



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

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# **GOD IS NOT DISTANT, HE IS A FATHER**

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JUNE 14, 2026

Today, in the Gospel, Jesus calls [the Apostles] by name — he calls them by name — and sends out the twelve Apostles. As he was sending them out, he asks them to proclaim just one thing: “Preach as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Mt 10:7). It is the same proclamation with which Jesus began his preaching: the kingdom of God, that is, his lordship of love, has come near; it comes in our midst. And this is not just one piece of news among others, no, but the fundamental reality of life: the closeness of God, the closeness of Jesus. Indeed, if the God of heaven is close, we are not alone on earth, and even in difficulty, we do not lose faith. Here is the first thing to say to people: God is not far away, but rather he is a Father. God is not distant, he is a Father, he knows you and he loves you; he wants to take you by the hand, even when you travel on steep and rugged paths, even when you fall and struggle to get up again and get back on track. He, the Lord, is there with you. Indeed, often in moments when you are at your weakest, you can feel his presence all the more strongly. He knows the path, he is with you, he is your Father! He is my Father! He is our Father!

Let us linger on this image because proclaiming that God is close is an invitation to think of oneself as a child, who walks hand in hand with his father: everything seems different. The large and mysterious world becomes familiar and secure because the child knows he is protected. He is not afraid, and learns how to open up: he meets other people, finds new friends, joyfully learns things that he did not know, and then returns home and tells everyone what he has seen, while the desire to become a grown-up and do the things he saw his father do, grows within him. This is why Jesus starts out from here. This is why God’s closeness is the first proclamation: by staying close to God, we conquer fear, we open ourselves to love, we grow in goodness and we feel the need and the joy to proclaim.

If we want to be good apostles, we have to be like children: sit “on God’s lap” and, from there, look at the world with trust and love, in order to bear witness that God is the Father, that he alone transforms our hearts and gives us that joy and that peace that we ourselves cannot attain. To proclaim that God is near — but how can we do this? In the Gospel, Jesus advises not to say many words, but rather to perform many deeds of love and hope in the name of the Lord. Not saying many words, but performing deeds! “Heal the sick”, says the Lord, “raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without pay, give without pay” (Mt 10:8). Here is the heart of proclamation: freely given witness, service. I will tell you something: I am always puzzled by the “talkers” with their endless talk and no action.

At this point, let us ask a few questions: Do we, who believe in God who is close, confide in him? Do we know how to look forward trustfully, like a child who knows he is held in his father’s arms? Do we know how to sit in the Father’s lap with prayer, by listening to the Word, partaking of the Sacraments? And finally, close to him, do we know how to instill courage in others, to make ourselves close to those who suffer and are alone, to those who are distant and even those who are hostile to us? This is the substance of faith. This is what counts.

And let us now pray to Mary; may she help us feel we are loved and transmit closeness and trust.

*POPE FRANCIS — June 18, 2023*

## THE HEART OF JESUS: LOVE THAT HEALS AND TRANSFORMS

In Scripture, the heart is the center of the person and the source of life. The pierced Heart of Jesus reveals a love that forgives, heals, and restores. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is not merely sentimental; it is an invitation to rediscover the Gospel and allow Christ's love to shape how we live, serve, and forgive each day.

We invite you to say at the beginning of each day this prayer;

*O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day  
for all of the intentions of your Sacred Heart,  
in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world,  
in thanksgiving for your favours, in reparation for my sins,  
for the intentions of all my family and friends,  
and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father, Amen.*

Additional prayers and resources for the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus are available on the diocesan website: [www.hamiltondiocese.com/sacredheart](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com/sacredheart)

### ENGLISH SCHEDULE

#### *Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

<u>Saturday, June 13</u>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
+Bill Fortney	
<u>Sunday, June 14</u>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	
<u>Tuesday, June 16</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Wednesday, June 17</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
+Franz Wagner	
<u>Thursday, June 18</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Friday, June 19</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
+Franz Wagner	

#### *Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

<u>Saturday, June 20</u>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
+Bill Fortney	
<u>Sunday, June 21</u>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	

### HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

#### *XI Domingo Ordinario*

<u>Sabado 13 de junio</u>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
+Ken Cobb +Magdalena Vasquez	
<u>Domingo 14 de junio</u>	<b>11:00 AM &amp; 1:00 PM</b>
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	
<u>Martes 16 de junio</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<u>Miércoles 17 de junio</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<u>Jueves 18 de junio</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<u>Viernes 19 de junio</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>

#### *XII Domingo Ordinario*

<u>Sabado 20 de junio</u>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
+Ken Cobb	
<u>Domingo 21 de junio</u>	<b>11:00 AM &amp; 1:00 PM</b>
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	

**St. Agnes Education Café—The Mystery of the Liturgy & Eucharist: Source & Summit of the Christian Life:** As Catholics, we have the privilege of participating in the Mass ~ the sacred liturgy, supreme expression of Catholic liturgical life. Here we kneel side by side with one another, as one in Christ's mystical body. ***Are we truly aware of what we enter into with our participation in the Mass?*** Join this special event: "The Mystery of The Liturgy & The Eucharist". **Tues. June 16th 7:00-8:30pm, St. Agnes Parish.** 75 Bluevale St. N. Waterloo.

**Upcoming Meeting Reminder:** The Catholic Women's League will be having our next general meeting in the church hall on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Come out to enjoy some fellowship and refreshments and newcomers are always welcome.