



# 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**  
 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](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 30 NO MASS

Wed Dec 31 4:00 pm NEW YEARS EVE MASS

Thur Jan 1 NO MASS

Fri Jan 2 FIRST FRIDAY- ADORATION  
AFTER MASS

9:00 am Gerald Williams Req'd by

Dave & Donna Meyer

Sat Jan 3 FIRST SATURDAY

9:00 am † Repose of the Soul of

Lois Seguss Req'd by The Seifried Families of  
Harriston

4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun Jan 4 9:00 am † People of the Parish

### Lectors

Sat Jan 3 Florence Ricard

Sun Jan 4 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

December 31<sup>st</sup> NEW YEARS EVE MASS 5:30 pm

Sat Jan 3 5:30 pm † Mary & Francis

Garvey, Jerome Lane and Ernie Sr. Dunlop Req'd by  
Virginia Lane and Marie Givlin Req'd by The  
Estate

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

January 1<sup>st</sup> NEW YEARS DAY MASS 11:00 pm

Sun Jan 4 11:00 am † Ian and MaryRose

Lennox Req'd by Kim & Grace Lennox and Family  
And Margaret & Lawrence Horrigan Req'd by The  
Estate of Eileen Horrigan

### **This Sundays Reading:**

### **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

#### **First Reading**

*Sirach 3:2-7,12-14*

Honor to one's parents will be rewarded.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5*

Happy are those who follow the Lord's ways.

#### **Second Reading**

*Colossians 3:12-21 (or shorter form, Colossians 3:12-17)*

Do all things in the name of Jesus and give thanks to God.

### **Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 2:13-15,19-23*

In a dream, God tells Joseph to flee to Egypt to protect Jesus from King Herod.

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

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus.

It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses that recount Herod's order of the massacre of the infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.

### **Family Connection**

In the midst of the Christmas season, it is quite appropriate that our liturgy asks us to pause to consider the Holy Family. In today's Gospel, we hear about how Joseph protected Jesus from danger

by relocating the family to Egypt in obedience to God. Following the model of the Holy Family, we might use this feast to recall the responsibility that each family member has to contribute to the good of the family and recommit ourselves to one another.

Gather together as a family to work on a common project. You might prepare a meal together, prepare a special dessert, or perhaps do a craft together. When you finish, talk about how each family member contributed to the common project. Remind one another that each member of the family contributes to the good of the whole family. Recall that Jesus was also part of a family and that this Sunday we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23. Pray together that your family will continue to protect and care for one another as Mary and Joseph protected and cared for Jesus.

[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!

### NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE



#### 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**

### CWL NEWS

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

1) There will be no SMA (St. Mary Auxiliary) meeting in January 2026. The next meeting will be Wed. Feb 11, 2026 at 7:00pm.

2) There will be no CWL meeting in January, 2026. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026 at 1:00pm.

Thank you to all the ladies and gentlemen that have helped over the past year at all our functions. It is greatly appreciated and we look forward to another busy year.

Thanks you,

Colleen Dalla Costa, President of the CWL at St. Mary of the Purification



## DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

**CHRISTMAS YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT** During the Christmas Season, Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on **Saturday, January 3rd at Annunciation of Our Lord (280 Limeridge Road West, Hamilton)**. Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/> For more information, please contact: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

**RESTART: MOVING FORWARD** Have you experienced a divorce or separation? Are you looking to learn ways to cope, for support from others and to gain a feeling of moving forward? Our 10 week program offers education and support to anyone seeking to heal or simply learn more. The sessions will run **Tuesdays from Feb. 17 – April 21, 2026** from 7-9 pm and are held at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in person. Cost is \$35 for materials, but no one is turned away. Registration online can be found by going to [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com) and looking for the date under Upcoming Events, or by contacting Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249 or at [familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com).

**ENHANCING SELF-ESTEEM** This program provides the opportunity to increase awareness of yourself and to learn specific skills for building a positive self-esteem. It can help 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 will run **Tuesdays**

**from Feb. 17 – April 21** from 7-9 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West Hamilton. Cost is \$35 for materials. Registration online can be found by going to [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com) and looking for the date under Upcoming Events, or by contacting Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, or at [familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com).

**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)

**MARRIAGE TIP #154** Marriage is a journey that two people undertake with a plan to navigate life together. When researchers investigate what makes the journey both long and happy, many things come into play, but a strong one is repeated by most: "I married my best friend." It is good to ask yourself then, are you being a good friend to your spouse? Do you spend time together, share parts of your day, invite them to share in an event with you, watch a movie together, or even a series that can become together time? Do you call once in awhile to say hello during the time you are not together and plan time for your spouse in your agenda – everyday? Are you patient when they make a mistake, are not perfect, or let you down? Friendships thrive and last in this kind of environment, so make friendship a foundation of your marriage.

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)



### **Pope Sylvester 1 Feast Day December 31st**

The Emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan in 313, recognizing Christianity, ending persecutions, and tolerating all religions. Constantine considered it his duty to oversee the Church. He heard the complaints of bishops,

summoned councils, settled Church disputes, and looked upon the pope sympathetically. It took a wise man to work with such a powerful ruler. Pope Sylvester I held office during this crucial period. He had to keep the Church independent of the state and at the same time, keep peace with Emperor Constantine. Pope Sylvester faced the added challenge of advanced age, which prevented him from travel. To deal with the error of the Donatists, he had to send delegates to a council at Arles. Then, when Emperor Constantine called the first ecumenical council—the Council of Nicaea—in 325, the pope asked others to attend the council in his place. This council of bishops was to discuss the Arian heresy and correct the Arians for falsely teaching that Christ was not God. It was at this council that the Nicene Creed was formed.

It is said that the Lateran Palace was given to Pope Sylvester I by Constantine. The pope oversaw the building of the original St. Peter's.

The people of Rome had a high regard for Pope Sylvester. He was a saintly pope who understood the conflicts his bishops suffered in being loyal to Rome and to Constantine. He humbly accepted the limitations of age and illness, and he persevered in his pastoral care of the Church.

### **Celebrating Christmas until January 11, 2026**

**The Christmas season continues until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrated this year on Sunday January 11, 2025. We are all invited to celebrate the season of Christmas and to remember the many ways that God is made present in our midst and world. From Christmas Day until the Baptism of the Lord, the following prayer can be prayed when your family gathers for a meal.**

*“Father in heaven, you so loved us that you sent Your Son, among us as Savior and Lord. Fill us with Your blessing, that we may grow in love and continue to live our Christian faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”*



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the peace & blessings of Christmas be yours, and may the coming year be filled with happiness.**



**The Parish office will be closed December 25 until January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will re open January 6th**