



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 8, 2026



Tue Feb 10 7:00 pm † Intentions of Fr. Stephen Arabadjis and † Sister Geraldine Req'd by The CWL

Wed Feb 11 9:00 am † Ed Penner Req'd by Dan & Doris Tone

Thur Feb 12 9:00 am NO MASS TODAY

Fri Feb 13 9:00 am † Sharon Tangney Req'd by Wayne & Cheryl Allen

Sat Feb 14 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun Feb 15 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Feb 14 Cesar Arruda

Sun Feb 15 Melissa Reid

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 14 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Feb 15 11:00 am † People of the Parish

Background on the Gospel Reading

Following upon the teaching of the Beatitudes, Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were more precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavoring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives.

Still, our familiarity with this passage from Matthew's Gospel speaks well to the abiding power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as "a city set on a mountain" that cannot be hidden!

Family Connection

The widespread use of electricity in our society may make us less aware of the value and importance of light. To re-engage with the power of the metaphor that Jesus offers, gather your family in a darkened room. Bring only one flashlight.

Sit together for a minute and consider what you are able to do and see in so little light. You might try opening the Bible to see whether you can read today's Gospel. Turn on the flashlight and experiment to see how one might use it to achieve the greatest amount of light. Then read today's Gospel by the light of the flashlight. Ask everyone to consider what it means to say that Christians are to be the light of the world. How might your family act in a way that is a light for others, a light that is worthy to put on a lamp stand? Choose one thing that your family will do this week to show that you are the light of the world. You might choose to participate in an activity that your parish sponsors, such as help with a food pantry. Pray together by singing "This Little Light of Mine."

www.loyolapress/resources

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Isaiah 58:7-10

In the work of justice, light shall break through darkness.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 112:4-9

The just person will be a light in the darkness.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

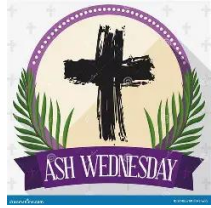
Paul shows that he came to Corinth preaching Christ crucified.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus teaches that his disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

On February 18, we begin the sacred season of Lent. May your Lenten journey be richly blessed with quiet contemplation, deep prayer and refreshing spiritual renewal.

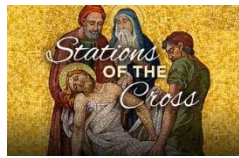


Ash Wednesday February 18th

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
Fridays 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
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

St. Mary of the Purification: Jan 11-\$6153, Main. \$295; Jan 18-\$830.90 ;Jan 25-\$1125.35, Main. \$50

St. Peter Mission: Jan 11-\$85 ; Jan 18 -\$170 ;Jan 25-\$60

St. Thomas Mission: Jan 11 -\$170 ; Jan 18 - \$315; Jan 25- \$250

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 8

“Pray to the Lord of the Harvest”

Mon- Rev. Lourdy Dorismond, O.M.I	Thu- Parents & Guardians
Tue- St. Scholastica, Virgin	Fri- Rev. Hanh Van Tran, O.M.I.
Wed- Disalced Carmelite Nuns, O.C.D.	Sat- Rev. Adam Voisin

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

THE REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL brings you an insightful exploration of the dangers of book banning and the loss of intellectual freedom with a screening of *The Librarians* on **February 26, 2026 7:00 – 9:00 PM**. The film is told through the personal experiences of librarians under siege as they fight for democracy alongside everyday people who join their ranks in defense of books. 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.

World Day of the Sick

For the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (8 Feb 2026) or on **World Day of the Sick (Wed 11 Feb 2026)** Pope Leo XIV, in his Message for the **34th World Day of the Sick 2026**, invites us to reflect on the figure of the Good Samaritan. The Holy Father outlines three key points: the gift of encounter, the shared mission of caring for the sick and the primacy of being driven by love for God in encountering ourselves and others. He writes, “I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, ‘Samaritan’ spirit – **one that is welcoming, courageous, committed and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ.**” He continues, “Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly or afflicted.” Pope Leo’s complete message and reflection are available on the Vatican website <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv>



Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day February 11

Each year over 2 million people make their way through the mountainous country of southeastern France to Lourdes. They come seeking cures, hoping to find answers, believing, and praying. At Lourdes, people recall the Lady dressed in white, with a blue sash, yellow roses at her feet, and a Rosary on her arm—the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On February 11, 1858, Mary appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous. This was the first of 18 visits, many of them with 20,000 people present. When Bernadette asked the Lady’s identity, she replied, “I am the Immaculate Conception.” Just four years earlier, the pope had proclaimed it a dogma that Mary was conceived immaculate without original sin. The Blessed Virgin, through Bernadette, had come to call sinners to a change of heart. Her message was a request for prayer and penance. She also instructed Bernadette to tell the priests that a chapel was to be built on the site and processions held. On February 25, 1858, the Lady told Bernadette to dig in the dirt and drink of the stream. Bernadette began to dig, and after several attempts she was able to find the water to drink. The water continued to flow from where she had dug with her hands until it was producing over 32,000 gallons of water a day—as it still does. There have been over 5,000 cures recorded but less than 100 of them have been declared miraculous by the Church. Most of these have taken place during the blessing with the Blessed Sacrament. Today we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. We may never travel to Lourdes and join in the processions, but we can know always that we have a Mother to help us and lead us to her Son, Jesus. And so we pray to her:

Grant us, O merciful God, protection in our weakness,

that we, who keep the Memorial of the Immaculate Mother of God, may, with the help of her intercession, rise up from our iniquities.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, for ever and ever. www.loyolapress/resources