

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
March 3rd, 2024

Jesus' action in cleansing the Temple was a protest against the commercialisation of religion and the desecration of the Temple. But it went deeper. It was a symbolic action, in the fashion of an Old Testament prophet, through which He passed judgment on the Jewish sacrificial system. He was declaring the temple worship, with its ritual and animal sacrifices, was irrelevant and could do nothing to bring people to God. He was replacing sacrificial worship with spiritual worship. Jesus was also protesting at the way religion had become narrow, nationalistic, and exclusive. Israel had failed to fulfil her universal mission to humankind. It was God's intention that the Temple should be a house of prayer for all nations. But the Temple remained the jealously-guarded preserve of Israel. No Gentile dared ventured, under threat of penalty and death, beyond what was known as the "court of the Gentiles". Jesus declared that salvation was not just for the Jews, but for all peoples.

MASS SCHEDULE

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| Sunday, March 3 rd <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> | 9 am 11 am | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i> | |
| Monday, March 4 th <i>Lent</i> | - | - | - |
| Tuesday, March 5 th <i>Lent</i> | 10:30 am | + <i>Arthur Dietrich</i> | By the Family |
| Wednesday, March 6 th <i>Lent</i> | 12 pm 4 pm | + <i>Helen Caroline Benninger</i> + <i>Teresa Hilker</i> | By the Estate By the Sherrer family |
| Thursday, March 7 th <i>Sts. Perpetua & Felicity</i> | 8 am | + <i>Joe & Marie Lehmann</i> | By the Lehmanns |
| Friday, March 8 st <i>St. John of God</i> | 8 am 7 pm | + <i>Lucy & Arthur Myers</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i> | By Bob & Linda Myers |
| Saturday, March 9 th <i>St. Frances of Rome</i> | 5 pm | + <i>Leonard Wagner</i> | By Tom Miller |
| Sunday, March 10 th <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> | 9 am 11 am | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i> | - |

History of the Catholic Church (#23) – The old Roman religion provided little competition for Christianity. Faith in the ancient gods could not be revived, as Augustus and other Emperors found to their dismay. Nor could the average person take much comfort in the rites and ceremonies dedicated to the deified Emperors themselves. Much more powerful as a rival to Christianity were the mystery religions that were quite numerous and rapidly spreading during this period. They were syncretistic kinds of faith that fused Hellenic and Oriental thought. The most important ones were the Dionysian and Orphic mysteries of Thrace (nowadays part of Bulgaria and Turkey); the religion of the Great Mother, Cybele, from Anatolia in Asia Minor; the Persian religion of Mithra and the Egyptian cult of Isis and Osiris. They were called mysteries because their central rites were kept secret from all but initiates. In spite of various differences, they all had certain characteristics in common: a sublime view of the godhead, a profound sense of cleavage between spirit and flesh, and a great yearning for a redeemer who would deliver devotees from all guilt and confer on them peace and eternal life.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING - The Women's Ministry suggests that in order to fulfill our almsgiving obligation for Lent that we bring items for the Canadian Food for Children. These items will be taken to a central location in Kitchener where they will be flown to third world countries. Please leave the items at the back of the church.

- Week of March 2nd & 3rd - Personal Hygiene Products, (Soap, shampoo, combs, brushes, toothpaste, tooth brushes)
- Week of March 9th & 10th - Pasta or Rice
- Week of March 16th & 17th - Cooking Oils
- Week of March 23rd & 24th - Peanut Butter
- Week of March 30th & 31st - Tomato Sauce or Tomato Paste

WOMEN'S MINISTRY (DAY) – Join us Wednesday afternoons during lent, 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.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS – On Tuesday, March 5th, please join us in the church hall at 7pm (SHARP!) for a Very Important Annual General Meeting. We are looking to fill ALL executive positions! New members are always welcome.

BLESSED & BEAUTIFUL – Family Foundations Institute (FFI) is hosting the Annual Women's Seminar on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at St. André Bessette High School in London. "Blessed & Beautiful" celebrates the essence of womanhood, encouraging every woman to recognize her unique beauty and blessings as a cherished daughter of God. The seminar is a wonderful opportunity for women of all ages and stages to come together, share ideas, build friendships, and develop practical tools for embracing their mission in the world. The guest speaker is Danielle Bean, creator and host of "Girlfriends," a podcast for Catholic Women. Register online at www.famfi.ca/aws and take advantage of early bird registration at \$45/individual (\$30/student).

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. George Nowak, C.R., Rev. Edward Hinsperger, Disabled Persons, Rev. Pat Aiello, C.R., Rev. Chris Buda, C.R., & Rev. James Link, C.R.

VOCATION SEEDS – Jesus cleaned out the temple of money changers. He was angry; He was zealous; He spoke with authority. He was doing what He had to do even though it involved risk, danger, insult and wonder. Such is a religious vocation in the Church. If you think God might 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 \$2,240.00. Thank you for your generosity!