

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 1st, 2024

The purpose of Advent is to help us prepare for Christmas. One can't understand the message of Christmas unless we are familiar with at least the broad outlines of the history of salvation. The Advent liturgy relives in a microcosmic way the history of Israel, viewing it through the eyes of Christian faith. It shows that all of that history was pointing and leading towards Jesus. He was the One who fulfilled the messianic prophecies. Advent takes us back in time so that we may appreciate the greatness of what we are heirs to. We are the heirs to the promises God made to the prophets. Advent helps us to appreciate the great blessings God has given us in Christ. Today's First Reading points to the first coming of Christ. It says that the Messiah will be descendants from the stock of David, and his reign will be marked by wisdom, justice, and integrity. The Gospel deals with the Second Coming of Christ. The early Christians believed that the Second Coming was near and would be preceded by cosmic signs. The disciples are urged to await the Lord's coming with confidence, vigilance and prayer. How to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ is also the topic of the Second Reading.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 1 st <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, December 2 nd <i>Advent</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, December 3 rd <i>St. Francis Xavier</i>	9 am	<i>Intentions of the Pallottine Fathers</i>	By Bob & Linda Myers
Wednesday, December 4 th <i>St. John Damascene, Doctor</i>	9 am 4 pm	<i>Intentions of Amanda Fonseca</i> C A N C E L E D (Linwood)	By the Family -
Thursday, December 5 th <i>Advent</i>	9 am	<i>Intentions of Carol Awrey</i>	By her friends
Friday, December 6 th <i>St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	9 am	+ <i>John & Rita Black</i>	By John & Christine Dixon
Saturday, December 7 th <i>St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Joseph & Agnes Koebel</i> + <i>Frances Wagner</i>	By the Family By Wagner family
Sunday, December 8 th <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	-

History of the Catholic Church (#52) – the Catholic Church met the threat of disintegration from within by welding a system of authority out of bishop, canon, and creed. But an even more devastating threat came from without, in the form of the omnipotent Roman state. The persecution of the Church by Rome lasted over two centuries and contributed greatly to the spread of the Church – the blood of martyrs being the seed of Christians, as Tertulian said. The era of persecutions ended not with a whimper but with a bang when the Emperor himself, Constantine, went over to the side of the Christians.

2024 Advent Daily Challenge

Journey to Christmas with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph & Blessed Bartolo Longo! Begin your challenge with finding some info about Blessed Bartolo Longo. Each day pray the [Litany of St. Joseph](#), fulfill the challenge of the day, and ponder a corresponding trait of St. Joseph.

Sunday, Dec. 1 – Light of Patriarchs; take St. Joseph as your guardian this Advent and invite him to assist you with your daily activities.

Monday, Dec. 2 – Joseph most just; through the intercession of St. Joseph offer yourself to Jesus, each day of your life, all your actions, thoughts, feelings, sufferings, and worries. Say prayer: “[Act of Love](#)”.

Tuesday, Dec. 3 – Spouse of the Mother of God; in front of a statute or picture of the BVM give yourself up to Her as St. Joseph did.

Wednesday, Dec. 4 – Protector of Holy Church; Say prayers: “[Act of Faith](#), [Act of Hope](#) & [Act of Love](#)” for nonbelievers and Christians who left the Church.

Thursday, Dec. 5 – Glory of family life; discern your feelings toward people around you and thank God for their presence (say a prayer for them).

Friday, Dec, 6 – Joseph most prudent; avoid people and occasions prompting you to sin.

Saturday, Dec. 7 – Joseph most strong; entrust St. Joseph with a person, object, or passion that holds you back in striving for holiness of life. Say the [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#) as restitution.

VATICAN II GROUP STUDY – The first meeting will be this Wednesday, December 4th at 7pm in the parish hall. All subsequent meetings will be on Saturday mornings. The next meeting will be on Saturday, December 21st at 10 am.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS CHRISTMAS PARTY – Thursday, December 12th. We invite all women of the parish to an evening of joy, laughter, and delicious food! Join us for Mass at 5pm, followed by a potluck dinner in the parish hall. If anyone needs a ride call Sharon by Dec 6th at 519.570.6453. We will be collecting donations to Marillac place (suggestions include new baby toys and clothes, new clothing items for women, diapers & wipes).

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR – Please remember the following in your prayers: Most Rev. Wayne Lobsinger, Rev. Carlos Diaz, Order of Preachers (Dominican, O.P.), Rev. Fulber Jonas Ahouansou, Rev. John Van Hees, & Engaged Couples.

VOCATION SEEDS – "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life." Are worldly cares dragging you down? Be a follower of the Master. 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 \$4,750.00. Thank you for your generosity!