

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Since God is holy, we are to be holy. We are holy when we imitate the generosity of God by not exacting vengeance, or bearing a grudge against another. In Leviticus, the commandment: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” is restricted to fellow-Israelites. But Jesus broadened it to include everyone, Gentiles as well as Jews, enemies as well as friends. Why? Because this is the way the heavenly Father acts. He shows equal love towards good and bad, not because He is indifferent to morality, but because He loves without limit. St. Paul gives us a profound reason why we should respect one another: “...we are the Temple of God.” Individually and collectively the Holy Spirit dwells in us. This is also the basis of our unity.

### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 19 <sup>th</sup> <i>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, February 20 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ordinary Time</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, February 21 <sup>st</sup> <i>St. Peter Damian</i>	10:30 am	+ <i>Helen Caroline Benninger</i>	By the Estate
Wednesday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	12 pm 4 pm 7 pm	+ <i>Clara Herteis</i> <i>All Souls in Purgatory</i> (Linwood) + <i>John &amp; Rita Black</i>	By the Estate By Anonymous By John & Christine Dixon
Thursday, February 23 <sup>rd</sup> <i>St. Polycarp</i>	7 pm	+ <i>Lucy Plomin</i>	By Ken & Jim Meyer
Friday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> <i>Lent</i>	8 am 7 pm	+ <i>Dina &amp; Gastone Maschio-Piertrobo</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	By Peter & Ornella Miller + family
Saturday, February 18 <sup>th</sup> <i>Lent</i>	5 pm	<i>Intentions of Darryl &amp; Tanya Terpstra</i> (25 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)	By Chris & Barb Runstedler
Sunday, February 19 <sup>th</sup> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	

**Our Saint of the Week – St. Polycarp (69-155)** – St. Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century. Saint Ignatius, on his way to Rome to be martyred, visited Polycarp at Smyrna, and later at Troas wrote him a personal letter. The Asia Minor Churches recognized Polycarp’s leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome—a major controversy in the early Church. Only one of the many letters written by St. Polycarp has been preserved, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi in Macedonia. At 86, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint’s body burned. The “Acts” of Polycarp’s martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr’s death. He died in 155. St. Polycarp was recognized as a Christian leader by all Asia Minor Christians—a strong fortress of faith and loyalty

to Jesus Christ. His own strength emerged from his trust in God, even when events contradicted this trust. Living among pagans and under a government opposed to the new religion, he led and fed his flock. Like the Good Shepherd, he laid down his life for his sheep and kept them from more persecution in Smyrna. He summarized his trust in God just before he died: “Father... I bless Thee, for having made me worthy of the day and the hour...” (*Acts of Martyrdom*, Chapter 14). St. Polycarp pray for us!

**DONATION RECEIPTS** – The 2022 donation receipts are available for pick-up at the back of the church.

**WOMEN’S MINISTRY** – All women of the parish are invited to join as we explore the “Identity of Women,” through the Abiding Together Podcast video series. Our meetings are Monday evenings; doors open at 7pm and the program begins at 7:15pm. This week’s episode is titled “Sister Part 1: We are a family, I got all my sisters with me.”

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – Consider joining your fellow parishioners for Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 7pm. Be generous with your time and follow the Lord as he walks for our Salvation.

**TIME CHANGE THURSDAY** – Please note that the 8am Mass this Thursday has been moved to 7pm, for this week only.

**ReSTART: Moving Forward** – Join us for our new and updated program offering support to anyone seeking to heal and move forward after divorce or separation. The program runs from Tuesday, March 21st to May 23rd. The sessions take place from 7-9 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in person, or you are welcome to join using our zoom classroom. Cost is \$25 for materials, but no one is turned away. Registration is required so please call Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, e-mail [familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com), or register on line at ReSTART Program: Support for Separated and Divorced - Diocese of Hamilton ([hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com)).

**RESTART: Refresh, Renew Revive** – Learning, support and fun for anyone who is looking for support after a separation or divorce! These get-togethers offer continual support and insights for people as they journey through the divorce/separation process and beyond. Held the 2nd & 3rd Fridays of each month, you can join in-person (700 King St. West, Hamilton), or by ZOOM. No registration required, but for ZOOM link please contact Sarah at [familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com), or 905-528-7988 ext. 2249. We look forward to seeing you!

**VOCATION SEEDS** – “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Do you feel called to help people get closer to God? If you think God is calling you to be a, priest, deacon, brother or sister or consecrated virgin, 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/>

**DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR** – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. James Link, C.R., Rev. David Mowat, C.R., Rev. Harry Reitzel, C.R., Rev. Raymond Reitzel, C.R., & Rev. Florian Stasinski, C.R.

**LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION** – St. Clements: Operating \$2,155.00. Thank you for your generosity!