

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4th, 2025

For St. Matthew, the story of the Magi becomes an anticipation of the fate of the Good News of salvation, a fate that he knew in the aftermath of the resurrection. God revealed Himself to the Jews through the Scriptures and to the Gentiles through nature. Hence, Matthew shows the Magi (who were Gentiles) receiving a revelation through astrology. The story highlights the paradox: the Jews who have the Scriptures reject Jesus, while Gentiles come and, with the help of the Scriptures, find and adore Him. There is nothing to be gained by speculating where the Magi came from and what exactly the star was. The star was only the means by which a great mystery was revealed – the revelation of Christ as the Saviour of the Gentiles too. The Second Reading expresses the theological meaning of today’s feast: God invites Jew and Gentile to share on an equal footing the benefits of the salvation brought by Christ.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 4 th <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, January 5 th <i>Christmas Season</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, January 6 th <i>Christmas Season</i>	9 am	+ <i>Helen Caroline Benninger</i>	By the Estate
Wednesday, January 7 th <i>St. André Bessette</i>	12 pm 4 pm	<i>Intentions of Chris & Barb Runstedler</i> + <i>Donald Runstedler</i>	By Natalie Runstedler By Jerry Sherrer
Thursday, January 8 th <i>St. Raymond de Penyafort</i>	9 am	+ <i>Dolores Bugera</i>	By the Estate
Friday, January 9 th <i>Christmas Season</i>	9 am	+ <i>Daniel & Lucille Kelley</i>	By the Estate
Saturday, January 10 th <i>Christmas Season</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Greg & Rosemary Beaupré</i>	By the Straus family
Sunday, January 11 th <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	

History of the Catholic Church (#98) – The ministry of the Church developed a high degree of organization. We know that Pope Fabian (d. 250) divided Rome into seven regions with, it seems, a deacon in charge of each region. This corresponds with the list of ministers of the Roman Church given us by the historian Eusebius (d. 340): forty-six presbyters; seven deacons; seven subdeacons; forty-two acolytes; and fifty-two readers, exorcists, and doorkeepers. Next to the bishop. The deacon for a long time played the most important role in the Church. Elected by the community, he was charged with administering Communion to the faithful, bringing alms to the poor, leading the prayer of the faithful at Mass, and in general acting as the bishop’s right-hand man. His control of the funds assured him special influence, and many deacons passed directly to the episcopate without passing through the priesthood. But the deacon lost his prominence as the Church spread into the countryside and it was necessary to

multiply outlying churches – now called parishes. The presbyter now assumed functions that were previously often monopolized by the bishop: presiding at the Eucharist, preaching, and absolving penitents. The office of the deacon then became just a ritual step leading to the priesthood.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD – The Diocese of Hamilton provides formation for Ministers of the Word to exercise a very important ministry at Mass. In this workshop, participants receive formation in Liturgy and Ministry, Techniques to Proclaim the Word of God, and an opportunity to practice. It is ideal for both parishioners new to this ministry or considering it, as well as a good refresher for experienced Ministers of the Word. There is always good participant sharing. Participation is limited to 75 people. The cost is \$35 and includes lunch. Saturday, January 24, 2026, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Waterdown, ON, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participants register through the Diocese of Hamilton website under Upcoming Events/Workshops.
<https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/2025/12/minister-of-the-word-formation-workshop-4/>

RESTART: MOVING FORWARD – Have you experienced a divorce or separation? Are you looking to learn ways to cope, for support from others and to gain a feeling of moving forward? Our 10-week program offers education and support to anyone seeking to heal or simply learn more. The sessions will run Tuesdays from Feb. 17 – April 21, 2026 from 7-9 pm and are held at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in person. Cost is \$35 for materials, but no one is turned away. Registration online can be found by going to hamiltondiocese.com and looking for the date under Upcoming Events, or by contacting Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249 or at familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Mark Morley, Rev. Peter Tuyen Nguyen, Diocesan Priests, Rev. Pierre Luc, SJ, Rev. Pawel Stankiewicz, & Rev. Raymond, Reitzel, CR.

VOCATION SEEDS – “On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” God asks us to give our lives. What treasures have been given to you to share with others in Christ’s name? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister 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 Dec. 21, \$4,130.00. Dec. 25, \$14,405.00. Dec. 28, \$2,670.00. Thank you for your generosity!

