

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 19th, 2021

When Micah was writing (late 8th century BC), Jerusalem was under siege and David's dynasty was in jeopardy. But salvation would come from a comparatively insignificant place – Bethlehem. From there a new leader would come to gather together the scattered exiles and unite the nation once more. Christians see this promise as foreshadowing the coming of Jesus – the Prince of Peace – who was born in Bethlehem and descended from the line of David. The Gospel tells the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Both are pregnant. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth praises Mary and hints at the uniqueness of the child she has conceived. The Second Reading states that Jesus didn't come to offer the sacrifices of the old law, but to do the will of God. His sacrifice was essentially one of obedience (an obedience which meant accepting death on a cross). His one perfect sacrifice transcended and replaced all the former sacrifices. His sacrifice did what the sacrifices of the Mosaic Law were unable to do – it brought about reconciliation between God and His people and creation.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 19 st <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, December 20 th <i>Advent</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, December 21 st <i>St. Peter Canisius</i>	12 pm	+ <i>Karen Dietrich</i>	By Tom Dietrich
Wednesday, December 22 nd <i>Advent</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Drew Ericson</i> + <i>Harold, Dorothy & Jeff Schill</i>	By St. Clements Choir By Bryan & Donna Schill
Thursday, December 23 rd <i>St. John of Kanty</i>	8 am	+ <i>William Haffner</i>	By Mary & family
Friday, December 24 th <i>Christmas Vigil</i>	5 pm 7 pm 9 pm	+ <i>John Sherrer (Linwood)</i> + <i>Pat & Cecilia Dietrich</i> + <i>Catherine Kurt</i>	By Jerome Sherrer By the Family By Dolores Straus
Saturday, December 25 th <i>Christmas Day</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Sunday, December 26 th <i>The Holy Family</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	

Our Saint of the Week: St. John of Kanty (1390-1473) – St. John Kanty was a country lad who made good in the big city and the big university of Kraków, Poland. After brilliant studies he was ordained a priest and became a professor of theology. The inevitable opposition which saints encounter led to his being ousted by rivals and sent to be a parish priest at Olkusz. An extremely humble man, he did his best, but his best was not to the liking of his parishioners. Besides, he was afraid of the responsibilities of his position. But in the end, he won his people's hearts. After some time, he returned to Kraków and taught Scripture for the remainder of his life. St. John was a serious man, and humble, but known to all the poor of Kraków for his kindness. His goods and his money were always at their disposal, and time and again they took advantage of him. He kept only the money and clothes absolutely needed to support himself. He slept little, ate sparingly, and took no meat. He made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, hoping to

be martyred by the Turks. Later St. John made four subsequent pilgrimages to Rome, carrying his luggage on his back. When he was warned to look after his health, he was quick to point out that, for all their austerity, the fathers of the desert lived remarkably long lives. St. John of Kanty is a typical saint: He was kind, humble, and generous, he suffered opposition and led an austere, penitential life. Most Christians in an affluent society can understand all the ingredients except the last: Anything more than mild self-discipline seems reserved for athletes and ballet dancers. Christmas at least is a good time to reject self-indulgence. St. John pray for us!

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Christmas Masses *Registration required for Christmas Eve/Day in St. Clements*

- Friday, December 24th – (No 8:00 am Mass), 5:00 pm Linwood, 7:00 pm* & 9:00 pm* St. Clements
- Saturday, December 25th – 9:00 am* St. Clements, 11:00 am Linwood

Feast of the Holy Family (No Saturday 5:00 pm Mass)

- Sunday, December 26th – 9:00 am St. Clements, 11:00 am Linwood

New Year's Masses (there will be a regular weekday Mass Friday 8am, no Adoration following)

- Friday, December 31st – 5:00 pm St. Clements
- Saturday January 1st – 9:00 am St. Clements, 11:00 am Linwood

Epiphany of the Lord (No Saturday 5:00 pm Mass)

- Sunday, January 2nd – 9:00 am St. Clements, 11:00 am Linwood

PARISH ANGEL TREE – Our parish Angel tree is decorated in memory of the parishioners we've lost and in celebration of those who were baptised in 2021. If your family had a funeral or baptism this year, you may collect your special Angel ornament from the tree to the left of the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS – Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton – His Excellency, Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, will celebrate Midnight Mass on December 25, 2021. The Mass will be preceded by Carols at 11:30 p.m. on December 24. The Carols and the Mass will be shown live on Salt+Light Television and CHCH-TV. Admittance to the Cathedral for Midnight Mass is by ticket only – a limited number of tickets are still available by contacting the Cathedral at (905) 522-5744.

VOCATION SEEDS – Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest, deacon or religious to carry the Good News of God's great Love? 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. Pavel Stankiewicz, Rev. Ronald Voisin, Voluntas Dei Institute (i.v.Dei), Rev. Meskel Abib Aibu, O.F.M., and Rev. Miro Grubisic, O.F.M.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION – St. Clements \$1,305.00. Thank you for your generosity.

~We wish you a blessed and holy Christmas~