



# 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](http://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](mailto:manderson@hamiltondiocese.com)  
[stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca](mailto:stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca)  
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**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](http://www.hamiltonvocations.com)

### DIOCESAN

**NEWSLETTER:** Visit the Diocese of Hamilton to subscribe to the online diocesan newsletter visit [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://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](http://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

**April 6, 2025**



## Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Fri. Apr 11** 7:00 pm *Stations of the Cross*  
**Sat. Apr 12** 4:00 pm † People of the Parish  
**Sun. Apr 13** 9:00 am † People of the Parish

### Lectors

**Sat. Apr 12** Cesar Arruda  
**Sun. Apr 13** J.VonWesterholt/C.DallaCosta

**CONFESSION:** **Cancelled this week** Tue. 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm or call Fr Mike at 519-323-1054 ext.

### ST. THOMAS, Harriston

**Sat. Apr 12** 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton PALM SUNDAY

**Sun. Apr 13** 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**

*Isaiah 43:16-21*

The Lord is doing something new for his people.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalms 126:1-6*

A song in praise of the Lord's marvelous deeds

#### **Second Reading**

*Philippians 3:8-14*

Paul says that he counts all things as loss and focuses on one goal, Christ.

#### **Gospel Reading**

*John 8:1-11*

Jesus does not condemn the woman caught in adultery.

#### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

The Gospel for the fifth Sunday of Lent continues to offer lessons about God's mercy and forgiveness. Last Sunday we heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel of Luke. Today we hear not a parable, but the report from John's Gospel of an encounter among Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees, and a woman caught in adultery.

In John's Gospel, the conflict between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees occurs much earlier than in the Synoptic Gospels. Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem is reported at the beginning of John's Gospel. Even after this event, Jesus continues to teach in the Temple. After returning to Galilee for a time, Jesus again enters Jerusalem and cures a man on the Sabbath. From this point forward in John's Gospel, the Pharisees are described as making plans for Jesus' arrest and seeking his death.

In the chapter preceding today's Gospel, Jesus was teaching in the Temple area. Feeling threatened by his teaching and his actions, the chief priests and the Pharisees are already sending guards to arrest Jesus. The guards return, however, without arresting Jesus because they have been impressed by his words. Even more than this, some among the crowds are considering the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah. The chief priests and the Pharisees change their plan. Before making an arrest, they seek to gather more evidence against Jesus by posing a question intended to trap Jesus.

Today's Gospel begins by reporting that Jesus is again teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple. The scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case.

The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Under Roman occupation, however, the Jewish people did not have the authority to execute people; this is cited in John's passion narrative. To answer the Pharisees' question, Jesus must propose an action that will be either contrary to the Law of Moses or contrary to Roman law. The purpose of the question appears to be similar to the question about paying taxes found in [Mark 12:13-17](#). Either answer, yes or no, will support the Pharisees' case against Jesus.

Jesus avoids the trap, however, by offering an answer that was not anticipated by those who posed the question. Jesus, after writing on the ground with his finger, addresses those who stand before him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to his writing. This Scripture reading, by the way, is the only evidence we have of Jesus writing. Yet there are no specific details about what he wrote.

We can easily imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. We might also

give credit to the elders and the Pharisees who do not, in the end, claim to be sinless and worthy of passing judgment. These Pharisees are not as self-righteous as the portrait found in the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector (See [Luke 18:9-14](#)).

Left alone with the woman, Jesus asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus (the one who truly is without sin) sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin.

Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.

### Family Connection

There are few people that we know better than the members of our own family. We know one another's strengths and abilities, and we also know one another's limitations and weaknesses. Like the Pharisees in today's Gospel, we may be tempted to focus on the faults and sins that familiarity with one another can sometimes reveal. As family members, however, we also have the ability to see one another's faults and sins within the context of the whole person. When we can keep this perspective, we are more likely to look upon one another with compassion. Family life, then, presents us the opportunity to see one another as God sees us, not with judgment and condemnation for our weaknesses and failings, but with mercy and compassion. When we learn to withhold judgment for the faults we know are there and seek the best in one another, we help one another to experience the depths of God's compassion, mercy, and love.

As you gather as a family, observe that when we know people well we know their faults as well as their strengths. At times, we can be tempted to focus on the faults we see in others. Discuss what your family life would be like if you always focused on one another's faults. Observe that in today's Gospel, Jesus refuses to focus on the sin of the woman brought to him for judgment. Read aloud today's Gospel, John 8:2-11. Ask: **What did the people who focused on the woman's sin want to do?** (stone the woman) **What does Jesus say to the**

**people who accused the woman caught in adultery?** (that the person with no sin should throw the first stone) **Are any of us without sin?** (No.) Observe that we can help each other to grow in God's love by refusing to focus on one another's faults and sins. In this way, we can help one another to see ourselves as God sees us: with understanding and compassion. Conclude in prayer together asking God to forgive our sins by praying the [Act of Contrition](#). [www.loyolapress.com](http://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**
- Next CWL meeting – Tue April 8, 1 pm

**NEEDED !** If you are an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, please contact the Parish office 519-323-1054. Thank you and God Bless!



#### COFFEE SUNDAY

**Please join us in the TD Smith Parish hall following mass on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. All are welcome !**

**WEBINAR FOR CATECHISTS: SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR DIVERSE LEARNING NEEDS** Join us on **Tuesday, April 29, 2025** (7:00pm – 8:30pm) for a conversation about the Church's call to hospitality and support of diverse learners in preparation for Sacraments of Initiation. Current research and catechetical tools will be offered to all those who

accompany their local communities in Sacramental Preparation. All are welcome. Registration can be made here: [www.hamiltondiocese.com/events](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com/events).



### Holy Week Mass schedule

#### **St.Mary of the Purification, Mt.Forest**

Holy Thursday 7:00pm - Mass of the Lords Supper  
Good Friday 3:00pm - The Passion of the Lord  
7:00pm - Stations of the Cross  
Holy Saturday 8:00pm - Easter Vigil  
Easter Sunday 9:00am - Resurrection of the Lord

#### **St.Peter's Mission, Ayton**

Easter Sunday 11:00am -Resurrection of the Lord

### Reconciliation

#### **St.Mary of the Purification**

By appointment only , please call the Parish office 519-323-1054

#### **St.John's, Arthur**

Confession is available after 9 am daily mass and first Friday of every month, and Saturdays from 2:30-3:00

#### **Sacred Heart, Kenilworth**

First Sunday of each month

#### **St.Peter's , Durham**

Tuesday 6:00 pm and Thursdays 8:45 before mass



### Lenten Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God,  
You have given the human race  
Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.  
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man  
And giving His life on the Cross.  
Help us to bear witness to You  
By following His example of suffering  
And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.

Amen.

### Lenten Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

God, heavenly Father,  
look upon me and hear my prayer  
during this holy Season of Lent.  
By the good works You inspire,  
help me to discipline my body  
and to be renewed in spirit. Without You I can do nothing.

By Your Spirit help me to know what is right  
and to be eager in doing Your will.  
Teach me to find new life through penance.  
Keep me from sin, and help me live  
by Your commandment of love.  
God of love, bring me back to You.  
Send Your Spirit to make me strong  
in faith and active in good works.  
May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness,  
open my heart to Your love,  
and prepare me for the coming feast  
of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season,  
nourish me with Your Word of life  
and make me one  
with You in love and prayer. Fill my heart with Your love  
and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ.  
Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness.  
Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass.

Father, our source of life,  
I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand;  
let me walk more readily in Your ways.  
Guide me in Your gentle mercy,  
for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings,  
help me to pass from my old life of sin  
to the new life of grace.  
Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom.  
I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
Who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen



