

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 10th, 2023

The First Reading is a message of hope and consolation addressed to the exiles in Babylon. Humanly speaking, at that time there was little ground for hope. Yet the prophet assures his people that God is about to come to their aid, and will lead them back to their own land in a new exodus. Even though the actual return from exile fell far short of the glowing picture painted here, Isaiah's words point the way to the messianic era. This leads into the Gospel. Like a new Elijah, John the Baptist appears in the desert and announces the coming of the redeemer – Jesus, the Christ and Son of God (two Christological titles with which St. Mark begins his Gospel). Both readings issue a call to repentance: "Prepare a way for the Lord." In the Second Reading Peter is talking about the second coming. The reason for the Lord's delay is to give everybody an opportunity to repent.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 10 th <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, December 11 th <i>St. Damasus I</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, December 12 th <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	10:30 am	+ <i>Lawrence Glofcheskie</i>	By Joe & Rosemary Lorentz
Wednesday, December 13 th <i>St. Lucy</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Walter Runstedler</i> + <i>Rita DaMaren (Linwood)</i>	By Murray & Sharon Runstedler By the Barrett family
Thursday, December 14 th <i>St. John of the Cross</i>	8 am	<i>Intentions of the Reilly family</i>	By Bob & Linda Myers
Friday, December 15 th <i>Advent</i>	8 am	+ <i>Clara Isabella Herteis</i>	By the Estate
Saturday, December 16 th <i>Advent</i>	5 pm	+ <i>John Miller</i> + <i>Mary Zammit</i>	By Tom Miller By Peter & Ornella Miller + family
Sunday, December 17 th <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	-

History of the Catholic Church (#14) – When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he was induced by James and the fellow elders to show his reverence for the Law by undertaking a ceremonial purification in the Temple. While there he was recognized by some Asian Jews, who raised a hue and cry against him as a notorious traitor. The fracas that followed almost cost him his life; he was rescued by the Roman tribune but imprisoned to await trial. Finally, after two years in the garrison at Caesarea – an eternity for one so hungry to spread the Gospel – he appealed to Emperor Nero and was sent to Rome and detained for two years under house arrest while awaiting trial.

ANGEL TREE – Our angel tree can be found at the side altar. This year we are helping with more than 16 local families. Gifts are due back Dec 10-17th. See tags for details. Please contact Stacey Mayer at 519-465-3473 with any questions.

CHRISTMAS TREE SET-UP – We will be decorating the Christmas trees for the altar on Saturday, December 16th at 9am and are looking for volunteers. If you have an hour to spare, please join us!

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

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE – Our schedule for this year is as follows:

- Christmas Eve – 11pm St. Clements
- Christmas Day – 9am St. Clements, 11am Linwood
- New Year's Day – 9am St. Clements, 11am Linwood

ADVENT PRAYER NIGHT FOR YOUTH MINISTERS AND VOLUNTEERS – All adults who minister to young people in the Diocese of Hamilton are invited to an evening of prayer and fellowship. Join us on Wednesday, December 13th at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Freulton for our Advent gathering. For more information and registration, email youthministry@hamiltondiocese.com.

ALPHA 24 – Join us Thursday evenings, February 22 to May 2 at St. Mark's Parish Hall (55 Driftwood Dr.). Alpha is an 11-week program that brings adults together for conversations about life, faith, and Jesus. Plan to join us – all are welcome! To learn more, contact Denise Case at stmarkalpha@gmail.com.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Andrew Lopatniuk, married couples, Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (C.Ss.R.), Rev. Wallace Metcalf, Rev. Charles Galea, & Rev. Robert Kiffman.

VOCATION SEEDS – John the Baptist is sent by God to prepare the way for His Son. In our present time God sends priests, religious and deacons to prepare the people to receive His Son. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact 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 \$2,940.00. Thank you for your generosity!