



# 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 Dec 2 7:00 pm** † Anne Marie Noonan  
Req'd by Dave and Donna Meyer and  
† Laurie Moyer Req'd by

Lisa & Mark Cranston

**Wed Dec 3 9:00 am** † Intentions of Jakob  
Kemp Req'd by Angela Langehuizen

**Thur Dec 4 9:00 am** † Paul MacMillan Req'd  
by Ann & Ralph Hollis

**Fri Dec 5 *First Friday Adoration after mass***  
**9:00 am** † Alzbeta & Stefan Zurav  
Req'd by Katarina Smolkova & Family

**Sat Dec 6 *First Saturday***  
**9:00 am** † Stefan Zurav & Maria  
Smolkova Req'd by Katarina Smolkova & Family  
**4:00 pm** † People of the Parish

**Sun Dec 7 9:00 am** † People of the Parish

### Lectors

**Sat Dec 6** Florence Ricard

**Sun Dec 7** Colleen Dalla Costa

**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 Dec 6 5:30 pm** † Mary & Francis Garvey,  
Jerome Lane & Ernie Sr. Dunlop Req'd by Virginia  
& Dan McComiskey and † Bogdan Rogelj,  
Rodrigaciano Lacay & Guido Paye Req'd by  
Christine Fernandez

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

**Sun Dec 7 11:00 am** † Rita Hawkins Req'd by  
Margaret Hawkins & † Repose of the Soul of  
Denis Menard Req'd by Allen Schiedel

## **This Sundays Reading:**

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 2:1-5*

Isaiah describes his vision in which all nations are  
gathered together by God in peace.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 122:1-2,3-4,4-5,6-7,8-9*

Rejoicing, let us enter the house of the Lord.

### **Second Reading**

*Romans 13:11-14*

Be prepared, salvation is near.

### **Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 24:37-44*

Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son  
of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus  
tells his disciples that they are to always be ready  
for the day of the Lord.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also  
the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the  
Church. The Advent season includes the four  
Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of  
preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this  
season, we recall two central elements of our faith:  
the final coming of the Lord in glory and the  
incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key  
themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting,  
preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year,  
the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel  
proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel,  
we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness,  
for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of  
Man. Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars  
after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a  
primarily Jewish community, but one that was no  
longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These  
were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with  
their relationship to Judaism in a new situation:  
Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in  
Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who  
believed that the events of the world around them  
gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in  
glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather  
straightforward. No one knows the precise time of  
the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting  
and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to  
the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be  
none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will  
the Lord's coming in glory be. The question for us  
as members of the Christian community, then, is  
how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks  
more about the manner of waiting, rather than the  
details of the preparation. Jesus compares the  
vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a  
homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one  
knows that the thief's action is imminent, one  
remains watchful. As Christians, we know *that* our  
Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise  
timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant,  
like the homeowner. If we become lax in our  
Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

### **Family Connection**

Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas. Read together today's Gospel reading. As a family, talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading one another to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps near your family's Advent wreath.

Pray together that God will help you in this Advent commitment. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm. [www.loyolapress.com/resources](http://www.loyolapress.com/resources)



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!

### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**



#### **Christmas Eve - Wednesday Dec 24**

**St. Thomas, Harriston 5:30 p.m.**

**St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest 8:00 p.m.**

#### **Christmas Day- Thursday Dec 25**

**St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest 9:00 a.m.**

**St Peter's, Ayton 11:00 a.m.**

#### **New Years Eve - Tuesday Dec 31**

**St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest 4:00 pm**

**St. Thomas, Harriston 5:30 pm**

#### **New Years Day Wednesday Jan 1<sup>st</sup>**

**St. Peter's, Ayton 11:00 am**

**HOPE-PEACE-JOY-LOVE**

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation-Advent Season**

During the season of Advent there will be more opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**St. Mary of the Purification Mt. Forest**- Friday  
December 19<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-12:30pm; 1:30pm-4:30 pm;  
5:30pm-9:30pm

### **2026 Offering Envelops & Sunday Missals**

Our 2026 Offering envelopes are now available for pickup at all 3 of our churches. If you don't currently have envelopes and would like to use them, please call the church office at 519-323-1054 and we will happily provide you with a box. Alternatively, if you would like to make your donations to the church by EFT (electronic funds transfer), please call Annette, ext. 6. She will then get the form ready for you and set up the automatic payments from your bank account. Monthly EFT payments to the church are a benefit to you – no more weekly envelopes to remember – and to the church by providing a predictable monthly donation. If you wish to cancel your EFT payments, a phone call or an email to Annette is all it takes to quickly arrange the cancellation.

**Sunday Missals are also available for pickup.** If you are registered to the Parish and receive offering envelopes, please take one missal home, one per household please. If you wish additional copies, please contact the office. Thank you

### **England Funeral Home Christmas Remembrance Service**

Sunday December 7, 2025 at 2:00 pm in the Parish Hall at St. Mary of the Purification Church, Mount Forest. This is a non-denominational service held in loving memory of those who have passed away. It is a time of reflection to honour the lives of those who have graciously touched ours.

Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP by Thursday December 4<sup>th</sup> by visiting [www.englishfuneralhome.com](http://www.englishfuneralhome.com) or by calling the funeral home at 519-323-2631

### **Knox Conn Annual Nativity Display**

Now consisting of over 600 Nativity Scenes, over 250 Angels, International Christmas Traditions, and a Collection of Nativity Christmas Cards.

**Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>: noon – 4pm**

**Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>: noon – 4pm**

**Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>: noon – 4pm**

**Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>: noon – 4pm**

**Free Admission – Donations accepted**

Knox Conn Presbyterian Church

8015 Hwy. 89 Conn, Ontario

### **CWL NEWS**

- Please note that Cwl Dues are to be paid by January 15, 2026 \$40 per person

- St. Mary Auxilliary ( HNS) meeting Wednesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm in the parish hall
- CWL Christmas dinner meeting Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. A sign up sheet will be in the foyer. All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend. \$15 per person
- Ramoth House donations are now being accepted. Please leave your item(s) in the box provided before December 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!



## DIocese of HAMILTON

### **Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

The Clergy, Consecrated Men & Women and the Lay faithful of Wellington Deanery are invited to join His Excellency Bishop Crosby for Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Monday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at The Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, 28 Norfolk Street, Guelph ON

### **Novena of Masses for The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

Once again, this year you are welcome to celebrate a Novena (nine days) of Masses leading to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Novena Masses will be celebrated at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph at 7:30 each morning from November 29<sup>th</sup> to December 7, with Novena Prayers each day. Please note that for the duration of the Novena, the 7:30 Novena Mass will be the only Mass at the Basilica on each weekday.



By the fourth century, monasteries had appeared in Palestine. Aspiring ascetics sought to be like Elijah, John the Baptist, and Jesus himself, who had found solitude in the desert east of Jerusalem. St. Sabas, a leader of that early monasticism, founded seven monasteries, three lauras and four cenobia. A laura is a settlement of hermits living in caves and huts

around a church. A community of monks who live, worship, and work together is a cenobium. Sabas built well as his chief monastery, the Mar Saba, still exists after 15 centuries. The saint dwelt in monasteries most of his life. At age eight he ran away from abusive relatives to a monastery in Cappadocia. Ten years later he went to the monastery of St. Euthymius at Jerusalem, hoping to become a hermit. But Euthymius judged him too young for absolute solitude and placed him in a cenobium nearby. When he was 30, Sabas was allowed to spend five days a week alone in the wilderness. After Euthymius's death, Sabas finally became an anchorite, dwelling in a cave on the face of a cliff. So many monks came desiring to live under his direction that he had to establish his first monastery, which became the Mar Saba. Sabas did not give his disciples a written rule, but he expected them to follow certain basic guidelines. He did not micromanage their conduct. But he seized "teachable moments" to test his disciples' fidelity, as he did on the occasion described in this account:

Once when journeying with a disciple from Jericho to the Jordan, this champion of piety Sabas fell in with some people of the world among whom was a girl of winning appearance. When they had passed by, the elder, wishing to test the disciple, asked, "What about the girl who has gone by and is one-eyed?" The brother replied, "No, father, she has two eyes." The elder said, "You are wrong, my child. She is one-eyed." The other insisted that he knew with precision that she was not one-eyed but had indeed extremely fine eyes. The elder asked, "How do you know that so clearly?" He replied, "I, father, had a careful look, and I noted that she has both her eyes."

At this the elder said, "And where have you stored the precept that says, 'Do not fix your eye on her and do not be captured by her eyebrows?' (See Proverbs 6:25). Fiery is the passion that arises from inquisitive looks. Know this: from now on you are not to stay with me in a cell because you do not guard your eyes as you should." He sent him to the cenobium at Castellium and, when he had spent sufficient time there and learnt to keep a careful watch on his eyes and thoughts, he received him as an anchorite into the laura. The patriarch of Jerusalem ordained Sabas in 491, and two years later appointed him head over all the monks of Palestine who were hermits. When the saint was old, other patriarchs sent him on diplomatic missions representing the church's interests to the emperors at Constantinople. Sabas died after a brief illness in 532.