

# 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 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](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 Oct 28 7:00 pm** † Marcella Williams Req'd  
by Jim & Sheila Meyer and † Katheryn Meyer Req'd  
by The Estate

**Wed Oct 29 9:00 am** † Stefan & Albeta Zurav  
Req'd by Katerina Smolkova & Family

**Thu Oct 30 9:00 am** † Katheryn Meyer Req'd by  
Audrey, Arnold & Family

**Fri Oct 31 9:00 am** † Paul MacMillan Req'd by  
Gord Bennett & Family

### FIRST SATURDAY ALL SAINTS DAY

**Sat Nov 1 9:00 am** † Bob & Mary McIntee  
Req'd by Betty Mogensen & Family

**4:00 pm** † People of the Parish

**Sun Nov 2 9:00 am** † **Commemoration of All  
the Faithful Departed – All Souls**

### Lectors

**Sat Nov 1** Susan Thurston

**Sun Nov 2** Debra Ross

**RECONCILIATION:** Tue. 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 Nov 1 5:30 pm** † Mary & Francis Garvey,  
Jerome Lane & Ernie Sr. Dunlop Req'd by Virginia  
Lane and † Marie Givlin Req'd by  
Frank Whaling

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

**Sun Nov 2 11:00 am** † All Souls

## This Sundays Reading:

### First Reading

*Sirach 35:12-14,16-18*

God hears the prayer of the poor.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 34:2-3,17-18,19, 23*

The Lord hears and answers the cry of the poor.

### Second Reading

*2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18*

Paul perseveres in faith, confident that God will  
rescue him.

### Gospel Reading

*Luke 18:9-14*

Jesus tells the parable of the proud Pharisee who

prayed from his self-importance and the tax  
collector who prayed humbly.

## Background on the Gospel Reading

The second parable that Jesus tells in Luke 18  
addresses attitude in prayer. In contrasting the  
prayer of the Pharisee with the prayer of the tax  
collector, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray in  
humility before God. Jesus again surprises his  
listeners by showing the tax collector as the  
example of faith, rather than the Pharisee.  
Remember that Pharisees were members of a sect of  
Judaism active in Jesus' time. They taught an oral  
interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for  
Jewish piety. If anyone would be a model for  
prayer, a Pharisee was a likely candidate. In  
contrast, Jesus offers the tax collector as a model for  
prayer. Tax collectors were collaborators with the  
Roman authorities in a system that allowed the tax  
collectors to line their own pockets by charging in  
excess of the defined taxes. Yet, in this parable,  
Jesus offers the humility of the tax collector as a  
model for the prayer of a disciple. The parable  
reminds us that when we pray, we must remember  
our need for God in our lives. If we are too full of  
ourselves, there is too little room for God's grace to  
work in us. [www.loyolapress/resources](http://www.loyolapress/resources)

## Family Connection

In the family, one sometimes observes a level of  
competition between children for parent attention,  
for acknowledgement of their abilities. Somehow,  
children seem to internalize that the attention given  
to one member of the family diminishes the  
attention given to another. In this way, children can  
often sound like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable.  
Parents who provide continual reminders to their  
children that they are loved for who they are, not for  
what they do, help children develop a healthy  
spirituality.

As a family, talk about what it means to compare  
oneself to another. Discuss whether it is helpful to  
compare oneself to another. In what ways might this  
be positive? (when it motivates one to use one's  
talents) In what circumstances might this be  
unhelpful? (when it proves discouraging, when it  
prevents one from valuing the abilities of another)

As a family, read today's Gospel, Luke 18:9-14.  
Discuss: What was wrong about the prayer of the  
Pharisee? How can we emulate the prayer of the tax  
collector?

Pray together as a family in thanksgiving for the  
blessing that is each member of your family. Pray

that your family will be free from unhealthy competition. Pray in thanksgiving that God's love for us is unconditional.

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

For collaboration between different religious traditions: Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

**Contributions for October 18/19**

**St. Mary of the Purification:** \$2384.60;

Maintenance \$20

**St. Peter Mission:** \$180

**St. Thomas Mission:** \$535

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



Join us every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month after mass in the parish hall for coffee and fellowship. All are welcome!

**Lector Training**

The Parish is offering training for anyone interested in serving as a Reader (Lector) at Mass. Two sessions will be offered on Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm at St. Mary of the Purification. Please attend the one most convenient for you. All are welcome! Those who are already reading, are encouraged to attend as well to refresh their skills.

**St. Peter's Cemetery Board, Ayton**

We are currently raising funds to add a statue of Our Crucified Lord to the new Cross in the cemetery. The target for fundraising is \$8,000. Currently we have received \$2,915 in donations. We are asking anyone who can help us reach the target, to donate what they can. Please make cheques payable to St. Peter's Cemetery.

Thank you for any assistance you can give. Grace Lennox, on behalf of St. Peter's Cemetery board



**DIOCESE OF HAMILTON**

**Join us for A Film Screening Event- CARLO ACUTIS Roadmap to Reality, Sunday November 23, 2025.**

All are welcome to the Cathedral Basilica of Christ

the King in Hamilton for this Jubilee event commemorating the Diocesan celebration of the Feast of Christ the King and World Youth Day. 714 King Street, West, Hamilton

**11am- 12pm Mass**

**12 pm- 1pm Cathedral Open**

**1 pm – 2 pm Adoration**

**2 pm – 3 pm Film screening**

**#CarloAtTheCathedral**

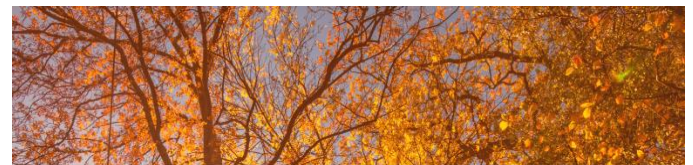
**Diocesan Calendar- week of October 26th**

*"Pray to the Lord of the Harvest"*

Mon- Rev. John Ha	Thu- Rev. Joseph Gregory Michel
Tue- Rev. John Schnurr	Fri-Rev. Wilson Andrade, C.S.C.
Wed- Pallottine Fathers, S.A.C.	Sat- All Saints Day

**A WALK WITH JESUS RETREAT DAY FOR GRIEVING PARENTS –**

The loss of a child is a most challenging event in the life of any parent. This grief is acute and challenging and never truly leaves us. The Diocese of Hamilton invites you to join us as we welcome Deacon Henry DeMena from North Carolina to join us in facilitating a retreat day for parents who have lost a child. Whether the loss is recent or some time ago, we invite you to join us for this day of healing and support. The retreat will be offered at the **Church of Our Lady Basilica in Guelph from 9 am to 4 pm on November 22nd** (lunch is included). **Cost \$20 p/p**. Registration is required. Register at [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com) under upcoming events or call 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.



**ALLHALLOWTIDE**  
OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 2



**The Holy Days Behind Halloween: A Catholic Guide to October**

October is often wrapped in pumpkins, costumes, and candy—but for Catholics, there's a much deeper richness to this season. Behind the skeleton décor and spooky movies lies a beautiful thread of

faith, tradition, and remembrance that often goes unnoticed. Let's peel back the commercial layers and rediscover what October *really* means for us as Catholics.

### **The Real History of Halloween: A Catholic Tradition**

Believe it or not, Halloween didn't start with horror films or haunted houses—it started with the Church. The word *Halloween* comes from “All Hallows' Eve,” which is the vigil (or the evening before) *All Hallows' Day*—now known as **All Saints' Day** on November 1. This feast celebrates all the saints in heaven, both known and unknown, and it was established to remind the faithful of their heavenly goal.

### **Early Church Roots**

As early as the 4th century, Christians began honoring martyrs and saints. By the 8th century, Pope Gregory III officially set November 1 as a feast day for all saints, and the night before became *All Hallows' Eve*.

These three days—**October 31 (All Hallows' Eve), November 1 (All Saints' Day), and November 2 (All Souls' Day)**—form a powerful trio known as **Hallowtide**. It's a sacred time to remember the dead, pray for the souls in purgatory, and reflect on our own call to holiness.

### **What About Ghosts, Costumes, and Candy?**

Many of today's Halloween customs have ancient roots—but often with a Christian twist.

- **Dressing in costumes** originally included saints, angels, or even devils—not to glorify evil, but to dramatize the battle between good and evil and celebrate Christ's victory.
- **Trick-or-treating** may have come from “*souling*”—a medieval tradition where children would go door to door offering prayers for the dead in exchange for “soul cakes.”
- **Jack-o'-lanterns** were once used to represent souls in purgatory or to ward off evil spirits—but they also remind us that Christ is the light in the darkness.

Over time, these traditions became more playful and secular—but Catholics are invited to remember and reclaim their deeper meaning. Halloween doesn't belong to the world. It began with us.

### **All Saints' Day: Heaven's Roll Call**

On **November 1**, we celebrate *All Saints' Day*—a beautiful feast honoring the holy men and women who have gone before us and now live in eternal glory with God.

It's a reminder that sainthood is for *everyone*. You don't have to be a bishop or martyr—just faithful. It's the perfect time to introduce your kids (or yourself!) to new saints and ask for their intercession.

Try celebrating with:

- **A “Saint Parade”** or costume day at school or church
- **A family meal** honoring a favorite saint
- **Attending Mass** (*it's a Holy Day of Obligation!*)

### **All Souls' Day: Honoring the Faithful Departed**

Then comes **All Souls' Day** on **November 2**—a day dedicated to praying for all who have died, especially those who may be in purgatory.

As Catholics, we believe that our prayers can help souls on their journey to Heaven. Lighting candles, visiting graves, attending Mass, and offering rosaries are all meaningful ways to spiritually support the dead.

In cultures like Mexico, *Día de los Muertos* is a joyful, colorful way to remember loved ones—with altars, flowers, food, and photos. It's not spooky—it's sacred.

### **Living October the Catholic Way**

So how can we celebrate this season with meaning?

- **Enjoy the fun, but don't forget the faith**
- **Learn about the saints**, and let their lives inspire your family
- **Light a candle** or set up a small altar to remember loved ones who have passed
- **Pray for the souls in purgatory**, especially throughout November
- **Attend Mass on All Saints' Day**
- **Encourage saint-themed costumes or story nights**
- **Talk about the real meaning of Halloween with kids** (*and adults!*)

### **A Night of Light, Not Fear**

Halloween isn't about fear—it's about faith. It's the first step into a sacred season of remembrance and hope. From *All Hallows' Eve* to *All Saints' Day* and *All Souls' Day*, Catholics are invited to reflect on eternity, honor the communion of saints, and pray for those who have gone before us.

So yes, pass the candy—but don't forget the candles. This October, let's celebrate the Catholic way.

[www.catholicworldmission](http://www.catholicworldmission)

