



# 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 Stavem

### **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

March 22, 2026 5th Sunday of Lent



**Tue Mar 24 7:00 pm** † David Atkinson and Intentions of Bill & Mary Hammond Req'd by Bill & Mary Hammond

**Wed Mar 25 9:00 am** † Deceased members of the Watts & Briere Families Req'd by Irene Watts & Family

**Thu Mar 26 9:00 am** † Laurie Moyer Req'd by Brian Moyer

**Fri Mar 27 9:00 am** † Katheryn Meyer Req'd by Shirley Lacey

*7:00 pm Stations of the Cross*

**Sat Mar 28 4:00 pm** † People of the Parish

**Sun Mar 29 9:00 am** † People of the Parish

### Lectors

**Sat Mar 28** C. Arruda/M. Schmidt

**Sun Mar 29** M. Reid / 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 28 5:30 pm** † People of the Parish

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

**Sun Mar 29 11:00 am** † People of the Parish

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

#### **First Reading**

*Ezekiel 37:12-14*

God will open the graves and restore the people of Israel.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 130:1-8*

With the Lord is forgiveness and mercy.

#### **Second Reading**

*Romans 8:8-11*

The Spirit of God dwells in you.

#### **Gospel Reading**

*John 11:1-45 (shorter version John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45)*

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so

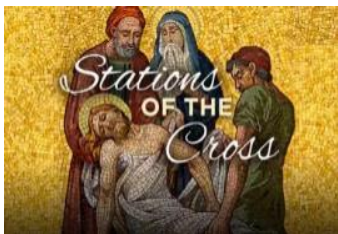
too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life. [www.loyolapress/resources](http://www.loyolapress/resources)

### Family Connection

Jesus' promise of eternal life is a central element of our Catholic faith. Even though Easter is still two weeks away, our Gospel today invites us to acknowledge Jesus' power over death, evidenced in the raising of Lazarus, and to anticipate Jesus' conquering of death once and for all in his death and Resurrection. We sometimes use examples from nature to help describe this mystery of our faith. Jesus himself talked about the seed that dies when planted in the ground in order to produce new life (John 12:24). Using that image and others, we find hope and confidence in Jesus, the Resurrection and the life.

Gather your family today and read today's Gospel in its shorter form, John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45. Write Jesus' promise from today's Gospel ("I am the resurrection and the life.") on a large sheet of white paper. As your family talks about what Jesus means by this promise, decorate Jesus' words with symbols that will remind you of his promise of eternal life. Display this reminder of Jesus' promise in a prominent place in your home and keep it there until Easter. Pray that you will always remain confident in Jesus' promise of eternal life. Conclude by praying together the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed. [www.loyolapress/resources](http://www.loyolapress/resources)



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



**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.*

### **Wellington Deanery Penitential Services**

Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm St. John's Church, Guelph.  
Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm St. Joseph's Church, Fergus.  
*Multiple Priests will be available both evenings.*

### **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 8**

**St. Mary of the Purification:** \$1271 ; Maintenance \$290  
**St. Peter Mission:**  
**St. Thomas Mission:**

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



### 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 4<sup>th</sup> Holy Saturday Vigil )

#### **St. Peter's , Ayton**

##### **Palm Sunday Lord's Passion**

March 29<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am (no procession)

##### **Easter Sunday Resurrection of the Lord**

April 5 11:00 am

**The Saugeen Bach Chorale** presents St. John's Passion by J.S. Bach. Friday, April 3 at 8 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, Formosa. Tickets are \$45.00/Adults; \$20 Students (12-18yrs); Children under 12 Free. To experience Bach's St. John's Passion on Good Friday is an unforgettable encounter of the suffering of Christ. For more

information, call 519-369-8137. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.symphonyinthebarn.com](http://www.symphonyinthebarn.com).



**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.



#### **The Annunciation of the Lord Feast Day March 25<sup>th</sup>**

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him . . . might have eternal life.” (John 3:16) At the Annunciation, God revealed this good news to Mary. She was the first to hear and to believe that God would do what he promised. Her faith told her that nothing is impossible for God. Mary also heard God's invitation calling her to be the Virgin Mother of his Son. This call meant that Jesus would be formed in her womb, and she, as his mother, would nourish and care for him. This call meant that she had a special place in God's plan for salvation. Mary replied, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38) In saying yes, Mary agreed to God's plan because she wanted what God wanted. She was willing to accept all the joy and pain, all the unexpected events. She was willing to bring Christ to a waiting world.

