



# 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**

### **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](mailto:manderson@hamiltondiocese.com)  
[stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca](mailto:stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca)  
[stmarymtforest@wightman.ca](mailto: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](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.**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**ST. MARY OF THE PURIFICATION, Mt. Forest**

**Tue May 13 7:00 pm** † Mary Sheehy Req'd by the CWL and † Kathryn Meyer Req'd by The Estate

**Wed May 14 9:00 am** † Yolanda McCann Req'd by Denise McCann

**Thur May 15 9:00 am** † David Williams Req'd by Dave & Donna Meyer

**Fri May 16 9:00 am** † Cynthia Ferguson Req'd by Verne & Pauline Mills

**Sat May 17 4:00 pm** † People of the Parish

**Sun May 18 9:00 am** † People of the Parish

**Lectors**

**Sat May 17** Cesar Arruda

**Sun May 18** J. vonWesterholt

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

**ST. THOMAS, Harriston**

**Sat. May 17 5:30 pm** † People of the Parish

**ST. PETER'S, Ayton**

**Sun. May 18 11:00 am** † People of the Parish

**This Sunday's Reading:**

**First Reading**

*Acts of the Apostles 13:14,43-52*

Paul and Barnabas preach the good news among the Gentiles and are expelled by the Jews.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 100:1-2,3,5*

A song in praise of God who shepherds us.

**Second Reading**

*Revelation 7:9,14b-17*

John describes his vision of the praises that the holy ones sing to the Lamb.

**Gospel Reading**

*John 10:27-30*

Jesus describes his care for his sheep.

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who

question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge to his authority by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. Already, the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angered that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see **John 10:31 and 10:39**). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

Set in a moment of tension and conflict in John's Gospel, today's Gospel reading is Jesus' answer to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus responds by saying, in essence, "If you have to ask, then you are not one of my sheep." Then Jesus asserts his unity with the Father. At the conclusion of these words, John reports that the Jews intend to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but he escapes arrest.

We may be less familiar with the metaphors of sheep and shepherd than those to whom Jesus spoke. The image of Jesus as Good Shepherd and the community of followers as his sheep has endured over the centuries as a primary image in our faith tradition. Its power to describe the relationship between Jesus and his followers transcends direct experience with sheep. The image speaks to us about the protection, security, and care that shepherds represent for their sheep.

Today's Gospel speaks powerfully about the familiarity and intimacy between Jesus and his disciples, expressed as recognizing and knowing another's voice. Today's Gospel also speaks to the relationship between Jesus and the Father. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.

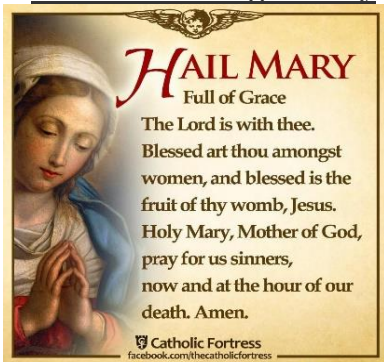
[www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)

**Family Connection**

Not only can we recognize family members' voices, we can also read the tone of their voices and know something about how they are feeling. In our relationship with Jesus, we know Jesus' voice and are called to follow. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. Knowing Jesus means knowing the Father.

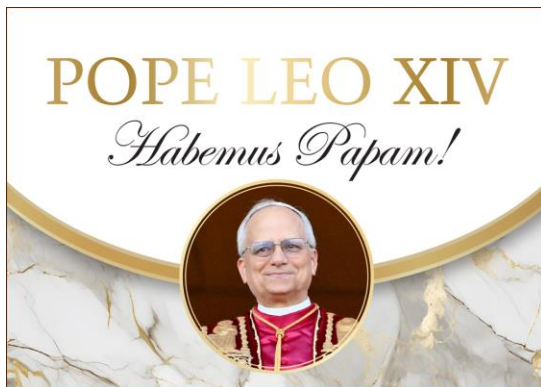
Read with your family today's Gospel, John 10:27-30. Ask your family members to talk about some ways that Jesus brings them closer to God and closer to one another. Pray together the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.

**The Month of May is dedicated to  
The Blessed Virgin Mary**



**The Pope's Prayer Intention for May**

For working conditions: Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfillment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized. Amen.



We pray that our new shepherd, Pope Leo XIV, be blessed with the wisdom and compassion needed to guide the Church. May he, in communion with his fellow bishops, serve you and your people with dedication and joy, deep compassion, and profound faith, hope, and charity so that the light of the Risen Christ will continue to dispel the darkness of this world. Saint Peter, to whom were given the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, pray for us.

www.loyolapress.com

**CWL News**

- The next CWL meeting will be held Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. All the Ladies of the Parish are welcome to attend.
- St. Mary Auxiliary meeting ( formerly Holy Name Society) will have a meeting on Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm



**COFFEE SUNDAY**

Please join us in the parish hall for coffee and refreshments every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Mass. All are welcome!

***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.***

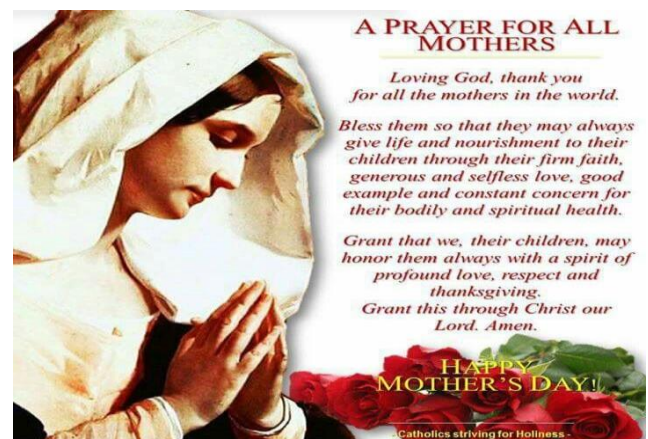
***Deadline for registration is May 30, 2025***

*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 [stmarymforest@wightman.ca](mailto:stmarymforest@wightman.ca)*



**Join us for Michael House's 20th Annual Baby Bottle Campaign!** Since 2005, our community has come together each spring to support vulnerable mothers and babies through this simple but powerful campaign. Over the years, together we've raised more than **\$513,000 — one bottle at a time.** Pick up a baby bottle and from **Mother's Day (May 11) to Father's Day (June 15)** fill it with **coins, bills, cheques — and love.** Every bottle filled helps Michael House provide shelter, care, and a fresh start to families in need.

To donate online or learn more, visit <https://www.michaelhouse.ca/event/baby-bottle-campaign/>



Have a blessed and Happy Mothers Day!



Dioceses and parishes across Canada are invited to celebrate National Family and Life Week (NFLW) from May 11 to May 18<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year is **“Abound in hope!”** – a powerful message from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans. As we journey together as “Pilgrims of Hope” in this Jubilee Year, let us reflect on the gift of hope God gives us through our families.

**Prayer for National Family and Life Week 2025**

Heavenly Father, we place our trust in you. You have given us the precious gift of life and entrusted us to care for, nurture, and sustain it. Help our families to be sanctuaries of joy and light, where both young and old are cherished and embraced, and where your gifts of faith, hope and love may flourish. May your tender loving care inspire all families to abound in hope so that we may live out our call to holiness as missionary disciples in the service of life and peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL**

Join us for our final screening of the season with *The Condor and the Eagle*, **May 22, 7:00 – 9:00 PM**. Four Indigenous leaders embark on a trans-continental adventure from the Canadian Boreal forests to deep into the heart of the Amazonian jungle to unite the peoples of North and South America and deepen the meaning of Climate Justice. Never-before-seen images expose the extractive mining economy and the global rise of land and water protectors across the Americas. Film followed by conversation with **guest speaker Jamie Bourque-Blyan, Engagement Manger with Indigenous Climate Action**. **Register and view our full schedule at: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/reel-justice-film-festival/>** A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.

**PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH #169**

Loving guidance and care for our children is a foundational principle of our Catholic teachings on

parenting. Teaching our children how to live as disciples of Jesus provides them with a firm faith foundation, but also the tools for success in life. So don’t be afraid to set boundaries, have solid expectations and provide correction when necessary. God has trusted us with his precious children to raise and the hard work of childhood will become a loving adult relationship when we parent with firm love and respect of our children. (Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

**MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH #149**

Loving your partner is a choice you make every day and it provides you, your spouse and your children with a stable home to grow and feel safe in. We can choose to speak calmly, express our love, gratitude, hurts and desires to our spouse so they can know and understand us better. Your children are watching you, learning how to be a husband and wife and your marriage, in the Catholic tradition, is meant to be the visible sign of God’s invisible love. Making the choice to love is a daily commitment, but so many will benefit, most importantly, you and your spouse. (Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)



**Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope**

**WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO MIDLAND:  
AUG 2-9, 2025**

**WALKING PILGRIMAGE IS ABOUT:**

- ✚ **nourishing your spirituality**
- ✚ **enjoying the great outdoors**
- ✚ **getting great exercise: 20+km per day**
- ✚ **having fun and enjoying good company**

Those who walk the Guelph-to-Midland pilgrimage find it to be a unique and grace-filled experience. For eight days pilgrims pray, sing, laugh, and share stories with others as they journey. Join us, as we cast off routine for eight days and acquiesce to a community of higher purpose. **Participate for 1 day, a weekend or the full 8 days!** Cost \$400 for 8 days or \$75 per day. We carry your gear, provide 3 meals and snacks daily, and cover entry and camping fees. You bring your tent, chair and personal gear/clothing in a duffle bag. To register or for more information go to [www.ignatiusguelph.ca](http://www.ignatiusguelph.ca) (under programs - Guelph Walking Pilgrimage) **NOTE registration deadline June 30 2025.**

