



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

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

# IT SPEAKS TO YOUR HEART TODAY

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 26, 2025

In the Gospel of today's liturgy, we see Jesus beginning his preaching (cf. Lk 4:14-21): it is Jesus' first sermon. He goes to Nazareth, where he grew up, and participates in prayer in the synagogue. He gets up to read and, in the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, he finds the passage regarding the Messiah who proclaims a message of consolation and liberation for the poor and oppressed (cf. Is 61:1-2). At the end of the reading, "the eyes of all... were fixed on him" (v. 20). And Jesus begins by saying: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled" (v. 21). Let us dwell on this today. It is the first word of Jesus' preaching recorded in the Gospel of Luke. Pronounced by the Lord, it indicates a "today" that runs through all ages and always remains valid. The Word of God is always "today". It begins with a "today": when you read the Word of God, a "today" begins in your soul, if you understand it well. Today. Isaiah's prophecy dates back to earlier centuries, but Jesus, "in the power of the Spirit" (v. 14), makes it relevant and, above all, brings it to fulfilment, and shows how to receive the Word of God: today. It is not like ancient history, no: today. It speaks to your heart today.

Jesus' fellow countrymen are struck by his word. Even though, clouded by prejudice, they do not believe him, they realize that his teaching is different from that of the other teachers (cf. v. 22): they sense that there is more to Jesus. What is there? There is the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes it happens that our sermons and our teachings remain generic, abstract; they do not touch the soul and the life of the people. And why? Because they lack the power of this today; what Jesus "fills with meaning" in the power of the Spirit, is today. He is speaking to you today. Yes, at times one hears impeccable conferences, well-constructed speeches, which however, do not move the heart and so everything remains as before. Even many homilies — I say this with respect but with pain — are abstract, and instead of awakening the soul, they put it to sleep. When the faithful start looking at their watches — "when will this end?" — they put the soul to sleep. Preaching runs this risk: without the anointing of the Spirit, it impoverishes the Word of God, and deteriorates to moralism or abstract concepts; it presents the Gospel with detachment, as if it were outside time, far from reality. And this is not the way. But a word in which the power of today does not pulsate, is not worthy of Jesus and does not help people's lives. This is why those who preach, please, should be the first to experience the today of Jesus, in order to be able to communicate it in the today of others. And if they want to give lectures, conferences, let them do so, but elsewhere, not at the time of the homily where they must give the Word in a way that rouses hearts.

Dear brothers and sisters, on this Sunday of the Word of God, I would like to thank the preachers and proclaimers of the Gospel who remain faithful to the Word that rouses the heart, who remain faithful to "today". Let us pray for them, that they may live the today of Jesus, the sweet power of his Spirit that makes the Scriptures come alive. The Word of God, is indeed living and active (cf. Heb 4:12); it changes us, it enters into our affairs, it illuminates our daily lives, it comforts and brings order. Let us remember: the Word of God transforms an ordinary day into the today in which God speaks to us. So, let us pick up the Gospel and choose a small passage to read and re-read each day. Keep the Gospel in your pocket or in your bag, to read it on your travels, at any time, and to read it calmly. In time, we will discover that these words are made especially for us, for our life. They will help us welcome each day with a better, more serene outlook because when the Gospel enters into today's world, it fills it with God. I would like to make a suggestion. On the Sundays of this liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke, the Gospel of mercy, is proclaimed. Why not also read it personally, all of it, one small passage each day? A short passage. Let us familiarize ourselves with the Gospel. It will bring us the newness and joy of God!

The Word of God is also the beacon that guides the synodal journey that has begun throughout the Church. As we strive to listen to each other with attention and discernment — because it is not about conducting an inquiry on opinions, no, but about discerning the Word, there — let us listen together to the Word of God and to the Holy Spirit. And may Our Lady obtain for us the perseverance to nourish ourselves with the Gospel every day.

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Feast of St. Blaise.** The traditional blessing for throats will be offered after the weekend Masses: Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**El 3 de febrero es la fiesta de San Blas:** La bendición de las gargantas en honor a este santo se tendrá después de las Misas del fin de semana del sábado 1 y domingo 2 de febrero.

## ENGLISH SCHEDULE

### *Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Saturday, January 25, 2025 **5:00 PM**

+Rose & Joe Jr. Wytrwal

Sunday, January 26, 2025 **9:00 AM**

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 **11:00 AM**

*St. Thomas Aquinas*

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 **11:00 AM**

For the intentions of Darren Holub

Thursday, January 30, 2025 **11:00 AM**

For the intentions of Bridget, Gudula & Brigitta Bierhals

Friday, January 31, 2025 **11:00 AM**

*St. John Bosco*

+Ron Craig

### *Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Saturday, February 1, 2025 **5:00 PM**

+John Basler

Sunday, February 2, 2025 **9:00 AM**

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

## HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

### *III Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario*

Sabado 25 de enero, 2025 **7:00 PM**

+Cynthia Gomez +Rina Aguirre +Arturo Chavez

Domingo 26 de enero, 2025 **11:00 AM & 1:00PM**

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 28 de enero, 2025 **12:00 PM**

*St. Tomás de Aquino*

+Cynthia Gomez +Rina Aguirre

Miércoles 29 de Enero, 2025 **12:00 PM**

+Cynthia Gomez +Rina Aguirre

Jueves 30 de enero, 2025 **12:00 PM**

+Cynthia Gomez +Rina Aguirre

Viernes 31 de enero, 2025 **12:00 PM**

*San Juan Bosco*

+Cynthia Gomez +Rina Aguirre

### *IV Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario*

Sabado 1 de febrero, 2025 **7:00 PM**

+Cynthia Gomez +Rina Aguirre +Alberto Hernandez

+Marvin Castillo Courtade

Domingo 2 de febrero, 2025 **11:00 AM & 1:00PM**

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

## Thank you from St Vincent De Paul

Dear Parishioners of St John's and Our Lady of Guadalupe and supporters of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP). Over the last couple of months, we have witnessed your outstanding generosity.

First came the CWL sponsored food drive which resulted in our cupboards being fully stocked of non-perishable items (peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, soup, etc).

Next came the Angel Tree contributions. For this years' 2024 initiative, SSVP collected a whopping \$5,611.

And last, but certainly not least, came our regular monthly donations for the month of December, 2024.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul was able to distribute \$2,175 in Walmart gift cards to families who were unable to register in time for the House of Friendship's deadline or exceeded the House of Friendship's goal. In addition, gift cards were distributed to families in our own parish community.

Thank you, once again, for your continued generosity. With your help, your neighbours were able to enjoy the 2024 Christmas season. Wishing you good health and happiness in 2025. God bless you and your family.

## Agradecimiento de San Vicente De Paúl

A nuestros hermanos de la parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: Durante los últimos meses, en la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl hemos sido testigos de su extraordinaria generosidad.

Primero vino la colecta de alimentos impulsada por The Catholic Women's League, que lleno nuestros estantes de artículos no perecederos (mantequilla de maní, pasta, salsa para pasta, sopa, etc.).

Luego las donaciones a través del Angel Tree. Estas actividades recaudaron un total de \$5,611.

Y por último, pero no menos importante, las donaciones fueron muy útiles las donaciones mensuales de diciembre.

La Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl pudo distribuir \$2,175 en tarjetas de regalo a familias en necesidad, dando prioridad a familias de la comunidad hispana. Gracias, una vez más, por su continua generosidad. Con tu ayuda, miembros de la comunidad pudieron tener una mejor navidad. Les deseamos buena salud y felicidad en el 2025. Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a su familia.