



# Welcome to St. Mary of the Purification Parish, Mt. Forest, Ont.

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 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](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

February 15, 2026



**Tue Feb 17 7:00 pm** † Kathryn Meyer Req'd by  
The Estate and † Intentions of Fr. Stephen  
Arabadjis

**Wed Feb 18 9:00 am** † Jack Zeinstra Req'd by  
Werner & Maxine Schmidt

**7:00 pm** ASH WEDNESDAY

### **BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES**

**Thur Feb 19 9:00 am** † Matilda "Tillie" Sheehan  
Req'd by Gerry Ferrier

**Fri Feb 20 9:00 am** † Brenda Meyer Req'd by  
Jim & Sheila Meyer

**7:00 pm** **STATIONS OF THE**

### **CROSS**

**Sat Feb 21 4:00 pm** † People of the Parish

**Sun Feb 22 9:00 am** † People of the Parish

### Lectors

**Wed Feb 18 9:00 am** Maxine Schmidt  
**7:00 pm** Susan Thurston

**Sat Feb 21** Luis Arruda

**Sun Feb 22** Colleen DallaCosta

**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 21 5:30 pm** † People of the Parish

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

**Sun Feb 22 11:00 am** † People of the Parish

### **This Sunday's Reading:**

#### **First Reading**

Sirach 15:15-20

The eyes of God see all he has made.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 119:1-2,4-5, 17-18,33-34

Happy are those who walk in the way of the Lord.

#### **Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

God has revealed this wisdom to us through the  
Spirit.

#### **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 5:17-37

I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets  
but to fulfill them.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbor.

When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.

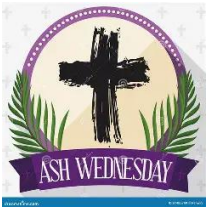
The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings have made. They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "the Law and the prophets." But God's work goes beyond that to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God.

The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.

## **Family Connection**

Families have rules. Without rules, family life would be chaos. As a family, brainstorm a list of rules that you are all called to follow in your home in order for you all to get along together. Think about rules for play time, rules for eating, rules for how to speak to one another, rules for going out with friends, and so on. Emphasize that families follow rules as a way of showing love and respect for one another. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about following the Law. Say: *God's Law of love can be thought of as rules that we are to follow in order to show our love and respect for one another.* Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:17-37. Talk specifically with one another about how anger is to be dealt with in your family. Conclude by praying for the grace to overcome anger and to show respect for one another as a family by following God's Law of love.

[www.loyolapress/resources](http://www.loyolapress/resources)

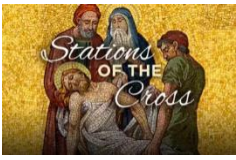


**Ash Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>**

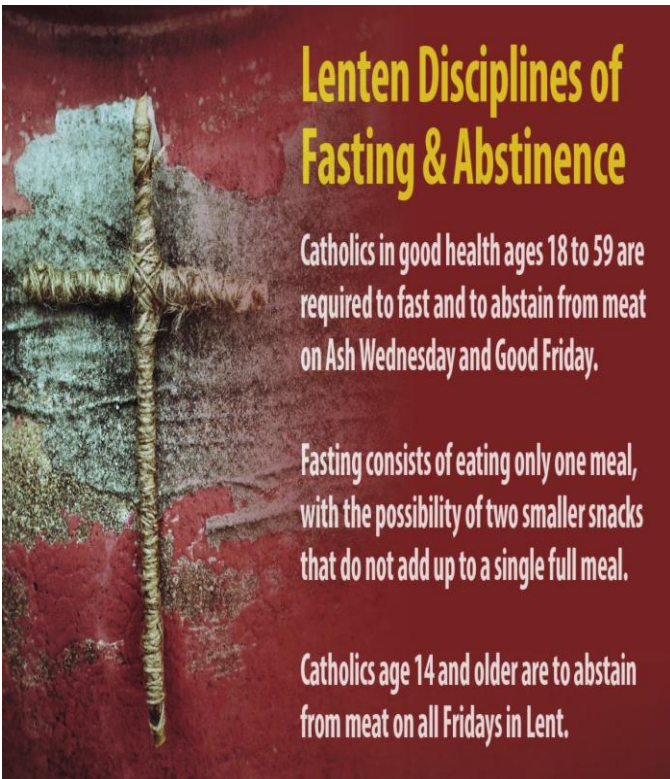
St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest

**9:00 am and 7:00 pm**  
**Mass with Blessing and**

**Distribution of Ashes**



**Stations of the Cross**  
**Fridays at 7:00 pm during**  
**Lent**



**Lenten Disciplines of Fasting & Abstinence**

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.



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!



**Sacramental Preparation**

**St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest**  
**Sacrament of First Reconciliation** – Saturday  
March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 11:00 am

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

**Sacrament of First Holy Communion** Sunday,  
June 7, 2026. Mass being celebrated at 3:00 pm.  
**Deadline for registration is March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

*Please note : 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](mailto:stmarymtforest@wightman.ca) registration forms can also be picked up at the entrance of the church.*

**Contributions**

**St. Mary of the Purification:** Feb 1 \$1710, Main. \$55; Feb 8 \$907

**St. Peter Mission:** Feb 1 \$230 ; Feb 8 \$140

**St. Thomas Mission:** Feb 1 \$250 ; Feb 8 \$140

**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 15**

*“Pray to the Lord of the Harvest”*

<b>Mon-</b> Rev. Jarek Pachocki, O.M.I	<b>Thu-</b> Rev. Jeffery Oehring
<b>Tue-</b> Rev. Robert Love	<b>Fri-</b> Rev. Francesco Cucchi
<b>Wed-</b> ASH WEDNESDAY	<b>Sat-</b> Rev. Mark Gatto

**Tax Receipts**

The 2025 donation tax receipts will be available for pick up the weekend of February 14/15. Any receipts that are not picked up will be mailed the following week. Thank you !



**DIocese of Hamilton**

**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](http://hamiltondiocese.com), or call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

**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 and are held 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).



**SAINTS LUCIA DOS SANTOS, FRANCISCO & JACINTA MARTO  
FEAST DAY FEBRUARY 20**

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, May 13, 1917, three children were laughing and chatting as they kept watch over their families' sheep. This afternoon they were building a playhouse out of brush and rocks. Suddenly a bright light flashed. They thought it was lightning. Then it flashed again. They saw a ball of light descend upon a little green evergreen tree. Within the light was a beautiful woman dressed in white. The children were Lucia dos Santos, who was 10 years old, and her cousins Francisco Marto (9) and his sister Jacinta (7). These children lived in Portugal, in a small village near Fatima. The shining woman told them not to be afraid and that she was from heaven. She told them she would return on the 13th day of each month for 6 months, and she asked them to meet her at this place, Cova da Iria.

Many people including Lucia's family did not believe the children. People laughed, ridiculed, harassed, threatened them and put them in jail for two days. But nothing could change the truth. During the summer, on the 13th day of each month, the Blessed Mother Mary appeared to the children.

More and more people accompanied to the Cova. Each time Mary told them to pray the Rosary for peace in the world and to sacrifice for sinners. On October 13, the last day of apparition, more than 70,000 were waiting. This time the Lady of the Rosary asked them to build a chapel on the rocky hillside. The entire crowd saw a remarkable sight. The sun seemed to dance in the sky. It was spinning like a top and shooting off brilliant colors of the rainbow. Suddenly the sun dropped treacherously close to earth. People dropped to their knees, and the sun just as quickly returned to its play in the sky.

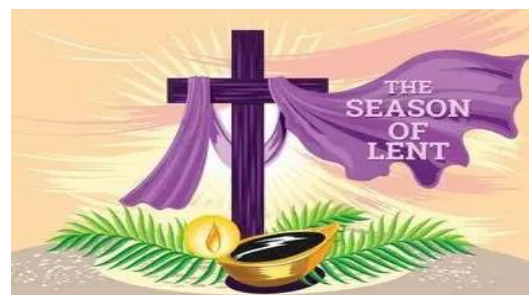
You might think that if the Blessed Mother of God appears to you and speaks to you, you are a saint. But that is not necessarily true. What is true is that Mary chose to come to children who the year before had been visited by the Angel of Peace, children who had listened to the angel's message and prayed the prayer the angel taught them. They responded to Mary in the same way and prayed the Rosary and offered sacrifices for sinners and for the conversion of the world. They were children who wanted to please God.

Francisco and Jacinta died within a short time, as the Lady had said they would. They were beatified on May 13, 2000. At that time Lucia dos Santos was a Carmelite nun in Portugal. Sister Lucia died February 13, 2005 at age 97. Pope Francis canonized Francisco and Jacinta during a May 13, 2017 Mass in Fatima.

Pope Francis declared Sister Lucia "venerable" in 2023.

[www.loyolapress/resources](http://www.loyolapress/resources)

**As we begin the Sacred season of Lent, may your Lenten journey be richly blessed with quiet contemplation, deep prayer and refreshing spiritual renewal.**



**Prayer for Fasting and Abstinence**

**Lord Jesus, In my fasting, draw me closer to you. Purify my heart, strengthen my spirit, and teach me to love, as you love. Amen**