

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 9, 2025**



1st Sunday of Lent

Fri. Mar 14th 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross
Sat. Mar. 15th 4:00 pm † People of the Parish
Sun. Mar. 16th 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Mar 15th Maxine Schmidt
Sun. Mar 16th J. von Westerholt

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 15th 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Mar 16th 11:00 am † People of the Parish

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

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. CWL meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 11, 2025 at 1 pm in England Room

2. HNS meeting Wed. 12. 2025 at 7 pm in England Room
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 penitence 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
 Text from Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Living Lent"

Contributions

St. Mary of the Purification: Feb 16 \$551; Feb 23 \$1852; Mar 2 \$1851.15
St. Peter Mission: Feb 23 \$280
St. Thomas Mission: Feb 23 \$155; Mar 2 \$370
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 Ian Duffy and Father John

lyekowa this weekend. They are assisting Father Mike who is still recovering from surgery. We continue to keep him in our prayers for a speedy recovery.

Forty Hours Devotion This Lent

As part of the ongoing Eucharistic revival in Wellington Deanery you are encouraged to participate in the Forty Hours Devotion this Lent. This year's Devotion, which is rather like a Parish Mission with a special focus on the Eucharist, will be preached by His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins, at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate from March 10-13, 2025. There will be Mass at 7:00pm each evening, and forty hours of semi-continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout these days (hence the name "Forty Hours Devotion"). The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration at the Basilica from 7:30am until 10:00pm on March 11 and 12, and from 7:30am until 6:30pm on March 13. There will be a reception in the Basilica Parish Hall following the evening Mass on March 13. The complete schedule for the Forty Hours Devotion is on the website of the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate.



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.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT - Young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of Adoration, fellowship and music for Lent as you discern your vocation and as we prepare to celebrate Easter. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food, vocations testimony, Lenten music concert, and Compline (9:00pm) on **Saturday, April 5th** at **St. Ann's Church**, Hamilton. Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. Contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

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 23rd 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.

ReSTART: Moving Forward – Our 10 week program offers education and support to anyone seeking to heal and move forward after divorce or separation. The sessions will be offered from **March 17 - June 9** (no sessions April 21 & May 19) and are held at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in Hamilton. Cost is \$35 for materials, but no one is turned away. 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.

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>.

OPENING THE HOLY DOOR: SPRING BOOK CLUB

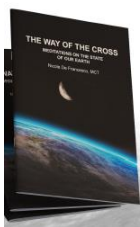
The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invites you to join us for a four-week virtual book club, exploring the new book by Joan Watson, "**Opening the Holy Door.**" Tuesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **March 18-April 8, 2025.** Together we will reflect on the beautiful images of mercy and hope found 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/>

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Fundraiser for the Ignatius Jesuit Centre



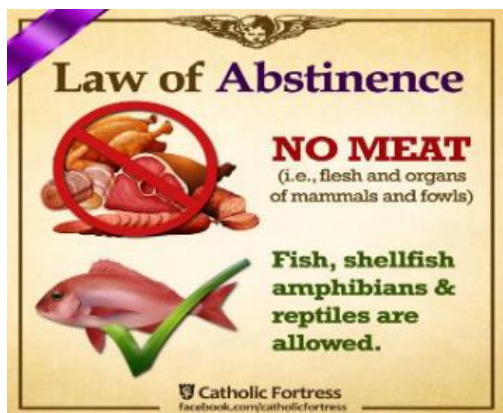
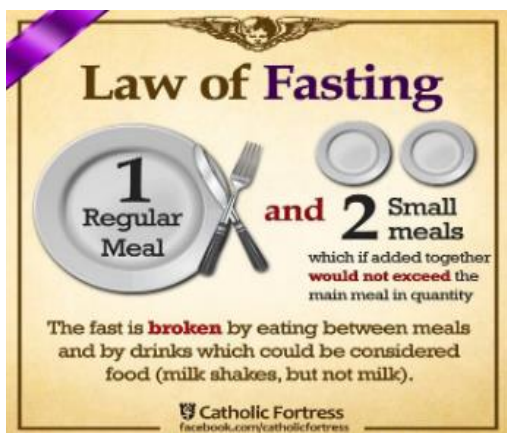
“The Way of the Cross: Meditations on the State of Our Planet”

“These meditations bring together the traditional practice of contemplatively entering Jesus’ Good Friday journey of the Way of the Cross, along with reflections on the state of our planet... [They] offer an instructional and creative way of entering the season of Lent, both as individuals, but also for faith communities.”



Fr. Philip Shano, SJ

Buy your copy for \$20 at Loyola House Reception or online at www.ottbookstore.com/shop All proceeds go to the Ignatius Jesuit Centre. Stations of the Cross with this book Fri. Apr. 11/25 7pm Holy Rosary Church Guelph



Lent is a season of preparation for Easter, mirroring Jesus’ forty days in the desert and also anticipating his passion, death, and triumphant resurrection:

“By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.” (CCC 540, see 542)

Additionally, paragraph 1438 of the *Catechism* describes Lent as a penitential season: *The seasons and days of penance* in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church’s penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works). [CCC 1438, emphasis original] Thus, Lent is a season of spiritual preparation, one that not only looks forward to the joy of Jesus’ Resurrection (beginning with the Easter Octave), but also provides the faithful—both Catholics and those joining the Church—an annual opportunity to fortify their faith and otherwise grow in holiness for the sake of Christ’s kingdom (John 13:34-35; see Matt. 6:10; 24:14). For those preparing to become Catholic—whether catechumens (who will receive all three sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist) or candidates (baptized Christians who will receive confirmation and the Eucharist)—Lent is a period of learning and spiritual formation that leads to their coming into full communion with our Lord Jesus Christ and his Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. For existing Catholics, Lent is an opportunity to reflect on their faith and strengthen their relationship with God and others through prayer, fasting, acts of charity, and spiritual reading. Each year, then, by calling us to turn away from sin and soul-sapping distractions, Lent helps us focus on what truly matters, drawing us closer to God as we prepare to celebrate the triumphant joy of the Easter season.

Daylight Savings Time begins today, did you turn you clocks ahead one hour?



