

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
Music Dir. Rick Wildeman
Organist Melissa Van Stavern

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.

Week of **March 23, 2025**



3rd Sunday of Lent

Fri. Mar. 28 **7:00 pm** **Stations of the Cross**
Sat. Mar. 29 **4:00 pm** † People of the Parish
Sun. Mar. 30 **9:00 am** † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Mar 29 Susan Thurston
Sun. Mar 30 Debra Ross

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 29 **5:30 pm** † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Mar 30 **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

Exodus 3:1-8a,13-15

God speaks to Moses from the burning bush and sends him to the Israelites.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103:1-4,6-7,8,11

A prayer in praise of God's mercy

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12

Paul teaches that the Scriptures were written to set an example for us.

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-9

Jesus preaches a lesson on repentance.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's

Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

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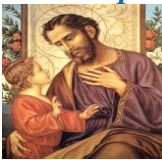
Family Connection

We may be unfamiliar with fig trees, but we might know about the growth of spring flowers. Perhaps we have looked at a dry, brown flower bulb and wondered how this produces the colorful tulip or daffodil blossom that we expect to bloom in the spring. Perhaps we've even thought about the patience and hope that are required to plant flower bulbs in October. We don't have to be gardeners, however, to know about patience and hopefulness.

As parents, we practice these virtues each day with our children. We may become frustrated and even angered by their willfulness and lack of cooperation. Yet we continue to offer our attention and guidance in hope that one day our efforts will bear fruit. Today's parable suggests that God is like that with us, working with us in patience and in hope that one day we will show evidence that such work is not in vain. As parents, we know God's kindness when we find evidence for our hope for our children. Does God find such glimmers of hope as he works with us?

Gather your family and show a spring flower in bloom. Recall that in the fall this flower was a dry bulb (if a flower bulb is available, show this as well). Talk about the hopefulness and patience shown by those who plant flower bulbs in the fall in the hope that they will bloom in the spring. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 13:1-9. Compare the parable of the barren fig tree to your discussion about spring flowers. Consider the patience and hopefulness that God has with us as he works with us, calling us to return to him when we sin. Offer prayers of thanks and praise to God for his patience and hopefulness towards us. Conclude by praying together today's Psalm, Psalm 103. www.loyolapress.com

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”

2024 Deadline Extension for charitable donations

On December 30, 2024, the Department of Finance announced the federal government's intention to amend the Income Tax Act to extend the deadline for making charitable donations eligible for tax support in the 2024 tax year, to February 28, 2025. This proposed legislation offers donors the option to claim/deduct certain charitable donations made up to February 28, 2025, on their 2024 income tax return. Following this, on January 23, 2025, the Department of Finance announced that it had released draft legislation in support of this proposed change, which will be introduced in Parliament in due course. For more information, visit [Draft legislative proposals and explanatory notes related to the Income Tax Act \(Charitable donations\)](#). These charitable donation tax

receipts are now available for pick up in the lobby of St. Mary of the Purification. Receipts that have not been picked up, will be mailed out next week. St. Thomas and St. Peter's receipts will be mailed out this week. If you have any further questions, please contact Annette at the Parish office 519-323-1054. Thank you

HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

Please accept our sincerest gratitude for all of your kind prayers, well wishes, support and visits during our recent illness. Knowing you were praying for our comfort and healing brought us much peace. We are both recovering at home and look forward to seeing everyone again.

God Bless,
Frank and Joanne McKenna

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



DIocese of HAMILTON



40 Days for Life

Mass with Bishop Lobsinger
Wednesday, April 9 7:00 pm
Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate
28 Norfolk St. Guelph, ON

All are welcome to pray for this pro-life effort!

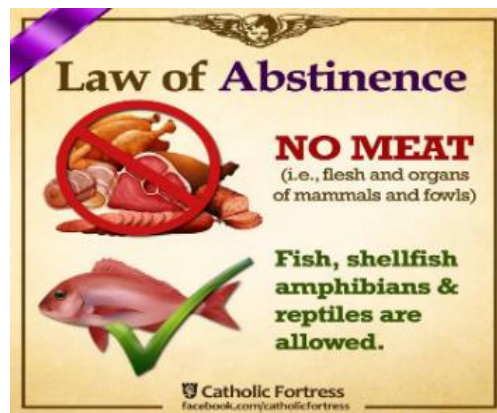
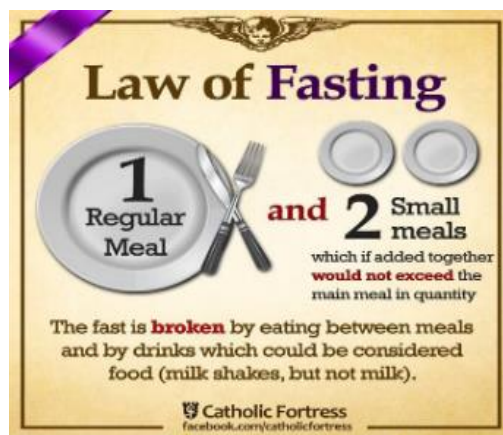
REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL Join us for our special youth screening of **Marcel the Shell with Shoes On, March 27th!** Marcel is an adorable, 1-inch-tall shell who ekes out a colorful existence with his grandmother, Connie, and their pet lint, Alan. Once part of a sprawling community of shells, they now live alone as the sole survivors of a mysterious tragedy. However, when a documentary filmmaker discovers them, the short film he posts online brings Marcel millions of passionate fans, as well as unprecedented dangers and a new hope of finding his long-lost family. Available to watch all day! Movie link will be sent straight to your inbox! Register and view our full schedule at: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/reel-justice-film-festival/>

WHEN LIFE CHANGES – Has someone you cared about died? Are you grieving the loss of the person’s presence in your life? Are you looking for relief from the feelings associated with the loss of this loved one? You are not alone! The Hamilton Diocese is offering our six-week grief program from **April 23nd to May 28th, 2025**. The program runs from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in Hamilton To register go to hamiltondiocese.com and look for the start date under upcoming events on the home page.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH #167 Parents are the most influential people in their children’s lives. They watch every move, take in every word and see how you navigate the world - then they become the mini version of you, their parents. All the traits they take in become part of who they are for life! Help them to be the best people they can be by looking inward and asking yourself if you are doing enough to raise them to be the adult you would like them to be. If not, change how you interact and help them grow strong in mind, body and spirit. (Family Ministry Office)

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH #147 March is the start of Lent, a time when we reflect on our faith and our commitment to living as we are called to as disciples of Jesus. It is a perfect time to discuss as a couple how your marriage, considered both a Sacrament and Vocation by the Church, is fulfilling its mandate to be the visible sign of God’s invisible love. Do you strive always to treat each other as God loves, in total self-giving, with mercy and forgiveness acting as strong pillars of your marriage? This Lent, make your Lenten journey a time to pray together and to work as a couple to strengthen one of

the most important parts of your life, your marriage. (Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)



Annunciation of the Lord Feast Day March 25

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him . . . might have eternal life.” (John 3:16) At the Annunciation, God revealed this good news to Mary. She was the first to hear and to believe that God would do what he promised. Her faith told her that nothing is impossible for God. Mary also heard God’s invitation calling her to be the Virgin Mother of his Son. This call meant that Jesus would be formed in her womb, and she, as his mother, would nourish and care for him. This call meant that she had a special place in God’s plan for salvation. Mary replied, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38) In saying yes, Mary agreed to God’s plan because she wanted what God wanted. She was willing to accept all the joy and pain, all the unexpected events. She was willing to bring Christ to a waiting world.

