



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 at **stmarymountforest.ca**



Tel: 519-323-1054

OFFICE HOURS: Closed Mondays 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

Choir Dir.

Rick Wildeman /Dale Williams

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 of August 16, 2026

Tue Aug 18 7:00 pm † Repose of the soul of Kevin Ross Req'd by DeeDee Eurig
Wed Aug 19 9:00 am † Maria Galesiasa Req'd by Veronica Kempers
Thu Aug 20 9:00 am † Paul MacMillan Req'd by Ken & Mary Mulhall
Fri Aug 21 9:00 am † Victor Ruffolo Req'd by The Family
Sat Aug 22 4:00 pm People of the Parish
Sun Aug 23 9:00 am People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Aug 22 Maxine Schmidt

Sun Aug 23 Cheryl Kieffer

RECONCILIATION: Tuesday 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 Aug 22 5:30 pm People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Aug 23 11:00 am People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1,6-7

The Lord reveals his salvation to all.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8

All the nations will praise God.

Second Reading

Romans 11:13-15,29-32

God's favor to Israel is irrevocable.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about [Jesus walking on the water](#) and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all. loyolapress/resources.com

Family Connection

Even when spurned by Jesus, the faith of the Canaanite woman makes her bold enough to argue and ask again for what she needs. Her persistence and great confidence that Jesus could heal her daughter reminds us of the confidence with which our children bring to us their own needs. In their faith and trust we can find modern examples of how we might approach God in prayer.

As a family recall some times when a request for something was presented by one family member to

another with confidence and persistence. If the request was denied, talk about why that was so. If the request was eventually granted, talk about what led to the change of heart. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 15:21-28. Was anyone surprised by Jesus' response to the Canaanite woman? Why or why not? What makes Jesus change his mind and heal the woman's daughter? When we pray, God wants us to be as confident in his mercy. Invite family members to identify the things that they most need from God. Pray these prayers of petition together as a family, confident that God will hear and answer your prayers.



COFFEE SUNDAY

Please note that coffee Sunday will not take place during July & August, it will resume in September. We are also in need of volunteers to assist with set up and clean up. If you are interested, please contact the office. Thank you so very much and God Bless!

Contributions

St. Mary of the Purification: July 26 \$1214; maintenance \$70 ; Aug 2 \$1316.85

St. Peter Mission: Jul 26 \$90 ; Aug 2 \$355

St. Thomas Mission: Jul 26 \$125 ; Aug 2 \$185

Thank you for your continued donations. Your contributions are greatly appreciated as we seek to encourage all with God's Love and Word.



DIocese of HAMILTON

Fall Book Club

Join us on Tuesdays from 1pm-2pm on Zoom, starting October 6. Step into the rich world of J.R.R Tolkien and discover how his stories illuminate timeless truths about faith, hope, virtue, and the Christian life.

Books are available for purchase from the Chancery office or can be sourced independently. Please reach out to us if you would like to purchase a book in advance. \$25 incl. shipping. For more information call 905-528-7988 ext. 2339 or email catecheses@hamiltondiocese.com

YOUTH MINISTER'S RETREAT SAVE THE DATE! We are inviting all youth ministers, youth ministry coordinators and leaders in youth ministry, to join us for our annual retreat on September 19 at Mount Mary Retreat Centre in Ancaster. More information and how to register will be shared as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you are interested in attending or have any questions, please reach out to us: youthministry@hamiltondiocese.com.

ReSTART: Moving Forward Struggling after a divorce or separation? ReStart can help you move forward with support, education and positive encouragement from our experienced facilitators. Our 11-week program offers help to anyone seeking to heal and move forward. The new sessions run from Tuesday September 22 – Tuesday December 1, 2026 and will be held at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in Hamilton in person. Cost is \$35 for materials, but no one is turned away. Registration can be found at <https://hamiltondiocese.com> under Upcoming Events for September, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, e-mail familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com.

CCYMN NATIONAL CONFERENCE The Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Network is excited to announce that registration is NOW OPEN for the National Youth Leadership Conference, taking place October 2–4, 2026, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. All youth ministry leaders, volunteers, clergy and all those serving young people across Canada will gather for prayer, learning, networking and inspiration. More details and how to register can be found on their website: <https://www.ccymn.ca/national-conference.html>.

The Pope's prayer intention for August

For evangelization in the city

"Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community."

*Almighty Father, I place the Precious Blood of
Jesus before my lips before I pray, that my
prayers may be purified before they ascend to
Your divine altar.” – St. Mary Magdalen de
Pazzi*



Saint Pius X Feast Day August 21

“I was born poor, I lived poor, I will die poor.”
These words were part of the will that Pope Pius X
left at his death on August 20, 1914.

He was born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, the second
of 10 children. His father was a poor parish clerk in
Riese, Italy, and his mother worked as a seamstress.
At 11, Giuseppe was accepted as a student in high
school. Every day, he walked five miles to school
and back. At 15, he began attending the local
seminary. When his father died, Giuseppe wanted to
come home and help with the family. His mother,
however, would not let him.

In 1858, he was ordained and then worked as a
parish priest for 17 years. He believed his call was
to encourage those who were poor to lead Christian
lives and to help them overcome financial problems.
He was, however, named spiritual director of the
major seminary and chancellor of the diocese. Later,
he became a bishop and then a cardinal.

In 1903, this little-known cardinal was elected to
become Pope Pius X. He took as his motto “Restore
all things in Christ.” He emphasized the importance
of the Eucharist. He directed that children as young
as seven should be allowed to receive the Eucharist.
He initiated changes in Church music and worship.
He began a biblical institute. He gave the first
official impetus to the modern liturgical renewal.

Pope Pius X believed that real peace could be
achieved only through social justice and charity. He
sponsored and sheltered refugees with his own
resources. He wrote an encyclical encouraging Latin
American bishops to improve the treatment of
native people working on plantations. He worked to
stop the world from going to war. When Europe
entered World War I, Pius was heartbroken and
said, “I would gladly give up my life to save my
poor children from this ghastly scourge.” Just a few
weeks after the war started, Pope Pius X died.

[loyolapress/resources](#)

**“The Father is merciful in all he does and full of
generosity; he is loving to those who fear him”.
St. Clement 1**

August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary



O Most Blessed Mother,
heart of love, heart of mercy,
ever listening, caring,
consoling, hear our prayer.

As your children,
we implore your intercession
with Jesus your Son.

Receive with understanding
and compassion the petitions
we place before you today,
especially (state your petitions).

We are comforted in knowing
your heart is ever open to those
who ask for your prayer.

We trust to your gentle care
and intercession,
those whom we love and
who are sick or lonely or hurting.

Help all of us, Holy Mother,
to bear our burdens in this life until
we may share eternal life
and peace with God forever.

Amen.