

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 4th, 2024

The Book of Job confronts the problem of suffering. The common explanation was that suffering was a punishment for sin. But, though Job is a good man, he suffers greatly. His suffering causes him to take a gloomy view of life (First Reading). This sets the scene for the Gospel. However, what we see in the Gospel is not Jesus' answer to the question "why suffering?", but His response to actual suffering. He heals the sick and proclaims the Good News of salvation. The Gospel also shows the urgency with which He dedicated Himself to preaching the Gospel, something we see exemplified in Paul (Second Reading). In the midst of His activity Jesus found time to pray in quiet places. It was during these hours of solitude that He maintained and fostered the most important thing in His life – His relationship with the Father. Here lay the secret of His successful ministry.

MASS SCHEDULE

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| Sunday, February 4 th <i>5th Sunday in OT</i> | 9 am 11 am | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i> | |
| Monday, February 5 th <i>St. Agatha</i> | - | - | - |
| Tuesday, February 6 th <i>St. Paul Miki & Companions</i> | 10:30 am | + <i>James Bailey</i> | By Bob & Linda Myers |
| Wednesday, February 7 th <i>Ordinary Time</i> | 12 pm 4 pm | + <i>Gerard Stemmler</i> <i>Poor Souls in Purgatory</i> <i>(Linwood)</i> | By Mary Ann & family By the Barrett family |
| Thursday, February 8 th <i>St. Jerome Emiliani</i> | 8 am | <i>Intentions of Frances Hergott</i> <i>& Gilbert Runstedler</i> | By Murray & Sharon Runstedler |
| Friday, February 9 th <i>Ordinary Time</i> | 8 am | + <i>Chelsea Alvarez</i> | By Joe & Theresa Alvarez |
| Saturday, February 10 th <i>St. Scholastica</i> | 5 pm | + <i>Lawrence Glofcheskie</i> | By Murray & Sharon Runstedler |
| Sunday, February 11 th <i>6th Sunday in OT</i> | 9 am 11 am | <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i> | - |

History of the Catholic Church (#19) – Second, the world was largely at peace, thanks to the work of Emperor Octavian Augustus, who reigned at the time of Christ's birth and early youth. The designated heir of the assassinated Julius Caesar, he had been able to outmaneuver the other contenders for power, and finally in 31 BC, by his defeat of Antony and Cleopatra, win supreme command of the Roman Empire. With astute political realism, he fashioned a new system – the principate – which concentrated most of the power into his own hands while outwardly preserving traditional Republican forms. This new constitution that he devised enable him to rule unchallenged for more than forty years and outlasted him for several centuries, providing the Empire with a stable form of government that enabled it to keep the barbarian menace at bay and give a large measure of peace to the world for nearly two hundred years. The conditions of security afforded to travelers by this Roman peace (Pax Romana) were very beneficial to the Christian missionaries.

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL - Join the Reel Justice Film Festival February 24, 7:00 – 9:00 PM for the screening of *La Lucha Sigue* (The Struggle Continues) with special guest speaker Honduran human rights investigator Elvin Hernandez. In Honduras, the most dangerous place in the world to be a land defender, the Lenca and Garifuna people are fighting to uphold their spirituality and Indigenous ways of life in the face of state backed mega-projects that threaten to destroy their lands and erase their existence. The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register and view our full schedule of events at: <https://reeljustice.hamiltondiocese.com/> A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.

THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS - Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2024? If you are, you are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, May 26, 2024 at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you require assistance). Registration is now available online at <https://hamiltondiocese.com>

STRUGGLING MARRIAGE? FIND HOPE WITH RETROUVAILLE – Does your marriage feel like it is more trouble than joy? Does it feel stagnant or disconnected? Is it causing you constant stress? The solution is Retrouvaille – a program designed to help couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. This practical program, where sharing is not required except between the couple themselves, is designed to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. It has proven positive results for struggling couples, including those who may be considering separation or divorce. The next Retrouvaille weekend is March 8-10, 2024. For more information call 905-664-5212 or email teamrecine@gmail.com.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Robert Sims, Rev. Charles Galea, Missionaries, Rev. Robert Kiffman, Rev. Pablito Labado, & Rev. Edward Mahony.

VOCATION SEEDS – Jesus created much excitement in His day through His preaching, teaching, and healing. Today, the Church communicates that same wonder and grace by those active in priesthood, religious life, and lay ministries. If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent 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 \$2,702.00. Thank you for your generosity!