



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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DON'T BE AFRAID TO LOSE THE LITTLE YOU HAVE

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - NOVEMBER 10, 2024

The scene described in the Gospel of today's Liturgy takes place inside the Temple of Jerusalem. Jesus looks, he looks at what is happening in this most sacred of places; and he sees how the scribes love to walk around to be seen, greeted and revered, and in order to have the places of honour. And Jesus adds that they "devour widows' houses and recite long prayers in order to be seen" (cf. Mk 12:40). At the same time, another scene catches his eyes: a poor widow, precisely one of those exploited by the powers that be, puts "everything she had, her whole living" (Mk 12:44) in the Temple treasury. This is what the Gospel says, she puts everything she had to live on in the treasury. The Gospel presents us with this striking contrast: the rich who give from their surplus wealth to make themselves seen, and a poor woman, who without seeming to, offers every little bit she has. Two symbols of human attitudes.

Jesus watches the two scenes. And it is this very verb — "to watch" — that sums up his teaching: "we must watch out for" those who live their faith with duplicity, like the scribes, so as not to become like them; whereas we must "watch" the widow, and take her as a model. Let us reflect on this: to watch out for hypocrites and to watch the poor widow.

First of all, to watch out for hypocrites, that is, to be careful not to base our life on the cult of appearances, the external, and the exaggerated care of one's own image. And most importantly, to be careful not to bend faith around our own interests. In the name of God, those scribes covered-up their own vainglory, and even worse, they used religion to conduct their own affairs, abusing their authority and exploiting the poor. Here we see that very bad attitude that we still see in many places today, clericalism, this being above the humble, exploiting them, "beating" them, considering oneself perfect. This is the evil of clericalism. This is a warning for all time and for everyone, Church and society: never take advantage of one's role to crush others, never make money off the backs of the weakest! And to watch out so as not to fall into vanity, so as not to be fixated on appearances, losing what is essential and living superficially. Let us ask ourselves, it will help us: do we want to be appreciated and gratified by what we say and what we do, or rather to be of service to God and neighbour, especially the weakest? Let us watch out for falsehood of the heart, for hypocrisy which is a dangerous illness of the soul! It is a dualism of thought, a dual judgement, as the word itself says: "to judge below", to appear one way and "hypo", beneath, to think in a different way. Doubles, people with double souls, a duality of the soul.

And in order to heal this illness, Jesus invites us to watch the poor widow. The Lord denounces the exploitation of this woman, who, in making her offering, must return home without even the little she had to live on. How important it is to free the sacred from ties with money! Jesus had already said it elsewhere: you cannot serve two masters. Either you serve God — and we think he will say "or the devil", no — either God or money. He is a master, and Jesus says we must not serve him. But, at the same time, Jesus praises the fact that this widow puts all she has into the treasury. She has nothing left, but finds her everything in God. She is not afraid of losing the little she has because she trusts in God's abundance, and God's abundance multiplies the joy of those who give. This also makes us think of that other widow, the one of the prophet Elijah, who was about to make a flatbread with the last of her flour and the last of her oil; Elijah says to her: "Feed me" and she gives; and the flour never runs out, it is a miracle (cf. 1 Kings 17:9-16). In the face of people's generosity, the Lord always goes further, is more generous. But it is He, not our avarice. This is why Jesus proposes her as a teacher of faith, this woman: she does not go to the Temple to clear her conscience, she does not pray to make herself seen, she does not show off her faith, but she gives from her heart generously and freely. The sound of her few coins is more beautiful than the grandiose offerings of the rich, since they express a life sincerely dedicated to God, a faith that does not live by appearances but by unconditional trust. Let us learn from her: a faith without external frills, but interiorly sincere; a faith composed of humble love for God and for our brothers and sisters. And now let us turn to the Virgin Mary, who with a humble and transparent heart made her entire life a gift for God and for his people.

Donation Drive for Sanguen Health Centre/Sanguen Community Health Van

St John's Catholic Women's League is collecting donations for Sanguen Health Centre/Sanguen Community Health Van, an organization dedicated to providing compassionate care and support to those facing marginalization due to substance use, mental health challenges, homelessness, and chronic poverty. New Items only. Blankets and sleeping bags, coats, gloves, socks, underwear, personal hygiene products (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, feminine pads). Let's come together as a parish community to support Sanguen Health Centre and help bring hope to those in need. Items can be dropped off in the narthex, the weekends of November 16 & 17 and November 23 & 24. For more information, please contact [<wendebedirian@gmail.com>](mailto:wendebedirian@gmail.com)

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED ACN Canada is organizing RED WEDNESDAY, November 20. It is a day to pray for persecuted Christians – a Mass, a Vigil, a Rosary, a prayer. Whatever you do, big or small, it will go straight to the heart of ACN project partners who suffer from persecution. Our prayer is their strength! Check [here](#) to find more information and resources!

AN ADVENT HYMN FESTIVAL, sponsored by the Diocesan Choir, will take place on Sunday, December 1st at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish, 260 Herkimer Street, Hamilton. No registration is required. No charge – however a good will offering will go to St. Joseph Parish Neighbours in Need Program. Check out the Diocesan website!

THE ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE AT MOUNT MARY RETREAT CENTRE, ANCASTER – Come Home for Christmas, takes place on Sunday, December 1st from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. Activities for children include cookie decorating, face painting, and ornament making. Local vendors will sell small items. Refreshments for all. No entry fee. Donations of unused socks, gloves, hats, scarves and soap, for DeMazenod Door Outreach are welcome.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, November 9 **5:00 PM**
+Dan Hanlon +Edmund Bleskie

Sunday, November 10 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, November 12 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, November 13 **11:00 AM**
+Leo Cormier

Thursday, November 14 **11:00 AM**
+Hal de La Marandiere

Friday, November 15 **11:00 AM**

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, November 16 **5:00 PM**
+Fr. George Stortz

Sunday, November 17 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

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

Martes 12 de noviembre **12:00 PM**
+Marvin Edgardo Castillo Courtade

Miércoles 13 de noviembre **12:00 PM**
+Marvin Edgardo Castillo Courtade

Jueves 14 de noviembre **12:00 PM**
+Marvin Edgardo Castillo Courtade

Viernes 15 de noviembre **12:00 PM**
+Marvin Edgardo Castillo Courtade

XXXIII Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Sabado 16 de noviembre **7:00 PM**
+Marvin Edgardo Castillo Courtade

Domingo 17 de noviembre **11:00 AM**

Domingo 17 de noviembre **1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad 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. Registrase a través de la página web:

www.parroquiaquadalupe.ca