



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
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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

April 5, 2026 **EASTER SUNDAY**



Tue Apr 7 7:00 pm † Dec'd members of Andrade & Bairos Families Req'd by Tony & Mary Andrade and Katheryn Meyer Req'd by The Estate

Wed Apr 8 9:00 am † Gabriel Zettler Req'd by Tim Koechl

Thu Apr 9 9:00 am † David Atkinson

Fri Apr 10 9:00 am † Gabriel Zettler

Sat Apr 11 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun Apr 12 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Apr 11 Florence Kreps

Sun Apr 12 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 Apr 11 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Apr 12 11:00 am † People of the Parish

EASTER VIGIL SATURDAY APRIL 4

First Reading

Genesis 1:1—2:2 (shorter form: Genesis 1:1,26–31a)

God creates the heavens and the earth.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 104:1–2,5–6,10,12–14,24,35 or Psalm 33:4–7,12–13,20–22

A song of praise to God, the Creator

Second Reading

Genesis 22:1–18 (shorter form: Genesis 22:1–2,9a,10–13,15–18)

God puts Abraham to the test.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 16:5,8–11

The Lord shows us the path of life.

Third Reading

Exodus 14:15—15:1

The Israelites pass through the Red Sea.

Responsorial Psalm

Exodus 15:1–6,17–18

The song of praise that the Israelites sang after crossing the Red Sea

Fourth Reading

Isaiah 54:5–14

The Lord promises to redeem Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 30:2,4–6,11–13

A prayer of thanksgiving for redemption

Fifth Reading

Isaiah 55:1–11

A call to return to the Lord who is merciful

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12:2–6

The Lord sends his Salvation.

Sixth Reading

Baruch 3:9–15,32—4:4

Israel is told to follow the way of God's commandments.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 19:8–11

A prayer of praise for God's commandments

Seventh Reading

Ezekiel 36:16–17a,18–28

The Lord will cleanse Israel for the sake of his holy name.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 42:3,5; 53:3–4 or Isaiah 12:2–3,4bcd,5–6 or Psalm 51:12–15,18–19

A prayer of praise for God who saves us

Epistle

Romans 6:3–11

Those who have been baptized have died with Christ.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1–2,16–17,22–23

God's mercy endures forever.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:1–10

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, who carry the message that Jesus has risen and will meet his disciples in Galilee.

Background on the Gospel Reading

All four Gospels have an account of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Although the accounts differ depending on the point each Evangelist wishes to make, two points of the Resurrection testimony are

common to all four Gospels: 1) The tomb of Jesus was found empty and 2) The risen Christ appeared to certain persons. Matthew tells us that, as Mary Magdalene and the other Mary approached the tomb, there was a great earthquake, and “an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.” The guards stationed at the tomb were terrified and “became like dead men.” The angel then assured the women that Jesus “has been raised just as he said.” The women, “fearful yet overjoyed,” left the tomb as the angel instructed to tell the disciples. On their way, Jesus met and greeted the women who “embraced his feet and did him homage.” Jesus himself then sends the women to “tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

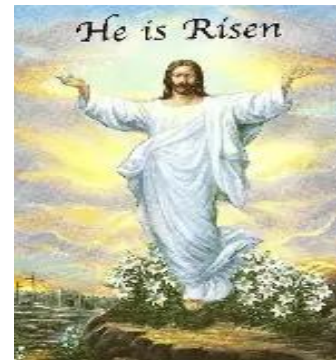
The mention of a great earthquake is peculiar to Matthew’s account of the Resurrection. Metaphorically, it indicates the coming of a new and final age brought about through the life, teaching, ministry, and particularly through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Notable also is the fact that Jesus’ first appearance is to women, the women who came to minister to him. Finally, not to be overlooked, is Jesus’ use of the word “brothers” to refer to his disciples. It seems to be indicative of a new and different relationship that Jesus has with them. The disciples are now entrusted with the message and mission of the risen Jesus Christ.

Family Connection

The commercialism of Easter—costumed bunnies in the mall, Easter baskets full of candy and small toys, new clothes—often misdirects children’s understanding and celebration of this greatest of Church feasts. When spoken of as the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, today’s liturgical celebration may not stir excitement among them. Encourage your children to think about the real significance of this feast by using their creative skills to imagine this Easter Vigil’s Resurrection account in Matthew 28:1–10.

Read Matthew 28:1–10 as a family, letting the children take the roles of the angel and Jesus. Set up the narrative by speculating on how sad the women must have felt as they approached the tomb. Talk about the excitement of the two women who saw the empty tomb and heard the angel explain that Jesus was raised from the dead. Wonder together about how it must have felt to embrace the risen Lord as the women did. Imagine with your children the enthusiasm the women must have felt when sent to tell the disciples that Jesus was raised from the dead.

Remind them that today we remember and celebrate all that Jesus did to win entry to Heaven for us. Create together a colorful ALLELUIA banner to display in your home to celebrate Jesus Christ’s glorious Resurrection. Then stand, praying together today and throughout the Easter season: **Alleluia, Alleluia, Jesus is risen, Alleluia!**



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD APRIL 5, 2026

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a,37-43

Peter preaches about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23

Rejoice in this day of the Lord.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Colossians: Having been raised by Christ, be concerned with what is above.

1 Corinthians: Let us celebrate this feast with new yeast.

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-9

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is

notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

Family Connection

In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in

the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."
www.loyolapress/resources

<p style="text-align: center;">CWL News UPDATE ON MEETING DATES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.
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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.

Preparing for the Feast of Divine Mercy **Sunday April 12, 2026**

Please join us in praying the novena for Divine Mercy starting on Good Friday and ending Divine Mercy Sunday. On this Feast of Divine Mercy, please attend Mass to obtain indulgence.