

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The story of Jesus’ baptism is an epiphany story: Jesus is revealed as the Son of God. This is St. Matthew’s main emphasis. John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The fact that Jesus should undergo such a baptism was a source of embarrassment for the early Christians. Why did He undergo it? To give an example of humility, to raise John’s baptism to a new level, to show solidarity with sinners, and to inaugurate His mission to sinners – a mission which is beautifully described by Isaiah (First Reading!). St. Matthew also probably wanted to show what baptism means for Christians.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 11 <sup>th</sup> <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, January 12 <sup>th</sup> <i>St. Marguerite Bourgeois</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, January 13 <sup>th</sup> <i>St. Hilary</i>	9 am	<i>Intentions of Sharon Runstedler</i>	By John & Christine Dixon
Wednesday, January 14 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ordinary Time</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Keeva Yoshy &amp; the intentions of her family</i> + <i>Norm Simpson (Linwood)</i>	By St. Clement’s School By Chris & Barb Runstedler
Thursday, January 15 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ordinary Time</i>	9 am	<i>Intentions of Carole-Ann Barrett</i>	By the Family
Friday, January 16 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ordinary Time</i>	9 am	+ <i>Joanne Moser</i>	By the Family
Saturday, January 17 <sup>th</sup> <i>St. Anthony</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Dolores Bugera</i>	By the Estate
Sunday, January 18 <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>	

**History of the Catholic Church (#99)** – The clergy at first were not sharply differentiated from the laity in their lifestyle. The clergy married, raised families, and earned their livelihood at some trade or profession. But as the practise grew of paying them for their clerical work, they gradually withdrew more and more from secular pursuits, until by the fourth century such withdrawal was deemed obligatory. An important factor in this change was the increasing stress laid on the cultic and ritualistic aspects of the ministry. At first the Christian presbyter or elder avoided any resemblance to the pagan or Jewish priests and, in fact, even deliberately refused to be called a priest. He saw his primary function as the ministry of the Word. The ritualistic features of his sacramental ministry were kept in a low key. Even as late as the fifth century, St. John Chrysostom still stressed preaching as the main task of the Christian minister. But the image of the Christian presbyter gradually took on a sacral character.

**INSTALLATION OF BISHOP DABROWSKI** – On Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am, our new Bishop, the Most Reverend Joseph Dabrowski, will be officially and liturgically installed into his office at the Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton. Each parish has only 2 tickets for seats in the Basilica. If you are interested in attending, please see Fr. for a ticket. If you wish to attend without a ticket, you will be seated in McNally hall beneath the cathedral.

**REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL** – Join the Reel Justice Film Festival January 22, 2026 7:00 – 9:00 PM for a screening of PUSH. Housing prices are skyrocketing in cities around the world. Incomes are not. PUSH examines our increasingly unliveable cities and an escalating crisis that has an effect on us all. Housing is not a commodity, it is a human right. The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register and view our full schedule of events at: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/reel-justice-film-festival/> A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.

**YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT** – Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Saturday, February 7th at the St. Michael’s Church, Waterloo ON. Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations>. For more information, contact: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

**DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR** – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Scott Whitfield, Rev. Stanley Nwokeji, Sisters of St. John the Baptist, CSJB, Rev. Peter Robinson, Rev. James Petrie, & Married Couples.

**VOCATION SEEDS** – As John the Baptist introduced the people of his time to Jesus “a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’” Perhaps God is calling you to do the same in our time as a priest, deacon, brother or sister contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.  
Email: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)  
Website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

**LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION** – St. Clements Jan. 4 \$7,485.00. Thank you for your generosity!