



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
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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



Tue Jan 13 7:00 pm † Victor Ruffolo Req'd by
The Family and Katheryn Meyer Req'd by Helen &
Bert Moore
Wed Jan 14 9:00 am † Sharon Tangney Req'd by
Tom & Margaret Mary Tangney
Thur Jan 15 9:00 am † George Hutter Req'd by
Ron & Marian Flanigan
Fri Jan 16 9:00 am † Paul MacMillan Req'd by
Wayne & Mary Moyer
Sat Jan 17 4:00 pm † People of the Parish
Sun Jan 18 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Jan 17 Luis Arruda
Sun Jan 18 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 Jan 17 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Jan 18 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sundays Reading:

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

The servant of the Lord shall bring justice to all.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 29:1-2,3-4,9-10

The Lord will give peace to the people.

Second Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

The Spirit of God comes upon Jesus as he is
baptized by John.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The baptism of Jesus is attested to in the Gospels of
Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The account that appears
in Matthew is the only one to include the dialogue

between Jesus and John, however. Another
difference in Matthew's presentation of this event is
the announcement made by the voice from heaven,
which says, "This is my beloved son . . ." In Mark
and Luke, this voice addresses itself to Jesus: "You
are my beloved son . . ."

The baptisms that John performs prefigure Christian
Baptism. John baptizes for repentance from sin. In
accepting this baptism, Jesus unites himself with all
sinners even though he is sinless. In Matthew's
Gospel, John the Baptist distinguishes his practice
of baptism from the Baptism that the Messiah
brings: "I am baptizing you with water . . . He will
baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew
3:11).

The baptism of Jesus is another manifestation of
Christ, another epiphany. Christ's baptism
inaugurates his mission. In an analogous way, our
Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

This Sunday marks a transition from the Christmas
season to Ordinary Time. In a way, today's feast is
the high point of the Christmas season. Before
Jesus' birth, angels announced to Mary and to
Joseph who Jesus would be. At his birth, the
shepherds and the Magi recognize Jesus as the
Messiah. At his baptism, Jesus accepts that he is
God's son and inaugurates that mission.

www.loyolapress.com/resources

Family Connection

At Jesus' baptism, God affirms his Son's mission
for salvation. God announces his pleasure with
Jesus and, in Matthew's Gospel, announces to all
that, "This is my beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17).
With this affirmation, Jesus is able to resist the
temptations described next in Matthew's Gospel
and to begin his public ministry. As family
members, we can support one another in our
Christian living by affirming the importance of each
person in our eyes and in God's. Confident that
through our Baptism we too were made children of
God, we can resist temptation and share in Christ's
mission.

Gather as a family to read today's Gospel, Matthew
3:13-17. Recall that God's message about Jesus was
meant for us, "This is my beloved Son." It was also
an affirmation for Jesus about his role in God's
plan.

Place each family member's name on a slip of paper
and put the names in a bowl. Invite each person in
the family to choose another family member's name
and to prepare a message for that person, affirming

their importance in God's eyes and in your family life. Pray together that your family will continue to support one another in your baptismal promises to be disciples of Jesus and then invite each person to read aloud the message they prepared. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.



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

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

MINISTERS OF THE WORD The Diocese of Hamilton provides formation for Ministers of the Word to exercise a very important ministry at Mass. In this workshop, participants receive formation in *Liturgy and Ministry, Techniques to Proclaim the Word of God, and an opportunity to practice*. It is ideal for both parishioners new to this ministry or considering it, as well as a good refresher for experienced Ministers of the Word. There is always good participant sharing. Participation is limited to 75 people. The cost is \$35 and includes lunch.

Saturday, January 24, 2026, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Waterdown, ON, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Participants register through the Diocese of Hamilton website under Upcoming Events/Workshops.

<https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/2025/12/minister-of-the-word-formation-workshop-4/>

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT 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, February 7th at the St. Michael's Church, Waterloo ON**. Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>. For more information, contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL Join the Reel Justice Film Festival **January 22, 2026 7:00 – 9:00 PM** for a screening of *PUSH*. Housing prices are skyrocketing in cities around the world. Incomes are not. *PUSH* examines our increasingly unliveable cities and an escalating crisis that has an effect on us all. Housing is not a commodity, it is a human right. The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register and view our full schedule of events at: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/reel-justice-film-festival/> A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.



Saint Paul The Hermit Feast Day January 15

St. Jerome wrote, or at least translated from the Greek, a little biography of St. Paul the Hermit. Some speculate that he did so in order to establish St. Paul's reputation as the "first hermit" and to let the world know that the great St. Anthony had a predecessor. Others regard the story as so full of fables that they treat Paul as a type of a third-to-fourth-century hermit rather than as a historical individual.

A Christian from his youth, Paul was orphaned at age 15. In 250 the persecution by Decius forced him into hiding, first at a friend's house and then, fearing exposure, to a cave in the Egyptian desert. He had planned to return home after things quieted down, but the peaceful solitude of the desert seduced him to stay. A palm tree and a spring near his cave provided him food, clothing, and water until he turned 43. After that time, as it had happened for Elias, a raven brought him half a loaf of bread each day.

In Paul's 90th year in the desert his presence was revealed to St. Anthony, who immediately went to find him. Anthony met Paul in his cave, and the two hermits became friends overnight. They shared a whole loaf of bread brought by the raven, discussed world events, and prayed. Anthony thought he had found a companion, but Paul knew that God had sent Anthony to help him die. The biography described their meeting:

Blessed Paul said to Anthony: "For a long time now, I have known that you dwelled in these regions. And for a long time God had promised you to me for a companion. Since my hour of eternal sleep has arrived, and because I have always desired 'to be dissolved and to be with Christ' (see Philippians 1:23), having 'finished the course, . . . a crown of justice' (see 2 Timothy 4:7-8) remains for me. You have been sent by God to bury my miserable body, rather to return earth to earth."

Anthony listened to these words with tears and groans, begging Paul not to leave him behind, but to accept him as a companion on that journey. Paul answered: "You ought not seek your own interests but those of another. It is indeed profitable for you to cast off the burden of the flesh to follow the Lamb, but it is also profitable for the rest of your brethren that they may be the more instructed by your example. I beg of you, hasten, if is not too much to ask, and bring back the cloak which Athanasius the bishop gave you, to wrap about my wretched body." Now, blessed Paul made this request, not because he cared at all whether or not his body decayed covered up or naked, since for a long time now he had been wearing garments woven from palm leaves, but because he wanted to spare Anthony the grief of witnessing his death.

Anthony went to get the cloak. When he returned he found Paul kneeling with arms outstretched, but

already dead. Two lions dug Paul's grave and Anthony buried him. But he kept Paul's outer garment woven from palm leaves, which he treasured from that time and which he always wore on great feast days.

Paul was spared a lonely death because he found a friend in Anthony. His experience suggests that we become friends with the sick and elderly and provide them companionship in their last days. And that we make friends with younger people ourselves as insurance against loneliness in the autumn of our lives. www.loyolapress

Baptism of The Lord-Feast

Sunday after the Epiphany



It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." ~Mark 1:9-11

Prayer: *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You came to me in my baptism and united me in my fallenness with You in Your divinity. I pray that I will continuously be aware of all that divides us and will never grow weary of repenting of my sin. I do repent once again, dear Lord. I beg for Your mercy and forgiveness and open myself more fully to You, Your Father, and the Holy Spirit. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I trust in You.*