



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

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# TO LEARN TO STEP ASIDE

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 18, 2026

The Gospel of today's liturgy (cf. Jn 1:29-34) recounts John the Baptist's testimony on Jesus, after having baptized him in the river Jordan. He says: "This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me'" (v. 30).

This declaration, this witness, reveals John's spirit of service. He was sent to prepare the way for the Messiah, and had done so without sparing himself. Humanly speaking, one would think that he would be given a "prize", a prominent place in Jesus' public life. But no. Having accomplished his mission, John knows how to step aside, he withdraws from the scene to make way for Jesus. He has seen the Spirit descend upon him (cf. vv. 33-34), he has indicated him as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and now he in turn humbly listens. He goes from prophet to disciple. He preached to the people, gathered disciples and trained them for a long time. Yet he does not bind anyone to himself. And this is difficult, but it is the sign of the true educator: not binding people to oneself. John does this: he sets his disciples in Jesus' footsteps. He is not interested in having a following for himself, in gaining prestige and success, but rather bears witness and then takes a step back, so that many would have the joy of meeting Jesus. We can say: he opens the door, then he leaves.

With this spirit of service, with his capacity to give way to Jesus, John the Baptist teaches us an important thing: freedom from attachments. Yes, because it is easy to become attached to roles and positions, to the need to be esteemed, recognized and rewarded. And this, although natural, is not a good thing, because service involves gratuitousness, taking care of others without benefit for oneself, without ulterior motives, without expecting something in return. It is good for us, too, to cultivate, like John, the virtue of setting ourselves aside at the right moment, bearing witness that the point of reference of life is Jesus. To step aside, to learn to take one's leave: I have completed this mission, I have had this meeting, I will step aside and leave room for the Lord. To learn to step aside, not to take something for ourselves in exchange.

Let us think of how important this is for a priest, who is called to preach and celebrate, not out of self-importance or interest, but to accompany others to Jesus. Let us think of how important this is for parents, who raise their children with many sacrifices, but then have to leave them free to take their own path in work, in marriage, in life. It is good and right that parents continue to assure their presence, saying to their children, "We will not leave you by yourselves", but with discretion, without intrusiveness. The freedom to grow. And the same applies to other spheres, such as friendships, life as a couple, community life. Freeing oneself from attachments to one's own ego and knowing how to step aside come at a cost, but are very important. This is the decisive step in order to grow in the spirit of service, without looking for something in return.

Brothers, sisters, let us try to ask ourselves: are we capable of making space for others? Of listening to them, of leaving them free, of not binding them to ourselves, demanding recognition? And also of letting them speak at times. Not saying, "But you know nothing!". Letting them speak, making space for others. Do we attract others to Jesus, or to ourselves? And furthermore, following John's example: do we know how to rejoice in the fact that people take their own path and follow their calling, even if this entails some detachment from us? Do we rejoice in their achievements, with sincerity and without envy? This is letting others grow. May Mary, the servant of the Lord, help us to be free from attachments, to make space for the Lord and to give space to others.

**Taller Bíblico para jóvenes y jóvenes adultos** de entre 17 y 35 años. Comenzará el viernes 23 enero a las 6pm en el salón parroquial. Para más información: 519 240 7700 o escribir a [oficina@parroquiaguadalupe.ca](mailto:oficina@parroquiaguadalupe.ca).

## ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 17 **5:00 PM**  
+Ivan Holder

Sunday, January 18 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, January 20 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, January 21 **11:00 AM**

Thursday, January 22 **11:00 AM**

Friday, January 23 **11:00 AM**

### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 24 **5:00 PM**

Sunday, January 25 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

## MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

### II Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 17 de Enero **7:00 PM**

Domingo 18 de Enero **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 20 de Enero **12:00 PM**

Miercoles 21 de Enero **12:00 PM**

Jueves 22 de Enero **12:00 PM**

Viernes 23 de Enero **12:00 PM**

### III Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 24 de Enero **7:00 PM**

Domingo 25 de Enero **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

**Handicraft Holy Land Christians:** Next weekend January 24-25, there will be many unique hand carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase after every Masses. Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and they will have proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem.

May God Bless you for your generosity, for you help and for your prayers.

Cash, debit, credit cards and cheque will be accepted.

More information visit [www.HolylandChristians.ca](http://www.HolylandChristians.ca)

**Handicraft Holy Land Christians:** El próximo fin de semana, 24 y 25 de enero, estarán disponibles para su compra muchas piezas únicas de arte religioso talladas a mano en madera de olivo por estas familias en Belén, después de cada misa. Los cristianos en Tierra Santa solicitan amablemente su apoyo mediante oraciones de conciencia y los ingresos de las ventas generarán empleos muy necesarios para nuestros hermanos y hermanas cristianos en Belén.

Que Dios los bendiga por su generosidad, por su ayuda y por sus oraciones.

Se aceptarán efectivo, tarjetas de débito, crédito y cheques.

Mas informacion visita [www.HolylandChristians.ca](http://www.HolylandChristians.ca)

## CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM

*Sponsored by Couples for Christ and it's Family Ministries.*

*Please join us at St. Francis Church Hall, 49 Blueridge Ave. The program runs on Thursdays from January 29th to March 26th. Dinner at 6 pm—Program 7 pm to 9 pm.*

Opened to Christian married couples, Singles, Widows, Widowers and those separated or divorced. Be enriched by talks as God's Love, Who is Jesus Christ, Transformation in Christ.

Child care provided for children 12 years and under. THERE IS NO FEE.