

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
December 26th, 2021

At the end of today's Gospel there is a very telling sentence. It goes: "Mary stored up all these things in her heart." And after the visit of the shepherds to the manger, we find a similar comment. St. Luke says that: "Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart." And so, Mary kept the memory of these events in her heart with a view to discerning the hidden meaning behind the marvellous happenings. It's clear that Mary didn't immediately understand the meaning of what was happening to her and what God was asking of her. But that is how it always is. Profound lived experience always begins with perplexity! We never know at the time what is happening to us. It's only afterwards, perhaps long afterwards, that our eyes are opened and begin to understand. Hence, the importance of reflection...

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 26 th <i>The Holy Family</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, December 27 th <i>St. John</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, December 28 th <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	12 pm	+ <i>Rosa Lauro</i>	By Joe Boccanfuso & family
Wednesday, December 29 th <i>St. Thomas Becket</i>	12 pm 4 pm	<i>Intentions of Therese Silva</i> + <i>Mary Runstedler (Linwood)</i>	By Bob & Linda Myers By Jerome Sherrer
Thursday, December 30 th <i>Christmas Octave</i>	8 am	+ <i>William Haffner</i>	By Mary & family
Friday, December 31 st <i>St. Sylvester I</i>	8 am 5 pm	+ <i>Catherine Kurt</i> + <i>Leonard Hergott</i>	By Charles & Rose Moser By Frances Hergott
Saturday, January 1 st <i>The Holy Mother of God</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Sunday, January 2 nd <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	

Our Saint of the Week: St. Sylvester I – when we think of this pope, we think of the Edict of Milan, the emergence of the Church from the catacombs, the building of the great basilicas – Saint John Lateran, Saint Peter's, and others – the Council of Nicaea, and other critical events. But for the most part, these events were planned or brought about by Emperor Constantine. A great store of legends has grown up around the man who was pope at this most important time, but very little can be established historically. We know for sure that his papacy lasted from 314 until his death in 335. Reading between the lines of history, we are assured that only a very strong and wise man could have preserved the essential independence of the Church in the face of the overpowering figure of the Emperor Constantine. In general, the bishops remained loyal to the Holy See, and at times expressed apologies to Sylvester for undertaking important ecclesiastical projects at the urging of Constantine. It takes deep humility and courage in the face of criticism for a leader to stand aside and let events take their course, when asserting one's authority would only lead to useless tension and strife. St. Sylvester teaches a valuable lesson for Church leaders, politicians, parents, and others in authority. St. Sylvester pray for us!

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

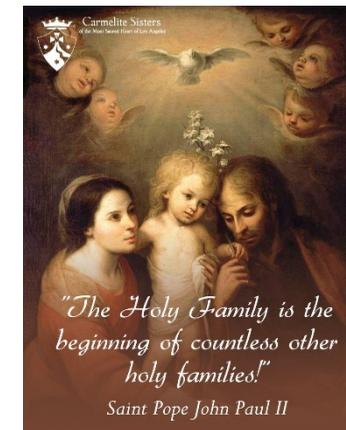
New Year's Masses

(there will be a regular weekday Mass Friday 8am, no Adoration following)

- Friday, December 31st – 5:00 pm St. Clements
- Saturday January 1st – 9:00 am St. Clements, 11:00 am Linwood

Epiphany of the Lord (No Saturday 5:00 pm Mass)

- Sunday, January 2nd – 9:00 am St. Clements, 11:00 am Linwood



PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH – Parenting Tip 135 - The excitement of Christmas begins to build even before Halloween. Children are targeted with ads and commercials to ask Santa for the latest toys, electronic device or game. As parents we love to see the anticipation, but our task is a greater one – it is to keep the reason for Christmas at the forefront of our children's minds and understanding. Are they as excited about the coming of Christ and it's meaning for all people? Do they have a sense that long after every gift they desire from Santa is gone, the truths, love, care, compassion, guidance and stability from God will live on to help each of us to live and, ultimately, receive the gift of eternity? The true gift of Christmas should never be the last one we think of, or getting excited about, since it is indeed the most valuable. Advent is the perfect time to daily bring all of this to light!

FROM THE DIOCESE – The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis and the Liturgy Office have prepared the following link to the diocese website with a beautiful resource for families to share and pray together in celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/holyfamily2021/>

VOCATION SEEDS – By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained, or consecrated person. If God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Bishop Wayne Lobsinger, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton (905-528-7988).

Email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com Website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Very Rev. Msgr. Murray Kroetsch, Rev. Francisco Cruz, Sisters of St. Anne (s.s.a.), Rev. Adam Wroblewicz, C.R.c and Rev. Melvin Pinto, O.C.D.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION – St. Clements \$2,185.00. Thank you for your generosity.

~ Wishing you and your family
a blessed and joyous 2022 ~