



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 8, 2026 3rd Sunday of Lent



Tue Mar 10 7:00 pm † Fr. Stephen Arabadjis
and † Joan Krysciak Req'd by The CWL

Wed Mar 11 9:00 am † Deceased members of the
Andrade & Bairos Families Req'd by Tony & Mary
Andrade

Thu Mar 12 9:00 am † Laurie Moyer Req'd by
Brian Moyer

Fri Mar 13 9:00 am † Deceased Family &
Friends of the Hammond Family Req'd by Bill &
Mary Hammond

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

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

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

Lectors

Sat Mar 14 Cesar Arruda

Sun Mar 15 Debra Ross

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 14 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

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

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Exodus 17:3-7

God tells Moses to bring forth water from the rock.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 95:1-2,6-9

Sing joyfully in the presence of the Lord.

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Reading

John 4:5-42

Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well. (shorter form: John 4:5-15,19b-26,39a,40-42)

Background on the Gospel Reading

On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to

the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshipping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

www.loyolapress/resources

Family Connection

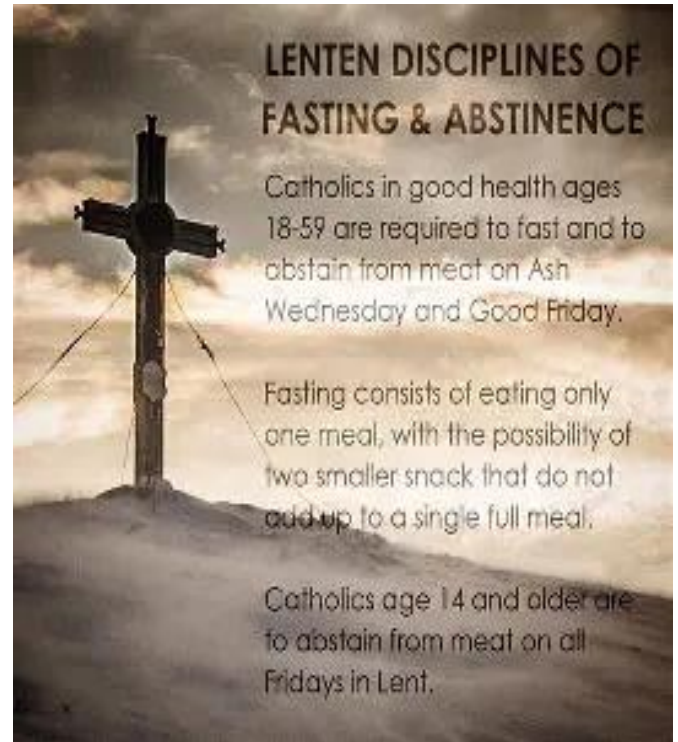
Lent is a season for repentance. It is a season during which we are called to reflect upon and to live deeply the promises of Baptism. The well and the conversation about water immediately recall for us the Sacrament of Baptism. As the Samaritan woman was converted and sent on a mission because of the conversation about water, we too are converted and sent by our Baptism to preach the good news of Jesus to others.

Take this opportunity to reflect upon the importance of Baptism with your family. If you have photos or other mementos of your family's Baptisms, bring them out and take some time to recall the day of Baptism and its importance to you and your family. Create a prayer table that includes these mementos and a bowl of holy water. After you have spent some time talking about Baptism, invite everyone to listen carefully and prayerfully to today's Gospel. Read John 4:5-42 together. Ask how Jesus' meeting with the woman at the well is like Baptism. (Jesus knows the woman's sin and forgives her. The woman comes to know Jesus as the Messiah. The

woman invites others to meet Jesus.) Pray a prayer of blessing for each member of the family that God will help each one live the promises of his or her Baptism. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.



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!



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-will follow next week

St. Mary of the Purification:

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.

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.

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 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.



Saint John of God Feast Day March 8

As a 16th-century Spanish soldier, John gave up religion and led a wild life. When he left the military at age 40, he became a shepherd. John decided to make a radical conversion—to go to Muslim North Africa and free Christian slaves. He saw himself dying as a martyr. His confessor helped John settle on a more prudent plan: to open a religious bookstore in Granada, Spain. He successfully managed this project. One day, John heard John of Ávila preach and felt he must do something to show he had converted. John began publicly beating himself, tearing his hair, behaving wildly. He gave his books away. People threw stones at him, and he was committed to a mental institution. John of Ávila calmed John and persuaded him to spend his energy caring for people who were sick and poor. John rented a house near Granada where those who were lepers, lame, mentally ill, paralyzed, and deaf found shelter. At first, John begged for money to support those in need, but soon people volunteered to help. John led a life of total giving and constant prayer. He found work for unemployed people. When the archbishop called John to his office because people complained that John kept immoral women in his hospital, he was silenced by John's humility. John fell on his knees, saying, "I know of no bad person in my hospital except myself, who am unworthy to eat the bread of the poor." John soon had a flourishing hospital. His helpers formed a community called the Brothers Hospitallers. John of God died from pneumonia contracted while saving a drowning man. When John realized he was dying, he went over all the accounts, revised the rules and timetable, and appointed a new leader. He died kneeling before the altar in his hospital chapel. John is the patron of hospitals. www.loyolapress/resources



Daylight savings time begins today, move your clocks forward 1 hour