

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 27th, 2022

A clear theme runs through all three readings: God's mercy to sinners! In the First Reading we have the beautiful words God spoken to His people: "I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you." The shame of sin and the darkness of slavery are behind them. The years of wandering in the desert are over; they have come to the Promised Land. A new era was about to begin. They mark their homecoming by celebrating anew the feast of Passover. This reminds us of the home-coming of the prodigal son (Gospel). His shame also is behind him. His years of wandering are over and he returns home to a warm welcome and a great feast. A new and bright future lies ahead of him. Jesus told the parable in response to the criticism of the Pharisees that He was too lenient towards sinners. They were meant to see themselves in the older son. For St. Luke the "Pharisees" are righteous Christians, for whom God's mercy to sinners is unfair and scandalous. The Second Reading stresses how God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, not holding our faults against us. The task of the Church is to bring the benefits won by Christ to all people.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 27 th <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, March 28 st <i>Lent</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, March 29 th <i>Lent</i>	12 pm	+ <i>Sylvester Moser</i>	By Charles & Rose Moser
Wednesday, March 30 th <i>Lent</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Gerard Stemmler</i> + <i>Harold, Dorothy & Jeff Schill</i>	By Peter & Ornella Miller & family By Bryan & Donna Schill
Thursday, March 31 st <i>Lent</i>	8 am	+ <i>Joseph Strauss</i>	By Mike & Wendy Hicknell
Friday, April 1 st <i>Lent</i>	8 am 7 pm	+ <i>William Haffner</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	By Mary & family
Saturday, April 2 nd <i>Lent</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Anna Miller</i> + <i>Arlene Herteis</i>	By Tom Miller By Ann Bender
Sunday, April 3 rd <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH - Parenting Tip 138: Lent is a time of reflection for all Catholics and a perfect season to help children understand why we engage in prayer, works of charity, care for all and practising self-control, since all of these can bring us closer to God. Spend time on your Lenten journey as a family by attending Mass and discussing, in simple language, the readings you hear. Decide as a family on prayers and reflections to engage in each day of Lent and together look at how your family might use their resources to give to others. Your children can bring hope to the hearts of others during Lent and their spiritual journey will be enhanced by your presence and guidance. Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH - Marriage Tip 118: The season of Lent is a perfect time to reflect on how we are living our lives according to God's call to discipleship and vocation. The vocation of marriage is an essential call since the Sacrament of Marriage is meant to be the visible sign or God's invisible love to the world. Lent then, is a perfect time to examine what you are bringing to your vocation, to see if forgiveness is readily available when needed and to contemplate whether you might make changes to better fulfill your call to marriage. As well, consider praying with your spouse, reflecting on a short Bible passage daily and working on holding anger during Lent, since all of these will strengthen your bond of love and bring you feelings of joy as the Easter season draws near. Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE & STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Please mark your calendar for the Lenten penitential service on Tuesday, April 12th at 7pm and join your fellow parishioners for Stations of the Cross at 7pm on Fridays during Lent.

GRIEF RELIEF - Has someone you cared about died? Are you grieving the loss of the person's presence in your life? Are you looking for relief from the feelings associated with the loss of this loved one? Are you wondering if your feelings are normal? You are not alone! The Diocese of Hamilton will be offering an online grief program beginning in April. Find out more on the Diocesan website at <https://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/grief-support>, or call Teresa at 905-528-7988 ext. 2250.

HEARTACHE TO HEALING – This program is designed to assist people after the death of a loved one, or a significant loss and follows the process developed by Dr. Bill Webster, an experienced leader in grief counselling. Everyone is welcome. There is no fee, but you must register by April 13th by contacting St. Michael Parish office at 519-884-9311 or email parish@stmichaelw.ca. Visit our website for more information at www.stmichaelw.ca/grief-support. St. Michael Parish, 80 University Ave. W., Waterloo. Wednesday evenings – April 20 – May 25, 7-8:30 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm).

PRAYER VIGIL – Thursday, April 7, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in front of Freeport Hospital, 3570 King St. E., Kitchener, for babies being aborted. All are welcome to pray quietly for those who have no voice but our own! Parking available across the road, Schneider Park. Any queries, please contact Cathy at kwc.prayervigil@rogers.com

VOCATION SEEDS – Like the forgiving father of Luke's Gospel, God welcomes us home in spite of our sinfulness, and calls us to a life of holiness. Where are you at home? Are you being called to a life as an ordained or a consecrated person? If God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Bishop Wayne Lobsinger, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton (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. William Trusz, Rev. David Reitzel, Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada (C.S.J.), Rev. Ross Campbell, Rev. Peter Robinson, & Rev. David Reilander.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION – St. Clements: Operating \$2,060.00. Maintenance \$310.00. Thank you for your generosity!