

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 3rd, 2023

The season of Advent prepares us for Christmas. In order to understand the message of Christmas we have to start at the beginning – with the history of salvation. The Advent liturgy relives in a microcosmic way the history of Israel, viewing in through the eyes of Christian faith. It shows that all of that history was pointing and leading towards Jesus. He was the One who fulfilled the messianic prophecies. As for today’s reading – the First is a poem (written by a returned exile) entreating God to come and save His people. It recalls God’s past goodness, and candidly acknowledges the ingratitude and sinfulness of His people. The Second Reading and the Gospel talk about the final coming of Christ, something the early Christians believed was imminent. For the faithful, the Lord’s coming is not something to fear. They are urged to live in such a way as to be always ready to meet the Lord. These words are addressed to us now.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 3 rd <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, December 4 th <i>St. John Damascene</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, December 5 th <i>Advent</i>	10:30 am	+ <i>Frances Kraemer</i>	By Christian Mothers
Wednesday, December 6 th <i>St. Nicholas</i>	8 am 4 pm	+ <i>John & Rita Black</i> <i>C A N C E L E D (Linwood)</i>	By John & Christine Dixon
Thursday, December 7 th <i>St. Ambrose</i>	8 am	+ <i>Daniel Dietrich</i>	By the Dietrich family
Friday, December 8 th <i>Immaculate Conception of the BVM</i>	8 am	<i>Intentions of Brendan Myers</i>	By Bob & Linda Myers
Saturday, December 9 th <i>St. Juan Diego</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Sr. Mary Byrne</i>	By Peter & Ornella Miller + family
Sunday, December 10 th <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	-

History of the Catholic Church (#13) – Thanks to the Jerusalem decision allowing freedom to the Gentiles and thanks to the incredible labors of St. Paul and other missionaries, the Church spread with remarkable rapidity. We know that by the year 59, for instance, St. Paul felt that he had exhausted his possibilities in the eastern Mediterranean. “All the way along, from Jerusalem to Illyricum, I have preached Christ’s Good News to the utmost of my capacity” (Rm 15:19). And we may reasonably infer that those regions mentioned that he himself had not evangelized were evangelized by others. St. Paul set his sights now on Spain, the oldest Roman province, and the main center of Roman civilization in the western Mediterranean. But before he could set sail for the West, there was a matter of critical importance to attend to. He must visit Jerusalem again to deliver the collection for the poor that he had taken up among his communities. It would also provide the occasion, he hoped, for reaching full agreement with the Church there as he entered on a new phase of his missionary effort. It is with this in mind that he penned his great letter to the Romans, which he intended for Jerusalem as much as for Rome and which contained his mature reflection on the central issue of the Law vs. the Gospel.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS CHRISTMAS DINNER – Wednesday, December 6th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the parish hall. This year, our annual Christmas Dinner will be a potluck in the parish hall! Bring your favourite dish to share and enjoy an evening of fellowship, fun, and a delicious meal. We will be collecting gifts to support babies & mothers at Marillac Place, if you wish to contribute. Anyone interested in becoming a Christian Mother is also welcome, and if anyone needs a ride, please call Sharon at 519-570-6453.

ANGEL TREE – Our angel tree can be found at the side altar. This year we are helping with more than 16 local families. Gifts are due back Dec 10-17th. See tags for details. Please contact Stacey Mayer at 519-465-3473 with any questions.

CHRISTMAS TREE SET-UP – We will be decorating the Christmas trees for the altar on Saturday, December 16th at 9am and are looking for volunteers. If you have an hour to spare, please join us!

2024 DONATION ENVELOPES – The 2024 envelopes are available at the back of the church. If you don’t receive envelopes but wish to, please contact the office.

ADVENT RESOURCE FOR TEENS – The Office of Youth Ministry is pleased to announce the release of the 2023 Advent Resource, “Shine Your Light”. This resource has been developed for youth aged 13-16 in mind. The resource is an interactive journal, inspiring prayerful reflection on the Sunday Gospels, in addition to suggestions for living out the Advent Season. Special links and videos are included to help teens meditate on the weekly themes. You are invited to share this resource with the teens of your school communities. The resource is located here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3h2ejs>

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE – Our schedule for this year is as follows:
Christmas Eve – 10pm St. Clements
Christmas Day – 9am St. Clements, 11am Linwood
New Year’s Day – 9am St. Clements, 11am Linwood

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Pierre Caouette, L.C., Grandparents & Elderly, Orders of Preachers (Dominican, O.P.), Rev. Donald Sanvido, & Rev. David Perrin.

VOCATION SEEDS – The season of Advent calls us to be vigilant in anticipation of the Master’s return so that we live each day according to the teachings of Christ. Could God's "particular task" for you be a call to a Church vocation? If you think 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: Operating \$3,345.00. Thank you for your generosity!

