

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
March 23rd, 2025

The First Reading tells how God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and revealed His name as Yahweh (I Am Who I Am). God has heard the cries of His oppressed people, and sends Moses to liberate them. It is a turning point in the Old Testament. It leads to the Exodus and beyond. In the Gospel we see how Jesus rejected the popular belief that accidents which befall people are inflicted by God as punishment for sin. Still, sin calls for repentance. And Jesus tells the Jews that they will lose the promises unless they repent. The barren fig tree symbolizes the barren state of Israel. But God is patient. There is still time to repent, though that time is getting short. The role of Moses prefigures the role of Jesus. Through Moses God saved His people, Israel, from slavery in Egypt. We are the new people of God, saved through the waters of baptism from the slavery of sin, and now enroute under the leadership of Christ to the promised land of eternal life. We too are fed with food “from heaven”, namely, the Eucharist! In the Letter to the Romans St. Paul says in spite of all God had done for them, most of the Israelites were not pleasing to God. Christians must not think that just because they have received the sacraments they are automatically saved.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 23 rd <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, March 24 th <i>Parish Lenten Mission</i>	7 pm	+ <i>Bill Strauss</i>	By Dolores Straus
Tuesday, March 25 th <i>Parish Lenten Mission</i>	7 pm 7:45 pm	+ <i>Edith Linseman</i> <i>Lenten Confession</i>	By Golden Year Club
Wednesday, March 26 th <i>Lent</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Leonard Hergott</i> <i>C A N C E L E D</i> (Linwood)	By the Family
Thursday, March 27 th <i>Lent</i>	9 am	<i>Intentions of Jacob & Yvonne</i> <i>Simpson and children</i>	By the Walker family
Friday, March 28 th <i>Lent</i>	9 am 7 pm	+ <i>Patricia Partington</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	By Linda & Bob Myers
Saturday, March 29 th <i>Lent</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Joseph Strauss</i>	By Dianne Strauss
Sunday, March 30 th <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	-

History of the Catholic Church (#67) – The Emperor Constantine bestowed important privileges on the Christian clergy. They were recognized as a distinct social class and exempted from military service and forced labor. He invested the judicial decisions of the bishop with civil authority. He modified the Roman Law in the direction of Christian values. Sunday, the day when Christians assembled, was made a day of rest. Sexual offenses, such as adultery, concubinage, and prostitution, were treated more severely. On the other hand, a more humane attitude was shown toward slaves (their families could not be broken up), children, orphans, and widows. Under Constantine the Church was firmly set on the road to union with the state. The Emperor was thus in a real sense the architect of the Middle Ages.

VATICAN II GROUP MEETING – The next meeting takes place this Saturday at 10 am.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Walk with Christ! Please join us every Friday during Lent at 7pm for Stations of the Cross.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION – We welcome Fr. Paul Voisin, C.R., as our celebrant as we begin our parish Lenten mission. Join us for Mass on Monday and Tuesday at 7pm, with confession to follow the 7pm Mass.

ANNUAL WOMEN’S SEMINAR 2025 – Family Foundations Institute invites all women to the Annual Women’s Seminar on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM at Saint André Bessette Secondary School in London. This year’s theme, “Magnificently Created”, features Ann Burns, founder of The Feminine Project. Ann’s inspiring talks will help women embrace the beauty of authentic femininity and build strong, faith-filled communities. Experience a day of fellowship, spiritual renewal, and encouragement in your unique role as a woman of faith. All women are welcome! For details and registration, visit www.famfi.ca/aws.

VOCATIONS RECOGNITION DINNER 2025 – The Serra Club of Hamilton invites you to gather on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at Liuna Station in Hamilton to celebrate the service of our Priests, Religious Brothers and Sisters, Permanent Deacons, and Consecrated Virgins Living in the World. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$90 per person. To order tickets or for information, send an email to serrahamilton1965@gmail.com. You can pay for your ticket through e-transfer using the same email or you can also pay by credit card using the following link: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/>. This event is co-sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT – Young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of Adoration, fellowship and music for Lent as you discern your vocation and as we prepare to celebrate Easter. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food, vocations testimony, Lenten music concert, and Compline (9:00pm) on Saturday, April 5th at St. Ann’s Church, Hamilton. Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. Contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Most Rev. Matthew Ustrzycki, Lay Parish Ministers, Rev. Jarek Pachocki, O.M.I., Very Rev. Msgr. Murray Kroetsch, & Rev. Luis Inacio.

VOCATION SEEDS – The Lord is kind and merciful and calls us to proclaim His Name. Consider service in the priesthood or consecrated life. If God is calling you, to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988. Email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com Website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION – St. Clements \$3,555.00. Thank you for your generosity!