

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24th, 2023

Now that David was king of a united country, with Jerusalem as the capital, he set about building a house (Temple) for the Lord. But the Lord pre-empted David's plan. Instead, it is the Lord who will build a dynasty for David, a dynasty that will last for ever. When Jerusalem was destroyed in 587 BC it seemed that the promise would not be fulfilled. Still, the hope remained that a Messiah would come from the house of David. The expectation was fulfilled when Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to be the mother of the Redeemer, who, through Joseph, would be of the line of David. Gabriel's words echo the words of God's promise to David. In the Second Reading St. Paul says that the promises made in Old Testament times have been fulfilled in the person and life of Jesus, the Christ.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24 th <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am 11pm	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i> <i>Christmas Mass</i>	
Monday, December 25 th <i>Christmas Day</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	-
Tuesday, December 26 th <i>St. Stephen</i>	10:30 am	<i>Intentions of Bob & Linda Myers</i>	By a Friend
Wednesday, December 27 th <i>St. John</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Mary M^cCann</i> <i>C A N C E L E D (Linwood)</i>	By Murray & Sharon Runstedler
Thursday, December 28 th <i>Holy Innocents</i>	8 am	<i>In Thanksgiving</i>	By Frances Hergott
Friday, December 29 th <i>Christmas Octave</i>	8 am	+ <i>Lawrence Glofcheskie</i>	By Millie Eckert
Saturday, December 30 th <i>Christmas Octave</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Chelsea Alvarez</i>	By Joe & Teresa Alvarez
Sunday, December 31 st <i>The Holy Family</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	-

History of the Catholic Church (#16) – the great success of the Gospel among the Gentiles was in stark contrast to its fate among the Jews. Those Jewish Christians who tried to convert their fellow Jews met with continual hostility and rejection; around A.D. 85 a formal anathema of them was incorporated in the synagogue liturgy. Nor were matters helped by the attitude of Gentile Christians who denounced the Jews as stiff-necked apostates deservedly punished by God when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and burned down their Temple in A.D. 70. A critical stage was reached in the Letter to the Hebrews, which made rejection of Judaism essential for Christians and characterized return to Judaism as apostasy. Left alone and unsupported, the Jewish Christians gradually slipped into oblivion.

VOCATIONS MASS AND YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT – January 5th. The Serra Club of Hamilton invites all parishioners to attend a Mass for vocations at 6:00pm. Following the Mass, Fr. Mark Morley invites young adults to attend a night of Adoration, fellowship and praise music in celebration of the Christmas Season. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:30pm), praise night and vocations talk (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Friday, January 5th at Annunciation of Our Lord (280 Limeridge Rd W, Hamilton, ON L9C 2V2). Co-sponsored by the Serra Club of Hamilton and the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

ANGEL TREE – A heartfelt thank you for your incredible generosity! Our wonderful parish has provided gifts for 16 families, and made their Christmas a little brighter. If there are any gifts outstanding, don't hesitate to drop them off. Please contact Stacey Mayer at 519-465-3473 with any questions.

ANGEL TREE OF LIFE – If your family has celebrated a baptism or lost a loved one this year, you will find a Christmas ornament on the tree to the left of the altar. You are welcome to take it home to decorate your tree.

2024 DONATION ENVELOPES – The 2024 envelopes are available at the back of the church. If you don't currently receive envelopes but wish to, please contact the office.

DIocese OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Chancery Staff, Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne (s.s.a.), Rev. Edward Hinsperger, & Rev. Phillip Cook.

VOCATION SEEDS – From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and she said "Yes!"...and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's Will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or 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: Operating \$2,625.00. Thank you for your generosity!



And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans - and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused - and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself.

- Sigrid Undset

