



# 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](http://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](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, 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](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 Wednesday before noon.**

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK



**Tue Sept 9 7:00 pm** † Vincent Benjamin Req'd  
by Kathleen Boone and † Katheryn Meyer Req'd by  
The Estate

**Wed Sept 10 9:00 am** † Intentions of Fr. Mike  
Req'd by Florence Kreps

**Thu Sept 11 9:00 am** † Colleen, Anne & Norma  
McDermott Req'd by Bill & Mary Hammond

**Fri Sept 12 9:00 am** † Robert McIntee Req'd by  
Donna & Dave Meyer

**Sat Sept 13 4:00 pm** † People of the Parish

**Sun Sept 14 9:00 am** † People of the Parish

### Lectors

**Sat Sept 13** Laura Cherrey

**Sun Sept 14** Melissa Reid

**CONFESSOR:** 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 13 5:30 pm** † People of the Parish

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

**Sun Sept 14 11:00 am** † People of the Parish

## This Sundays Reading:

### First Reading

*Wisdom 9:13-18b*

Knowledge alone has limits. We also need wisdom  
to understand the ways of God.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14-17*

God's power has no boundaries; it is not limited by  
space and time.

### Second Reading

*Philemon 9-10, 12-17*

Paul encourages one of his converts to consider his  
former slave a brother in Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Reading

*Luke 14:25-33*

Jesus teaches about the demands of discipleship.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

In chapter 14 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus is speaking to  
people gathered at the table about the difficulties of  
following him. This group of people is suspicious  
about Jesus, looking to catch him doing something  
wrong. Jesus speaks to them in parables,

emphasizing that although there is a right way to be  
a disciple and enter into the kingdom of his Father,  
it is a difficult path to follow. Many, even some of  
the guests at the table, reject the invitation. So Jesus  
turns to the crowds and speaks to them of  
discipleship. Jesus explains that, when it comes to  
making a choice for the Kingdom of God, nothing  
can get in the way. When Jesus describes “hating”  
one's father and mother, he is not talking about  
feelings. Rather, he is emphasizing very strongly  
that choosing to be a disciple means that everything  
else—family, money, your own life—must come  
second. In Matthew's version of this story (Matthew  
10:37), Jesus refers not to “hating” father or mother,  
but to *loving them more* than Jesus. Jesus makes it  
very clear that being a disciple is not easy. It means  
to bear one's own cross.

These difficult sayings of Jesus are followed by two  
brief parables (a person constructing a tower and a  
king marching into battle) that make an obvious  
point—don't start what you cannot finish.  
Discipleship is difficult and is something we can  
commit to only if we are prepared to put the  
Kingdom of God before everything else.

### Family Connection

Provide your children with a list of things that they  
are responsible for interspersed with things that they  
like to do—for example, make their beds, take out  
the garbage, go to the park, do homework, watch  
television, have a snack, feed the cat. The list  
should reflect their responsibilities and favorite  
recreations. Tell them to pretend that company is  
coming and ask which of the things listed should be  
done first. Explain that this is called setting  
priorities. Paraphrase the Gospel story for the  
children. Ask them what Jesus says is the most  
important thing for them to do. Jesus tells us that  
the number-one priority is to follow him.

But just as it is not always easy to do the things we  
are supposed to do before doing the fun things, it is  
not always easy to be a follower of Jesus. Yet when  
we put Jesus first, we will be truly happy.

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

### 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:** Aug 31 \$1303.35

**St. Peter Mission:** \$1070

**St. Thomas Mission:** \$310

***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, Sept 10, 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 519-321-9888

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

Thank you and God Bless!



**DIocese of HAMILTON**

### **Diocesan Calendar- week of September 7**

*"Pray to the Lord of the Harvest"*

Mon-The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Thu- Catholic Teachers
Tue- Rev. David Perrin	Fri-Rev. Franjo Sprajc
Wed-Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate, S.O.L.I	Sat-Rev. Matthew Durham

### **Bishop Crosby's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priestly Ordination**

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Eucharist on **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 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. 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 5:00** and **Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 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!

### **YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

We are currently accepting enrollment for the Youth Ministry Certification Program, which begins in September 2025. Join us as we explore the Practical strategies for youth ministry and the accompaniment of young people in our diocesan community. To review a full course list and for more information, please visit: [www.hamiltondioceselearns.com](http://www.hamiltondioceselearns.com)

**FRASSATI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM** Calling all those entering Grade 10 in September 2025! Are you looking to grow in your faith? Do you want to explore what it means to be a Catholic leader? **The Frassati Leadership Program** may be for you. Join us as we reflect on the foundations of Catholic leadership and foster opportunities for you to grow in your own faith and leadership skills. For more information and to register please visit: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/office/pastoral-offices/youth-ministry/frassati/>

**DID YOU KNOW...** Children in our parishes benefit from the Catechetical Correspondence Program each year for ongoing religious education and preparation for the Sacraments. We need volunteers to support the program! If you are willing to accompany these children in their learning journey, please reach out to the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis at [catechesis@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:catechesis@hamiltondiocese.com) . To learn more about the Catechetical Correspondence Program, please visit: <https://bit.ly/DOHC CC>

**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](http://hamiltondiocese.com) and look under Upcoming Events, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, or e-mail [familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com).

**HEARTACHE TO HEALING - GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - St. Michael Parish, Waterloo** Grief support provides companionship on the long journey through the grief process. Our support group follows the process developed by Dr. Bill Webster, an experienced leader in grief counselling. All who have suffered a loss are welcome, regardless of how much time has passed since your loss. We have two programs to engage in: **Monthly informal drop-in support** - available at St. Michael Parish, Waterloo on the 2nd Wednesday of the month; 7pm in the Parish Resource Centre/Library. **When Life Changes Part 2** - A six-week program which includes both theory and sharing. (To join the program, you must have completed Part 1 already). The program runs Wednesday evenings from October 15th to November 19th at 7pm, at St. Michael Parish, Waterloo. Registration is required by October 3<sup>rd</sup>; do so by contacting our Parish office 519-884-9311, or email [parish@stmichaelw.ca](mailto:parish@stmichaelw.ca).

**Act II (Separated & Divorced Support Group)** - Our Act II monthly informal support group that meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm, in the Resource Centre/Library at St. Michael's Parish Waterloo. With the support of others, you can begin to heal the emotional, social and spiritual devastation of divorce. Join us anytime you can; registration is not required. Visit our website ([www.stmichaelw.ca/separated-and-divorced](http://www.stmichaelw.ca/separated-and-divorced)), or contact our Parish office 519-884-9311, or email [parish@stmichaelw.ca](mailto:parish@stmichaelw.ca) for more information.



## 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](http://www.loyolapress/resources.com)

