



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 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

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

April 26, 2026 Fourth Sunday of Easter



Tue Apr 28 7:00 pm † David Atkinson
and † Gabriel Zettler
Wed Apr 29 9:00 am † Intentions of Jakob Kemp
Req'd by Angela Langenhuisen
Thu Apr 30 9:00 am † Laurie Moyer Req'd by
Brian Moyer
Fri May 1 9:00 am † Katheryn Meyer Req'd by
Jim & Sheila Meyer
First Friday Adoration after mass
Sat May 2 9:00 am † Deceased members of the
Andrade & Bairos Families Req'd by Tony & Mary
Andrade
4:00 pm † People of the Parish
Sun May 3 9:00 am † People of the Parish
Lectors
Sat May 2 Cesar Arruda
Sun May 3 Elizabeth Koechl

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 May 2 5:30 pm † Bogdan Rogelj Req'd by
Christine Fernandez † Colleen Kelly Req'd by
Roslyn Fortier † Mary & Francis Garvey,
Jerome Lane, Ernie Sr. Dunlop Req'd by Gail &
Isobel Dunlop

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun May 3 11:00 am † Jack Zeinstra Req'd by
Percy & Kathy Moyer † Anna Marie Raftis Req'd
by The Estate

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:14a,36-41

Peter and the other apostles baptize 3,000 people.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord is my shepherd.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:20b-25

We have been healed by the wounds of Christ.

Gospel Reading

John 10:1-10

Jesus is the gate for his sheep.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good

Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd. www.loyolapress/resources

Family Connection

Even though we have less experience with sheep and shepherds today in our society, we can still identify strongly with the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and as the gate for the sheep. Psalm 23 remains a popular and favorite psalm for prayer. In the image of the Good Shepherd, we know ourselves to be protected and cared for by a loving God.

As your family gathers, ask what each person knows about sheep and shepherds. Recall that shepherds and sheep have a close relationship. Sheep will only follow their own shepherd; they recognize his voice and will not follow a stranger. The shepherd's job is to protect his sheep. In some ways, the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep is like that of a parent and child. Read together this Sunday's Gospel, John 10:1-10. Talk about how Jesus tells us that he is the gate for the sheep. The sheep enter the protection of the sheepfold through the gate. In Jesus we find protection and abundant life. Conclude by thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd and by praying today's psalm, Psalm 23. www.loyolapress.com

CWL News

- **CWL meeting MONDAY, May 11, 2026 at 1:00pm**
- **The CWL meeting in June will be on MONDAY June 15, 2026 at 1:00pm.**
- **We are planning to have a potluck luncheon. Again, all ladies of the parish are welcome. A signup sheet will be out in the foyer.**
- **The St. Mary Auxiliary meeting will be on Wed. May 13, 2026 at 7:00pm**



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 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.



Spring luncheon

Louise Marshall Hospital Auxiliary is hosting a Spring luncheon on May 2/26 11:30am-1:00pm at the Sports Complex, 850 Princess St, Mount Forest Barbecue Lunch \$20/person , tickets at the door.



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

RESTART: MOVING FORWARD Have you experienced a divorce or separation? Are you looking to learn ways to cope, for support from others and to gain a feeling of moving forward? Our 10-week program offers education and support to anyone seeking to heal or simply learn more. The sessions will run Tuesdays from April 6– June 16 from 7-9 pm and are held at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in person. Cost is \$35 for materials, but no one is turned away. 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.

ENHANCING SELF-ESTEEM This program provides the opportunity to increase awareness of yourself and to learn specific skills for building a 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.

RESTART: REFRESH, RENEW, REVIVE SUPPORT GROUP Struggling after divorce or separation? Join us for learning, support and fun on Friday evenings. It is held the 2nd & 3rd Fridays of each month. These get-togethers offer continual support and insights

for people as they journey through the divorce/separation process and beyond. Register here: <https://sites.google.com/view/hamilton-restart/home> anytime the week of the session, or contact Sarah at familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com, or 905-528-7988 ext. 2249. We look forward to seeing you!

The 29th National March for Life will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2026, in Ottawa. This year's theme, "Follow Me," is an invitation for all to bear witness to the dignity of life through a visible presence on Parliament Hill. For information about local bus trips, please contact your local Right to Life office. Additional details can be found at: <https://marchforlife.ca>.

WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027 The young people of the world have begun their preparations to meet with the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV at the 41st International Celebration of World Youth Day, Seoul, South Korea. To learn more about this pilgrimage of faith, visit: <https://wydseoul.org/en>. Join us in praying for all young people discerning their participation from our Diocese.

Popes Prayer Intentions – April 2026

For Priests in Crisis – Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocations, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



Saint Joseph The Worker Feast Day May 1

St. Joseph, the beloved spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and earthly father of Jesus, is celebrated twice by the Catholic Church every year — first on March 19 for the feast of St. Joseph, husband of Mary, and again on May 1 for the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

While the saint's March feast dates back to the 10th century, his May feast wasn't instituted until 1955. What was behind it? Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1, 1955 so that it would coincide with International Workers Day, also known as May Day — a secular celebration of labor and workers' rights. During this time, the Soviet Union proclaimed themselves as the defender of workers and utilized May Day as an opportunity to exalt Communism and parade its

military prowess. Pope Pius XII chose the date specifically to ensure that workers did not lose the Christian understanding of work.

In his [address](#) to the Catholic Association of Italian Workers on that day in 1955, Pius XII said: "There could not be a better protector to help you penetrate the spirit of the Gospel into your life... From the Heart of the Man-God, Savior of the world, this spirit flows into you and into all men; but it is certain that no worker has ever been as perfectly and deeply penetrated by it as the putative Father of Jesus, who lived with Him in the closest intimacy and commonality of family and work." He added: "So, if you want to be close to Christ, We also today repeat to you '*Ite to Ioseph*': Go to Joseph!" The Catholic Church has long placed an importance on the dignity of human work. By working, we fulfill the commands found in the Book of Genesis to care for the earth and be productive in our labors. In his encyclical [Laborem Exercens](#), Pope John Paul II wrote that "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society."

St. Joseph is considered a role model of this as he worked tirelessly to protect and provide for his family as he strove to listen to and obey God. Even before the institution of this feast, many popes were beginning to spread a devotion to St. Joseph the Worker. One of these was Pope Leo XIII who wrote on the subject in his encyclical [Quamquam Pluries](#) in 1889. He wrote: "Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was. And during the whole course of his life he fulfilled those charges and those duties. He set himself to protect with a mighty love and a daily solicitude his spouse and the Divine Infant; regularly by his work he earned what was necessary for the one and the other for nourishment and clothing; he guarded from death the Child threatened by a monarch's jealousy, and found for Him a refuge; in the miseries of the journey and in the bitternesses of exile he was ever the companion, the assistance, and the upholder of the Virgin and of Jesus."

In addition to being the Patron of the Universal Church and workers in general, St. Joseph is also the patron saint of several professions including craftsmen, carpenters, accountants, attorneys, bursars, cabinetmakers, cemetery workers, civil engineers, confectioners, educators, furniture makers, wheelwrights, and lawyers. <https://ewtn>