

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 12th, 2021

The prophet Zephaniah, writing in the seventh century BC, bids Jerusalem to rejoice because salvation is near! (First Reading). God stands in her midst and will deliver her from her enemies. God is portrayed, not only as a king and warrior, but also as a loving bridegroom, who steadfastly loves his unworthy and unfaithful bride. The theme of joy is even more emphatic in the Second Reading. St. Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice because the Lord is near. So there is no need to worry. If they need anything, they are to pray for it, and the peace of God will be with them. The theme of the nearness of the Lord is also at the heart of the Gospel. John the Baptist tells the people what they must do in order to prepare for the Lord's coming and to escape His searching judgment. At the same time he makes it clear that he is subordinate to Jesus. And so... the Lord is near!

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 12 st <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, December 13 th <i>St. Lucy</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, December 14 th <i>St. John of the Cross</i>	12 pm	+ <i>Yvonne Lepine</i>	By Bob & Linda Myers
Wednesday, December 15 st <i>Advent</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Drew Ericson</i> + <i>Mary Runstedler (Linwood)</i>	By Joe Boccanfuso & family By Cindy & Jim Reid
Thursday, December 16 th <i>Advent</i>	8 am	+ <i>William Haffner</i>	By Mary & family
Friday, December 17 th <i>Advent</i>	8 am 7 pm	+ <i>William Haffner</i> <i>Penitential Service</i>	By Alice Poudrier
Saturday, December 18 th <i>Advent</i>	5 pm	+ <i>John Miller</i> + <i>Leonard Hergott</i>	By Tom Miller By George & Lynda Lorentz
Sunday, December 19 th <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	

Our Saint of the Week: St. John of the Cross (1542-1591) – St. John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: “of the Cross.” The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” is the story of St. John’s life. The Paschal Mystery—through death to life—strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest. Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, St. John met St. Teresa of Avila and, like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with St. Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God. Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment St. John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, St. John’s spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; St. John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the *Spiritual Canticle*. But as agony leads to

ecstasy, so St. John had his *Ascent to Mt. Carmel*, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification. Uniquely and strongly, St. John underlines the gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly “of the Cross.” He died at 49—a life short, but full. St. John pray for us!

PENITENTIAL SERVICE – Join us as we prepare our hearts this Advent season. Friday, December 17th, at 7pm in St. Clements.

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

2022 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES – The new envelopes can be found at the back of the church.

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.

VOCATION SEEDS – You are the body of Christ; every one of you is a member of it. As a member of the body, we serve different roles. Are you willing to do your part? If God is calling you to a religious vocation, 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. Sam Restivo, C.R., Rev. David Perrin, Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (C.Ss.R.) Rev. Robert Bullbrook, Rev. Timothy Higgins, and Rev. Lawrence Parent.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION – St. Clements \$2,575.00. Thank you for your generosity.