

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 26th, 2025

Today we begin the consecutive reading of St. Luke's Gospel, which was originally joined to Luke's other work, the Acts of the Apostles. The way the story is told prepares us for what happens in Acts. When the Jews returned home after the exile in Babylon, the nation had to be rebuilt. The Persians entrusted this task to Ezra. Ezra brought back with him from Babylon the book of the law of Moses which he solemnly read to the people (First Reading). Thus he called upon them to rededicate themselves to God. The Gospel shows Jesus too proclaiming the word of God. In the synagogue at Nazareth, He makes His own a passage from Isaiah, and uses it to announce a programme for His ministry. He is sent, not to the wealthy or the powerful, but to the poor and the lowly, the oppressed and the suffering. Here we see St. Luke's concern for the poor and the afflicted. Who are the poor? The poor are all dispossessed of this world, all those who are waiting for liberation. The good news must not be limited to spiritual blessings only. But the poor are also those who live on bread alone and who never hear the Word of God.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 26 th <i>3rd Sunday in OT</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, January 27 th <i>St. Angela Merici; Virgin</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, January 28 th <i>St. Thomas Aquinas; Doctor</i>	12 pm	<i>Intentions of Ann Denny</i>	By Patty & Janet
Wednesday, January 29 th <i>Ordinary Time</i>	12 pm 4 pm	C A N C E L E D	
Thursday, January 30 th <i>Ordinary Time</i>	12 pm	+ <i>Joseph Cseh Sr.</i>	By the Lehmanns
Friday, January 31 st <i>St. John Bosco</i>	9 am	C A N C E L E D	
Saturday, February 1 st <i>Ordinary Time</i>	5 pm	+ <i>June Lorentz</i> + <i>Shirley Baessler</i>	By the Lorentz family By Cathy Baessler
Sunday, February 2 nd <i>Presentation of the Lord</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	-

History of the Catholic Church (#60) – Then at a public sacrifice a pagan priest claimed the presence of Christians at the ceremony invalidated the sacrifice and thus endangered the state. It was the final straw. By a decree of February 303, Diocletian ordered all Christians places of worship to be destroyed and their sacred books handed over; Christians were forbidden to assemble and were to be denied the protection of the laws. The first church destroyed was an imposing edifice that stood adjacent to the royal palace itself in Nicomedia; the Emperor watched from a window as his soldiers broke down the church's door and ransacked the place, burning the ornaments and holy Scriptures.

USHERS NEEDED! – If you are able, please consider volunteering as an usher for Saturday or Sunday Mass. Contact the office or speak with Jim Hehn.

BIBLE SUNDAY – Sunday of the Word of God: “I hope in your Word” (Psalm 119:74). The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time marks the celebration of Bible Sunday in the Diocese of Hamilton. At the conclusion of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis encouraged every Christian community to choose one Sunday a year to renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and widely diffused. Our celebration of Bible Sunday is a call to listen to how #TheBibleSpeaks in our hearts and within our communities of faith. This year, within the context of the Jubilee, we celebrate the Sacred Scriptures as a great source of hope for all the faithful. The Pastoral Offices of the Diocese of Hamilton have prepared a wide variety of resources for youth and adults in celebration of Bible Sunday 2025. Visit our website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/thebiblespeaks/> for more information.

ALPHA 2025 – St. Mark's Parish, 55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener. Thursday evenings, Feb. 20 to May 1, 6:30 to 9:15. Alpha is an 11-week program that brings adults together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus. It's an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting. We start each session with a delicious home-made meal. After dinner, we watch a video and then break into small groups to ask questions, share thoughts and explore answers. All are welcome! For more information or to sign up, please contact Ron Denomme at stmarkalpha@gmail.com or 226-748-3210.

ST. AGNES EDUCATION CAFÉ - Families today can be faced with many challenges: mental health, addiction, division, financial stress & beyond. Even the strongest of families can suffer under the pressure. How can we draw on our faith to persevere with unshakeable hope despite the struggles? Join us for the next St. Agnes Education Café: “Our Families: Signs of Hope Amid the Challenges” with Teresa Hartnett, Director, Family Ministry, Diocese of Hamilton. Sun. January 26th 2:00-3:30pm, St. Agnes Parish.

RESTART – Refresh, Renew, Revive – Struggling after divorce or separation? Join us for learning, support and fun on Friday evenings. Held the 2nd & 3rd Fridays of each month. These get-togethers offer continual support and insights for people as they journey through the divorce/separation process and beyond. Join in-person (700 King St. West, Hamilton), or by ZOOM. Register for the sessions here: <https://sites.google.com/view/hamilton-restart/home>, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249 or familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com, or if you plan to attend in person and for the zoom link if joining online. We look forward to seeing you!

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Ralph Diodati, Rev. David Lewis, Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, C.M.I., Rev. Robert Sims, & Rev. Arpee Nicolas Urquico.

VOCATION SEEDS – You are the body of Christ; every one of you is a member of it. As a member of the body, we serve different roles. Are you willing to do your part? 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 \$8,060.00. Thank you for your generosity!