



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.ca

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

August 23, 2026

Tue Aug 25 7:00 pm † Laurie Moyer Req'd by Margie Moyer
Wed Aug 26 9:00 am † Kathryn Meyer Req'd by The Estate
Thu Aug 27 9:00 am † Margaret & Lawrence Horrigan Req'd by The Estate
Fri Aug 28 9:00 am † Jim & Loretta Murray Req'd by Dot Bourgeois
Sat Aug 29 4:00 pm People of the Parish
Sun Aug 30 9:00 am People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Aug 29 Florence Kreps
Sun Aug 30 Colleen DallaCosta

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 29 5:30 pm People of the Parish
ST. PETER'S, Ayton
Sun Aug 30 11:00 am People of the Parish

This Sunday's Readings:

First Reading

Isaiah 22:19-23

God will remove Shebna from his office as master of the palace.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 138:1-3,6,8

God's kindness is forever.

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36

Paul sings praise to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

Simon Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Christ and is given the key to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Background on the Gospel Reading

It is important to read today's Gospel and next week's Gospel as two parts of a single story. These readings are a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. This week we hear Jesus name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter "Satan" when he reacts negatively to Jesus' prediction about his passion and death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader.

In today's Gospel, Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus' rebuke of Peter in next week's Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus' prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to no longer be thinking as God does but as humans do.

The use of the term *church* in today's Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew's Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus' identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord. loyolapress/resources.com

CWL NEWS

1. CWL meeting Sept. 8, 2026 at 1:00pm. All ladies are welcome to come and see what the CWL does.
2. CWL North Regional Meeting will be Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026. At 9:00 am. More details to follow.
3. There will be no St. Mary Auxiliary Meeting until October, 2026.



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: Aug 9 \$1328 ;

Maintenance \$1050 Aug 16 \$1198.65 ;

Maintenance \$480

St. Peter Mission: Aug 9 \$317

St. Thomas Mission: Aug 9 \$240; Aug 16 \$310

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

Diocesan Calendar- week of August 23

"Pray to the Lord of the Harvest"

Mon- Rev. Lourdasamy Subramani, SMA	Thu- Rev. Patrick Ohl
Tue- Rev. Michael Anderson	Fri- Rev. Laszlo Amaszka
Wed- Missionary Sisters of Christ the King, M.ChR.	Sat- The Passion of St.John the Baptist

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are grateful for the young people who serve in our parish! For this reason we are treating the youth who have volunteered in Church ministries (altar serving, choir, and readers) for a day of bowling and fellowship. We invite these special young people to the Mount Forest Bowling Center (350 Foster St., Mount Forest) on Tuesday September 1st from 1:00-3:00pm for bowling and pizza & pop for lunch! We ask that children under the age of 13 be accompanied by at least one of their parents. If this interests you, please call the parish at 519-323-1054 to register you and your parent, if applicable.

Thank you for offering your time and talents for Christ and his Church.

Also, thank you parents for building your children up in their faith. Hope to see you all on September 1st

In Christ,

Tim Kulakowsky

MISSION APPEAL SEPTEMBER 12th & 13th

Bishop Jude Silva will present a Mission Appeal at St. Mary of the Purification on behalf of the

Diocese of Badulla, one of the poorest Dioceses in Sri Lanka. Much of the Diocese serves families in the plantation sector, where many people continue to face significant economic hardship and limited opportunities. Through your prayers and generosity, the Diocese strives to improve educational facilities, develop essential infrastructure, and provide hope to those most in need. The Diocese also cares for vulnerable children through two girls' homes and offers love and dignity to the elderly through a residential elders' home. We warmly invite you to pray for this mission and to consider making a generous contribution.

Catechism

Starting Thursday September 17 at 7:00 pm, Fr. Mike and Tim will be holding Catechism classes for adults (18 years of age and older) who are interested in joining the Church. If you have not completed your initiation Sacraments or know someone who is interested learning about Catholic teaching or are interested in beginning the journey of joining the Church, please feel free to contact the office to register, 519-323-1054



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

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.



Saint John the Baptist

August 29

The beheading of St. John the Baptist is one of the most solemn and significant events in Christian hagiography, celebrated by the Church on August 29th. St. John the Baptist, often referred to as the “Forerunner” of Christ, played a pivotal role in preparing the way for the coming of the Messiah. His martyrdom is a profound witness to the truth and justice he so fearlessly proclaimed.

The Life of St. John the Baptist

St. John was born to Zechariah, a priest, and Elizabeth, a relative of the Virgin Mary, through miraculous circumstances, as Elizabeth was considered barren and advanced in age. His birth itself was a sign of God’s providence. From a young age, John was destined for a life of asceticism and prophetic witness. He lived in the desert, clothed in camel’s hair, subsisting on locusts and wild honey, and calling the people of Israel to repentance in preparation for the coming of the Kingdom of God. John’s bold preaching and the practice of baptism as a sign of repentance drew many followers. He fearlessly denounced the sins of the people, including those of Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee, who had unlawfully taken Herodias, his brother’s wife, as his own.

The Circumstances of His Martyrdom

St. John’s condemnation of Herod’s adulterous relationship with Herodias led to his imprisonment. Herod, although disturbed by John’s words, feared him, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man. Herodias, however, harbored a deep grudge against John and sought to have him killed.

The opportunity for her revenge came during a lavish banquet held by Herod to celebrate his birthday. During the feast, Salome, the daughter of Herodias, performed a dance that so pleased Herod that he rashly promised her anything she asked, up to half his kingdom. Prompted by her mother, Salome requested the head of John the Baptist on a platter.

Though Herod was distressed by the request, he was bound by his oath and the expectations of his guests. He ordered John to be beheaded in prison. The execution was swiftly carried out, and John’s head was brought to Salome, who then gave it to her mother.

The Significance of St. John’s Martyrdom The beheading of St. John the Baptist is not only a story of political intrigue and moral conflict but also a profound moment of witness to the truth. John’s death prefigures the Passion of Christ, as he, the last prophet of the Old Covenant, laid down his life in the defense of divine truth. The Church honors St. John as a martyr who gave his life for the law of God, particularly for the defense of marriage’s sanctity. His feast is a day of reflection on the cost of discipleship and the courage required to stand up for truth, even in the face of death. www.tradcatholica.com