

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 17th, 2023

In the First Reading, the writer (a post-exilic prophet) declares that he has been sent by God to usher in the age of salvation for Jerusalem and all God's people. Jesus used this prophecy to announce the "programme" of His own ministry. The subject of the Gospel is the same as that of last Sunday: the witness of John the Baptist to Jesus. John summons all to faith in Jesus. He declares that he himself is not the light, and tells the people that unbeknownst to them the Light – Jesus – is already present among them. In the Second Reading St. Paul takes a very practical line, telling the Thessalonians how they should live as they await the second coming of Christ.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 17 th <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, December 18 th <i>Advent</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, December 19 th <i>Advent</i>	10:30 am	+ <i>Leonard Hergott</i>	By Frances Hergott
Wednesday, December 20 th <i>Advent</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Tony Hergott</i> + <i>Teresa Hilker (Linwood)</i>	By Murray & Sharon Runstedler By the Sherrer family
Thursday, December 21 st <i>St. Peter Canisius</i>	8 am	+ <i>Bill Haffner</i>	By Cyril & Anna Dziak
Friday, December 22 nd <i>Advent</i>	8 am	<i>Intentions of Pope Francis</i>	By Bob & Linda Myers
Saturday, December 23 rd <i>St. John of Kanty</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Mary Malone</i>	By Peter & Ornella Miller + family
Sunday, December 24 th <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am 11 pm	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i> <i>Christmas Mass</i>	-

History of the Catholic Church (#15) – What was the charge against Paul? Apparently, Rome saw in him the ring-leader of a sect preaching a revolutionary international form of Judaism that might undermine the social order. Was he tried then and executed immediately, or did this occur a few years later, in 64? Most scholars prefer the latter alternative. In any case he probably never achieved his ambition of evangelizing Spain. But when he died, his dream of a Church as wide as humanity itself was well on the way to realization – thanks in great part to his own clear-sighted vision and tremendous organizing skill. There were, of course, many other missionaries at the time whose experience must have closely paralleled Paul's. Unfortunately, we know little about them. Even Peter's "career" after he left Jerusalem is for the most part a lost chapter, although we can readily believe the unanimous Christian tradition that testifies to his death at Rome under Nero. Nor do we know much about the other Apostles, although second-century legend is quite willing to fill up the gaps in our knowledge. It tells us that St. Thomas evangelized the Parthians, St. Andrew the Scythians, St. Bartholomew went as far as India and perhaps to southern Arabia, while Philip died at Hierapolis in Phrygia. We only know for certain that many traveling missionaries crisscrossed the Roman world preaching the Gospel with much success, so that by the end of the first century Christianity was well established there.

ANGEL TREE – A heartfelt thank you for your incredible generosity! Our wonderful parish has provided gifts for 16 families, and made their Christmas a little brighter. If there are any gifts outstanding, don't hesitate to drop them off. Please contact Stacey Mayer at 519-465-3473 with any questions.

ANGEL TREE OF LIFE – If your family has celebrated a baptism or lost a loved one this year, you will find a Christmas ornament on the tree to the left of the altar. You are welcome to take it home to decorate your tree.

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

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE – Our schedule for this year is as follows:

Christmas Eve – 11pm St. Clements
Christmas Day – 9am St. Clements, 11am Linwood
New Year's Day – 9am St. Clements, 11am Linwood

CHRISTMAS CRAFT NIGHT - St. Mary's Catholic Church in Linwood will be hosting a Christmas Craft Night where we will be building Graham cracker Gingerbread houses. Everyone of all ages is welcome! Tuesday, December 19th, after evening mass, at St. Mary's on Linwood. We will begin at 7:30 in the basement hall. All materials will be provided. It is strongly recommended that children have a box to bring their creations home to reduce the chances of breaking on the way home. Boxes should be large enough to fit a paper plate flat on the bottom of the box without shifting too much. You may bring additional candies to decorate with, provided these candies do not contain nuts. If you are interested in participating, please sign up so we can make sure to have enough for everyone! Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/r2e4DPTE5NUFtyhQ9>

THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE TIMELINE STUDY – offered at St. Louis Parish in Waterloo (53 Allen St. E) starting in mid January 2024. The Bible Timeline® Study Program is a guided journey through salvation history. Presenter Jeff Cavins shows how 14 of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and gives the keys to understand the amazing story woven through Scripture. Unique colour-coded chart, helps to learn about the people, places, and events of the Bible and reveals the remarkable story of our Faith. Offered either on Monday nights at 7:30 PM starting Jan. 15, 2024 OR on Sundays at 12:30 PM (till 1:40 PM with substantial snacks provided.) starting on Jan. 14, 2024. (No sessions on long weekends etc.) 12 sessions during Winter/Spring 2024 & 12 sessions during the Fall of 2024. Contact St. Louis parish office (519-743-4101 or stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com) to sign up. Course is free. Free materials provided, or workbook for all 24 sessions can be purchased.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Msgr. Theodore Slaman, Single Catholics, Voluntas Dei Institute (i.v.Dei.), Rev. Gabriel Morais Catarino, Rev. Ronald Hodara, Rev. Donald Wilhelm.

VOCATION SEEDS – There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call 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 \$2,505.00. Thank you for your generosity!

