



Welcome to St. Mary of the Purification Parish

We are delighted you could join us for today's Mass

Please visit our website www.stmarymountforest.ca   Tel: 519-323-1054

OFFICE HOURS: Closed Monday Open Tuesday - Friday: 9:30am - 1:30pm

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, Mt. Forest NOG 2L0



St. Peter's Mission
 943 Caroline St, Ayton NOG 1C0



St. Thomas the Apostle
 #5800 Hwy 89, Harriston NOG 1Z0



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 Wednesday before noon.

ST. MARY OF THE PURIFICATION
August 24th 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Tue Aug 26 7:00 pm † Katheryn Meyer req'd by
The Estate and †Doris Burke Req'd by
Theresa Wells

Wed Aug 27 9:00 am † Intentions of Paul & Mary
MacMillan Req'd by Dan O'Neill

Thu Aug 28 9:00 am **NO MASS TODAY**

Fri Aug 29 9:00 am † ~~Aiden & Gary Felsbourg~~
Req'd by Kathleen Boone **NO MASS TODAY**

Sat Aug 30 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun Aug 31 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Aug 30 Maxine Schmidt

Sun Aug 31 Melissa Reid

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. Aug 30 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Aug 31 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sundays Reading:

First Reading

Isaiah 66:18-21

Nations of every language shall come to see my
glory.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117:1-2

Praise the Lord, all you nations.

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13

Whom the Lord loves, he disciplines.

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:22-30

People will come from north and south, east and
west, and take their place in the Kingdom of God.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is the third of three parables
in chapter 13 that deal with the theme of the
unexpected reversals brought by the Kingdom of
God. The other two parables are about the tiny
mustard seed that grows into a large tree and the
small amount of yeast that makes a large batch of

dough rise. All three are about the few and the many
and the Kingdom of God.

As this parable opens, Luke reminds us that Jesus is
making his way to Jerusalem. This journey, this
exodus as Luke refers to it, makes up the entire
middle of the Gospel. He is teaching as he goes. A
question from the crowd gives Jesus the chance to
make a prophetic statement. Luke uses this question
device a number of times in his Gospel. A few
weeks ago, the question "What must I do to inherit
eternal life?" led to the parable of the Good
Samaritan. The question about will only a few be
saved uses typical Christian language about
salvation but also expresses the Jewish concern
about whether everyone who calls himself a Jew is
actually faithful to the covenant. This was a concern
of the Pharisees.

Jesus answers that they must strive in the time
remaining to enter through the narrow door because
many will be trying to get in but won't be strong
enough. He then moves to a parable about another
door. (The translation says "gate" then "door," but
the same Greek word is used.) Once all those
entering the master's house are in and he locks the
door, there will be no way for others to get in.
Those left outside may knock, but the master will
say he doesn't know them. Unlike the Gospel
reading from a few weeks ago where Jesus was
teaching about prayer, and we were told to knock
and the door would be opened, in this parable, the
master will not open and say he does not know us.
People from the north, south, east, and west will
take our place inside. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all
the prophets will take our place in the Kingdom of
God. Those who do not make it through the narrow
door will be cast out to where there is wailing and
grinding of teeth.

The image of the door is replaced in the final verses
of the parable with the image of the heavenly
banquet. Two passages from the Book of Isaiah
influence the conclusion. Isaiah 43:5-6 speaks of
God bringing Israel's descendents back from the
east and from the west, the north and the south. And
Isaiah 25:6 speaks of the Lord providing a feast of
rich foods and choice wines for all peoples on his
holy mountain. The answer to the question if only a
few will be saved is no. In the end, many will be
saved, but many who thought they would be saved
will not be saved. The parable is a prophetic
warning to repentance in order to enter the
kingdom.

Family Connection

Families take advantage of certain days throughout the year to celebrate individuals in the family and to make sure that they know that they are not taken for granted. As a family, recall all of the days that someone in the family was celebrated in the past year—birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, anniversaries, graduations, and so on. Next, challenge each individual to recall what gifts were received on the day(s) on which he or she was celebrated.

Emphasize that these days are intended to express appreciation in a special way but are not meant to replace the appreciation that we should always show. Point out how, at times, families can take one another for granted. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a story about some people who took something for granted and paid a price. Read aloud Luke 13:22-30. Explain that, in this story, some people took it for granted that they could enter the house whenever they wanted, but the master locked the gate and would not let them in after hours. Point out that Jesus was warning his listeners not to assume that they will have eternal life in heaven and not to take this invitation for granted.

As a family, commit to showing appreciation for one another in the days ahead, striving to not take for granted any of the many things that family members do in their roles as parents and children.

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The Month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary



The Pope's Prayer Intention for AUGUST

For mutual coexistence: Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

Contributions

St. Mary of the Purification: Aug 17 \$1301

St. Peter Mission: Aug 17 \$173

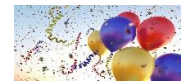
St. Thomas Mission: Aug 17 \$365

Thank you for your continued donations. Your contributions are greatly appreciated as we seek to encourage all with God's Love and Word.

CWL News

- CWL meeting on Tuesday Sept. 09, 2025 at 1:00 pm. All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend to learn more about the CWL.
- Wednesday, HNS or St. Mary Auxiliary meeting at 7.00 pm. All men of the parish are welcome. Please come out and volunteer to help with functions.
- CWL Fall Regional meeting is on SEPT 13, 2025 at 9.00AM. Bring a brown bag lunch. If you would like to attend please come to the CWL meeting or call Colleen for info 519-323-9112

New Landscaping



Thank you so much Paul and Iaia Yaya Clarke from The Cutting Edge Lawn Co. Your innovative ideas have brought our flowerbeds to life. Thank you for your creativity and passion!

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? The journey toward becoming a full member of the Catholic Church includes time for prayer, catechesis (teaching) and conversation. The initiation process is for those who are not baptized and for those who are baptized in another Christian tradition and seek to be full members of the Catholic Church. If you would like more information about becoming a member of the Catholic Church, please contact the Parish office at 519-323-1054 or email stmarymtforest@wightman.ca or manderson@hamitondiocese.com

Proclaiming God's Word – Seeking Lectors!

If you are a fully initiated Catholic and would like to learn more about serving as a lector at a Saturday or Sunday Mass or a weekday, please contact the Parish office at 519-323-1054 or email stmarymtforest@wightman.ca or manderson@hamiltondiocese.com Formation and training is offered to all new lectors. The proclamation of God's Word is an integral part of our liturgy.



Diocesan Calendar- week of August 24

“Pray to the Lord of the Harvest”

Mon-Rev.Robert Wong, S.J.	Thu- Rev.Wieslaw Berdowicz, S.Chr.
Tue-Rev. Philip Shano, S.J.	Fri-The Passion of St.John the Baptist
Wed- Ursuline Sisters, O.S.U.	Sat-Very Rev. Valentine Onwunjiogu



Saint John the Baptist, Feast Day August 29

Patron Saint of baptism, bird dealers, converts, monastic life, motorways, printers, tailors, lambs, and prisoners, Invoked against epilepsy, convulsions, hailstorms, and spasms pre-Congregation canonization

John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, was likely born in Ein Karem in the hill country five miles west of Jerusalem roughly six months before Jesus was born. Present at his birth were the Son and the Mother of God. Saint Thomas Aquinas and other Catholic theologians believe that John was sanctified in the womb immediately after the Blessed Virgin Mary greeted his mother ([Luke 1:41](#)). What we know of John’s childhood is in [Luke 1:80](#): “The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.” Raised as a devout Jew, John eventually entered the desert to pray, practice penance, and prepare for his mission.

First, John is the precursor of the Lord. As the last Old Testament prophet and the first New Testament prophet, he bridges the gap to Christ. Sometime between 27 and 29, John gathered disciples from all walks of life whom he taught, called to repentance, and baptized with water.

John’s life reached its earthly climax when Jesus approached while he was baptizing. John exclaimed, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, ‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’ I did not know

him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel...Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God” ([John 1:29–31](#); [34](#)). After John reluctantly baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove and the Father’s voice thundered, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” ([Matthew 3:17](#)). With that, John’s life receded into the background, “He must increase; I must decrease” ([John 3:30](#)). The Memorial of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist prefigures Jesus giving His life sacrificially on the Cross. John’s death resulted from his bold proclamation of the truth. He had condemned Herod Antipas, the tetrarch and ruler of Galilee and Perea, for his unlawful marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife. Herod extended his power to have John arrested and imprisoned.

Two Gospels narrate the story of John’s death: [Matthew 14:1–12](#) and [Mark 6:14–29](#). Though Herod seemed to fear John’s popularity and his powerful words, he appeased Herodias’ hatred of John. On Herod’s birthday, Herodias’ daughter, traditionally named Salome, performed a dance for Herod and his guests that so pleased him that he promised her anything she asked, up to half his kingdom. Seeing her chance for revenge, Herodias convinced Salome to ask for the Baptist’s head on a platter.

After the weak Herod complied and had John beheaded, the Bible says that “His disciples came and took away the corpse and buried him; and they went and told Jesus” ([Matthew 14:12](#)). Jesus then withdrew to a deserted place to pray. Grieving the death of his cousin, Jesus came face-to-face with His own fate. In prayer, He renewed His fidelity to His Mission to give His life for the salvation of souls. John might have been buried in Sebaste, fifty miles north of Jerusalem. Tradition says that his head is preserved in the Church of San Silvestro in Capite, Rome, but this is impossible to confirm. *Saint John the Baptist, you were given a holy mission and sanctified in your mother’s womb in preparation for that mission. You always pointed the way to Christ, the Savior of all. Please pray that I will have the same courage and the resolve to fulfill my duties, no matter the cost. Saint John the Baptist, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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God Bless you with health and happiness!