

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11th, 2022

Isaiah uses the image of the desert, made fertile by rain, to portray the confident hope that God would restore His people, crushed by misfortune. Their most crippling disabilities – blindness, deafness and lameness – will be relieved when God sends salvation to His people. John the Baptist’s image of the Messiah was that of a stern judge who would execute a fiery judgment. But Jesus did not fit this image. Hence, John’s doubts about Him. Jesus dispelled John’s doubts by showing that He was doing precisely the kind of things that had been predicted for the messianic times (by prophets such as Isaiah). Once again, St. Matthew sees Jesus as the One who fulfils the messianic prophecies. St. James is talking about the Second Coming of Jesus. He urges the kind of patience and hope farmers show in waiting for the harvest, and which the prophets of old showed as they waited for the promises to be fulfilled. Happy Advent to you!

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 11 th <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, December 12 th <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, December 13 th <i>St. Lucy</i>	12 pm	+ <i>Anton Woeschka</i>	By the Lehmanns
Wednesday, December 14 th <i>St. John of the Cross</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Albert, Lucy & family members</i> + <i>Maria Medeiros (Linwood)</i>	By Larry & Bonnie Lidstone By Anonymous
Thursday, December 15 th <i>Advent</i>	8 am	+ <i>William Haffner</i>	By Mary & family
Friday, December 16 th <i>Advent</i>	8 am	+ <i>Adam Lockhart</i>	By John & Christine Dixon
Saturday, December 17 th <i>Advent</i>	5 pm	+ <i>John Miller</i> + <i>Members of St. Clement’s School</i>	By Tom Miller By Families & Friends
Sunday, December 18 th <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	

Our Saint of the Week: St. Lucy (283-304) – every little girl named Lucy must bite her tongue in disappointment when she first tries to find out what there is to know about her patron saint. The older books will have a lengthy paragraph detailing a small number of traditions. Newer books will have a lengthy paragraph showing that there is little basis in history for these traditions. The single fact survives that a disappointed suitor accused Lucy of being a Christian, and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304. But it is also true that her name is mentioned in the First Eucharistic Prayer, geographical places are named after her, a popular song has her name as its title, and down through the centuries many thousands of little girls have been proud of the name *Lucy*. One can easily imagine what a young Christian woman had to contend with in pagan Sicily in the year 300. If you have trouble imagining, just glance at today’s pleasure-at-all-costs world and the barriers it presents against leading a good Christian life. Her friends must have wondered aloud about this hero of Lucy’s, an obscure itinerant preacher in a far-off captive nation that had been destroyed more than 200 years before. Once a carpenter, he had been

crucified by the Romans after his own people turned him over to their authority. Lucy believed with her whole soul that this man had risen from the dead. Heaven had put a stamp on all he said and did. To give witness to her faith she had made a vow of virginity. What a hubbub this caused among her pagan friends! The kindlier ones just thought her a little strange. To be pure before marriage was an ancient Roman ideal, rarely found, but not to be condemned. To exclude marriage altogether, however, was too much. She must have something sinister to hide, the tongues wagged. St. Lucy knew of the heroism of earlier virgin martyrs. She remained faithful to their example and to the example of the carpenter, whom she knew to be the Son of God. She is the patroness of eyesight. If you are a little girl named Lucy, you need not bite your tongue in disappointment. Your patron is a genuine authentic heroine, first class, an abiding inspiration for you and for all Christians. The moral courage of the young Sicilian martyr shines forth as a guiding light, just as bright for today’s youth as it was in A.D. 304. St. Lucy pray for us!

ANGEL TREE OF CHARITY – Please consider selecting a tag from our Angel Tree, and providing a Christmas gift to someone in need. Items can be placed under the tree at the front church. Please have gifts returned by Dec. 15th. If you have any questions, or if you know of a person or family in need, please see Stacey Mayer. All requests will be treated with the utmost discretion.

ANGEL TREE – If your family has had a baptism or funeral at St. Clements this year, you will find an angel ornament on our Angel Tree to the left of the Sanctuary. Please pick it up to decorate your tree.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – We know that at Christmas our hearts will be full – we want our pews to be full also! Throughout Advent, Parishes across the Diocese are being encouraged to invite all the faithful to Come Home for Christmas. We all know people who have fallen away from regular Mass attendance, and Christmas provides a privileged occasion to welcome them home. All parishioners are encouraged to join in this effort to extend a warm invitation to return - for more information, visit <http://hamiltondiocese.com>.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH – Christmas is an exciting and busy time of year, a time when it is vital for parents to counter the secular side of the holiday, so heavily promoted, by helping their children understand the real ‘reason for the season’. Ensuring you have a nativity set and Advent wreath in your home are important reminders that it is Christ we celebrate. Attending Mass, placing Jesus in the manger before opening presents on Christmas morning, giving to charity and reminding your children Baptism calls all of you to do so, are ways to give a place of importance to the birth of Jesus. If Christmas becomes only about Santa, it is a real loss for your children and their faith. From: Family Ministry Office.

VOCATION SEEDS – “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” Are you one to be sent? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister or consecrated virgin, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988. Email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com Website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

DIocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Michael Anderson, Rev. Robert Love, Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (C.Ss.R), Rev. Robert Kavelj, O.F.M., Rev. Marko Puljic, O.F.M., & Rev. Ilija Petkovic

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION – St. Clements: Operating \$2,845.00. Thank you for your generosity!