



# 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

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P.</b>
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	<b>Annette Connolly</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Dee Dee Eurig</b>
	<b>Custodian</b>
	<b>Virginia McComiskey</b>
	<b>Music Dir.</b>
	<b>Rick Wildeman</b>
	<b>Organist</b>
	<b>Melissa Van Stavern</b>

## 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 2L0



**St. Peter's Mission**  
 943 Caroline St, Ayton NOG 1Co



**St. Thomas the Apostle**  
 #5800 Hwy 89, Harriston NOG 1Z0



## 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

April 12, 2026 DIVINE MERCY  
SUNDAY

Tue Apr 14 7:00 pm † Lily Blaskevitch Req'd by  
CWL and † Gabriel Zettler

Wed Apr 15 9:00 am † Laurie Moyer Req'd by  
Brian Moyer

Thu Apr 16 9:00 am † Deceased members of the  
Hammond & McManus Families Req'd by Bill &  
Mary Hammond

Fri Apr 17 9:00 am † Harvey Moyer Req'd by  
Brian Moyer

Sat Apr 18 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun Apr 19 9:00 am † People of the Parish

### Lectors

Sat Apr 18 Cesar Arruda

Sun Apr 19 Cheryl Kieffer

**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 Apr 18 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Apr 19 11:00 am † People of the Parish

**This Sunday's Reading :**

### **First Reading**

*Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47*

The first community of Christians grows as its  
members meet to pray and break bread.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24*

God's love is everlasting.

### **Second Reading**

*1 Peter 1:3-9*

We have new hope because of Jesus' Resurrection.

### **Gospel Reading**

*John 20:19-31*

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

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

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the  
disciples on several occasions after they discovered  
that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of  
Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his  
disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The  
bodily form was not one that the disciples

recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of  
Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing  
before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's  
Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to  
Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread  
with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical  
presence, but the disciples couldn't recognize Jesus  
unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body,  
nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.  
From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see  
that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free  
of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples  
despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and  
the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus  
commissions his disciples to continue the work that  
he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send  
you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the  
integral connection between forgiveness of sins and  
the gift of the Holy Spirit. The story of Thomas  
illustrates our Christian experience today: We are  
called to believe without seeing. In fact, all  
Christians after the first witnesses have been called  
to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly  
surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was  
incredible to the disciples who had seen him  
crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature  
compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus  
who appeared to the disciples after his death was  
indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified.  
Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that  
desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.  
Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that  
has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the  
first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the  
same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first  
disciples. We are among those who are "blessed"  
because we believe without having seen.

### **Family Connection**

Many of us can relate to Thomas's response to the  
news that the disciples had seen Jesus. We want to  
see for ourselves too, but we grow in faith, trusting  
the experience and knowledge of others. Many of us  
have heard the saying "Seeing is believing." As  
your family gathers, take some time to consider  
what that saying means. What are some things we  
believe because we see them? Is there anything we  
believe without seeing? Today's Gospel reminds us  
that faith sometimes asks us to believe things we  
cannot see with our eyes. Read today's Gospel,  
John 19:19-31, with your family. Think about  
Thomas's response to the reports about the risen  
Lord. Is Thomas's doubt reasonable? How does

Jesus respond to Thomas? Jesus grants Thomas the evidence that Thomas needs to believe, but Jesus also affirms the faith of those who will be called upon to believe without first-hand experience. We are among those whom Jesus calls blessed. Discuss with your family the basis of each member's faith in Jesus—the witness of the first disciples, the Gospels, the continuing activity of the Holy Spirit, the community of the Church.

Pray together that your faith in Jesus will be strong. Pray an act of faith together. [www.loyolapress/resources](http://www.loyolapress/resources)



**THE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI** The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed this to be the “Year of St. Francis of Assisi,” a special Jubilee in celebration of the 800<sup>th</sup> year since the holy death of St. Francis. The Diocese of Hamilton has put together a special webpage in celebration of this moment of faith. Join us in prayer and contemplation as we turn our hearts towards this saint of simplicity, peace, and joyful discipleship. All resources for adults and young people can be found here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/year-of-st-francis-of-assisi/>.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A “SYNODAL CHURCH?”** A Synodal Church works to meet people where they are at, invite shared experiences in mutual safety and respect, and offer paths of deeper connection with God, and each other. Pope Leo XIV has described a Synodal Church as “a church that walks together, a church that always seeks peace, always seeks charity, always seeks to be close especially to those who suffer.” (Urbi et Orbi, 2025) To learn more about the call to be a Synodal Church, visit us at <https://hamiltondiocese.com/synod-on-synodality/>.

**DID YOU KNOW...** Children in our parishes benefit from the Catechetical Correspondence Program each year for ongoing religious education and preparation for the Sacraments. We need volunteers to support the program! If you are willing to accompany these children in their learning journey, please reach out to the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis at [catechesis@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:catechesis@hamiltondiocese.com). To learn more about the Catechetical Correspondence Program, please visit: <https://bit.ly/DOHCCC>

**WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027 July 31 – August 9, 2027** Bishop Dabrowski is sending a delegation of young adults (aged 18-35) to World Youth Day in the summer of 2027. World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with the Pope. It is also a pilgrimage, a celebration of youth, an expression of the universal Church and an intense moment of evangelization for the world. The Diocesan Pastoral Offices welcome you to attend a **virtual information night** on Thursday, April 23 @ 7:30pm. Register here: [bit.ly/WYDInfoNight](https://bit.ly/WYDInfoNight) For more information about WYD in the Diocese of Hamilton please visit: [wyd.hamiltondiocese.com](http://wyd.hamiltondiocese.com)

**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 -

**CWL News**  
**UPDATE ON MEETING DATES**

1. St. Mary Auxiliary meeting is **Wednesday April 15, 2026** at 7:00 pm. All parishioners are welcome.
2. CWL meeting is **Monday April 13, 2026** at 1:00 pm. All ladies are welcome to attend and find out about the CWL.



**St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest**

**Sacrament of Confirmation** Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 3:00 pm. **Deadline for registration is May 1, 2026.**

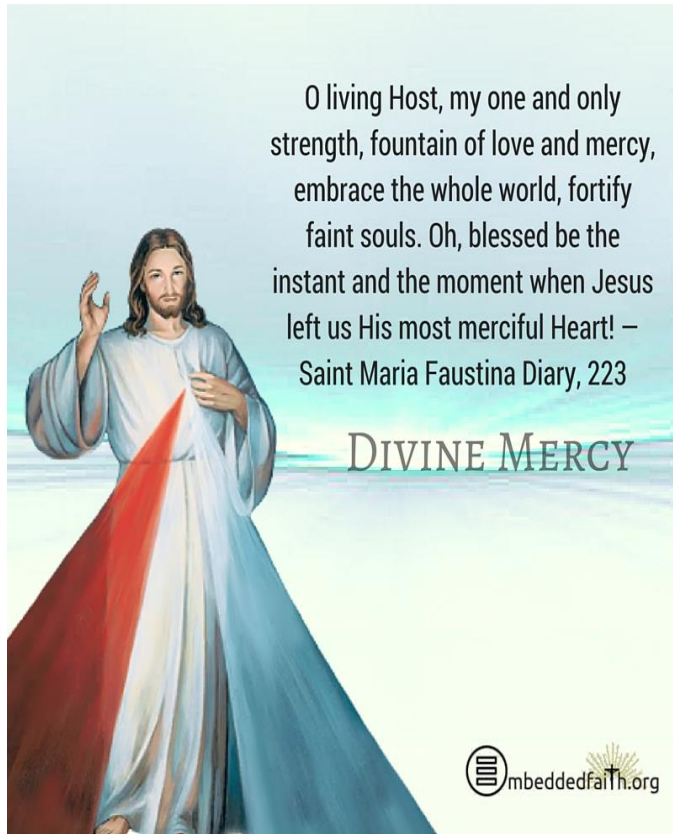
**Sacrament of First Holy Communion** Sunday, June 7, 2026. Mass being celebrated at 3:00 pm. Deadline for registration is March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

***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.***

**Contributions**

**St. Mary of the Purification: Mar 29 \$1475.80 ; Maintenance \$775 ; Apr 5 \$4857**  
**St. Peter Mission: Mar 29 \$335; Apr 5 \$1245**  
**St. Thomas Mission: Mar 29 \$220; Apr 5 \$180**  
***Thank you for your continued donations. Your contributions are greatly appreciated as we seek to encourage all with God's Love and Word***

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.



O living Host, my one and only strength, fountain of love and mercy, embrace the whole world, fortify faint souls. Oh, blessed be the instant and the moment when Jesus left us His most merciful Heart! – Saint Maria Faustina Diary, 223

## DIVINE MERCY



### What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000.

The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina. The most comprehensive revelation can be found in her *Diary* entry 699:

**My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all**

**eternity. Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy.**

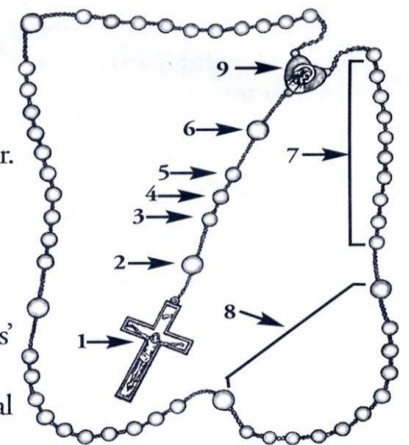
In all, St. Faustina recorded 14 revelations from Jesus concerning His desire for this feast.

Nevertheless, Divine Mercy Sunday is NOT a feast based solely on St. Faustina's revelations. Indeed, it is not primarily about St. Faustina — nor is it altogether a new feast. The Second Sunday of Easter was already a solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter<sup>[1]</sup>. The title "Divine Mercy Sunday" does, however, highlight the meaning of the day.

[www.thedivinemercy.org](http://www.thedivinemercy.org)

### HOW TO PRAY THE CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Say the optional Opening Prayer.
3. Say the "Our Father."
4. Say the "Hail Mary."
5. Say the Apostles' Creed.
6. Say the "Eternal Father."
7. Say 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" on the "Hail Mary" beads.
8. Repeat for four more decades, saying "Eternal Father" on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the Sake of His sorrowful Passion" on the following "Hail Mary" beads.
9. At the conclusion of the five decades, on the medallion say the "Holy God," the concluding doxology, three times.
10. Say the optional Closing Prayer.



On behalf of the Parish, I would like to thank all of our volunteers . Your generosity of energy, and spirit has been a true blessing to our community this Lent. You have been the hands and heart of Christ in action, and our parish is deeply grateful for your service. May the joy of Easter fill your hearts as richly as you have filled ours with your kindness.

In Christ, Fr. Mike