



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
	Music Dir.
	Organist

Email:

manderson@hamiltondiocese.com
stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca
stmarymtforest@wightman.ca

Virginia McComiskey
Rick Wildeman
Melissa Van Stavern

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

May 17, 2026

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Tue May 19 7:00 pm † Reuben Anthony
Anderson and † Gabriel Zettler
Wed May 20 9:00 am † Katheryn Meyer Req'd
by Marcella Williams
Thu May 21 9:00 am NO MASS TODAY
Fri May 22 9:00 am † Intentions of Al Nolan
Sat May 23 4:00 pm † People of the Parish
Sun May 24 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat May 23 Maxine Schmidt
Sun May 24 Melissa Reid

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 23 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun May 24 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sunday's Readings:

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Jesus is taken up to heaven in the presence of the
apostles.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 47:2-3,6-9

Sing praise to God as he mounts his throne.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

God raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at
his right hand.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus charges his disciples to make disciples of all
nations and promises to be with them forever.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the
Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel quickly
moves from the disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty
tomb, to Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and
the other Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives
his disciples in today's Gospel.

The Final Commission, as this Gospel is sometimes
called, is given on the mountaintop. Throughout

Scripture, the most important events happen on the
mountaintop, and Matthew has used this motif
throughout his Gospel. Earlier in Matthew's Gospel,
Peter, James, and John had seen Jesus transfigured
on the mountaintop (Matthew 17:1-8). Also in the
Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught the crowds from
the mountaintop in what we now call the Sermon on
the Mount.

Here we are told that the eleven disciples go the
mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed
through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (cf.
Matthew 28:9-10). They see Jesus, and both
worship and doubt at the same time. Jesus
approaches them and commissions them to baptize
and teach, "to make disciples of all nations." It is a
task which Jesus had previously prepared his
disciples for; recall that Jesus had sent the twelve
apostles to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal
(cf. Matthew 10:1-15). However, earlier the Twelve
were sent only to the House of Israel; in this Final
Commission, the eleven are told to go to "all
nations." The mission of Jesus is now to be taken to
all people; the task now is to baptize and to teach.

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in the
name of the Trinity, one of the clearest attestations
found in Scripture for baptism in the name of the
Trinity. In the Acts of the Apostles and in the
Letters of Paul, baptism is more frequently offered
"in the name of Jesus."

The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood
as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions
his disciples to continue to teach in his name and to
bring others into the community of disciples
through baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun,
with the promise that Jesus will continue to be
Emmanuel, "God with us" (cf. Matthew 1:23), for
all eternity. www.loyolapress.com

Family Connection

Just as Jesus sent his disciples to make disciples,
our family, the domestic Church, is called to bear
witness to the life of discipleship. That act of
witnessing can take many forms. First and foremost
our family should call people to discipleship by the
example of our love for one another. That example
is only the beginning; our love must extend beyond
the family, reaching out to others and to the world.

Together with your family, identify one or more
ways in which your family lives the life of Christian
discipleship. Thank God for the blessing of the
opportunity to be able to show God's love. Then
read together today's Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20.

Discuss what Jesus sends his disciples to do. Work together to identify one or more ways in which your family would like to do a better job bearing witness to the life of discipleship. Choose one of those ways and work together to make it happen. Pray as a family for the grace to be witnesses to the world of the life of discipleship. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.



St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest

Sacrament of Confirmation

Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 3:00 pm.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion

Sunday, June 7, 2026. Mass being celebrated at 3:00 pm.



COFFEE SUNDAY

Please join us in the parish hall for coffee and refreshments every 1st and 3rd Sunday after Mass. All are welcome!

➔ CWL News

- **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 Month of May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL Join us on **May 28, 2026 7:00 – 9:00 PM** for our last screening of the season with **War for the Woods**. The film follows journalist Stephanie Kwetásel'wet Wood as she underscores the impact of clearcut logging and the devastation of old growth forests. Clayoquot Sound, B.C, the site of protests against clearcut logging 30 years ago, serves as the backdrop as the film explores how First Nations and environmentalists are again taking a stand to balance environmental stewardship with economic needs, as protecting these ancient forests becomes ever more complicated. **The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register at: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/reel-justice-film-festival/>** A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:00pm-7:00 pm), social with food (7:00pm-8:00pm), vocations testimony and praise music (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Saturday, **June 6th** at the Saint Clement's Church (745 Duke Street, Cambridge, ON). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/> For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

HAIL MARY
Full of Grace

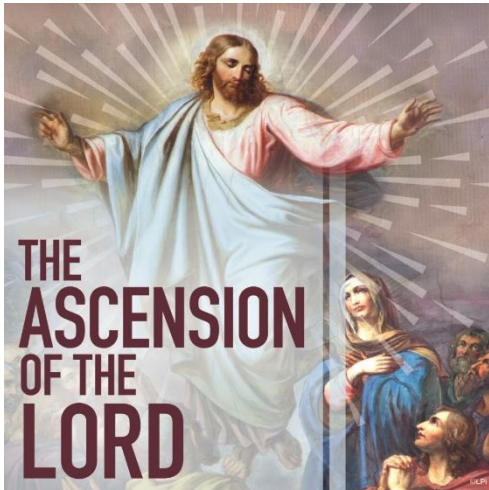
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Catholic Fortress
facebook.com/thecatholicfortress

YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

We are currently accepting enrollment for the Youth Ministry Certification Program, which begins in

September 2026. Join us as we explore the practical strategies for youth ministry and the accompaniment of young people in our diocesan community. To review a full course list and for more information, please visit: www.hamiltondioceselearns.com.



ASCENSION SUNDAY

“The Lord is Taken Up Into Heaven”

The Ascension is a wondrous event: The Lord, by his own power, ascends to heaven. In so doing, he opens a path for us, too.

As Pope St. John Paul II reminded the faithful in 1979: “Jesus took his place. After having undergone the humiliation of his passion and death, Jesus took his place at the right-hand of God; he took his place with his eternal Father. But he also entered heaven as our Head. Whereupon, in the expression of Leo the Great, the glory of the Head became the hope of the body. For all eternity Christ takes his place as the firstborn among many brethren: Our nature is with God in Christ. And as man, the Lord Jesus lives forever to intercede for us with the Father. At the same time, from his throne of glory, Jesus sends out to the whole Church a message of hope and a call to holiness. Because of Christ’s merits, because of his intercession with the Father, we are able to attain justice and holiness of life, in him.” As Ephesians affirms: “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” He opened the gates to the righteous who had fallen asleep — and to us! Jesus also ascends to summon the Advocate — whose work at Pentecost we will celebrate next week — and, like the disciples, calls us to preach the Good News. The Gospel of Mark describes: “... the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached

everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.” This solemnity offers us hope. St. John Paul also encouraged in 1979: “[B]e imbued with the hope that is so much a part of the mystery of the Ascension of Jesus. Be deeply conscious of Christ’s victory and triumph over sin and death. Realize that the strength of Christ is greater than our weakness, greater than the weakness of the whole world. Try to understand and share the joy that Mary experienced in knowing that her Son had taken his place with his Father, whom he loved infinitely. And renew your faith today in the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has gone to prepare a place for us, so that he can come back again and take us to himself.”

The Pope’s prayer intention for May

That everyone might have food.

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.



Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!



Happy Victoria Day Weekend!
Wishing you all a safe and wonderful
long weekend!