



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 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

February 1, 2026



Tue Feb 3 7:00 pm † Katheryn Meyer Req'd by
The Estate and † Brenda Meyer Req'd by
Lorne & Florence Moyer

Wed Feb 4 9:00 am † Intentions of Al Nolan

Thur Feb 5 9:00 am † Brenda Meyer Req'd by
Joan & John Jeffery

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION AFTER MASS

Fri Feb 6 9:00 am † Holy Souls in Purgatory
Req'd by Tony & Mary Andrade

Sat Feb 7 First Saturday
9:00 am † Brenda Meyer Req'd by
Verne & Pauline Mills

4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun Feb 8 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Feb 7 Susan Thurston

Sun Feb 8 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 Feb 7 5:30 pm † Mary & Francis Garvey,
Jerome Lane & Ernie Sr. Dunlop Req'd by Virginia
Lane and † Deceased members of the
Goetz Families Req'd by Dan & Angela Seifried

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Feb 8 11:00 am † Laurie Moyer Req'd by
Percy & Kathy Moyer and † Repose of the Soul of
Denis Menard Req'd by Allen Schiedel

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13

There will be a people who remain sheltered from
God's anger.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 146:6-10

The Lord is faithful forever.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

God chooses the weak to show his power.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12a

Jesus teaches what it means to be happy.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as *happy*, *fortunate*, or *favored*. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

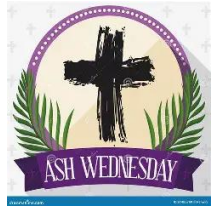
Family Connection

Today's Gospel offers a contrast to many of the messages we hear in our society today. If we were to accept uncritically the "get ahead" messages of our culture, we would think that happiness means having money, being successful, having many possessions, and so on. When we think this way, we are not unlike the people who heard Jesus teach on the day that he taught the Beatitudes. The crowd that day also associated happiness with material possessions and status.

Talk as a family about what it means to be happy or to be blessed. Make a list of traits that you would associate with a happy person. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12a. Reflect on Jesus' description of happiness. Think about what each of the Beatitudes might have in common and write a family summary of the Beatitudes. Post the

summary in a special place as a reminder of what your family will consider “true happiness.”

Conclude by praying together prayers of petition based on the Beatitudes, e.g., “We pray that we will be peacemakers who seek to get along with other people even when this is difficult. We pray to the Lord.” All respond: “Lord, hear our prayer.”



Ash Wednesday February 18th
 St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest
9:00 am Morning Mass
7:00 pm Mass with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

If you have any palms from last year or previous years, please leave them at the back of the church before Feb. 15th

Stations of the Cross will be every Friday at 7:00 pm during Lent



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

CWL NEWS

- 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



St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest
First Reconciliation – March 28th, 2026 11:00 am

Sacrament of Confirmation Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 3:00 pm. Deadline for registration is May 1, 2026.

First Holy Communion Sunday, June 7, 2026 Mass being held at 3:00 pm. Deadline for registration is March 27th, 2026.

If you have a child who does not attend St. Mary’s School in Mt. Forest, and who has reached the age of discernment, please contact the parish office for registration. 519-323-1054 or email stmarymtforest@wightman.ca registration forms can also be picked up at the entrance of the church.

Contributions –Will follow next week

St. Mary of the Purification:
St. Peter Mission:
St. Thomas Mission:
Thank you for your continued donations. Your contributions are greatly appreciated as we seek to encourage all with God’s Love and Word.

Diocesan Calendar- week of February 1st
“Pray to the Lord of the Harvest”

Mon- The Presentation of the Lord World day for Consecrated Life	Thu- Rev. Charles Jordan
Tue- Rev. Allen Varlaki	Fri- Rev. Ken Miskiewicz
Wed- Missionaries	Sat- Rev. Florian Stasinski, C.R.



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

Parenting Tip #175

Parents constantly undertake the task of correcting poor behavior in their children. To help them grow to be good and capable adults, it is important they learn proper behaviors, etiquette and good manners; parents are the first and foremost educators of all of these. Instead of reprimanding when undesired behaviors arise, ask them how they should be acting, or what would be a better way to act? Take a moment to remind them that their Baptism calls them to follow a better way, undertaking the same

actions that Jesus would, ways of caring, love and compassion. Relating their behaviors to their faith provides a guidepost for actions throughout their lives and a way to live fully their Baptism.
(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

Marriage Tip #155

Gratitude has proven to be one way that we can feel more joy in our everyday living. In our marriages, all the good moments can slip past our awareness when we focus instead on those that are annoying. What if you took time at the end of each day to review the day with eyes of gratitude instead of discontent? You would find that you can be thankful for so many things, for example: a spouse to share your home with, to share parenting with, to make you coffee or dinner, to the shared glance, smile or kiss that day. And there is more: a person who shares your values, who supports your faith, someone who is a forever friend. When we focus on gratitude, our relationship has a different look and feel and both spouse's benefit!

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

The Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass - Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2026? You are cordially invited to join Bishop Dabrowski and couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, May 31, 2026 at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you require assistance). Registration is found under Upcoming Events on the home page at hamiltondiocese.com, or call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

When Life Changes Grief Program Part One - Using Dr. Bill Webster's grief material these programs are intended to help you to understand your grief and provide practical tips and support for helping you through. The program will be offered Feb. 18 – March 25th from 1:30 to 3:00 PM at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West. All are welcome. To register, look for the program start date under Upcoming Events on the Diocesan home page at hamiltondiocese.com, or call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

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 and looking for the date under Upcoming Events, or by contacting Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249 or at familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com.



Saint Blaise Feast Day February 3

If you are already familiar with St. Blaise, it is probably because of the blessing of throats—a Catholic custom on his feast.

According to tradition, Blaise had been a doctor before he was ordained a priest. He became the bishop of Sebaste (now in central Turkey). During a period of persecution, he fled to a cave where he lived as a hermit. It is said that he cured and tamed the wild animals there. One day hunters discovered him and took him to the governor, who sentenced him to be tortured and killed. About four hundred years after his death, many stories began to be told about Blaise, and he became a popular saint, especially in France and Germany. One legend says that while Blaise was in prison, a mother brought him her small boy, who was choking on a fishbone stuck in his throat. Blaise prayed over the child, and he was healed. Every year on St. Blaise's feast, two candles tied with ribbon in the shape of an X are used to bless throats. In the prayer the Church prays that those blessed may be delivered from diseases of the throat and from every other illness. Candles are used because of another story: It is said that while Blaise was kept in a dark prison, a woman secretly brought him some candles and food.

Blaise is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, saints who were patrons for almost every aspect of life. People in the Middle Ages showed devotion to these saints as a group.