



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 2Lo



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 Wednesday before noon.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK



Tue Sept 16 7:00 pm NO MASS

Wed Sept 17 9:00 am NO MASS

Thu Sept 18 9:00 am † Intentions of Bert & Helen Moore on the occasion of their 70th Wedding Anniversary Req'd by Peter & Karen Moore

Fri Sept 19 9:00 am † Paul & Sean MacMillan Req'd by Mary MacMillan

Sat Sept 20 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun Sept 21 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Sept 20 Maxine Schmidt

Sun Sept 21 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 Sept 20 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Sept 21 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sundays Reading:

First Reading

Numbers 21:4b–9

Moses made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he or she was healed.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 78:1–2, 34–34, 36–37, 38

Do not forget the works of the Lord.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6–11

Jesus Christ, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God as a thing to be grasped.

Gospel Reading

John 3:13–17

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Background on the Gospel

In John's Gospel, Jesus' death on the cross as well as his resurrection and return to the Father are one

event. For him, the cross is a sign of exaltation. The serpent that Moses lifted up in the desert to offer healing to those injured by snake bites prefigures Jesus' being lifted up on the cross, bringing salvation. The eternal life God offers through Jesus is not life without end but life lived in the unending presence of God. That is why it can begin now in this life. The world to which God sends the Son is not a place but those people who are at odds with Jesus and God. Jesus is sent to this world as a gift. Only believers accept the gift. Finally, God's judgment on the world is not a future cosmic event but a present reality. God sent the Son out of love for the world. However, the world has to decide to accept him. Those who accept him have eternal life at the moment of the decision. Those who reject him don't. www.loyolapress.com/resources

Family Connection

As a family, sit down together and brainstorm a list of family highlights, moments in the lives of family members that are to be celebrated, such as achievements, accomplishments, and awards. Spend some time reminiscing about these various events or moments. Remind your children of how proud you are of them. Point out that often achievements and accomplishments are signified by the presentation of trophies, medals, ribbons, or certificates. Show some examples of such awards in your family's possession. Say, *We have one other symbol in our home that celebrates a victory that we all can share in.* Show a cross or crucifix that you keep on display in your home. Say: *This is a symbol of God's victory over death. Jesus died on the cross, but because of his Resurrection, the cross has become for us, not a symbol of defeat, but a symbol of victory.* Explain that the following Gospel is from the Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Have a family member read aloud John 3:13–17. Talk about what the word exaltation means—to raise high, to lift up, to sing praise to. Remind your family that whenever they see the cross displayed in your home, it is a reminder to exalt, to praise, God for loving us so much that he gave us his only Son, Jesus. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross, a prayer that exalts God's love.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for September

For our relationship with all of creation. Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Contributions

St. Mary of the Purification: Sept 7 \$1289.75

St. Peter Mission: Sept 7 \$153.85

St. Thomas Mission: Sept 7 \$140

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

PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH AT 7 PM.

Agenda to follow. If you have any ideas or issues that you wish to be included, please email Fr. Mike manderson@hamiltondiocese.com, before 1:30 pm on Sept. 19th. All are encouraged to attend! Thank you and God Bless!

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 at either St. Mary, St. Peter or St. Thomas, 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, Taking place at St. Mary of the Purification. The proclamation of God's Word is an integral part of our liturgy.

Collection Ushers are needed once again !

If you are interested, please contact the parish office at 519-323-1054 or email stmarymtforest@wightman.ca or manderson@hamiltondiocese.com. Thank you and God Bless!



DIocese of HAMILTON

Diocesan Calendar- week of September 14

"Pray to the Lord of the Harvest"

Mon-Rev. Phillip Cook	Thu- Rev. Kevin D'Souza
Tue- Rev. Laszlo Amaszka	Fri-Rev. Piotr Golinski
Wed- Missionary Sisters of Christ the King, M.ChR.	Sat-Rev. Rafal Tomon

Bishop Crosby's 50th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate the 50th anniversary with the Eucharist on **Saturday, September 27th, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. Refreshments and an opportunity to greet the Bishop in McNally Hall following Mass. All are welcome.

OPEN HOUSE The Bishop Farrell Library & Archives invites you to an Open House, **Sept. 20th from 2:00 - 5:00** and **Sept. 21st from 10:00 - 2:00**. We are located at 698 King St. West, on the grounds of the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. Join us to view The Saint John's Bible, learn about our services, and pick up a few good books! Open to All!

THE DIOCESAN JUBILEE YEAR MULTICULTURAL MASS will be celebrated at **3 p.m. on October 5, 2025, at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Waterdown**. All are welcome! A Planning Committee is preparing the Liturgy, including the sharing of music and other cultural inclusions – assuring the celebration engages all cultures! A special collection will support the ongoing work of our Diocesan Refugee Office, who welcome hundreds of refugees to Canada every year! After Mass, all are welcome to share a light refreshments with cultural foods prepared for the occasion and enjoy entertainment. It is always a lively and prayerful event.

THE CANONIZATION OF Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis, postponed because of the death of Pope Francis, took place on September 7th in St. Peter's Basilica. These young men lived remarkable lives close to the Lord. We seek their intercession especially for the young people in our schools, parishes and communities! May their example be an encouragement for us all.

FALL WORKSHOPS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Lectors Workshop: In this workshop, participants receive formation in Liturgy and Ministry, Techniques to Proclaim the Word of God, and an opportunity to practice. It is ideal for parishioners new to this ministry and a good refresher for experienced Ministers Participants receive a mandate from the Bishop of Hamilton. The cost is \$35 and includes lunch. Workshops run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Saturday, October 4, 2025**, St. Michael Parish,

Waterloo, and Saturday, November 1, 2025, St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Burlington. Register through the Diocese of Hamilton website under Upcoming Events/Workshops <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/2025/08/minister-of-the-word-formation-workshop-3/>

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: In this workshop, participants receive formation in Liturgy, Eucharist and Ministry, Spiritual Preparation, Diocesan Norms and Guidelines, and an opportunity to practice. It is ideal for those who are new to this ministry and a good refresher for experienced ministers. Participants receive a mandate from the Bishop of Hamilton. The cost is \$35 and includes lunch. Workshops run 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Saturday, September 20, 2025**, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Owen Sound, and Saturday, October 18, 2025, St. Joseph Parish, Guelph, and Saturday, November 22, 2025, St. Raphael Parish, Burlington. Register through the Diocese of Hamilton website under Upcoming Events/Workshops <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/2025/08/extraordinary-minister-of-communion-formation-workshops-4/>

ENHANCING SELF-ESTEEM - This program provides the opportunity to increase your awareness and to learn specific skills for building positive self-esteem, which will assist you to feel stronger in all areas of your life. Issues covered during the course include taking responsibility for your own thoughts and feelings, positive ways to behave assertively and setting realistic goals for your future. The program takes place on Tuesdays from **Sept. 23 – Nov. 25** from 7-9 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West Hamilton. Cost is \$35 for materials. For registration online: hamiltondiocese.com and look under Upcoming Events, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, or e-mail familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com.

WHEN LIFE CHANGES PARTS ONE AND TWO – Has someone you cared about died? Are you grieving the loss of the person's presence in your life? Are you looking for relief from the feelings associated with the loss of this loved one? You are not alone! The Hamilton Diocese offers two six-week grief programs for your support. Part one of the program will be offered again on Wednesdays from **Nov. 5 to Dec. 10**. For those who have taken part one, part two will be offered from **September 10 to October 15, 2025**. Both programs will run from 7:00-8:30pm and will be held at the Chancery Office, Hamilton. To register online: hamiltondiocese.com under Upcoming Events or call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

STRUGGLING IN YOUR MARRIAGE? FIND HOPE WITH RETROUVAILLE – Retrouvaille is a marriage program that helps couples who are struggling to restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. Retrouvaille helps to improve communication, build stronger marriages and aids couples to reconnect. Join us for our upcoming weekend **Oct. 17 (evening), 18 and**

19th because no marriage is beyond hope. For more information visit www.retrouvaille.org, or email 1013r@helpourmarriage.org, or call 905-664-5212.



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Feast Day September 14

The one symbol most often identified with Jesus and his Church is the cross.

Today we celebrate The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast traces its beginning to Jerusalem and the dedication of the church built on the site of Mount Calvary in 335. But the meaning of the cross is deeper than any city, any celebration, any building. The cross is a sign of suffering, a sign of human cruelty at its worst. But by Christ's love shown in the Paschal Mystery, it has become the sign of triumph and victory, the sign of God, who is love itself. Believers have always looked to the cross in times of suffering. People in concentration camps, in prisons, in hospitals, in any place of suffering and loneliness, have been known to draw, trace, or form crosses and focus their eyes and hearts on them. The cross does not explain pain and misery. It does not give us any easy answers. But it does help us to see our lives united with Christ's.

We often make the Sign of the Cross over ourselves. We make it before prayer to help fix our minds and hearts on God. We make it after prayer, hoping to stay close to God. In trials and temptations, the cross is a sign of strength and protection. The cross is the sign of the fullness of life that is ours. At Baptism, too, the Sign of the Cross is used; the priest, parents, and godparents make the sign on the forehead of the child. A sign made on the forehead is a sign of belonging. By the Sign of the Cross in Baptism, Jesus takes us as his own in a unique way. Today, let us look to the cross often. Let us make the Sign of the Cross and realize we bring our whole selves to God—our minds, souls, bodies, wills, thoughts, hearts—everything we are and will become.

*O cross, you are the glorious sign of our victory.
Through your power may we share in the triumph of
Christ Jesus. (Prayer of Christians)*
www.loyolapress/resources.com

