

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 30th, 2025

A clear theme runs through all three readings. God’s mercy to sinners. In the First Reading we have the beautiful words God spoke to His people: “I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.” The shame of sin and the darkness of slavery are behind them. The years of wandering in the desert are over; they have come to the promised land. A new era was about to begin. They mark their homecoming by celebrating anew the feast of Passover. This reminds us of the home-coming of the prodigal son (Gospel). His shame is behind him also. His years of wandering are over and he returns home to a warm welcome and a great feast. A new and bright future lies ahead of him. Jesus told the parable in response to the criticism of the Pharisees that He was too lenient toward sinners. They were meant to see themselves in the older son. For St. Luke the “Pharisees” are righteous Christians, for whom God’s mercy to sinners is unfair and scandalous. The Second Reading stresses how God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, not holding our faults against us. The task of the Church is to bring the benefits won by Christ to all people.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 30 th <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, March 31 st <i>Lent</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, April 1 st <i>Lent</i>	9 am	<i>Intentions of Elżbieta Łukasiewicz</i>	By the Family
Wednesday, April 2 nd <i>St. Francis of Paola</i>	12 pm 4 pm	+ <i>Barbara Hiller</i> + (Linwood) + <i>Daniel & Lucille Kelley</i>	By Reinhard & Pat Wege By the Estate
Thursday, April 3 rd <i>Lent</i>	9 am	<i>Intentions of Brendan Myers</i>	By Bob & Linda Myers
Friday, April 4 th <i>Lent</i>	9 am 7 pm	+ <i>Bill Strauss</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	By Dolores Strauss
Saturday, April 5 th <i>St. Vincent Ferrer</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Anna Miller</i>	By Tom Miller
Sunday, April 6 th <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	-

History of the Catholic Church (#68) – This alliance with the state profoundly influenced every aspect of the Church’s thought and life. It carried many advantages, but it also entailed some serious drawbacks: infringements on the Church’s freedom as civil authorities exploited the relationship for political purposes; mass conversions where social conformity was the chief motivating factor; the widening of the gap between clergy and laity thanks to the official status conferred on them; persecution of dissenters as a menace to unity of the state. The Church would never be the same again – for better and for worse – and so Constantine’s conversion is certainly one of the greatest turning points in the history of the Church and of the world.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION MEETING – The next meeting takes place this Saturday at 10 am.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Walk with Christ! Please join us every Friday during Lent at 7pm for Stations of the Cross.

ANNUAL WOMEN’S SEMINAR 2025 – Family Foundations Institute invites all women to the Annual Women’s Seminar on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM at Saint André Bessette Secondary School in London. This year’s theme, “Magnificently Created”, features Ann Burns, founder of The Feminine Project. Ann’s inspiring talks will help women embrace the beauty of authentic femininity and build strong, faith-filled communities. Experience a day of fellowship, spiritual renewal, and encouragement in your unique role as a woman of faith. All women are welcome! For details and registration, visit www.famfi.ca/aws.

MARYHILL PARK FISH FRY FUNDRAISER – Maryhill Heritage Park Community Centre (58 St. Charles St. E.) GOOD FRIDAY, April 18th 12 noon to 7 p.m. Eat in or take out. NO RESERVATIONS. First come- first served. Fresh cut fries & gravy, with haddock, coleslaw, tartar sauce and lemon. 1 pc. - \$16; 2 pc. - \$19. Children 12 & under may buy a half price 1 pc for @ \$8.00 dining in house only! Hot Dogs also available. Dinner includes coffee and tea. Dessert is extra. CASH ONLY PLEASE! Call ahead take out orders ARE MOST WELCOME. For more information contact (519) 648-2939.

WHEN LIFE CHANGES – Has someone you cared about died? Are you grieving the loss of the person’s presence in your life? Are you looking for relief from the feelings associated with the loss of this loved one? You are not alone! The Hamilton Diocese is offering our six-week grief program from April 23nd to May 28th, 2025. The program runs from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West.in Hamilton. To register go to www.hamiltondiocese.com and look for the start date under upcoming events on the home page.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH – March is the start of Lent, a time when we reflect on our faith and our commitment to living as we are called to as disciples of Jesus. It is a perfect time to discuss as a couple how your marriage, considered both a Sacrament and Vocation by the Church, is fulfilling its mandate to be the visible sign of God’s invisible love. Do you strive always to treat each other as God loves, in total self-giving, with mercy and forgiveness acting as strong pillars of your marriage? This Lent, make your Lenten journey a time to pray together and to work as a couple to strengthen one of the most important parts of your life, your marriage. (Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Piotr Jurzyk, Rev. Bernard (Mike) Francis, Franciscan Fathers, O.F.M., Grandparents & the Elderly, Rev. Patras Samuel Masih, & Rev. Tony O’Dell, O.M.I.

VOCATION SEEDS – Like the forgiving father of Luke’s Gospel, God welcomes us home in spite of our sinfulness, and calls us to a life of holiness. Where are you at home? Are you being called to a life as an ordained or a consecrated person? If God is calling you, to be a priest, religious or deacon, 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 \$2,775.00. Thank you for your generosity!