



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

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

# YOU COULD BE LEFT OUT

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 24, 2025

Today's Gospel passage (cf. Lk: 13 22-30) presents Jesus teaching in towns and villages, on his way to Jerusalem where he knows he will die on the Cross for the salvation of us all. In this context, a man asks a question, who addresses him saying: "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" (v. 23). The question had been a source of debate at that time — how many will be saved, how many not ... — and there were several ways to interpret Scriptures on the issue, depending on the texts chosen. Jesus, however, reverses the question — which stresses quantity, that is: "are they few?..." — and instead places the question in the context of responsibility, inviting us to make good use of the present. Indeed, he says: "Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able" (v. 24).

With these words, Jesus makes it clear that it is not a matter of numbers, there is no "limited number" in Paradise! Rather, it is a case of taking the right way from now, and this right way is for everyone, but it is narrow. This is the problem. Jesus does not want to give us false hopes by saying: "Yes, do not worry, it is easy, there is a beautiful highway with a large gate at the end ....". He does not say this. He tells us things as they truly are: the doorway is narrow. In what sense? In the sense that, in order to save oneself, one has to love God and neighbour, and this is uncomfortable! It is a "narrow doorway" because it is demanding. Love is always demanding. It requires commitment, indeed, "effort", that is, a determined and persevering willingness to live according to the Gospel. Saint Paul calls it "the good fight of the faith" (1 Tim 6:12). It takes a daily, all-day effort to love God and neighbour.

And in order to explain himself better, Jesus tells a parable. There is a householder who represents the Lord. His house symbolizes eternal life, thus salvation. And here the image of the door returns. Jesus says: "When once the householder has risen up and shut the door, you will begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying: 'Lord, open to us'. He will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from'" (Lk 13: 25). These people will then attempt to claim his acquaintance, reminding the householder: "I ate and drank with you ... I listened to your advice, to your public teaching ..." (cf. 26); "I was there when you held that talk ...". But the Lord will repeat that he does not know them and he calls them "workers of iniquity". Here is the problem! The Lord will not recognize us for our claims — "But look, Lord, I used to belong to that association, I was friends with this monsignor, this cardinal, this priest ...". No, claims do not count, they do not count. The Lord will recognize us only for our humble life and a good life, a life of faith that resulted in good works.

And for us Christians, this means that we are called to establish a true communion with Jesus, praying, going to Church, drawing near to the Sacraments and nourishing ourselves of his Word. This keeps us in the faith, nourishes our hope, rekindles our charity. And thus, with God's grace, we can and must live our lives for the good of our brothers and sisters, fighting against every kind of evil and injustice.

May the Virgin Mary help us in this. She went through the narrow door that is Jesus. She welcomed him with all her heart and she followed him every day of her life, even when she did not understand, even when a sword pierced her soul. This is why we invoke her as "Mary Gate of Heaven", a gate that traces the form of Jesus precisely: the door to God's heart, a demanding heart, but one that is open to us all.

*POPE FRANCIS — August 25, 2019*

## ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

### *Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*

<u>Saturday, August 23</u>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<u>Sunday, August 24</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	<b>9:00 AM</b>
<u>Tuesday, August 26</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Wednesday, August 27</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Thursday, August 28</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Friday, August 29</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>

### *Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

<u>Saturday, August 30</u>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<u>Sunday, August 31</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	<b>9:00 AM</b>

## MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

### *XXI Domingo Ordinario*

<u>Sabado 23 de Agosto</u>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<u>Domingo 24 de Agosto</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	<b>11:00 AM &amp; 1:00 PM</b>
<u>Martes 26 de Agosto</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<u>Miercoles 27 de Agosto</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<u>Jueves 28 de Agosto</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<u>Viernes 29 de Agosto</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>

### *XXII Domingo Ordinario*

<u>Sabado 30 de Agosto</u>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<u>Domingo 31 de Agosto</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	<b>11:00 AM &amp; 1:00 PM</b>

**MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH #150** Summer is often a little less hectic, so a perfect time to have a cold drink or coffee on a deck or patio and talk with your spouse. Discuss past happy memories, future goals, what things you love and where you are challenged. Time spent together is always good for a relationship and helps us connect in deeper ways. (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

**ENHANCING SELF-ESTEEM** - This program provides the opportunity to increase your self-awareness and to learn specific skills for building a positive self-esteem, which will assist you to feel stronger in all areas of your life. Issues covered during the course include taking responsibility for your own thoughts and feelings, positive ways to behave assertively and setting realistic goals for your future. The program will run Tuesdays from Sept. 23 – Nov. 25 from 7-9 pm and are held at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West Hamilton. Cost is \$35 for materials. Registration online can be found by going to [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com) and looking under Upcoming Events, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, or e-mail [familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com).

**YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT IN SEPTEMBER** Young Adults Night – Hanover Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations on Saturday, September 6th at Holy Family Parish (352 – 10th Avenue, Hanover, Ontario). The Young Adults Night will begin with a Holy Hour (7:00pm-8:00pm) in the church and will continue in the school with a social with food (8:00pm-8:30pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:30pm-9:30pm), and Compline (9:30pm). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/> For more information, please contact: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

**RETREAT AT THE CARMEL** The Carmel of St. Joseph Guild is hosting a fall retreat at the Carmelite Monastery on Saturday, September 27, 2025. This retreat is open to both women and men. The theme of the Retreat is "Hope from St Benedict Encyclical Spe Salvi" with Fr David Reitzel, presenter. The retreat will give everyone an opportunity to experience the graces and blessings of the Jubilee year. The day will begin with the Rosary, Holy Mass, lunch, Fr Reitzel, prayer and reflection closing with Adoration. The retreat will begin with Registration at 9:30 a.m. and will end with Adoration at 2:30 p.m. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. If you wish to attend, please register before Saturday, September 20 at [saintagatha@thecarmel.ca](mailto:saintagatha@thecarmel.ca) OR call 519.884.6700. Space is limited.