



**St. John's Parish**  
Roman Catholic Church

office@stjohnskitchener.ca  
519 745 7855  
85 Strange St., Kitchener

# THE WORD OF GOD MUST BE “RUMINATED”

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - NOVEMBER 3, 2024

In today's liturgy, the Gospel presents a scribe who approaches Jesus and asks him: "Which commandment is the first of all?" (Mk 12:28). Jesus responds by citing Scripture and stating that the first commandment is to love God; from this one then derives the second, as a natural consequence: to love one's neighbour as oneself (cf. vv. 29-31). Hearing this response, the scribe not only recognises that he is right, but in doing so, in recognising that he is right, he repeats the same words Jesus had said: "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that... to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbour as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices" (vv. 32-33).

We can ask ourselves, in giving his assent, why did that scribe feel the need to repeat Jesus' same words? This repetition seems to be more surprising if we think that this is the Gospel of Mark, who has a very concise style. So, what could this repetition mean? This repetition is a teaching for all of us who are listening. For the Word of the Lord cannot be received as any other type of news. The Word of the Lord should be repeated, made one's own, safeguarded. The monastic tradition of the monks, uses an audacious but very concrete term. It goes like this: the Word of God must be "ruminated". "To ruminate" the Word of God. We could say that it is so nutritious that it must reach every aspect of life: to involve, as Jesus says today, the entire heart, the entire soul, the entire mind, all of our strength (cf. v. 30). The Word of the Lord must resound, echo and re-echo within us. When there is this interior echo that repeats itself, it means that the Lord dwells in the heart. And he says to us, just as he did to that good scribe in the Gospel: "You are not far from the kingdom of God" (v. 34).

Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord does not seek skilled commentators of the Scriptures, as much as he seeks docile hearts that, welcoming his Word, allow themselves to be changed within. This is why it is so important to be familiar with the Gospel, to always have it at hand — even a small-sized Gospel in our pockets, in our purses to read and reread, to be passionate about it. When we do this, Jesus, the Word of the Father, enters into our hearts, he becomes intimate with us and we bear fruit in Him. Let us take for example today's Gospel: it is not enough to read it and understand that we should love God and our neighbour. It is necessary that this commandment, which is the "great commandment", resound in us, that it be assimilated, that it become the voice of our conscience. This way, it does not remain a dead letter, in the drawer of the heart, because the Holy Spirit makes the seed of that Word germinate in us. And the Word of God works, it is always in motion, it is living and active (cf. Heb 4:12). So each one of us can become a living, different and original "translation", not a repetition but a living, different and original "translation" of the one Word of love that God gives us. This is what we see in the lives of the Saints for example. None of them is the same as another. They are all different, but with the same Word of God.

Today, therefore, let us take the example of this scribe. Let us repeat Jesus' words, making them resound in us: "To love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength and my neighbour as myself". And let us ask ourselves: does this commandment truly orient my life? Does this commandment resonate in my daily life? It would be good this evening, before going to sleep, to make an examination of conscience on this Word, to see if we have loved the Lord today and if we have done a little good to those we happened to meet. May every encounter bring about a little bit of good, a little bit of love that comes from this Word. May the Virgin Mary, in whom the Word of God was made flesh, teach us to welcome the living word of the Gospel in our hearts.

## St. John's Catholic Women's League Day of Spirituality

Saturday, November 9, in the parish hall. Gather at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and refreshments. Guest Speaker 10:00 a.m. Rev. Deacon Moices Caballero speaking on "Make Your Life a Daily Eucharist". The morning ends with Midday Prayer and Adoration upstairs in the church. All are welcome to attend, including men. For further information, contact Wende Bedirian 226-972-0342 or [wendebedirian@gmail.com](mailto:wendebedirian@gmail.com)

### El Arte de la Escucha - padre Pablo Voisin

Escuchar es un arte. Al igual que otros hábitos buenos, la escucha activa requiere tiempo, práctica y voluntad. Escuchar a Dios implica no sólo el uso de la mente: hace falta también el corazón y nos lleva a la obediencia auténtica, produciendo muchos frutos buenos en nuestra vida. El padre Pablo nos guiará a crecer en el arte de la escucha: a Dios, a la iglesia, a los demás y a uno mismo. Esta actividad será el **próximo domingo 10 de noviembre de 2 a 5pm.** en el salón parroquial.

### Talleres de Oración y Vida les invita al RETIRO DE ADVIENTO "Destino Materno"

María es la mejor maestra para conocer a su hijo Jesús. En este Retiro nos encontraremos con Ella para vivir el tiempo de Adviento con otros ojos y así prepararnos para la Navidad.

El Sábado 30 de Noviembre de 8 am a 2:30 pm, traer: Almuerzo, Biblia, Cuaderno y Lápiz.

Se sugiere una donación voluntaria para cubrir materiales. Regístrate a través de la página web:

[www.parroquiaguadalupe.ca](http://www.parroquiaguadalupe.ca)

### ENGLISH SCHEDULE

#### Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, November 2 **5:00 PM**  
+Edward Yutronkie +William & Stella Dombroskie  
Sunday, November 3 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, November 5 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, November 6 **11:00 AM**

Thursday, November 7 **11:00 AM**  
+Fr. George Stortz

Friday, November 8 **11:00 AM**  
+Dave & Kathy Buhlman

#### Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, November 9 **5:00 PM**  
+Edmund Bleskie  
Sunday, November 10 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

### HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

#### XXXI Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Sabado 2 de noviembre **7:00 PM**  
Domingo 3 de noviembre **11:00 AM**  
Domingo 3 de noviembre **1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 5 de noviembre **12:00 PM**

Miércoles 6 de noviembre **12:00 PM**

Jueves 7 de noviembre **12:00 PM**

Viernes 8 de noviembre **12:00 PM**

#### XXXII Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Sabado 9 de noviembre **7:00 PM**  
+Victoriana Castillo + Ana Josefa Murillo +Julia Batista  
Domingo 10 de noviembre **11:00 AM**  
Domingo 10 de noviembre **1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

**Heartache to Healing - Grief Support Group at St. Michael Parish, Waterloo** - Grief support provides companionship on the long journey through the grief process. Our support group follows the process developed by Dr. Bill Webster, an experienced leader in grief counselling. All who have suffered a loss are welcome, regardless of how much time has passed since your loss. A monthly informal drop-in support is available at St. Michael Parish on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Parish Resource Centre/Library.

**St. Francis of Assisi Church – Christmas Bazaar:** All are invited to attend our annual bazaar, taking place on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> from 9AM – 1PM in our Parish Hall (49 Blueridge Ave. Kitchener)! There are many great high value raffle prizes, fresh home-made pies, a "treasure trove" of special items and much more! We hope to see you there!