



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

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# NO DISCIPLESHIP WITHOUT RENUNCIATION

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

In today's Gospel Jesus insists on the conditions for being his disciples: preferring nothing to the love of Christ, carrying one's cross and following him. Many people in fact drew near to Jesus, they wanted to be included among his followers; and this would happen especially after some miraculous sign which accredited him as the Messiah, the King of Israel. However Jesus did not want to disappoint anyone. He knew well what awaited him in Jerusalem and which path the Father was asking him to take: it was the Way of the Cross, the way of sacrificing himself for the forgiveness of our sins. Following Jesus does not mean taking part in a triumphal procession! It means sharing his merciful love, entering his great work of mercy for each and every man and for all men. The work of Jesus is, precisely, a work of mercy, a work of forgiveness and of love! Jesus is so full of mercy! And this universal pardon, this mercy, passes through the Cross. Jesus, however, does not want to do this work alone: he wants to involve us too in the mission that the Father entrusted to him. After the Resurrection he was to say to his disciples: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you"... if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven" (Jn 20:21-22). Jesus' disciple renounces all his possessions because in Jesus he has found the greatest Good in which every other good receives its full value and meaning: family ties, other relationships, work, cultural and economic goods and so forth.... The Christian detaches him or herself from all things and rediscovers all things in the logic of the Gospel, the logic of love and of service.

To explain this requirement, Jesus uses two parables: that of the tower to be built and that of the king going to war. The latter says: "What king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an embassy and asks terms of peace" (Lk 14:31-32). Jesus does not wish to address the topic of war here; it is only a parable. Yet at this moment in which we are praying intensely for peace, this word of the Lord touches us to the core, and essentially tells us: there is a more profound war that we must all fight! It is the firm and courageous decision to renounce evil and its enticements and to choose the good, ready to pay in person: this is following Christ, this is what taking up our cross means! This profound war against evil! What is the use of waging war, so many wars, if you aren't capable of waging this profound war against evil? It is pointless! It doesn't work.... Among other things this war against evil entails saying "no" to the fratricidal hatred and falsehood that are used; saying "no" to violence in all its forms; saying "no" to the proliferation of weapons and to the illegal arms trade. There is so much of it! So much of it! And the doubt always remains: is this war or that war — because wars are everywhere — really a war to solve problems or is it a commercial war for selling weapons in illegal trade? These are the enemies to fight, united and consistent, following no other interests than those of peace and of the common good.

## Take a Seat – Parish Hall New Chairs Project!

Our parish hall is a space where we gather in faith, friendship and community. To make it more comfortable and welcoming for all, we are launching a project to purchase **new chairs** for the hall. Our goal is to purchase 300 chairs at \$50.00 per chair plus tax and the dollies to store them on. The project will run from September 5 to October 5. You are invited to purchase one chair or more. Every donation brings us closer to our goal. To donate, use the special "Take a Seat" envelopes at the front entrance of the church. Let's come together and take a seat! Thank you for your generosity and support. Your donation is tax Deductible.

## ¡Regala una silla a tu Iglesia!

Nuestro salón parroquial es un espacio donde nos reunimos para acrecentar la fe, amistad y comunidad. Para hacerlo más cómodo y acogedor, invitamos a todos los que participan en nuestra comunidad a colaborar en la compra de nuevas sillas adecuadas para nuestras necesidades. El objetivo es comprar 300 sillas, a \$50.00 cada una más impuestos, y los carros para almacenarlas. La campaña se llevará a cabo del 5 de septiembre al 5 de octubre. Te invitamos a donar una silla o más de una. Cada donación nos lleva más cerca de la meta. Para donar, utiliza los sobres especiales de "Regala una silla a tu Iglesia" en la entrada principal de la iglesia. Gracias por tu generosidad y apoyo. Recuerda que tu donación es deducible de impuestos.

### ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

#### *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

Tuesday, September 9 **11:00 AM**  
+Dorothy Lutz

Wednesday, September 10 **11:00 AM**  
+Dorothy Lutz

Thursday, September 11 **11:00 AM**  
+Dorothy Lutz

Friday, September 12 **11:00 AM**

#### *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

Saturday, September 13 **5:00 PM**  
+Dorothy Lutz

Sunday, September 14 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

### MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

#### *XXIII Domingo Ordinario*

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

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

Martes 9 de Septiembre **12:00 PM**  
+Efrain Figueroa +Teresa Morales de Castro

Miercoles 10 de Septiembre **12:00 PM**  
+Efrain Figueroa

Jueves 11 de Septiembre **12:00 PM**  
+Efrain Figueroa

Viernes 12 de Septiembre **12:00 PM**  
+Efrain Figueroa

#### *Exaltación de la Santa Cruz*

Sabado 13 de Septiembre **7:00 PM**  
+Pedro Antonio Morales

Domingo 14 de Septiembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

**St. John's Parish, Meeting for Ministers** of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ministers of Hospitality and Ushers, takes place on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> in the church. Evening Prayer starts at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting to follow. If you are interested in joining any of these Ministries, please contact the parish office 519-745-7855. You are most welcome to attend the upcoming meeting.