    Luis Arruda  
**Sun. Mar 23**    Melissa Reid

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

### ST. THOMAS, Harriston

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

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

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

**\*\*STATIONS OF THE CROSS EVERY  
FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7:00 pm DURING LENT\*\***

### **This Sunday's Reading:**

#### **First Reading**

*Genesis 15:5-12,17-18*

God makes a covenant with Abraham, promising him many descendants.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 27:1,7-8,8-9,13-14*

A prayer to God who is our salvation

#### **Second Reading**

*Philippians 3:17-4:1* (or shorter form, *Philippians 3:20-4:1*)

Paul encourages the Philippians to remain firm in their faith that Christ will subject all things to himself.

#### **Gospel Reading**

*Luke 9:28b-36*

Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, John, and James.

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

On the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus' Transfiguration. On the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel always tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the

second Sunday, we always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his Passion. After the prediction, there is a discussion of the cost of discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.

The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as his appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion and death.

As they awake, Peter and the disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, there is reference to conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel explains that this conversation is about Jesus' later accomplishments in Jerusalem. Luke describes this as his exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection with the Israel's Exodus from Egypt.

On witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus "master" instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding that the disciples listen to him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports

of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion and death will the disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and death. [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)

**As the Holy Father remains in hospital, we keep him close in prayer.**

*Almighty and Eternal God,  
you are the everlasting health of  
those who believe in you.*

*Hear our prayers for your sick servant Francis  
for whom we implore the aid of your tender mercy,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen*

### *The Month of March is Dedicated to St. Joseph*



*“A faithful man, shall be greatly praised; and he that is the keeper of his Lord, shall be glorified”*

**Pope Francis prayer intention for March...**  
*For families in crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.*

#### **CWL News**

1. The CWL dues for 2025 must be in by the end of March. If you wish to remain a member and haven't paid the 2024 dues, please do so as well.
2. The CWL is a parish organization and all ladies of the parish are welcome to join. Please come to our meeting or leave a note in the collection basket addressed to the CWL.
3. The CWL North Regional Meeting is on Sat. Mar. 29, 2025 at 9 am at Holy Family Parish, in Hanover. Please bring a Brown Bag lunch. Please let Colleen know if you wish to go. 519-323-9112

## **WHAT IS LENT?**

Lent is a time of **prayer** and **penance**, when Christ wants to lead us back to our baptismal promises of **dying to sin** and of **living for God**.

### **WHEN IS LENT?**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues until the afternoon of Holy Thursday. It runs for about 40 days.

**WHY 40 DAYS?** The “40 days” (not including Sundays) of fasting, prayer, and penance before Easter reflect Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness.

### **WHAT SHOULD WE DO DURING LENT?**

1. Turn away from our sins and turn back to God. Detach from habits and tendencies that are contrary to God’s will. Lent is a time of conversion.
2. Open our hearts to our Father, so that we may live with Christ for God. Jesus is calling us to be people of praise and prayer, and living signs of his love for all.

**“This time of fasting opens the gates of heaven to us. Let us welcome it and pray that when Easter comes we may share the joy of the risen Lord.”**  
LENTEN RESPONSORY

Archdiocese of Toronto [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)  
farchtoronto

Text from Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Living Lent"

### **Contributions**

**St. Mary of the Purification:** Mar 9 \$1206.25

**St. Peter Mission:** Mar 9 \$40.45

**St. Thomas Mission:** Mar 9 \$45

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



Please give a warm welcome to Father Mark Morley this weekend. He will be assisting Father Mike who is still recovering from surgery. We continue to keep him in our prayers for a speedy recovery.

**NEEDED !** If you are an **Extraordinary Minister of Communion**, please contact the Parish office 519-323-1054. Father will be in need of assistance during weekend masses starting the weekend of March 22/23. Thank you and God Bless!



**DIocese of Hamilton**

**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.

For more information about our programs, and how to register, visit us at [www.hamiltondioceselearns.com](http://www.hamiltondioceselearns.com).

**THREE RETREAT DAYS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS** are being offered by the Diocesan Liturgy Office during this Jubilee Year of Hope. These special days of renewal, reflection, and spiritual growth are offered to deepen their commitment to serving God's people through their various ministries. The half-day retreats will provide opportunities to prepare for Easter during this Jubilee Year of Hope. All Musicians, Ministers of the Word, Children's Liturgy Ministers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Ministers of Hospitality, and Sacristans are invited to participate in one of these three events.

#### MINISTERIAL FORMATION THROUGH VLCFF

We are currently taking enrollment for the **Youth Ministry Certification Program** and the **Catechist Formation Program** for the Diocese of Hamilton, which begins in September 2025. Three and five-week e-seminars are also available at a discounted rate for all adults in the Diocese looking to further their learning. For more information about our programs, and how to register, visit us at [www.hamiltondioceselearns.com](http://www.hamiltondioceselearns.com).

#### VIRTUAL LEARNING WITH THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

The Diocese of Hamilton is proud to partner with Dayton University's Virtual Learning Community for Adult Faith Formation (VLCFF) to offer certificate programs for ministry and enrichment for adult faith formation. Interested in learning more about our programs? Have questions about the structure, course content and fees? Join us for a brief information session hosted by the VLCFF Coordination Team for the Diocese of Hamilton on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025 @ 7pm.** Registration: <https://bit.ly/VLCFFinfo>

**Wellington Deanery Jubilee Mass** You are all very welcome to join His Excellency, Bishop Lobsinger, in celebrating a Mass for the Jubilee Year for the faithful of Wellington Deanery on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, Tuesday, March 25 at 7 pm at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate. The Jubilee Indulgence will be granted, under the usual conditions, to the faithful who participate in this Mass. You may also have your Jubilee Booklet

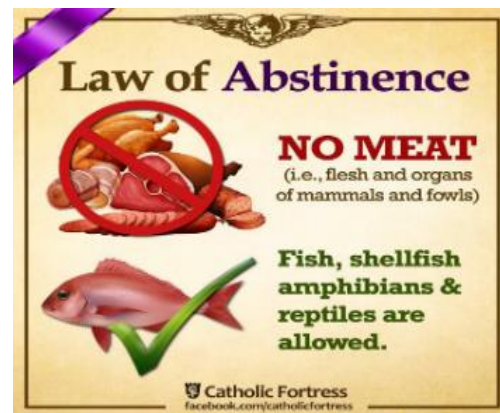
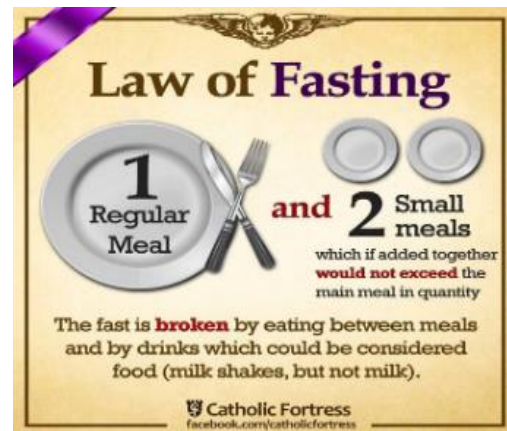
stamped if you wish. May Our Blessed Lady, Our Life, Our Sweetness and Our Hope, guide us through this Jubilee of Hope and draw us close to Her son.

[www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

### Cathedral Basilica of Christ The King

#### MASS OF CHRISM

All are welcome to attend the Diocesan Mass of Chrism during which His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will bless the Oils for the Sick and Catechumens. He will also consecrate Sacred Chrism. The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Monday April 14 at 2:00 pm. Parking is limited and carpooling is encouraged. The Cathedral Basilica will open at 12:30 pm. The celebration will be livestreamed with links on the Diocesan website and the Cathedral Basilica's website.



**Welcome first day of Spring!  
March 20th**



