



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

Choir Dir.

Organist

Virginia & Dan McComiskey

Rick Wildeman /Dale Williams

Melissa Van Stavern

Email:

manderson@hamiltondiocese.com

stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca

stmarymountforest@hamiltondiocese.com

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.wellingtoned
sb.ca](http://stmarymountforest.wellingtoned
sb.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 20 2026

Tue Sept 22 7:00 pm † Laurie Moyer Req'd by Brian, Kenzie & Ty Moyer and † Kathryn Meyer Req'd by The Estate

Wed Sept 23 9:00 am † Vincent Benjamin Req'd by Kathleen Boone

Thu Sept 24 9:00 am † Wilma Maas Req'd by John & Joan Jeffery

Fri Sept 25 9:00 am † Deceased members of the Smolko, Zurav & Casek Families Req'd by Katarina & Pavol Smolkova

Sat Sept 26 4:00 pm People of the Parish

Sun Sept 27 9:00 am People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat Sept 26 Cesar Arruda

Sun Sept 27 Melissa Reid

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 26 5:30 pm People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Sept 27 11:00 am People of the Parish

This Sunday's Readings:

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

God's ways are far beyond the ways of human beings.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 145:2-3,8-9,17-18

God is near to those who call upon him.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:20c-24,27a

Paul tells the Philippians to live for Christ.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus teaches about God's generous mercy.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand

that he leave his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who labored in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways. loyolapress/resources.com

Family Connection

The workers in this parable sound very much like squabbling children, comparing what they have each been given and making complaints to the parent. Among children there is a tendency to equate love with gifts and material things. This tendency can devolve into a spirit of entitlement, which runs counter to the spirit of gratitude. Any effort we make to overcome this tendency, to keep love from being entwined with gifts and possessions, will enable our children to accept completely the love that God gives freely and generously. Observe together any tendency within

your family to make comparisons. Are children sometimes heard saying that another child received a greater portion of a favorite food at dinner or dessert? Does one person complain that a parent spends more time with one child over another? Ask if such comparisons are helpful. Discuss together why such comparisons are made. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16. Consider these questions: Why do the workers grumble? Is the landowner's assessment accurate? Unfortunately, we are sometimes like these workers when we make the comparisons we discussed earlier. Conclude in prayer together remembering that love cannot and ought not to be measured. Sit quietly together acknowledging God's great love for each person as individuals and for your family. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 145, or the Lord's Prayer.

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CWL NEWS

1. The CWL North Regional Meeting will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026 at 9:00 am. More details to follow.
2. There will be no St. Mary Auxiliary meeting until October, 2026.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We have been made aware of [#fraudulent](#) emails circulating that appear to originate from Father Michael Anderson's email account.

A reminder that fraudulent emails can sometimes be designed to imitate trusted organizations and may appear convincing.

Never respond to a suspect email, only ever make contact to people or institutions through email address's and phone numbers you know to be reliable. All parish emails are published in the bulletin and available on the website. Father Mike will never contact you through any other email other than manderson@hamiltondiocese.com. The parish will never contact you through any other phone numbers other than 519-323-1054 or any other email than stmarymtforest@wightman.ca or stmarymountforest@hamiltondiocese.com

If you receive an email that appears suspicious:

- 1 Do not click on any links or open attachments.
- 2 Do not send payment or provide personal information.
- 4 Report the email as spam or phishing.

We thank you for your vigilance and cooperation in this matter.



CWL COFFEE SUNDAY

The CWL Coffee Sunday and Fellowship will resume the last Sunday of every month, beginning Sunday September 27th. Please join us in the Parish hall after mass, all are welcome! If you are interested in volunteering to assist, please let us know.

Sincerest thank you to Dorothy, Mariette and Katarina for their dedication, kindness and long standing support in our parish community in hosting coffee Sunday the past several years. God Bless!

The Pope's prayer intention for September

"For the care of water"

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Catechism classes

Thursdays at 7 pm St. Mary of the Purification Parish hall

Topic for September 24 : Scripture and Tradition

Contributions Sept 13

St. Mary of the Purification: \$1351; Maintenance \$390; Sri Lanka Mission Appeal \$361

St. Peter Mission: \$140; Sri Lanka Mission Appeal \$35

St. Thomas Mission: \$315; Sri Lanka Mission Appeal \$10

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



***Christmas High Tea
in honour of Brenda Meyer***

**Sunday November 15, 2026 12:30-3:30 pm at the
Mount Forest and District Sports Complex**

Tickets are \$75 per person

For tickets and information, please contact 519-323-2210 ext 77711 or info@louisemarshallfoundation.ca
www.louisemarshallfoundation.ca

**The Month of September is devoted to
Our Lady of Sorrows**



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada (Weekend of September 19–20): The Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada will take place next weekend. When you give, your offering begins in our parish but reaches far beyond it. It helps support the mission of our diocese and joins the gifts of Catholics across the country in supporting the shared work of the Bishops of Canada. Together, this support makes possible work that no single diocese or eparchy could accomplish alone such as providing catechetical resources for families, young people and parishes, to promoting respect for human life and the dignity of every human person and accompanying migrants and refugees. Your gift helps strengthen the Church here at home and supports its mission across Canada. Please give prayerfully and generously next weekend.

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.



Saint Matthew Feast Day September 21

There are leaders, and there are followers. It's important to know that being a follower is not a bad thing—that is, as long as you are following the right person or thing! Disciples are basically followers. To be a disciple is to adhere to the teachings of someone. In the Gospels, anyone who adheres to the teachings of Jesus is referred to as a *disciple*. Today, the Church is calling each of us to discipleship—to adhere to the teachings of Jesus in our thoughts, words, and actions. On September 21, we celebrate the Feast of St. Matthew, a former tax collector to whom Jesus said, "Follow me." Matthew's Gospel directly quotes the Old Testament 40 times, indicating the references with phrases such as "as it is written". He includes another 21 exact quotations, though he does not indicate that they are quotes. There are also many allusions to Old Testament themes—some scholars count as many as 200. Mark's Gospel, the only other Gospel with a significant number of Old Testament quotes, has fewer than half the quotes of Matthew. This is because Matthew's Gospel was written for a Jewish Christian community that was very familiar with the Old Testament; its members saw Jesus as the **Messiah**, the fulfillment of the **Scriptures**. Matthew was not concerned that each individual verse he quoted proved Jesus to be the Messiah; his vision was much larger. For Matthew all of Scripture is fulfilled. The destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70 created a crisis for Jews. Up to that point, their religion had been built around the worship of God in the Temple. But now the Temple was gone, and there was no center to Jewish life. One response to this crisis was given by apocalyptic writers, who saw the destruction of the Temple as a sign of the coming end of the world. Another response was given by the successors of the Pharisees, who set about developing rabbinic Judaism, the forerunner of the Judaism of today.

A third response was made by those Jews who believed that the correct path for Judaism to follow was the one outlined by Jesus. Matthew presents this response in his Gospel, which is an attempt to define Christianity in terms that would make sense to those Jews who had accepted Jesus as Messiah. Matthew's argument is not with the apocalyptic writers, as there is some of their thinking in his Gospel. His argument was with the new rabbinic movement, and his purpose was to help his largely Jewish community maintain its faith in Jesus within the context of their Jewish heritage in Jesus Christ.