

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

“Behold, I bring you news of great joy. This day a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” We complain – quite often – about the absence of Christ in Christmas, and about how pagan Christmas has become. And it is all true. But the first Christmas was not ideal either. We sometimes forget that Jesus came into a pagan world. So let us stress the presence of Christ in Christmas, and help people to find Him! Merry Christmas!

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 25 <sup>th</sup> <i>Christmas – Nativity of the Lord</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, December 26 <sup>th</sup> <i>St. Stephen</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, December 27 <sup>th</sup> <i>St. John</i>	12 pm	<i>Special Intention</i>	By Anonymous
Wednesday, December 28 <sup>th</sup> <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	12 pm 4 pm	<i>Gert Darling</i> <i>CANCELLED (Linwood)</i>	By Mary & Louis Bender -
Thursday, December 29 <sup>th</sup> <i>Christmas Octave</i>	8 am	+ Members of St. Clement's School	By Families & Friends
Friday, December 30 <sup>th</sup> <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</i>	8 am	<i>All Souls in Purgatory</i>	By Anonymous
Saturday, December 31 <sup>st</sup> <i>Christmas Octave</i>	5 pm	+ Tadeusz Szczepanek	By the Family
Sunday, January 1 <sup>st</sup> <i>BVM – the Holy Mother of God</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	

**Our Saint of the Week: The Story of the Holy Innocents** – Herod “the Great,” king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence, he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister’s two husbands, to name only a few. St. Matthew tells this story: Herod was “greatly troubled” when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of “the newborn king of the Jews,” whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also “do him homage.” They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt. Herod became furious and “ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under.” The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children...” (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel). She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity. The Holy Innocents are few in comparison to the genocide and abortion of our day.

But even if there had been only one, we recognize the greatest treasure God put on the earth—a human person, destined for eternity, and graced by Jesus’ death and resurrection.

**MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH** - As we move toward the end of the year, take some time as a couple to reflect on your last twelve months together. Ask yourselves what you did well and what you might do better, both for each other and for your marriage. Check in to see if you spent enough time together, if you remembered to compliment each other, showed gratitude for the gifts your spouse brings to your life and whether you felt joy more often than not. If your relationship needs strengthening, commit to finding the help you need to make it strong; if you feel good after your assessment, celebrate your love and thank God for his never-ending support. From: Family Ministry Office.

**VOCATION SEEDS** – We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister, or a consecrated virgin. Contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

Email: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com) Website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

**DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR** – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I., Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne (s.s.a.), Rev. Nishil Varghese, C.M.I., Rev. Peter Nwachukwu, O.C.D., & Very Rev. Cornelius O’Mahoney, E.V.

**LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION** – St. Clements: Operating \$2,620.00. Thank you for your generosity!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**