



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
 310 Parkside Drive ,Mt.Forest NOG 2L0



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



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.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK



Tue Dec 16 7:00 pm † Laurie Moyer Req'd by Margie Moyer and † Katheryn Meyer Req'd by The Estate

Wed Dec 17 9:00 am † Stefan & Alzbeta Zurav Req'd by Katarina Smolkova

Thur Dec 18 9:00 am † Deceased members of the Andrade & Bairos Families Req'd by Tony & Mary Andrade

Fri Dec 19 9:00 am † Katheryn Meyer Req'd by Wayne & Mary Moyer

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

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

Lectors

Sat Dec 20 Maxine Schmidt

Sun Dec 21 J. vonWesterholt

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 20 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

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

This Sundays Reading:

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will cease.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 146:6-7,8-9,9-10

The Lord will save his people.

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word

meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

Family Connection

It is easy to look at our world and become discouraged by the apparent absence of God and signs of God's salvation. Advent, however, is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present, even in our world, and yet to be fulfilled.

Read together today's Gospel. Think about John's question to Jesus: Are you the One? Jesus does not answer directly, but points to the signs of the kingdom present in his midst.

Together as a family, look through the newspaper for signs of hope that God is at work in our world. Pray that the world will know God's salvation by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

www.loyolapress.com/resources



Join us every 1st & 3rd 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 1st

St. Peter's, Ayton 11:00 am

HOPE-PEACE-JOY-LOVE

Sacrament of Reconciliation **Advent Season**

During the season of Advent we will have more opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at **St. Mary of the Purification Mt. Forest-**
Friday December 19th 9:30am-12:30pm;
1:30pm-4:30 pm; 5:30pm-9:30pm

CWL NEWS

Please note that your CWL Dues are to be paid by January 15, 2026 \$40 per person. Thank you.

Bambinelli Sunday

All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines from your homes to Mass to be blessed, as we celebrate our own Bambinelli Sunday. This will take place at St. Mary of the

Purification on December 21st at 9:00 am, 11:00 am for St. Peter's in Ayton and 5:30 pm

Saturday December 20th for St. Thomas in

Harriston. After the blessing you are encouraged to take your 'Bambinelli' home and place it in a gift box, wrap the box and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas day and as you lay Jesus in the Manger, allow this moment to be a reminder of the great blessings we receive at Christmas.

Volunteers Needed for St. Mary School

We are looking for adults who are interested in working one-on-one with students in Kindergarten to Grade 2 as part of our Strong Start reading program. Join us in helping young children reach their potential. As a Strong Start[®] volunteer, you can expect to make a meaningful and lasting difference in the life of a child. Work one-on-one with a child in our *Letters, Sounds and Words™* program. Play short games and activities with children to help them practise their early literacy skills. Volunteers are required to attend two, 2-hour training sessions prior to working one-on-one with a child, either on-line or in person in the K-W area. Once trained, the minimum time commitment to work with one child is 30 minutes, once a week for a 10-week period. Ideally we prefer the minimum time commitment to be 1 hour per week, working with two students for 30 minutes each, for 10 weeks. A vulnerable sector check from the OPP is required before working with students. Please contact Holly Kiesau at 519-323-2586, our school secretary, to receive the necessary paperwork to start this process. It does take approximately 6 weeks to complete. We hope to begin our 10-week Strong Start session in February. If you would like more information about this program, please visit Strong Start's website or contact our school's coordinator, Christine Ditner by calling the school or emailing christine.ditner@wellingtoncdsb.ca.

Contributions

St. Mary of the Purification: Nov 23 \$1491, Maintenance \$720 ; Nov 30 \$1438.05; Dec 7 \$1440

St. Peter Mission: Nov 23 \$590; Nov 30 \$180; Dec 7 \$1210

St. Thomas Mission: Nov 23 \$240; Nov 30 \$155; Dec 7 \$165

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



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

PARENTING TIP #174 Christmas is a wonderful time of year! We see family, experience the joys of gift giving and receiving and have some time as a family just to be. It is however, more than any of these things, the celebration of the birth of Christ. In the hustle and bustle of the season we can forget to focus on this moment, where a child came into the world so that each of us could experience the profound gift of Salvation. This Christmas, enjoy all the fun stuff, but remember to focus, through stories, Mass, prayer and discussions, on the joy of Christ's birth and the real reason for the season. (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)



Saint Mary of the Angels Feast Day December 16

Little Mary Fontanella, age six, schemed with her younger brother to imitate the saints and run away to live "in the desert." But on the appointed day they slept in and spoiled their plans. A decade later, however, Mary entered a personal desert when she joined the Carmelite convent of St. Cristina at Turin, Italy. At first she was overcome with homesickness, detested the pattern of life, and did not get along with the novice mistress. But she persevered and was professed as Sister Mary of the Angels.

Then came an even more serious trial. An extended period of spiritual darkness engulfed Mary. And constant attacks from evil spirits and other diabolical manifestations intensified her desolation. But guided by a wise spiritual director; after three years, she finally emerged from her struggle to a more peaceful and deeper life of prayer. Mary did not think the adversities that had overwhelmed her were enough penance for her sins. So she aggressively tortured her body with unusual ascetical practices, including binding her tongue with an iron ring and suspending herself from ropes in the form of a cross. Contemporary Christians

judge such things as excessive, and one biographer cautioned that no one ought either to admire or imitate Mary's penances. Sister Mary of the Angels was elected novice mistress at age 30 and prioress at age 33. She governed the Carmel at St. Cristina competently. If her own piety had its extremes, her direction for her sisters was more balanced, as her meditation in preparation for Christmas demonstrated:

Purity is so pleasing to God that his divine Son, having resolved to become man by the operation of the Holy Spirit, wished to be born of a virgin mother. We all know with what an abundance of graces and with what extraordinary purity God was pleased to adorn the body and soul of Mary. Thus he made her a dwelling worthy of the Word who was to become flesh in her chaste womb. So if we wish to induce the Incarnate God to be born spiritually in our souls, we must secure purity of conscience for ourselves. The right way to accomplish this is to banish from our hearts even the smallest faults and cultivate in them all the virtues.

O Lamb of God! How efficacious the sweetness of your love should be in softening the hardness of my heart! I detest my sins with all my strength because they are opposed to your infinite goodness. Imprint on my heart such repentance that I may prefer to die rather than ever to offend you again.

When the sisters were about to elect Mary to a fifth term as prioress, she begged God that if it were his will she might soon die. Three weeks later her prayer was answered and she fell ill and died on December 16, 1717. www.loyolapress.com

