



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

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## **PERSEVERANCE IS BUILDING GOODNESS EVERY DAY**

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Today's Gospel takes us to Jerusalem, to the most sacred place: the temple. There, around Jesus, some people speak about the magnificence of that grandiose building, "adorned with noble stones" (Lk 21:5). But the Lord states: "As for these things which you see, the days will come when there shall not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down" (Lk 21:6). He then exaggerates the story, explaining that in history, almost everything collapses: there will be, he says, revolutions and wars, earthquakes and famines, pestilence and persecution (cf. vv. 9-17). As if to say: one should not place too much trust in earthly realities. They pass. These are wise words, which can however make us somewhat bitter. There are already many things going wrong. Why does the Lord too make such negative pronouncements? In reality his intention is not to be negative, it is otherwise — to give us a valuable teaching, that is, the way out of all this precariousness. And what is the way out? How can we come out of this reality that passes and passes, and will be no more?

It lies in a word that will perhaps surprise us. Christ reveals it in the final phrase of the Gospel, when he says: "By your endurance you will gain your lives" (v. 19). Perseverance. What is it? The word indicates being "very strict"; but strict in what sense? With oneself, considering oneself not up to standard? No. With others, becoming rigid and inflexible? Not this either. Jesus asks us to be "strict", uncompromising, persistent in what he has at heart, in what counts. Because, what truly counts, very often does not coincide with what attracts our interest. Like those people at the temple, we often prioritize the work of our hands, our achievements, our religious and civil traditions, our sacred and social symbols. This is fine, but we accord them too much priority. They are important things, but they pass. Instead, Jesus says to concentrate on what remains, to avoid devoting our life to building something that will then be destroyed, like that temple, and forgetting to build what will not collapse, to build on his word, on love, on goodness. To be persevering, to be strict and resolute in building upon what does not pass away.

This, then, is perseverance: it is building goodness every day. To persevere is to remain constant in goodness, especially when the reality around us urges us to do otherwise. Let us reflect on a few examples: I know that prayer is important, but, like everyone, I too always have a lot to do, and so I put it off: "No, I am busy now, I can't, I'll do it later". Or, I see many crafty people who take advantage of situations, who dodge the rules, and so I too stop observing them and persevering in justice and legality: "But if these scoundrels do it, so will I!". Beware of this! And again: I carry out service in the Church, for the community, for the poor, but I see that many people in their free time think only of enjoying themselves, and so I feel like giving up and do what they do. Because I do not see results, or I get bored, or it does not make me happy.

Persevering, instead, is remaining in goodness. Let us ask ourselves: what is my perseverance like? Am I constant, or do I live faith, justice and charity according to the moment: I pray if I feel like it; I am fair, willing and helpful if it suits me; whereas if I am dissatisfied, if no one thanks me, do I stop? In short, do my prayer and service depend on circumstances or on a heart that is steadfast in the Lord? If we persevere — Jesus reminds us — we have nothing to fear, even in the sad and ugly events of life, even in the evil we see around us, because we remain grounded in the good. Dostoevsky wrote: "Have no fear of men's sin. Love a man even in his sin, for that is the semblance of Divine Love and is the highest love on earth" (The Brothers Karamazov, Part 2, Book 4, Chapter 3). Perseverance is the reflection in the world of God's love, because God's love is faithful, it is persevering, it never changes.

May Our Lady, servant of the Lord, persevering in prayer (cf. Acts 1:12), fortify our perseverance.

*POPE FRANCIS — November 13, 2022*



**THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING**, blessed on December 19, 1933, was officially dedicated by Bishop Paul F. Reding, on November 21, 1982. This year, Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, at 12 noon, I will celebrate the Dedication Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral Basilica. The feast of the Dedication of the Cathedral is celebrated in parishes throughout the Diocese on the same date. Thank you to Father David Wynen, Rector of the Cathedral Basilica, for bringing this important annual Anniversary celebration to our attention!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR! A CLOSING MASS FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE**

will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Sunday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, at 3 pm. It will also be the Mass of Thanksgiving offered for my 15-years of service as Bishop of Hamilton. Priests, Deacons and Parishioners are invited to join in this time of prayer!

Thank you for this blessed moment.

*(From Bishop Crosby's "Heart to Heart")*

**ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE**

***Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Saturday, November 15 **5:00 PM**  
+Maria Rebelo

Sunday, November 16 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, November 18 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, November 19 **11:00 AM**  
+Gerard Hennessey

Thursday, November 20 **11:00 AM**  
+Gerard Hennessey

Friday, November 21 **11:00 AM**  
*The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

***The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe***

Saturday, November 22 **5:00 PM**  
+Maria Ema Brum

Sunday, November 23 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

**MISAS EN ESPAÑOL**

***XXXIII Domingo Ordinario***

Sabado 15 de Noviembre **7:00 PM**  
+Miguel Alvarado +Sergio Landa Rivero +Juana Chia

Domingo 16 de Noviembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 18 de Noviembre **12:00 PM**  
+Miguel Alvarado

Miercoles 19 de Noviembre **12:00 PM**

Jueves 20 de Noviembre **12:00 PM**

Viernes 21 de Noviembre **12:00 PM**  
*La Presentación de la Bienaventurada Virgen María*

***Solemnidad de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, Rey del Universo***

Sabado 22 de Noviembre **7:00 PM**

Domingo 23 de Noviembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

**Crock-Pot Extravaganza!** The St. John's Catholic Women's League invites you to our first Crock-Pot Extravaganza. On November 22 after the 5pm Mass and November 23 after the 9am Mass, come see the delicious options our ladies have cooked up and for a good will donation, you can enjoy a meal and dessert.

**A Walk with Jesus Retreat Day for Grieving Parents** The loss of a child is a most challenging event in the life of any parent. This grief is acute and challenging and never truly leaves us. The Diocese of Hamilton invites you to join us as we welcome Deacon Henry DeMena from North Carolina to join us in facilitating a retreat day for parents who have lost a child through death. Whether the loss is recent or some time ago, we invite you to join us for this day of healing and support. The retreat will be offered at the **Basilica of Our Lady in Guelph from 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday, November 22nd**. Registration is required so we know how many to set up for and how much lunch to order, with a cost of \$20. You can register [here](#) or by calling the office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.