

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 18th, 2024

The First Reading introduces the theme of covenant. In it we are told of the first in a series of patriarchal covenants which serve as a preparation for the covenant at Sinai. That in turn prepared the way for the new covenant God formed with humanity in and through Jesus Christ. In the Gospel we hear of Jesus' victorious struggle against evil. St. Mark makes no reference to the fast of Jesus. In this first struggle Jesus is not God-forsaken as He will be at His last. Like Noah, the Christian is saved by passage through water – the waters of baptism (Second Reading). It is through our baptism that we enter into the new covenant (relationship) with God, and that Christ's victory over sin and death is communicated to us.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 18 th <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, February 19 th <i>Lent</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, February 20 th <i>Lent</i>	10:30 am	+ <i>John Druar</i>	By Donna & family
Wednesday, February 21 st <i>St. Peter Damian</i>	8 am 4 pm	+ <i>Daniel & Lucille Kelley</i> <i>C A N C E L E D (Linwood)</i>	By the Estate -
Thursday, February 22 nd <i>Chair of St. Peter</i>	8 am	+ <i>Helen Caroline Benninger</i>	By the Estate
Friday, February 23 rd <i>St. Polycarp</i>	8 am 7 pm	+ <i>Christine Louise Giglio</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	By Waterloo Catholic Elementary Administrators
Saturday, February 24 th <i>Lent</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Barb Campbell</i>	By Diane Dietrich
Sunday, February 25 th <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	-

History of the Catholic Church (#21) – Tiberius (d. 37), Gaius Caligula (d. 41), Claudius (d. 54), and Nero (d. 68) were Emperors whose personal lives were darkened by bizarre, macabre incidents and crimes. The atmosphere of their courts was heavy with intrigue and foul suspicion. Tiberius, under whom Christ was crucified, was a competent soldier but an unhappy Emperor – crushed by the discovery that his son, Drusus, had been murdered by his own most trusted adviser, Sejanus. His nerves shattered, Tiberius retired to Capri, where he spent the last years of his reign. Caligula was a mentally deranged megalomaniac who was assassinated. Claudius, weak in body and will, was dominated by his wife, Agrippina, who finally poisoned him to make room for her son, Nero. Then Nero in turn murdered her and began a reign of terror that took the lives of many of Rome's outstanding leaders before he himself was forced to commit suicide. This state of affairs provided a great opportunity for a religion that could help fill the spiritual vacuum experienced by so many. And it was Christianity that made the most of this opportunity.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Accompany our Lord and join your fellow parishioners for the Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 7pm during Lent.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY (DAY) – Join us Wednesday afternoons during lent, at 1pm in the church hall. We will watch a video and have group discussion and prayer. The videos, led by Fr. Mike Schmitz, are based on a 20th-century spiritual classic "He Leadeth Me" by Fr. Walter Ciszek, an extraordinary account of a Catholic priest who endured solitary confinement and labor camps for 20+ years. His incredible spiritual reflections will help us give God total sovereignty of our lives and help us experience true freedom in Christ. We will begin this week, Wednesday Feb 21 at 1pm in the church hall. NOTE: there is Noon Mass each Wednesday and you are welcome to join us for a soup lunch at 12:30 before our session begins. Please call Sharon 519-570-6453 so we know much soup to prepare.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY (EVENING) – Join us every second Tuesday for 7 weeks. Our first session is Tuesday Feb 27th from 7- 9pm. We will be reading and discussing the book "Love like a Saint: Cultivating Virtue with Holy Women." The book is \$23. Please call Sharon to order your copy.

LENTEN MISSION – Forgiveness & Reconciliation – You are invited to participate in a Lenten Mission February 17 – 20 at St. Teresa of Avila in Elmira & St. Boniface in Maryhill. Conducted by Rev. David Reilander, talks will begin at 7pm on Sunday, Feb. 18th (The Anatomy of Reconciliation - St. Boniface), Monday, Feb. 19 (Offering Forgiveness - St. Teresa), and Tuesday, Feb. 20 (Asking for Forgiveness - St. Teresa). See the flyer at the back of the church for more information.

THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS – Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2024? If you are, you are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, May 26, 2024 at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you require assistance). Registration is now available online at <https://hamiltondiocese.com>.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Robert Bulbrook, Rev. Ron Cote, Discalced Carmelite Sisters (O.C.D.), Rev. William Foote, Rev. Michael Isabelle, & Consecrated Virgin Candidates.

VOCATION SEEDS – Lent: the springtime of the soul...is a time to make a new covenant with God, develop new signs of our relationship with our Creator. Go into your own desert and discover what God is asking of you. If you think God could be calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent 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 \$3,205.00. Thank you for your generosity!