



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.

April 27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

ST. MARY OF THE PURIFICATION, Mt. Forest

Tue Apr 29 7:00 pm † Intentions of Bob & Bonnie Koechl Req'd by Tim Koechl and
† Katheryn Meyer Req'd by

The Estate

Wed Apr 30 9:00 am † Paul McCann Req'd by Denise McCann

Thur May 1 9:00 am † Elizabeth Nagy Req'd by Helen & Bert Moore

Fri May 2 *First Friday Adoration after Mass*
9:00 am † Doris Burke Req'd by Michael Burke & Florence Bartman

Sat May 3 *First Saturday*
9:00 am † Joseph Moore Req'd by Paul, Betty & Bob Goetz

4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun May 4 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat May 3 Maxine Schmidt

Sun May 4 Melissa Reid

CONFESSION: Tuesday evenings 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Or by appointment, call Fr. Mike at the Parish office 519-323-1054 ext.7

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. May 3 5:30 pm † Mary & Francis Garvey, Jerome Lane & Ernie Sr. Dunlop Req'd by Virginia Lane and Aidan Felsbourg Req'd by Kathleen Boone

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. May 4 11:00 am † Anna Marie Raftis Req'd by The Estate and Repose of the Soul of Eileen Horrigan Req'd by The Estate

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16

Peter and the apostles perform many signs and wonders.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24

A song of praise to the Lord.

Second Reading

Revelation 1:9-11a,12-13,17-19

John describes the instruction he received to write down his vision.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading, from the Gospel of John, is proclaimed on the second Sunday of Easter in each of the three Sunday Lectionary cycles. This should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. We do not know exactly what this form was like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize the figure standing before her until Jesus spoke her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected body, Jesus was no longer bound by space; he appeared to the disciples in spite of the locked door. And yet, on this resurrected body, the disciples could still observe the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun. As Jesus was sent by God, so too does Jesus send his disciples. This continuity with Jesus' own mission is an essential element of the Church. Jesus grants the means to accomplish this mission when he gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church. The Church continues Jesus' ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Thomas, the disciple who doubts, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of disciples. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. It is part of

our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death is, indeed, the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who had died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have believed. The Second Sunday of Easter is celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. www.loyolapress.com

Family Connection

Our family life would no doubt be enhanced if we were able to transform Jesus' greeting into a central feature in our family's interactions. After his Resurrection, "Peace be with you" is the first thing that Jesus says to his disciples. This could be our daily family prayer for one another. In today's Gospel, we also hear that Jesus next breathed on his disciples and gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, each of us has received the gift of the Holy Spirit as well as the forgiveness of sins. Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Our Baptism, then, invites us to share in the peace that Christ gave to his disciples and commissions us to share that peace of Christ by generously forgiving others as Jesus taught.

As you gather as a family, think about gifts that you might receive together such as a coloring book and crayons, a book and bookmark, or an electronic item and batteries. Observe that Jesus also paired two gifts together in today's Gospel. Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, John 20:19-31. Discuss the two gifts Jesus gave to his disciples: peace and the Holy Spirit. Ask: *What were the disciples to do with these gifts?* (They were sent as Jesus was sent by the Father to forgive sins.) Recall that we have each received Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism and that peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Observe that since we also have received these gifts from Christ, we are also sent to be people who forgive others as Jesus taught. Determine an action that your family can do to share peace and forgiveness with one another. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit or the Peace Prayer of St. Francis

Remembering Pope Francis: A Shepherd of Mercy and Mission

On April 21, 2025, Pope Francis completed his earthly pilgrimage and returned to the Father. From the moment he was elected in 2013, he led the People of God with humility, compassion, and

unwavering dedication to the Gospel. As the first pope from the Americas and the first Jesuit to hold the papacy, he brought a distinctive pastoral spirit-rooted in mercy and a profound concern for the poor and the marginalized. From the earliest days of his pontificate, Pope Francis called the Church to be one that "goes forth"- a Church not content to remain within its own walls, but one willing to reach the peripheries of society. He gave voice to the forgotten, the excluded and the suffering: the poor, the elderly, migrants, and those whose pain often goes unseen. His journeys around the world gave witness to this mission, as he stood in places of conflict and poverty, offering gestures of peace, words of justice, and a deep compassion that transcended borders. One of the defining moments of his papacy came in 2015 with the release of *Laudato Si'* an encyclical that echoed the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Grounded in the Church's social teaching, it reminded all people of goodwill of our shared responsibility to care for creation and to defend the dignity of every human being, especially the most vulnerable. Its impact was far-reaching, inspiring dialogue and action not only within the Church but across global communities. www.hamiltondiocese.com

Prayer for Imploring Holy Popes

Kyrie Eleison! Christe Eleison! Kyrie Eleison! Lord Jesus Christ, Thou art the Good Shepherd!

With Thy almighty hand, Thou guidest Thy pilgrim Church through the storms of each age.

Adorn the Holy See with holy popes who neither fear the powerful of this world nor compromise with the spirit of the age, but preserve, strengthen, and defend the Catholic Faith unto the shedding of their blood; and observe, protect, and hand on the venerable liturgy of the Roman Church. O Lord, return to us holy popes who, inflamed with the zeal of the Apostles, proclaim to the whole world: "Salvation is found in no other than in Jesus Christ. For there is no other name under Heaven given to men whereby they may be saved"(see Acts 4.10-12) Through an era of holy popes, may the Holy See- which is home of all who promote the Catholic and Apostolic Faith – always shine as the cathedra of truth for the whole world. Hear us, O Lord and through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of the Church, grant us holy popes, grant us many holy popes! Have mercy on us and hear us! Amen.

LOUISE MARSHALL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Friday May 2, 2025 11 – 1 pm Mt. Forest Sports Complex \$20 pp. Meat Pie/salad/cake & ice cream.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Sunday, June 8, 2025 at 3:00 pm we will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation

*Sunday, June 22, 2025, we will celebrate **First Holy Communion** with a special Mass being held at 3:00 p.m.*

Deadline for registration is May 30, 2025

*If you have a child who **does not** attend St. Mary's School in Mount Forest, and who has reached the age of discernment, please contact the parish office for registration. 519-323-1054 or email stmarytmforest@wightman.ca*



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

ABOUT THE SPIRITUALITY OF CHILDHOOD

Holy Rosary Parish in Guelph is hosting the first of a two-part Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level One Formation Course **July 7-12, 2025**. This retreat-like experience immerses the adult in scripture, liturgy, theology, prayer, the needs and capacities of children, and making materials the child works with to internalize the Christian message. Catechists formed in this method usually go on to work with 3–6-year-olds in a parish or school, or are involved in ministries such as RCIA, Children's Liturgy of the Word, and preparation for the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. For more information: [www.cgsac.ca /Courses/Level One](http://www.cgsac.ca/Courses/Level%20One) or contact the course registrar: therese.wright8591@gmail.com.

THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS – REGISTER NOW!

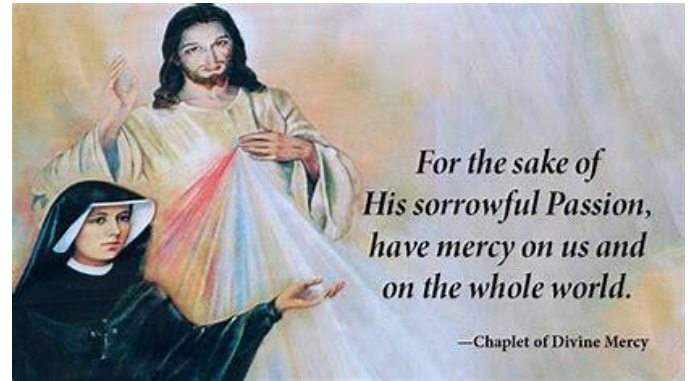
Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2025? You are cordially invited to join Bishop Crosby and couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, June 1, 2025** at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. Register at Upcoming Events at hamiltondiocese.com.

The Canadian Federal Election is Monday April 28th

Our actions matter, and so does our vote.

“For Heaven's sake, VOTE !”

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000.

The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina. The most comprehensive revelation can be found in her *Diary* entry 699:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day I will open all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy.

In all, St. Faustina recorded 14 revelations from Jesus concerning His desire for this feast.

Nevertheless, Divine Mercy Sunday is NOT a feast based solely on St. Faustina's revelations. Indeed, it is not primarily about St. Faustina — nor is it altogether a new feast. The Second Sunday of Easter was already a solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter.

