



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



Tue Jan 6 7:00 pm NO MASS
Wed Jan 7 9:00 am † Joe McCann Req'd by
Denise McCann
Thur Jan 8 9:00 am † Alzbeta & Stefan Zurav
Req'd by Katarina Smolkova & Family
Fri Jan 9 9:00 am † Laurie Moyer Req'd by
Bernard Dineen
Sat Jan 10 4:00 pm † People of the Parish
Sun Jan 11 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Jan 10
Sun Jan 11 Colleen Dalla Costa

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 10 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

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

This Sundays Reading: Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Share in the Promise of Christ Jesus through the Gospel

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Background on the Gospel Reading:

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising

and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance.

He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



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 Raymond of Penyafort Feast Day January 7

As a lawyer, priest, and preacher, St. Raymond of Penyafort made a significant mark on the history of Spain and the church. His preaching helped re-Christianize Spain after the Moors were overthrown. And his compilation of papal and conciliar decrees was the main source of canon law for seven centuries.

An accomplished lawyer and scholar, Raymond joined the Dominicans at Barcelona in 1222. The 47-year-old novice was assigned to develop a book of case studies for confessors that helped to shape the medieval church's penitential system. Also a gifted preacher, Raymond had remarkable success evangelizing Moors and Jews. And he traveled throughout Spain rejuvenating the spiritual life of Christians that the Moors had enslaved. Among his main themes were spiritual combat and standing firm in trials. Listen to his voice in this letter:

The preacher of God's truth has told us that all who want to live righteously in Christ will suffer persecution. . . . the only exception to this general statement is, I think, the person who either neglects, or does not know how, to live temperately, justly and righteously in this world. May you never be numbered among those whose house is peaceful, quiet and free from care; those on whom the Lord's chastisement does not descend; those who live out their days in prosperity, and in the

twinkling of an eye will go down to hell. Your purity of life, your devotion, deserve and call for a reward; because you are acceptable and pleasing to God your purity of life must be made purer still, by frequent buffetings, until you attain perfect sincerity of heart. If from time to time you feel the sword falling on you with double or treble force, this also should be seen as sheer joy and the mark of love. The two-edged sword consists in conflict without, fears within. It falls with double or treble force within, when the cunning spirit troubles the depths of your heart with guile and enticements. . . .The sword falls with double and treble force externally when, without cause, persecution breaks out from within the church, where wounds are more serious, especially when inflicted by friends. This is that enviable and blessed cross of Christ . . . the cross in which alone we must make our boast, as Paul, God's chosen instrument, has told us.

In 1230, Pope Gregory IX brought Raymond to Rome as his confessor. There Raymond collected all the decrees of popes and councils since 1150. Because they were so well arranged, canonists relied on Raymond's Decretals until the new codification of 1917.

Characteristically, Raymond tried to dodge ecclesiastical appointments. In 1236, illness saved him from becoming archbishop of Tarragona. But he could not avoid his election as the third general of the Dominicans in 1238. But when he reformed the Dominican rule, he slipped in a clause allowing early retirement of office holders. And he used it to retire in 1240.

But he continued to work 35 more years, focusing on bringing Jews and Moors to Christ. To equip Catholics for this work he introduced the study of Hebrew and Arabic among Dominicans and persuaded Thomas Aquinas to write his Summa Contra Gentes as an evangelistic tool. Raymond told his general that ten thousand Moors had been baptized through the efforts of the Dominicans. He died at 100 years of age in 1275. www.loyolapress

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.”

Prayer for the New Year

Heavenly Father,
as I stand at the threshold of this new year,
I come before You with a heart full of hope and trust.

Thank You for the gift of another year,
for the grace You have given me,
and for Your faithful presence in my life.

I place this new year into Your hands.
Guide my steps, protect my heart,
and help me grow closer to You each day.

Bless my family, my work, my relationships,
and all the intentions I carry in my heart.
Give me strength in trials,
wisdom in decisions,
and peace in uncertainty.

Lord, may this year be one of grace, renewal, and deeper faith.
I trust in Your providence and surrender all to Your will.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

