



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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CHANGING GOODS AND WEALTH INTO RELATIONSHIPS

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

The parable in this Sunday's Gospel passage (cf. Lk 16:1-13) has as its protagonist a sly and dishonest steward who, charged with wasting his master's goods, is about to be dismissed. In this difficult situation, he does not complain; he does not seek justifications nor does he allow himself to become discouraged, but thinks of a way out in order to ensure himself a calm future. He initially reacts with clarity of mind, recognizing his own limitations: "I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg" (v. 3); then he acts shrewdly, robbing his master for the last time. In fact, he calls the debtors and reduces the debts they owe to the master, in order to make them friends and to be repaid by them later. This is to make friends through corruption and obtaining gratitude through corruption, as sadly is common practice today.

Jesus presents this example certainly not to encourage dishonesty, but prudence. Indeed he emphasizes: "The master commended the dishonest steward for his prudence" (v. 8), that is, for that combination of intelligence and cunning, which enables one to overcome difficult situations. The key to reading this narrative lies in Jesus' invitation at the end of the parable: "make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations" (v. 9).

This seems somewhat confusing, but it is not so: the "unrighteous mammon" is money — also called "devil's dung" — and in general material goods.

Wealth can propel one to build walls, create division and discrimination. Jesus, on the contrary, encourages his disciples to reverse course: "Make friends for yourselves by means of mammon". It is an invitation to know how to change goods and wealth into relationships, because people are worth more than things, and count more than the wealth they possess. Indeed, in life, it is not those who have many riches who bear fruit, but those who create and keep alive many bonds, many relationships, many friendships through a variety of "mammon", that is, the different gifts that God has given them. But Jesus also points to the ultimate aim of his exhortation: "Make friends for yourselves by means of mammon so that they may receive you into the eternal habitations". If we are able to transform wealth into tools of fraternity and solidarity, not only will God be there to welcome us into heaven, but also those with whom we have shared, properly stewarded what the Lord has placed in our hands.

Brothers and sisters, this Gospel passage makes the question of the dishonest steward dismissed by his master, resonate in us: "What shall I do now?" (cf. v. 3). In facing our shortcomings and our failures, Jesus assures us that we are always in time to put right with good the harm done. Those who have caused tears, make someone happy; those who have wrongfully taken, give to those who are in need. By doing so, we will be commended by the Lord "because we have acted with prudence", that is, with the wisdom of those who recognize themselves as children of God and challenge themselves for the Kingdom of Heaven.

May the Blessed Virgin help us to be prudent by assuring ourselves not worldly success but eternal life, so that at the moment of the final judgement, the needy people whom we have helped can testify that in them we saw and served the Lord.

POPE FRANCIS — September 22, 2019

LA MISA MULTICULTURAL DIOCESANA EN EL JUBILEO DE LA ESPERANZA se celebrará el domingo **5 de octubre a las 3pm**, en la Iglesia **St. Thomas the Apostle** (715 Centre Rd, Waterdown). Después de la Misa disfrutaremos de comida, musica y bailes de diversas culturas presentes en nuestra Diócesis. Es un evento de oración y lleno de alegría. Quienes lo deseen pueden ir vestidos con trajes típicos de sus países de origen. ¡Todos son bienvenidos, los esperamos!

Food Drive: The Catholic Women's League is sponsoring a Food Drive for St. John's St. Vincent de Paul Society on the **weekends of October 3/4 and October 10/11**. Parishioners are invited to bring non-perishable food items and place them in the designated boxes in the narthex. Your generosity will help support those in need assisted by St. John's SVDP. Thank you for your continued support!

Join St. John's Parish Choir!

Do you enjoy singing? We warmly invite you to join our parish choir! No previous experience is necessary—just a love for music and a desire to praise God through song.

Choir practices are held Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Enter the parish hall through the brown doors at sidewalk level. All voices and musicians are welcome!

We can't wait to welcome new voices and new instruments and celebrate the joy of making music together!

"Sing for joy to the Lord, all the earth; praise him with songs!" (Psalm 98:4)

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 20 **5:00 PM**
+Tom Kelly + Marie & Leo Fortney

Sunday, September 21 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tues. Sept. 23 St. Pius of Pietrelcina **11:00 AM**
+Tom Kelly

Wednesday, September 24 **11:00 AM**
+Fr. Mervin Coulan

Thursday, September 25 **11:00 AM**
+Tom Kelly

Friday, September 26 **11:00 AM**
St. Jean de Brébeuf and St. Isaac Jogues
+Peter Bleskie

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 27 **5:00 PM**
+Daniel Hanlon

Sunday, September 28 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

XXV Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 20 de Septiembre **7:00 PM**
+Pedro Fernandez

Domingo 21 de Septiembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 23 de Sept. San Pío de Pietrelcina **12:00 PM**

Miercoles 24 de Septiembre **12:00 PM**

Jueves 25 de Septiembre **12:00 PM**
+Efrain Figueroa +Pedro Fernandez

Viernes 26 de Septiembre **12:00 PM**
St. Jean de Brébeuf and St. Isaac Jogues

XXVI Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 27 de Septiembre **7:00 PM**
+Efrain Figueroa +Miguel Verdugo Borbón

Domingo 28 de Septiembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Young Adults Night - Saturday, October 4th - Guelph: October is Diocesan Vocations Month. 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. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Saturday, October 4th at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate (28 Norfolk Street, Guelph). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/> For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com