Welcome to St. Mary of the Purification Parish, Mt.Forest, Ont.

We are delighted you could join us for today's Mass

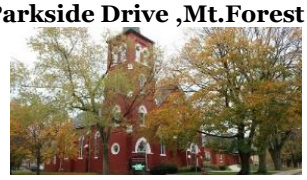
Please visit our website at **stmarymountforest.ca**

Tel: 519-323-1054

OFFICE HOURS: Closed Mondays Open Tuesday - Friday: 9:30am - 1:30pm

Parish Staff		Email:
Pastor	*Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P.*	*manderson@hamiltondiocese.com*
Bookkeeper	*Annette Connolly*	*stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca*
Secretary	*Dee Dee Eurig*	*stmarymountforest@hamiltondiocese.com*
Custodian	*Virginia & Dan McComiskey*	
Choir Dir.	*Rick Wildeman /Dale Williams*	
Organist	*Melissa Van Stavern*	

St. Mary of the Purification
310 Parkside Drive ,Mt.Forest N0G 2L0



St. Peter's Mission
943 Caroline St, Ayton N0G 1C0

St. Thomas the Apostle
#5800 Hwy 89, Harriston N0G 1Z0

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
October 25, 2026

Tue Oct 27 7:00 pm ✝ Katheryn Meyer Req'd by The Estate
Wed Oct 28 9:00 am For blessings received Req'd by Bill & Mary Hammond
Thu Oct 29 9:00 am ✝ Jeff Fitzgerald Req'd by Kathleen Boone
Fri Oct 30 9:00 am ✝ Marie Givlin Req'd by Frank Whaling
Sat Oct 31 4:00 pm People of the Parish
Sun Nov 01 9:00 am People of the Parish
All Saints Day

Lectors
Sat Oct 31 Florence Kreps
Sun Nov 01 Elizabeth Koechl

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 Oct 31 5:30 pm People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton
Sun Nov 01 11:00 am People of the Parish
All Saints Day

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading
Exodus 22:20-26
The Lord teaches that compassion ought to be shown to the alien and to the poor.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 18:2-4,47,51
The Lord is our strength.

Second Reading
1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
Paul tells the Thessalonians that their conversion to the Lord has been an example to all believers.

Gospel Reading
Matthew 22:34-40
The Pharisees continue to test Jesus with a question about the greatest commandment.

Background on the Gospel Reading This week's Gospel follows close behind the Gospel read last Sunday. It is the last of three questions put to Jesus by Jewish religious leaders who are trying to trick him into saying something that might get him arrested. This reminds us that the context for today's reading is the mounting tension between Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem. The Herodians and the Pharisees asked the first question, which was about taxes. The Sadducees asked the second question, which was about the Resurrection (see Matthew 22:22-33). The third question, considered in today's Gospel, is asked by a Pharisee who asks Jesus about the greatest of the commandments. The question requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional rules, numbering over six hundred. Adherence to the Mosaic Law, for a devout Jew, is an expression of faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of the Commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law. Jesus answers the Pharisees' question with a two-fold summary. Jesus says that all of the commandments can be summarized in two commandments: love God and love your neighbor. Both of these were central elements of the religious tradition Jesus learned from his Jewish community. Indeed these continue to be central aspects of contemporary Jewish religious understanding. Jesus' response to his questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbor.

Family Connection Children learn about love from real, concrete examples witnessed in family life. We can help children to love God and love their neighbors by showing everyday acts of love, generosity, and kindness—our own expressions of our love for God. These acts, small and large, are the expression of what Jesus identified as the two greatest commandments: love God and love neighbor. Make a poster together as a family. Write the words *Love God* in the center of the poster and write the words *Love Neighbor* near each of the four sides of the poster. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 22:34-40. Talk about how Jesus taught us that our love for God is revealed in the love that we show to other people. On the poster, use pictures and words to show some of the ways that your family shows their love for other people. Pray together that your family will continue to express your love for God by loving others.

Pray the Act of Love:

" O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of those whom I have injured."
Amen.

The Pope's prayer intention for October

For mental health ministry

"Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses."

Catechism classes

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

Topic for October 29 – Holy Communion

FELLOWSHIP AND COFFEE

Coffee Sunday Fellowship will take place on the last Sunday of each month following Mass. The CWL is happy to assist with providing snacks, however, we will warmly welcome donations of baked goods! We are also in need of two to three volunteers each month to help with set up and cleanup and will prepare a schedule for each month. Your help is greatly appreciated in making Coffee Sunday a welcoming time of fellowship for our parish community. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Colleen at 519-321-9888. Please note that Coffee Sunday may need to be cancelled if volunteers are not available.

Auxiliary to Louise Marshal Hospital **" Annual Fall Bazaar and Luncheon"** . Saturday November 14th 11:30- 1:00 pm. Mount Forest and District Sports Complex, 850 Princess Street, Mount Forest. Hot lunch $20 , bake sale, gift shop items, draws, door prizes and Silent Auction!

St. Mary School Nutrition Program are looking for a couple of volunteers to assist with preparation , clean up etc. Mondays and Thursdays 11 am- 1 pm If you are interested, please contact Leigh Gorman at stmarymfnutritionprog@gmail.com

Weekly contributions

St.Mary of the Purification: Oct.4-$1301; Oct 11-$1611; Oct 18-$1906
Maintenance: Oct 4-$590; Oct 11 - $150
St.Thomas: Oct 4 - $206.85; Oct 11-$190; Oct 18-$235
St.Peter: Oct 4 - $335; Oct 11-$105; Oct 18-$220

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

A day for your marriage! Healthy marriages matter and marriage enrichment helps keep them strong! Keeping your marriage healthy and strong requires love, but also time spent fine tuning your relationship and reconnecting. Join us on Saturday, November 21st at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Waterdown for a day to reconnect for our enrichment day: **Discovering New Paths for Your Married Love.** We will share new ways to deepen your relationship and give you time with the one you love! Registration can be found online at hamiltondiocese.com, under Upcoming Events, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, or e-mail familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com

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 educational and healing day. Whether the loss is recent or some time ago, we know this day will help to restore your inner peace. The retreat will be offered from 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday, November 7th at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Hamilton. The $20 fee includes lunch. Registration is required so we can plan for handouts and food. You can register on the Diocesan home page at hamiltondiocese.com under upcoming events (look for the retreat date), or by calling the office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH #165 An attitude of gratitude has proven to bring more happiness and contentment to a person's life. Expressing gratitude to your spouse for their love and all they bring to your life has a two-fold benefit, it makes them feel respected and appreciated and it helps you see the goodness in your relationship. Sometimes we forget to recognize the many wonderful things our spouse brings to us, so take the time

to do so and see how your relationship can flourish! (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

Diocesan Calendar- week of October 25th

"Pray to the Lord of the Harvest"

Mon- Very Rev. David Walter	**Thu**-Rev. William Meehan
Tue- Rev. Ron Cote	**Fri**-Rev. Fulbert Jonas Ahouansou
Wed-Voluntas Dei Institute,i.v.Dei.	**Sat**-Rev. John Van Hees

October 31 -The Catholic roots of Halloween, the Vigil of All Saints' Day

Although Halloween has been embraced by the secular world, its foundations are firmly rooted in Catholic tradition. Dr Malcolm Brown of the Alcuin Institute for Catholic Culture explains the significance of All Hallows' Eve. In the modern world, and especially in English speaking countries, Halloween has become one of the most important holidays of the year, with millions of children and adults dressing up as their favourite heroes, superstars, ghouls and goblins**.**

While some people have connected Halloween to earlier pagan celebrations of the new year, Halloween actually has significant Catholic roots. The name itself comes from All Hallow's Eve – that is, the Vigil of All Saints' Day, when Catholics remember those who have gone before us to enter our heavenly home. Immediately afterwards, on November 2, the Church commemorates all the faithful departed still detained in Purgatory, and prays in suffrage for them.

The memory of those who have gone before us naturally leads to thoughts of mortality, and the liturgical focus on the end times during this period of the Church year adds to the atmosphere of gloom.

In a "**Memorandum on the Celebration of Halloween**" issued last year for his Diocese, Bishop David Konderla of Tulsa, Oklahoma, stresses the importance of "maintaining the Catholic meaning and purpose of all holy days, especially those which have been adopted and adapted by the culture around us". He explains the how customs such as dressing up for Halloween and appealing to frightful imagery can be done in a Catholic spirit, while warning that "we want to intentionally avoid those things that are contrary to our Catholic faith, but have become popularized through the secular adaptation of Halloween".

Vatican News spoke with Dr Marcel Brown, of the Alcuin Institute for Catholic Culture in Tulsa, about the Catholic roots of Halloween. "The feast of Halloween is one of those feasts on the Catholic calendar that is celebrated on the eve of a great solemnity", he said.

Dr Brown explained that the word Halloween refers to the Feast of All Saints. The word itself is taken an older English term, "hallows," meaning "holy"; and "e'en", a truncation of the word evening, in reference to the Vigil of the feast. "So really, Halloween is the feast of the celebration of the feast of All Hallows'", he said. "So it's a day when Catholics celebrate the triumph of the Church in heaven, and the lives of the saints on earth".

The modern focus on the eerie or mysterious also has a Catholic aspect. "When we think of Halloween, I think we often think of ghosts and goblins, and ghoulish faces", Dr Brown said. "But even these, in the Catholic tradition, are supposed to be reminders of death and of the last things".

He continued, "So just as we commemorate the feast of All Saints on November 1st, beginning with All Hallows' Eve on Halloween, we also think about and turn our minds really, to the last things: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. And really our focus should be, since we all must die and are destined to judgment, how then we to live?"

In his *Memorandum*, Bishop Konderla invites to the faithful to "urge one another this Halloween to express in every detail of our observance the beauty and depth of the Feast of All Saints".

"Let us make this year's celebration", he says, "an act of true devotion to God, whose saints give us hope that we too may one day enter into the Kingdom prepared for God's holy ones from the beginning of time". www.vaticannews.va