

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 20th, 2022

Because of his great successes on the battlefield, David was very popular with the people. As a result, King Saul saw him as a threat and sought to kill him. The First Reading contains the moving story of how David had an opportunity to kill Saul, but refused to do so because in his eyes Saul, as king of Israel, was a sacred person. This passage prepares us for the Gospel, which contains Jesus' injunction to love our enemies. Jesus goes on to stress the obligations of fraternal charity. The ideal of love to which His followers must aspire is that of God Himself. We are to love as God loves. Jesus' vision of human behaviour is at such variance with the view most people have, that many people regard it as humanly unachievable, and therefore ignore it. From a human point of view it is unachievable. Divine help is needed.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 20 th <i>7th Sunday in OT</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, February 21 st <i>St. Peter Damian</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, February 22 nd <i>Chair of St. Peter</i>	12 pm	+ <i>Gerard Stemmler</i>	By Mary Ann & family
Wednesday, February 23 rd <i>St. Polycarp</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Lucy Plomin</i> + <i>Margaret Karley (Linwood)</i>	By Jim & Ken Meyer By the Estate
Thursday, February 24 th <i>Ordinary Time</i>	8 am	+ <i>Arlene Herteis</i>	By St. Clement's Choir
Friday, February 25 th <i>Ordinary Time</i>	8 am	+ <i>Catherine & Howard Kurt</i>	By Charles & Rose Moser
Saturday, February 26 th <i>Ordinary Time</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Irene Detzler</i>	By Lindsey & Dale Wideman & family
Sunday, February 27 th <i>8th Sunday in OT</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 Polycarp has been preserved, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi in Macedonia. At 86, St. 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..." St. Polycarp pray for us!

ASH WEDNESDAY – There are ten more days until Ash Wednesday! Lent is a time for penance and repentance, for almsgiving and prayer, for working to change attitudes that are not pleasing to God. Join us for Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 2 at noon or 7pm in St. Clements, or 5pm in Linwood.

LENTEN RESOURCES – The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis and the Liturgy Office have prepared a variety of resources for parishes and families for the Lenten season. Please see <https://hamiltondiocese.com/lent2022/> for: Liturgy of the Word for Ash Wednesday with His Excellency, Bishop Wayne Lobsinger prepared with an elementary school participant in mind. This can be celebrated virtually in a classroom or at home; Tips for families celebrating the Lenten rituals of prayer, fasting and almsgiving at home; and resources available for purchase from the Diocese office or free on-line links to children's activities, literature for teens, and adult resources.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH - Marriage Tip 117: In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis writes: "After the love that unites us to God, conjugal love is the "greatest form of friendship". It is a union possessing all the traits of a good friendship: concern for the good of the other, reciprocity, intimacy, warmth, stability and the resemblance born of a shared life." (AL #123) February is a great month to spend some time with this beautiful quote and ask yourself if your love truly reflects a great friendship, or if it is time to restore these traits to your marriage.

RESTART – Starting over after separation or divorce with support, care and tools for your journey. We invite you to check out the Diocesan website at: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/divorce-separation.php> to see the programs we offer and to find out dates of the new program for 2022. If you have questions, call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

MOUNT MARY IMMACULATE RETREAT CENTRE – Mount Mary Immaculate Retreat Centre is now open and accepting group and personal retreat bookings for 2022! With a large Chapel and acres of untouched green space, Mount Mary is an ideal location for those seeking a retreat experience. Groups of all types are welcome for a day or for an overnight stay. Individuals are also welcome to book out the "Cottage" for a personal retreat experience. For more information, please visit: www.mountmary.ca

VOCATION SEEDS – The Lord Calls us to do God's Will. Pray that you may know God's Will in your life; especially, if you have the inclination that you are being called to the ordained or consecrated life. 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: Rev. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I., Rev. Nishil Varghese, C.M.I., Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (R.S.J.C.), Very Rev. Cornelius O'Mahony, E.V., Rev. Felix Nwatu, & Rev. Piotr (Peter) Machnacki, S.A.C.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION – St. Clements \$1,230.00. Thank you for your generosity!