

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 30th, 2025

The chief function of the season of Advent is to prepare us for Christmas. However, to understand Christmas we have to start as the beginning – with the history of salvation. God’s plan of salvation is centered in Christ and realised through him. Advent looks back at the promise of His first coming, when that plan was announced. And it looks forward to His second coming, when that plan will reach its complete fulfilment. And, of course, it celebrates His actual coming in time. The First Reading of the Advent Sundays (from Isaiah) are concerned with the Messiah and the messianic times. Isaiah kept the hopes of the people alive in very dark times. In today’s reading we have the theme of universal peace and salvation. The Gospel and the Second Reading deal with the Lord’s second coming, which the first Christians believed was imminent. Both readings convey a sense of urgency through phrases such as: “Wake up!”, “Stay awake!”, “Stand ready!”

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 30 th <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, December 1 st <i>Advent</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, December 2 nd <i>Advent</i>	9 am	<i>Intentions of Fr. Irenaeus</i>	By Murray & Sharon Runstedler
Wednesday, December 3 rd <i>St. Francis Xavier</i>	9 am 4 pm	<i>Intentions of Shawn & Nuala Rielly</i> C A N C E L E D	By Linda & Bob Myers
Thursday, December 4 th <i>St. John Damascene</i>	9 am	<i>Intentions of Amanda Fonseca</i>	By the Family
Friday, December 5 th <i>Advent</i>	9 am	+ <i>John & Rita Black</i>	By John & Christine Dixon
Saturday, December 6 th <i>St. Nicholas</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Mary-Therese Haid</i> <i>Intentions of Cyril & Anna Dziak</i>	By the Family By the Family
Sunday, December 7 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 (#94) – For a time even Pope Liberius vacillated and signed one of these vague formularies. Through it all, however, Athanasius stood unyielding as rock while suffering exile five times. While the Arians were much indebted to the rationalist philosophy of the day, Athanasius argued his case from the Christian theology of redemption: Christ had to be Divine in order to cause our divinization. Now, since the divine Son is eternally generated by the Father, they must share the same nature, for the Godhead is a unique, indivisible monad; but at the same time, they must be truly distinct, since the Father is Father and not Son, and the Son is Son and not Father. And Athanasius found that only the term homoousios – identical in substance – was adequate to convey both distinction and identity.

WOMEN’S ADVENT RETREAT – All women of the parish are invited to join us for a Women’s Advent Retreat on Monday, December 1st at 7pm in the church hall. Come join us as we prepare our hearts for Christmas! Doors open at 6pm with light refreshments for those wishing to mingle prior to the retreat starting. Karen Doyle will lead our retreat. Free will offering.

2025-26 MISSALS – The new missals are available for a purchase price of \$7. See Fr. Irenaeus in the sacristy after Mass or stop by the office. Please bring exact change.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS WITH BISHOP LOBSINGER - Each Advent the National Office for Evangelization and Catechesis produces a four-week series on the Sunday Gospels throughout Advent with reflections from one of our Canadian Bishops. This year, our very own Auxiliary, His Excellency, Bishop Wayne Lobsinger provides the video series for us. You can find all information, here: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/>

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH – One of the most important components of positive mental health is a sense of belonging. Family is the first place we feel this sense and the stronger the ties the more secure we feel. Belonging comes when we play and work together and yes, pray together. These shared experiences help us bond and set the foundation for family traditions that unite us in common understandings and joys. So clean, cook and tidy together, play games, go for walks, build forts and houses from boxes and pray before meals, bed and at Mass on Sunday. This foundation of who we are and where we come from will contribute to healthy and happy children and families. (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH – Relationship experts often remind us of the importance of listening, really taking in what the other is saying. While this is vital to any good relationship, it is good now and then to listen to ourselves and ask if we are really conveying what we want or should be saying. Do I compliment or complain more often? Do I speak in an aggressive manner or in a loving voice that speaks the truth to see needed change? Do I repeat what I hear my spouse saying so they know I am indeed listening, or do I move on with the facts I want to share? Listen to yourself to be sure you are in fact listening to create a more loving relationship. (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Most Rev. Wayne Lobsinger, Very Rev. Msgr. Cornelius O’Mahoney, Order of Preachers (Dominican), OP, Rev. Pawel Stankiewicz, Rev. Bill Foote, & Rev. Malcolm Katzenberger.

VOCATION SEEDS – “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.” If 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 \$3,145.00. Thank you for your generosity!