

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

In the First Reading, the prophet Isaiah assures the exiles in Babylon that God is coming to save them. The prophecy was fulfilled in the return from exile, but more especially in the coming of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist was clearly a prophet. Since the spirit of prophecy had long been absent from Israel, John's appearance raised expectations. The question arose: could he be the Messiah? John denied that he was the Messiah, but declared that the Messiah was at hand. Thus, he prepared the way for Jesus. Baptism was a defining moment in the life of Jesus – it marked the beginning of His public mission. St. Luke always presents Jesus as praying before making major decisions. It's no surprise then that we find Him praying during His baptism. In response to His prayer, the Holy Spirit descends on Him in bodily form at the beginning of His mission, just as it will come in visible form on the Apostles at Pentecost at the beginning of their mission. The Father puts His seal of approval on Jesus and on the mission He is about to begin.

### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 9 <sup>th</sup> <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, January 10 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ordinary Time</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, January 11 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ordinary Time</i>	12 pm	+ <i>John Hirschberger</i>	By Bill & Judy Meyer
Wednesday, January 12 <sup>th</sup> <i>St. Marguerite Bourgeoys</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Drew Ericson</i> + <i>Cancelled + (Linwood)</i>	By Fran Hergott
Thursday, January 13 <sup>th</sup> <i>St. Hilary</i>	8 am	+ <i>Arlene Herteis</i>	By Mary Haffner & family
Friday, January 14 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ordinary Time</i>	8 am	+ <i>Catherine Kurt</i>	By Mary & Kevin Pearce
Saturday, January 15 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ordinary Time</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Joseph Strauss</i> + <i>Bill Haffner</i>	By Dianne Strauss By George & Lynda Lorentz
Sunday, January 16 <sup>th</sup> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in OT</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	

**Our Saint of the Week: St. Hilary (315-368)** – this staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was a gentle and courteous man, devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity, and was like his Master in being labeled a “disturber of the peace.” In a very troubled period in the Church, his holiness was lived out in both scholarship and controversy. He was bishop of Poitiers in France. Raised a pagan, he was converted to Christianity when he met his God of nature in the Scriptures. His wife was still living when he was chosen, against his will, to be the bishop of Poitiers in France. He was soon taken up with battling what became the scourge of the fourth century, Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ. The heresy spread rapidly. Saint Jerome said “The world groaned and marveled to find that it was Arian.” When Emperor Constantine ordered all the bishops of the West to sign a condemnation of Athanasius, the great defender of the faith in the East, Hilary refused and was banished from France to far off Phrygia. Eventually he was called the “Athanasius of the West.”

While writing in exile, he was invited by some semi-Arians (hoping for reconciliation) to a council the emperor called to counteract the Council of Nicea. But Hilary predictably defended the Church, and when he sought public debate with the heretical bishop who had exiled him, the Arians, dreading the meeting and its outcome, pleaded with the emperor to send this troublemaker back home. Hilary was welcomed by his people. Christ said his coming would bring not peace but a sword. The Gospels offer no support for us if we fantasize about a sunlit holiness that knows no problems. Christ did *not* escape at the last moment, though he did live happily ever after—after a life of controversy, problems, pain and frustration. Hilary, like all saints, simply had more of the same. St. Hilary pray for us!

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY IN THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON - The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis has produced a video showcasing the wonderful ministry of our Diocesan University Chaplaincy Centres. Do share this video with a young person in your life who may be preparing for post-secondary education, or someone who is looking for a faith community on campus within the Diocese. Special thanks to the Priests Chaplains, campus ministers and students who helped make this project possible. To view the video, visit:

<https://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/evangelization-catechesis/young-adult-ministry>.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT - Is your marriage experience more trouble than joy, feeling stagnant or disconnected and/or causing you worries? The solution is Retrouvaille - a program for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationship. Retrouvaille has one purpose: to help couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. This is a practical program, where sharing is not required except between the couple themselves, designed to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. It also works well for couples who may be considering separation or divorce. The next Retrouvaille weekend begins March 13, 2022. For more information call 905-664-5212 or email [teamrecine@gmail.com](mailto:teamrecine@gmail.com).

VOCATION SEEDS – As John the Baptist introduced the people of his time to Jesus a voice from heaven said, “You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.” Perhaps God is calling you to do the same in our time as a priest, deacon or religious. If He is, contact Bishop Wayne Lobsinger, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton (905-528-7988).

Email: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com) Website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Francisco Cruz, Rev. Brian Quigley, M.C.C.J., Sisters of St. John the Baptist (C.S.J.B.), Rev. Mussie A. Keflezghi, M.C.C.J., Rev. Stephen Murrin, Rev. Toby Collins, C.R.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION – St. Clements - Christmas \$11,770.00; Dec. 26 \$1,550.00; Jan. 2 \$2,260.00. Thank you for your generosity.