

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 22nd, 2024

When Micah was writing (late 8th century BC) Jerusalem was under siege and David's dynasty was in jeopardy. But salvation would come from a comparatively insignificant place – Bethlehem. From there a new leader would come to gather together the scattered exiles and unite the nation once more. Christians see this promise as foreshadowing the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who was born in Bethlehem and descended from the line of David. The Gospel tells the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Both are pregnant. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth praises Mary and hints at the uniqueness of the child she has conceived. The Second Reading states that Jesus Christ didn't come to offer the sacrifices of the old law, but to do the will of God. His sacrifice was essentially one of obedience (an obedience which meant accepting death on a cross). His one perfect sacrifice transcended and replaced all the former sacrifices. His sacrifice did what the sacrifices of the Mosaic Law were unable to do; it brought about reconciliation between God and His people.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 22 nd <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	
Monday, December 23 rd <i>St. John of Kanty</i>	-	-	-
Tuesday, December 24 th <i>Christmas Vigil</i>	5 pm 7 pm 11 pm	+ <i>Dolores Bugera</i> <i>Intentions of the</i> <i>Sullivan/Holyoak family</i> <i>Intentions of Carol Awrey</i>	By the Estate By Fr. Irenaeus By John & Christine Dixon
Wednesday, December 25 th <i>Christmas – Nativity of the Lord</i>	9 am 11 am	+ <i>John & Rita Black</i> (Linwood) + <i>Margaret Karley</i>	By John & Christine Dixon By the Estate
Thursday, December 26 th <i>St. Stephen</i>	9 am	+ <i>Daniel & Lucille Kelley</i>	By the Estate
Friday, December 27 th <i>St. John, Apostle & Evangelist</i>	9 am	+ <i>Br. Gregory Obrycki, SAC</i>	By Fr. Irenaeus
Saturday, December 28 st <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	5 pm	+ <i>Theresa Miller</i>	By Peter & Ornella Miller & family
Sunday, December 29 th <i>Holy Family</i>	9 am 11 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i> <i>Missa Pro Populo (Linwood)</i>	-

History of the Catholic Church (#55) – Edicts were now issued that forced the provincial governors to persecute Christians. Septimius Severus (193-211) was the first to issue such an edict. Powerful written protests against the cruelty of this persecution were penned by Tertullian in his *Ad Nationes* (195) and *Ad Scapulam* (211). This persecution subsided with the advent of a new Emperor, Alexander, a gentle and virtuous person who placed Jesus in his domestic pantheon with the other Roman gods. Alexander's assassination and the accession of Maximin in 235 again kindled the fires, but when Philip the Arabian (244-49) an Emperor friendly to the Christians, came to power, relative peace again ensued.

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. 22 – Joseph most faithful; look at God as your own Father knowing that he always wants your goodness.

Monday, Dec. 23 – Servant of Christ; plan to have a quiet moment that you will spend only with God.

Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Guardian of the Redeemer; thank St. Joseph for his intercession during this advent, and together with him and the blessed virgin Mary be joyful with the nativity of the Lord.

Wednesday, Dec. 25 – Foster father of the Son of God; glorify God for the gift of His Son – divine Love incarnate. Eat, drink, and be merry!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE – Come Home for Christmas!

Christmas Eve: 5pm Linwood, 7pm St. Clements, 11pm St. Clements
Christmas Day: 9am St. Clements, 11am Linwood
New Year's Eve: 5pm St. Clements
New Year's Day: 9am St. Clements, 11am Linwood

JUBILEE OF HOPE, 2025 – The Diocese of Hamilton joins the celebration of the Global Church in this Ordinary Jubilee Year, 2025, as “Pilgrims of Hope!” We are all invited to journey through this year drawing closer to God through prayer, service and experiences of renewal. Six churches have been designated as pilgrimage sites across the Diocese, welcoming you as a visitor over the course of the Jubilee to come and pray. Resources, information and locations of the pilgrimage sites are all made available on the Diocesan Website: www.hamiltondiocese.com. Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter's in Rome on Christmas Eve, inaugurating the Jubilee Year. In Cathedrals around the world and in our Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, the Holy Year will be inaugurated on December 28-29, 2024, the Feast of the Holy Family. The year will be officially launched in each Parish in the Diocese on this same day. The Jubilee Year of Hope will conclude on January 6, 2026. “In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring... may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope.” Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*.

DIocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar – Please remember the following in your prayers: Rev. Jerek Scherber, L.C., Rev. Adam Zettel, L.C., Rev. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I., & Rev. Rijo Jose, C.M.I.

VOCATION SEEDS – Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest, deacon or religious to carry the Good News of God's great Love? 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 \$4,360.00. Thank you for your generosity!