



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:

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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
hamiltondiocese.com/vocations

DIOCESAN

NEWSLETTER: Visit the
Diocese of Hamilton to
subscribe to the online
diocesan newsletter visit
hamiltondiocese.com

PARISH SCHOOL:

St. Mary Catholic School



Mount Forest

**Building Character
Through Christ**

390 Parkside Dr, Mt Forest 519-
323-2586
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

September 13, 2026

Tue Sept 15 7:00 pm † Laurie Moyer Req'd by Brian, Kenzie & Ty Moyer and † Gary Felsbourg & Sheryl Rozell Req'd by Kathleen Boone

Wed Sept 16 9:00 am † John Stephen Req'd by Betty Mogensen

Thu Sept 17 9:00 am † MaryAnn Wlodarek Kathleen Boone

Fri Sept 18 9:00 am † Mary, Arthur, John McDonald, Stan Staniewski Req'd by Margaret Staniewski

Sat Sept 19 4:00 pm People of the Parish

Sun Sept 20 9:00 am People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Sept 19 Maxine Schmidt

Sun Sept 20 Debra Ross

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 Sept 19 5:30 pm People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Sept 20 11:00 am People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading :

First Reading

Sirach 27:30—28:9

Those who seek God's mercy must be merciful toward others.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103:1-4,9-12

A song of praise to God who is kind and merciful.

Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

We belong to the Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading directly follows [last week's Gospel](#) in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of

times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

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Family Connection

Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity.

Invite your family to consider some recent times when family members sought the forgiveness of another. Ask if there were any statements made that put conditions on our forgiveness such as “I will play this game with you if you apologize for

knocking over my blocks” or “I will accept your apology after you clean up your room.” Do we sometimes “keep count” or put conditions on our forgiveness of one another? This is something we may be doing without realizing it.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35. Ask if we sometimes find ourselves sounding like Peter, concerning ourselves with quantity of forgiveness rather than offering forgiveness abundantly and unconditionally. Reflect upon the parable that Jesus tells. What does the servant do that makes the king so angry? He refuses to forgive his fellow servant the debt that he owes. Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another from the heart.

Conclude in prayer together that God's love and forgiveness is evident in your family life. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 103, or the Lord's Prayer.

CWL NEWS

1. ****CHANGE**** The CWL meeting scheduled for Sept. 8, 2026 at 1:00pm will now take place Tuesday Sept. 15th. All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend.
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

Will resume the end of September ☺

Diocesan Calendar- week of September 13

“Pray to the Lord of the Harvest”

Mon- The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Thu- Rev. Ignatius Saiki, O.P.
Tue- Rev. Emmanuel Azike, OP	Fri- Rev. Romelito Guillen
Wed –Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel, C.S.M.A.	Sat- Rev. Thomas Manninezath, C.M.I.

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

Contributions Sept 6

St. Mary of the Purification: \$1301.75; Maintenance \$75

St. Peter Mission: \$150

St. Thomas Mission: \$195

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

The Month of September is devoted to
Our Lady of Sorrows



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

HEARTS RENEWED: A Franciscan Retreat Day

As we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi during this Jubilee Year dedicated to his witness, **you are invited to step away from the demands of ministry and spend a weekend renewing your heart in God's presence.** Inspired by the life of St. Francis—whose joyful simplicity, deep love for Christ, and compassionate service transformed the

Church—this retreat offers time for prayer, silence, reflection, community, and rest. Together we will rediscover the joy of our baptismal call and be renewed for the work of evangelization and service entrusted to us. Whether you serve in parish ministry, Catholic education, chaplaincy, or diocesan leadership, this retreat is an opportunity to be refreshed spiritually and return to your ministry with renewed hope, peace, and joy.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish (715 Centre Rd, Waterdown)

Saturday, October 3, 2026

9:00am – 3:00pm

Register here:
<https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/2026/07/hearts-renewed-a-st-francis-retreat-for-those-in-ministry/>

WALK WITH JESUS: A Retreat Day for Parents Who Have Experienced the Death of a Child

The loss of a child is a most challenging event in the life of any parent. This grief is acute and challenging. The Diocese of Hamilton invites you to join us for this healing day. Whether the loss is recent or some time ago, we know this day will help to restore your inner core. The retreat will be offered from 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday, October 10 or Saturday, November 7th. The \$20 fee includes lunch. Registration is required for set up and lunch. You can register on the Diocesan home page at hamiltondiocese.com under upcoming events (look for the date of the retreat), or by calling the office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

AI AND HUMAN DIGNITY The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invites you to join us as we explore Pope Leo's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* and our call to protect human dignity in an age of technological revolution. There will be 2 locations for this series:

Kitchener: Saturday, October 24th, 2026 (1:00 – 3:00pm): St. Anthony Daniel Parish, Kitchener

Hamilton: Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026 (1:00 – 3:00pm): Chancery Office, Hamilton

Registration and more information can be found here:

<https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/2026/07/ai-and-human-dignity-workshop/>.



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Feast Day September 14

The one symbol most often identified with Jesus and his Church is the cross.

Today we celebrate The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast traces its beginning to Jerusalem and the dedication of the church built on the site of Mount Calvary in 335. But the meaning of the cross is deeper than any city, any celebration, any building. The cross is a sign of suffering, a sign of human cruelty at its worst. But by Christ's love shown in the Paschal Mystery, it has become the sign of triumph and victory, the sign of God, who is love itself.

Believers have always looked to the cross in times of suffering. People in concentration camps, in prisons, in hospitals, in any place of suffering and loneliness, have been known to draw, trace, or form crosses and focus their eyes and hearts on them. The cross does not explain pain and misery. It does not give us any easy answers. But it does help us to see our lives united with Christ's.

We often make the Sign of the Cross over ourselves. We make it before prayer to help fix our minds and hearts on God. We make it after prayer, hoping to stay close to God. In trials and temptations, the cross is a sign of strength and protection. The cross is the sign of the fullness of life that is ours. At Baptism, too, the Sign of the Cross is used; the priest, parents, and godparents make the sign on the forehead of the child. A sign made on the forehead is a sign of belonging. By the Sign of the Cross in Baptism, Jesus takes us as his own in a unique way. Today, let us look to the cross often. Let us make the Sign of the Cross and realize we bring our whole selves to God—our minds, souls, bodies, wills, thoughts, hearts—everything we are and will become.

O cross, you are the glorious sign of our victory.

Through your power may we share in the triumph of Christ Jesus.

(Prayer of Christians)