



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
 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

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 9 7:00 pm † Intentions of Jakob Kemp Req'd by Angela Langenhuizen and † Mary Hale Req'd by the CWL
Wed Dec 10 9:00 am † Stefan & Alzbeta Zurav Req'd by Katarina Smolkova & Family
Thur Dec 11 9:00 am † Michael, Madeline & William Tobin and Mario Breers Req'd by Kathleen Boone
Fri Dec 12 9:00 am † Lou DeSheplo Req'd by Mel & Jane Seniuk
Sat Dec 13 4:00 pm † People of the Parish
Sun Dec 14 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Dec 13 Laura Cherrey
Sun Dec 14 Melissa Reid

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 13 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Dec 14 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sundays Reading:

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A descendent of Jesse will usher in a time of peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17

The Messiah will bring justice and peace to the nations.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-9

Both Jews and Gentiles glorify God for the salvation found in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to

Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

www.loyolapress.com/resources

Family Connection

We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John's call of repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your

family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out the sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel. Talk about how John reminds the people that they prepare for the reign of God by reforming their lives. As a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas such as the following: Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around your family Advent wreath. Read again today's Gospel: Matthew 3:1-3. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive their sins. Pray together an Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing a Sign of Peace with each other.



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 there will be 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

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.

Sunday December 7th 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
- CWL Christmas dinner meeting Tuesday December 9th 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 9th. Thank you!

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.



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

Bambinelli Sunday

For the past several decades, the Pope has blessed the Baby Jesus figurines from Nativity Scenes that belong to families, and the families themselves, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. The blessing generally takes place on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, and is known as Bambinelli Sunday. The blessing of the 'Bambinelli' – as they are known in Rome – reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy. **All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines from your homes to Mass to be blessed, as we too 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.

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



Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day December 12

On December 9, 1531, a 57-year-old Aztec, Juan Diego, saw the Blessed Mother on a hill in Mexico City. She told Juan to have a church built in her honor. When Juan went to ask Bishop Zumarraga about this, the bishop did not understand the Indian dialect—and he did not believe in the vision Juan described. Three days later, on December 12, Mary appeared again to Juan Diego, and this time she gave him a sign for the bishop. “Take these roses to the bishop,” she said, as she arranged in his cloak beautiful roses she had Juan Diego pick from the hillside although it was winter. When he was admitted into the bishop's room, Juan Diego opened his cloak, and out dropped the roses. On the cloak there remained an image of Mary as she had appeared to Juan Diego. The image of Mary on the cloak is known as Our Lady of Guadalupe for an interesting reason. On that same day, Mary appeared to Juan's uncle and cured him, giving him a message for the bishop, saying that she would “crush the serpent's head.” The bishop did not understand the Indians' language. The Indian word for “crush the serpent” sounded to him like “Guadalupe,” the name of Mary's shrine in Spain. Thinking that the Virgin wanted the new shrine to have the same name, the bishop called her Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary appeared to Juan Diego dressed as an Aztec woman to show her love and compassion to an oppressed group of people. Mary had heard the prayers and pain of these people, and she came to give them hope.

Mary's visit to Guadalupe is a reminder that God will remember his mercy for all people. In Mary's song of joy, the Magnificat, she praised God because he has put down the mighty, exalted the lowly, filled the hungry, and sent the rich away empty. People honor Our Lady of Guadalupe because they recognize her motherly concern for them.

www.loyolapress.com



“Christmas is an epiphany- the appearing of GOD and of his great light in a child that is born for us. Born in a stable in Bethlehem, not in the palaces of Kings.”

Pope Benedict XVI