



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

SEASON OF LENT: Let us Journey Together

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.

April 20, 2025 EASTER SUNDAY

Alleluia ! Alleluia !



St. MARY OF THE PURIFICATION, Mt. Forest

Tue Apr 22 7:00 pm NO MASS

**Wed Apr 23 9:00 am † Arthur, Mary & John
McDonald Req'd by the Family**

**Thur Apr 24 9:00 am † Bev Mothersell Req'd
by the Family**

**Fri Apr 25 9:00 am † Stephan Zurav Req'd by
The Family**

Sat Apr 26 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun Apr 27 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Apr 26 Susan Thurston

Sun Apr 27 E. Westendorp

CONFESSION: Canceled until further notice

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Apr 26 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Apr 27 11:00 am † People of the Parish

Saturday April 19 – EASTER VIGIL

First Reading

Genesis 1:1—2:2 (shorter form, *Genesis 1:1,26-31a*)

God creates the heavens and the earth.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 104:1-2,5-6,10,12-14,24,35 or *Psalm 33:4-7,12-13,20-22*

A song of praise to God, the Creator.

Second Reading

Genesis 22:1-18 (shorter form, *Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18*)

God puts Abraham to the test.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 16:5,8-11

The Lord shows us the path of life.

Third Reading

Exodus 14:15—15:1

The Israelites pass through the Red Sea.

Responsorial Psalm

Exodus 15:1-6,17-18

The song of praise that the Israelites sang after crossing the Red Sea.

Fourth Reading

Isaiah 54:5-14

The Lord promises to redeem Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 30:2,4-6,11-13

A prayer of thanksgiving for God's redemption.

Fifth Reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

A call to return to the Lord who is merciful.

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12:2-6

The Lord sends his salvation.

Sixth Reading

Baruch 3:9-15,32—4:4

Israel is told to follow the way of God's commandments.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 19:8-11

A prayer of praise for God's commandments.

Seventh Reading

Ezekiel 36:16-17a,18-28

The Lord will cleanse Israel for the sake of his holy name.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 42:3,5; 53:3,4 or *Isaiah 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6* or *Psalm 51:12-15,18-19*

A prayer of praise for God who saves us.

Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Those who have been baptized have died with Christ.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23

God's mercy endures forever.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:1-12

The women go to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body and are greeted by two men who announce that Jesus is risen.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Each of the four Gospels reports the discovery of the empty tomb after Jesus' death. At the Easter Vigil each year, we read from one of the Synoptic Gospels. This year we are in Lectionary Cycle C and we read from the Gospel of Luke. On Easter

Sunday, the Gospel reading is always taken from the Gospel of John.

In each of the four Gospels, we learn that it was the female followers of Jesus who first went to the tomb. Luke reports that the women from Galilee go to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body, bringing with them the spices they had prepared. Luke names three women who found the tomb empty: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary, the mother of James.

Upon arriving at the tomb, the women find that the stone has been rolled away from the entrance. They enter the tomb but do not see the body of Jesus. Before the women have drawn any conclusions about this, they see two men dressed in dazzling garments. The women are said to be terrified. When these men speak to the women, they announce that Jesus has been raised from the dead. As if to prove their announcement, the men recall Jesus' own words to them. The women leave the tomb and report to the others what they have seen and heard.

These women disciples were faithful followers of Jesus who had probably served Jesus in many ways during his journeys. Luke tells us that they remained present with Jesus on his way to the crucifixion site and witnessed his death. They came to the tomb that morning expecting to serve Jesus once again by anointing his body. Instead, they were sent to minister in a different way, as messengers to Peter and the apostles.

Yet the apostles do not believe the women. Luke reports that the women's story seemed like nonsense. It is odd that Peter goes to the tomb at all. Perhaps Peter knew these women well enough to give their story credence. Perhaps he remembered something that Jesus had said that led him to hope that the women's story was more than nonsense. Without explaining why, Luke tells us that Peter goes to the tomb to investigate the women's story. He looks into the tomb, sees the burial cloths alone, and then goes home amazed.

We see in Luke's Gospel that the Twelve (who now number eleven because of Judas' betrayal) are identified as separate from the other disciples. These men were identified as Jesus' inner circle; they hold a position of authority in the community of disciples. At the start of his ministry, Luke tells us that Jesus chose the Twelve and named them apostles ([Luke 6:12-16](#)). The word apostle means "one who is sent." During his lifetime, Jesus prepared these apostles to be his witnesses by sending them to heal the sick, to exorcise demons, and to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

Peter is singled out from among the Twelve. The authority of Peter and the other apostles will continue to be described in the Acts of the Apostles, which was written by the author of the Gospel of Luke. We can trace our faith in Jesus' Resurrection to these witnesses. Their teaching, their ministry, and their bold proclamation of Christ's saving death and Resurrection are the beginning of the Church's witness to salvation through Christ.

This Sunday's Reading EASTER SUNDAY:

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a,37-43

Peter preaches about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23

Rejoice in this day of the Lord.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Colossians: Having been raised by Christ, be concerned with what is above.

1 Corinthians: Let us celebrate this feast with new yeast.

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-9

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus'

body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

Family Connection

In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is

the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." www.loyolapress.com

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for April

For the use of new technologies

"Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times."

The Month of April

Dedicated to the Holy Eucharist & Holy Spirit



CWL News

Join us for *Spring Soup and Sandwich!*

St. Mary of the Purification, 310 Parkside Drive

Saturday April 26, 2025 11 am- 1 pm

\$15 p/p Pay at the door



PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP ON EASTER SUNDAY!

LOUISE MARSHALL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Friday May 2, 2025 11 – 1 pm Mt.Forest Sports

Complex \$20 pp. Meat Pie/salad/cake &

icecream

Contributions

St. Mary of the Purification: Apr 13 \$2,125;

Maintenance \$330

St. Peter Mission: Apr 13 \$ 130

St. Thomas Mission: Apr 13 \$ 370

Thank you for your continued donations. Your contributions are greatly appreciated as we seek to encourage all with God's Love and Word. ** If you are interested in being a Usher , please contact Father Mike ,email manderson@hamiltondiocese.com Thank you! **

