



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 15, 2026 4th Sunday of Lent



Tue Mar 17 7:00 pm † Katheryn Meyer Req'd
by the Estate and † Intentions of Al Nolan

Wed Mar 18 9:00 am † Dec'd members of the
Caughlin Family Req'd by Brian Moyer

Thu Mar 19 9:00 am **MASS IS CANCELLED**

Fri Mar 20 9:00 am † Katheryn Meyer Req'd by
Paul & Mary MacMillan

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Sat Mar 21 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun Mar 22 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Mar 21 Maxine Schmidt

Sun Mar 22 J.vonWesterholt

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 21 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Mar 22 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a

Samuel is sent to anoint David as king.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord is our shepherd.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

The Ephesians are told to live as children of light.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41 (shorter form: John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38)

Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.

Background on the Gospel Reading

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of

the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

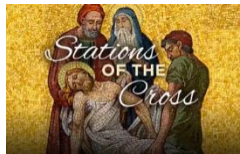
www.loyolapress/resources

Family Connection

When infants are baptized, parents, with the help of the godparents, assume responsibility for raising the child as a follower of Jesus. The process of maturation in the faith is much like the example found in the story of the man born blind. The man is cured of his blindness, a symbol of his sin. Each

time he meets someone after the healing, the man comes to a deeper awareness of who Jesus is. In a similar way, we who are baptized continue to mature in faith as our relationship with and knowledge about Jesus grows.

Invite each member of your family to draw a timeline of his or her life. On the timelines, ask family members to identify significant moments in their lives, especially their life of faith. Invite each person to reflect upon who Jesus was to him or her at each significant moment. How has each person's relationship with Jesus changed or matured? Then read together today's Gospel, John 9:1-41. Note how the relationship between Jesus and the man born blind changes and grows throughout the Gospel. Pray together that your relationship with Jesus will continue to grow and develop, becoming ever deeper. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer. www.loyolapress/resources



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!



**Sacramental
Preparation**

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.



Holy Week Mass Schedule

St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday March 27 ALL DAY

9:30am-12:30; 1:30-4:30; 5:30-7:00; 7:30-9:30pm

Palm Sunday Lord's Passion

Saturday, March 28 4:00 pm (no procession)

Sunday, March 29 9:00 am

➔ **There will be a procession from the hall to the Church before Mass.**

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lords Supper

April 2 7:00 pm

Good Friday Passion of the Lord

April 3 3:00 pm

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass

April 4 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday Resurrection of the Lord

April 5 9:00 am

St. Thomas, Harriston

Palm Sunday Lord's Passion

Saturday March 28 5:30 pm (no procession)

(No Mass April 4th Holy Saturday Vigil)

St. Peter's , Ayton

Palm Sunday Lord's Passion

March 29th 11:00 am (no procession)

Easter Sunday Resurrection of the Lord

April 5 11:00 am

Wellington Deanery Penitential Services

Tuesday March 24th at 6:30 pm St. John's Church, Guelph.

Thursday March 26th at 6:30 pm St. Joseph's Church, Fergus.

Multiple Priests will be available both evenings.

CWL NEWS

➔ 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.

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.

Contributions March 1

St. Mary of the Purification: \$1757

St. Peter Mission: \$8,810

St. Thomas Mission: \$300

Thank you for your continued donations. Your contributions are greatly appreciated as we seek to encourage all with God's Love and Word.



Saint Joseph Spouse of the BVM Feast Day March 19th

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being an upright man and wanting to spare her disgrace, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

Look! The virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom they will call Immanuel, (see Isaiah 7:14) a name which means "God-is-with-us." When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home; he had not had intercourse with her when she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.
—Matthew 1:18–25 NJB

A few verses in Matthew and Luke tell us all we know about St. Joseph. They provide just enough information to demonstrate why he was the divine choice to become the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. Joseph was genealogically perfect for these roles. A distant descendant of King David, he gave Christ the King his royal lineage. Joseph also came from the right hometown. He was from Bethlehem, the city that Scripture predicted would produce the messiah (see Micah 5:1). And as a carpenter (see Matthew 13:55), Joseph was poor—Christ's condition of preference.

Scripture portrays Joseph as open to God, obedient, upright, and, above all, kind. The saint displayed all of these qualities in his handling of Mary's surprise pregnancy. Imagine the confusion of emotions that must have flooded him when Mary confided that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit! As a devout observer of the law, Joseph knew that he might have to repudiate his betrothal. But his kindness and confidence in Mary prevented his taking such a harsh step, which would have shamed her. It may have even put her in danger of capital punishment (see Deuteronomy 22:20–21). Joseph must have agonized over his decision, praying intently about it. Finally he decided to divorce Mary quietly. But Joseph was open to God, and in a dream a divine messenger told him to take Mary home as his wife. Joseph did exactly as he was told.

Joseph's wise dealing with Mary is a model for us when we face complex moral and personal issues. He subordinated his feelings to do what God required. He was open to whatever God wanted, and when he sensed the divine will, he obeyed.

