



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
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.

Week of **March 2, 2025**
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**WEEKDAY MASS CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

Wed. Mar 5 7:00 pm ASH Wednesday ✠
Fri. Mar 7 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross
Sat. Mar. 8 4:00 pm † People of the Parish
Sun. Mar. 9 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Mar 8 Laura Cherrey
Sun. Mar 9 E. Westendorp

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 8 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Mar 9 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

Sirach 27:4-7

In his conversation is the test of the man.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 92: 2-3,13-16

The just shall flourish like a palm tree.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15: 54-58

Thanks be to God who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:39-45

Each tree is known by its yield.

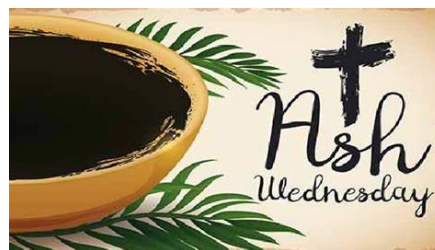
Background on the Gospel Reading

The third and final section of Luke's Sermon on the Plain begins: And he told them a parable. There are actually four parables, three of which we read today. They are all about how to be a good disciple.

The blind cannot lead the blind. And a disciple cannot be a good disciple unless he or she has learned from the teacher. Everyone who is fully trained is like the teacher who knows how to cure the blind. Before you can be a good disciple and

teach others you must take care of yourself. Do not try to take a speck out of your brother's eye until you have taken the board out of your own. Finally, only when you have purified yourself can you produce the good works that the teacher requires. Discipleship asks us to produce good deeds. But to produce them requires the integrity and purity of heart found in the teacher. When people see your good deeds they will know that this is because you have a good heart.

The final parable, which we do not read today, is about building on the solid foundation of rock and not on sand. This is the only way to face the difficulties a disciple will encounter and survive.



Wednesday March 5, 2025

First Reading

Joel 2:12-18

Return to the Lord for he is merciful.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 51:3-6b,12-14,17

Create a clean heart in us, O God, and be merciful.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Be reconciled to God; now is the day of salvation.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Jesus teaches that almsgiving, prayer, and fasting should be done in secret.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we celebrate Ash Wednesday, the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. In this season, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the high point of our Christian life, Easter. Each year, the readings for Ash Wednesday are the same. They call us to a change of heart and teach us about the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines are to be part of the Christian life during every season, but during the season of Lent, we renew our commitment to them.

The meaning behind tracing a cross on our foreheads with ashes (the liturgical sign of Ash Wednesday) is a summary of our Christian life. On

one level, the ashes remind us of our origin and our death. (In the words of the prayer said when we receive ashes: “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”) The ashes are also the sign of our victory: the cross of Christ. In his death and resurrection, Christ conquered death. Our destiny as Christians is to receive the victory over death that Christ won for us. We acknowledge that victory when we “[t]urn away from sin and [are] faithful to the gospel,” words from the alternative prayer when we are signed with ashes.

Today’s reading is part of the Sermon on the Mount. In the sermon, Jesus warns his followers against acting for the sake of appearance. When Jesus’ disciples give alms, pray, and fast, they are to do so in such a way that only God, who sees the heart and knows what is hidden, will know. Although our Lectionary reading omits the Lord’s Prayer, we can recall that Matthew presents that prayer as a model for the disciples’ prayer (Matthew 6:9-15).

www.loyolapress.com

As the Holy Father remains in hospital with double pneumonia, 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.**



-- 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 !



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

CWL North Regional meeting is on Saturday March 29, at 9:00 am at Holy Family Parish in Hanover, brown bag lunch!

REMINDER: With the beginning of the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, March 5, we kindly ask that if you have any Blessed palms at home from last year, to please bring them to the Church prior to Ash Wednesday. Thank you and God Bless.
Please note that we will have Father Steve from St. John The Evangelist church for Ash Wednesday— with Mass being celebrated at 7:00 pm

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
archtoronto

Text from Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops’ “Living Lent”

Ramoth House is seeking a candidate who feels called to guide our moms in establishing and maintaining healthy routines, educate in basic life skills, supervise and guide in parenting skills, maintain the home to create a place that is healthy and safe, and build positive relationships. The Day Support Staff contract is 40 hours per week and is 7:30-3:30 day shift from Monday to Friday. To apply email your resume to Brenda Tubman, Executive Director at office@ramoth.ca Resume will be accepted until March 10th at 8 am. Only those applicates selected for an interview will be contacted.



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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/>

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 .

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>.

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 .



St. John Joseph of the Cross Feast Day March 5

St. John Joseph of the Cross was born about the middle of the seventeenth century in the beautiful island of Ischia, near Naples. From his childhood he was the model of virtue, and in his sixteenth year he entered the Franciscan Order of the Strictest Observance, or Reform of St. Peter of Alcantara. Such was the edification he gave in his Order, that within three years after his profession he was sent to found a monastery in Piedmont. He became a priest out of obedience, and obtained, as it seems, an inspired knowledge of moral theology. With his superiors' permission he built another convent and drew up rules for that community, which were confirmed by the Holy See. He afterward became Master of Novices. Sometimes later he was made provincial of the province of Naples, erected in the beginning of the 18th century by Clement XI. He labored hard to establish in Italy that branch of his Order which the sovereign Pontiff had separated from the one in Spain. In his work he suffered much, and became the victim of numerous calumnies. However, the saint succeeded in his labors, endeavoring to instill in the hearts of his subjects, the double spirit of contemplation and penance bequeathed to his Reform by St. Peter of Alcantara.

St. John Joseph exemplified the most sublime virtues, especially humility and religious discipline. He also possessed numerous gifts in the supernatural order, such as those of prophesy and miracles.

Finally, consumed by labors for the glory of God, he was called to his reward. Stricken with apoplexy, he died an octogenarian in his convent at Naples on March 5, 1734. www.loyolapress.com

<p>Law of Fasting</p> <p>1 Regular Meal and 2 Small meals which if added together would not exceed the main meal in quantity</p> <p>The fast is broken by eating between meals and by drinks which could be considered food (milk shakes, but not milk).</p> <p><small>Catholic Fortress facebook.com/catholicfortress</small></p>	<p>Law of Abstinence</p> <p>NO MEAT (i.e., flesh and organs of mammals and fowls)</p> <p>Fish, shellfish amphibians & reptiles are allowed.</p> <p><small>Catholic Fortress facebook.com/catholicfortress</small></p>
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