



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

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# FRIEND, GO UP HIGHER

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 31, 2025

This Sunday's Gospel passage (cf. Lk 14:7-14) shows us Jesus participating in a feast in the house of one of the head Pharisees. Jesus watches and observes how the guests run, make haste to get the best seats. It is rather common behaviour in our time too, and not only when we are invited to lunch: one frequently seeks a place of honour in order to assert a presumed superiority over others. In reality this race to the forefront harms both civil and ecclesial communities because it destroys fraternity. We all know these people: social climbers who always clamber upwards in order to move up, up.... They harm fraternity, they damage fraternity. Faced with this scene, Jesus recounts two short parables.

The first parable is addressed to one who is invited to a feast and Jesus exhorts him not to "sit down in a place of honour, lest a more eminent man than you be invited by him; and he who invited you both will come, and say to you, 'Please, move back, give place to this man'". An embarrassment! And "then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place" (cf. vv. 8-9). Jesus instead teaches us to behave in the opposite way: "when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher'" (v. 10). Thus, we should not seek the attention and regard of others on our own initiative but, if anything, let others offer them to us. Jesus always shows us the way of humility — we must learn the way of humility! — because it is the most authentic way, which also allows one to enjoy authentic relationships. True humility, not false humility, the kind they call in Piedmont, *mugna quacia*. No, not that kind. True humility.

In the second parable, Jesus addresses the one who invites and, referring to the method of selecting guests, says to him: "when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you" (vv. 13-14). Here too, Jesus goes completely against the tide, manifesting as always, the logic of God the Father. And he also adds the key by which to interpret this discourse of his. And what is the key? A promise: if you do this, you "will be repaid at the resurrection of the just" (v. 14). This means that those who behave in this way will receive divine compensation, far superior to human repayment: I do this favour for you expecting you to do one for me. No, this is not Christian. Humble generosity is Christian. Indeed, human repayment usually distorts relationships, making them "commercial" by bringing personal interest into a relationship that should be generous and free. Instead, Jesus encourages selfless generosity, to pave our way toward a much greater joy, the joy of partaking in the very love of God who awaits us, all of us, at the heavenly banquet.

May the Virgin Mary, "humble beyond all creatures and more exalted" (Dante, *Paradiso*, xxxiii, 2), help us to recognize ourselves as we are, that is, small; and to give joyfully, without repayment.

*POPE FRANCIS — September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019*

**Viernes Primero del Mes** (5 de septiembre): El Santísimo Sacramento se exhibirá para adoración silenciosa después de la Misa de 12:00 pm hasta las 2:00 pm y nuevamente de 5 a 7p.m.

A las 6 de la tarde se tendrá una Hora Santa, que concluirá con la Bendición con el Santísimo a las 7pm. Mientras el Santísimo esté expuesto, se ofrecerá el sacramento de Reconciliación.

## ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

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

Saturday, August 30 **5:00 PM**  
+Karl Friedrich +Dolores Sedlmeir

Sunday, August 31 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, September 2 **11:00 AM**  
+Karl Friedrich

Wednesday, Sept. 3 *Saint Gregory* **11:00 AM**

Thursday, September 4 **11:00 AM**  
+Catherin & Joseph Zaniewski

Friday, Sept. 5 *Saint Teresa de Calcutta* **11:00 AM**  
+Wanda & Byron Walker

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

Saturday, September 6 **5:00 PM**  
+William & Stella Dombroskie

Sunday, September 7 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

## MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

### *XXII Domingo Ordinario*

Sabado 30 de Agosto **7:00 PM**  
+Efrain Figueroa

Domingo 31 de Agosto **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 2 de Septiembre **12:00 PM**  
+Pablo Tito Bonilla

Miercoles 3 de Sept. *San Gregorio Magno* **12:00 PM**

Jueves 4 de Septiembre **12:00 PM**

Viernes 5 de Sept. *Santa Teresa de Calcutta* **12:00 PM**  
+Antonio Cruz

### *XXIII Domingo Ordinario*

Sabado 6 de Septiembre **7:00 PM**  
+Marvin Castillo Courtade +Carlos Carrillo

Domingo 7 de Septiembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

**First Friday of the Month**, September 5<sup>th</sup> Eucharistic Adoration will start at 10am, concluding with Benediction before the 11am Mass.

**CWL Meeting reminder:** Our next Catholic Women's League meeting will be taking place on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the church hall. We will be holding our annual fundraiser game for St. Vincent de Paul so if you are able, please bring a wrapped gift no more than \$10 in value. Any newcomers are always welcome.

## Minister of the Word Formation Workshop

Date: Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 9:30am to 3pm—Check-in begins at: 9am

Place: St. Michael Parish, 80 University Avenue West, Waterloo, ON N2L 3C7—Cost: \$35.00

Deadline for registration: Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at noon.

Register through the Diocese of Hamilton website under Upcoming Events/Workshops

<https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/2025/08/minister-of-the-word-formation-workshop-3/>

**Bible Study – The Book of Acts** – The Spread of the Kingdom by Jeff Cavins in 20 sessions. In the Acts of the Apostles St. Luke draws on parallels between life of Jesus and life of the early church and also between lives of Peter (as a missionary to the Jews) and Paul (as a missionary to the Gentiles). The Book of Acts course gives us bases for understanding of the early church and New Testament Epistles. This Bible study will be offered in parallel on Sundays at 12:30 PM (till 1:45 PM) and on Mondays at 7:30 PM (till 9 PM). The Sunday sessions will include lunch. The Monday sessions will include refreshments. There is no registration fee. To access materials online, you will need to buy online access at [ascensionpress.com](http://ascensionpress.com) for approx. \$10. Starts Sep. 21 or 22 at St. Louis Church Large Hall (enter via elevator door off Willow St.). To register, or for more info. please contact St. Louis parish office at [stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com), 519-743-4101.