



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

March 1, 2026 2ND Sunday of Lent



Tue Mar 3 7:00 pm † Intentions of Fr. Stephen Arabadjis and † Mary, Arthur, John McDonald and Stan Staniewski Req'd by The Family

Wed Mar 4 9:00 am † Marcella Williams Req'd by Evelyn Collins

Thu Mar 5 9:00 am † Anne (Seifried) Hahn Req'd by Joan Jeffery

Fri Mar 6 9:00 am † Anne Marie Noonan Req'd by Wayne and Cheryl Allen

FIRST FRIDAY - ADORATION AFTER MASS
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Sat Mar 7 9:00 am † Intentions of Rosalie (Dinneen) Penner & repose of the soul of Ed Penner Req'd by Bernard Dinneen

4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun Mar 8 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Mar 7 Florence Kreps

Sun Mar 8 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 Mar 7 5:30 pm † Colleen Kelly Req'd by Roslyn Fortier and † Mary & Francis Garvey, Jerome Lane & Ernie Sr. Dunlop Req'd by Virginia Lane

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Mar 8 11:00 am † Respose of the soul of Denis Menard Req'd by Allen Schiedel and Anna Marie Raftis Req'd by The Estate

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

God promises Abram a great blessing.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22

God's mercy is upon those who trust in God.

Second Reading

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Through God's grace we are called to holiness.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

Background on the Gospel Reading

For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

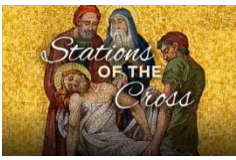
The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word. The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.

www.loyolapress/resources

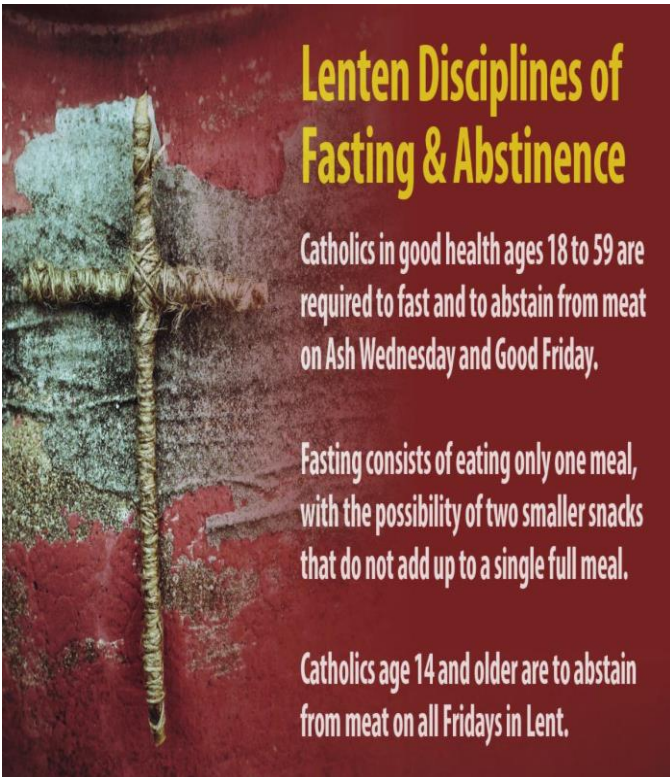
Family Connection

As a family, talk about some of your times of highs and lows. How have you been able to use the good times and experiences to sustain you in the difficult ones? Jesus' Transfiguration may have been an event from which Peter, James, and John drew courage when they faced the difficult events of Jesus' Passion. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the good times and experiences that your family has had together. Pray that your family will use these experiences to sustain you during times of difficulty. Close by praying today's psalm, Psalm 33.



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

forms can also be picked up at the entrance of the church.



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.

Contributions-February 22
St. Mary of the Purification: \$2346; Maintenance - \$290
St. Peter Mission: \$5125
St. Thomas Mission: \$100
Thank you for your continued donations. Your contributions are greatly appreciated as we seek to encourage all with God's Love and Word.

CWL NEWS

1 - SMA meeting, Wednesday March 11, 2026 at 7pm in the England room. All parishioners welcome.

2 - CWL meeting, Tuesday March 10, 2026 at 1:00 pm in the England room.

➔ 3 - **The St. Mary of the Purification CWL** will be hosting the **North Regional Spring Meeting on Saturday March 21, 2026 from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm.** All CWL members and ladies of the parish are invited to attend. Please bring a brown bag lunch and a teacup and saucer and wear a tiara and something sparkling. **We are requesting some loaves, muffins and cookies for our morning tea.** If you are interested in attending, please call Colleen Dalla Costa at 519-321-9888 or leave a message with the secretary.



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



The Pope's Prayer Intention for March

For disarmament and peace: Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



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

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

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.

ENHANCING SELF-ESTEEM (New Dates) This program provides the opportunity to increase awareness of yourself and to learn specific skills for building 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 April 6 – June 9** 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 and looking for the date under Upcoming Events, or by contacting Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, or at familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com.

HOPE AFTER AN ABORTION - Are you struggling with an abortion decision – either your own, or someone else's? Do you feel alone, emotional, or angry? Project Rachel is a ministry of healing for any person suffering pain or problems from an abortion experience. This confidential service allows people to work through their feelings and find hope and healing. Please contact us at 905-526-1999 or toll free at 1-888-385-3850.

LOOKING FOR SUPPORT FOR YOUR MARRIAGE – Does your marriage feel like it is more trouble than joy, does it feel stagnant, or disconnected? Is it causing you constant stress? The solution is Retrouvaille – whose one purpose is to help couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. This is a practical program, where sharing is not required except between the couple themselves. It is designed to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. This is for struggling couples, including those who may be considering separation or divorce. **The next Retrouvaille weekend is March 13-15, 2026.** Call 905-664-5212 or email 1013r@helpourmarriage.org.



Saints Perpetua and Felicity Feast Day March 7th

St. Perpetua kept a diary during her last days, while she awaited her execution. Her diary, along with an eyewitness's account of her death, is one of the oldest, most reliable histories of a martyr's sufferings. This account was passed down to encourage other Christians to witness to the world with their lives—to teach others that greater than life itself is knowing Jesus and being loyal to him.

Perpetua's account records the events that took place in Carthage, Africa, in the year 202, when the Emperor Severus issued an anti-Christian law forbidding anyone to be baptized and become a Christian. At that time twenty-two-year-old Perpetua was a catechumen, studying to become a Christian. She was also the mother of an infant son. Perpetua was arrested along with four other catechumens, including Felicity, her slave woman, who was about to give birth to a child. All were tried and sentenced to be thrown to the wild beasts in the amphitheater during a national holiday. Their deaths would be scheduled along with sports events and various games.

During the days before their execution, their teacher Saturus voluntarily joined the catechumens so that he might die for Christ with them. Perpetua's father, a wealthy pagan, pleaded with her to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods so she could be free, but she refused. She said, "Father do you see this water jar, or whatever it is, standing here? Could one call it by any other name than what it is? Well, in the same way I cannot be called by any other name than what I am—a Christian." While they were awaiting death, Perpetua and her companions were baptized. Shortly before the scheduled execution, Felicity gave birth to a baby girl. During childbirth, she had cried out in pain. Someone hearing her asked her how she would ever endure the suffering of martyrdom. She replied, "Now it is I who suffer what I am suffering; then, there will be another in me who will suffer for me, because I will be suffering for him."

On the day of their execution, the martyrs left their prison "joyfully as though they were on their way to heaven" and entered the arena, where they were killed before the cheering crowd. Perpetua and Felicity were beheaded; the others were killed by wild beasts. Today these women are mentioned in the first Eucharistic Prayer.



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.**