



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

  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 22, 2026



Tue Feb 24 7:00 pm † Intentions of Fr. Stephen Arabadjis and The Estate
† Kathryn Meyer Req'd by
Wed Feb 25 9:00 am † Anne Hahn Req'd by Ed & Helen Seifried
Thu Feb 26 9:00 am † Ed Dinneen Req'd by Bernard Dinneen
Fri Feb 27 9:00 am † Brenda Meyer Req'd by Wayne & Cheryl Allen
Sat Feb 28 4:00 pm † People of the Parish
Sun Mar 1 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Feb 28 Maxine Schmidt
Sun Mar 1 Cheryl Kieffer

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 28 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Feb 29 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Eve and Adam eat from the tree that was forbidden to them by God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 51:3-4,5-6,12-13,17

A prayer for mercy

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

Through the obedience of Jesus, many will be made righteous. (shorter form: Romans 5:12,17-19)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John,

Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God. www.loyolapress/resources

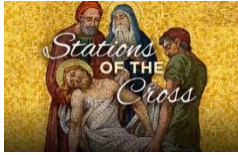
Family Connection

When Jesus resists the temptations presented to him by the devil, he draws on his religious upbringing and tradition. Jesus is able to quote from Scripture because he is the Son of God and because he was a human person who lived his Jewish beliefs fully. We who are responsible for raising children are also called upon to immerse them fully in our Catholic Christian tradition so that they too will be able to draw upon this tradition to resist the temptations they will face in their lives.

Use this Sunday as an opportunity to call your family's attention to the importance of Scripture in our lives. Gather your family around the family Bible and read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11. Recall that Jesus rebuked the devil's temptations by quoting Scripture. Take some time as a family to talk about the words that are found in the Bible and the importance of Scripture to our faith. Perhaps the older members of the family can share a favorite

Scripture passage with everyone. Younger family members can tell their favorite story from the Bible and be shown where that story can be found. In each case, encourage a deeper sharing of faith by asking each person to tell why the Scripture passage shared is important to him or her. Conclude your time together by again reading Jesus' reply to the devil found in Matthew 4:4 ("One does not live by bread alone . . .") and praying the Lord's Prayer.

www.loyolapress/resources



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



St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest
Sacrament of First Reconciliation – Saturday
March 28th, 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 27th, 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 registration forms can also be picked up at the entrance of the church.

Contributions-Feb 14/15

St. Mary of the Purification: \$974.00;
Maintenance \$760.00
St. Peter Mission: \$175.00
St. Thomas Mission: \$222.50
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 22
"Pray to the Lord of the Harvest"

Mon- Rev. Joonbin Lim	Thu- Rev. Saju Oreethapapambil, C.S.S.R
Tue- Rev. Ralph Diodati	Fri- Rev. Kevin Upendran
Wed- Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, R.S.C.J.	Sat- Rev. Drago Gacnik, S.D.B.

The Month of February, Dedicate to the Holy Family



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, or call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

When Life Changes Grief Program - 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. Both part one and two will be offered 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.

Part One – When Life Changes will be offered on Wednesday afternoons from February 18- March 25 from 1:30 – 3:00 pm.

Part Two – The Ongoing Journey (for those who have previously completed Part One) is offered on Wednesday evenings from April 8 - May 13 from 7:00-8:30pm.

SPEAKING SYNODALITY The [Office for Evangelization and Catechesis](#) invites you to join our three-part workshop series on Synodality and its applications in local parish settings. This seminar is encouraged for those involved in parish councils, pastoral planning, and leadership at all levels of Catholic community living. There will be 2 locations for each 3-part session series: Hamilton (with a Zoom option) and, Guelph. Registration and further details can be found here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/>

SPRING BOOK CLUB: “ON LOVE OF THE POOR” The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invite you to join us for a four-week virtual book club, exploring Pope Leo XIV's first Apostolic Exhortation, *“On Love of the Poor.”* Aligned with our Lenten journey, this series will explore the key themes and messages of our Holy Father's message on love and solidarity with those who experience marginalization. Registration can be made here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/>



**The Chair of Saint Peter The Apostle
Feast Day February 22**

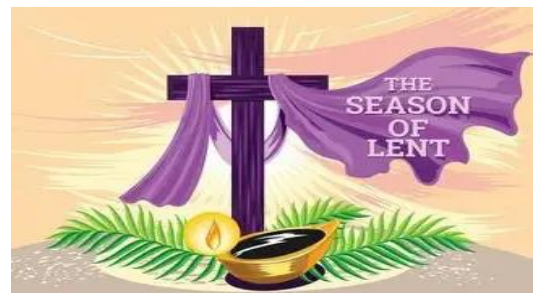
When the pope cautions world leaders, pleads for peace, or condemns social injustice, people listen and respond. What makes the world listen to this man? The answer lies in Scripture and in Tradition. Peter is named first among the apostles of Jesus; he was often their spokesman and leader; he was the first to preach after Pentecost; and he was the leader in defending Christ and his message. Peter was at the Transfiguration and in the garden.

He proclaimed to Jesus, “You are the Christ,” and Christ singled him out:

“[S]o I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:18–19)

Jesus prayed for Peter that he might strengthen his brothers. (Luke 22:32) And Jesus gave Peter a threefold commission to “[f]eed my sheep.” (John 21:15–17)

From the beginning, the specialness, or primacy, of Peter has been recognized. On the feast of the Chair of Peter, we celebrate our unity as a Church. We celebrate the love, presence, and protection of Christ for us, the Church. The title Chair of Peter refers to the chair from which a bishop presided, a symbol of his authority. When the title refers to Saint Peter, it recalls the supreme teaching power of Peter and his successors. It is from the chair, from the pastoral power given him, that the pope shepherds Christ's flock.



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

May your Lenten journey be richly blessed with quiet contemplation, deep prayer and refreshing spiritual renewal.