



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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WHAT DO I FEAR?

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JUNE 21, 2026

In today's Gospel, Jesus repeats to his disciples three different times: "have no fear" (Mt 10:26, 28, 31). Shortly prior to this, he had spoken to them about the persecutions they would have to undergo for the Gospel, a fact that is still a reality. Indeed, since her beginnings, along with joys — of which she has had many — the Church has experienced many persecutions. It seems paradoxical: the proclamation of the Kingdom of God is a message of peace and justice, founded on fraternal charity and on forgiveness; and yet it meets with opposition, violence, persecution. Jesus, however, says not to fear, not because everything will be all right in the world, no, but because we are precious to his Father, and nothing that is good will be lost. He therefore tells us not to let fear stop us, but rather to fear something else, only one thing. What is the thing Jesus tells us we should fear? We discover what it is through an image Jesus uses today: the image of "Gehenna" (cf. v. 28). The valley of "Gehenna" was a place the inhabitants of Jerusalem knew well. It was the city's large garbage dump. Jesus speaks about it in order to say that the true fear we should have, is that of throwing away one's own life. Jesus says, "Yes, be afraid of that". It was like saying: you do not need so much to be afraid of suffering misunderstanding and criticism, of losing prestige and economic advantages, to remain faithful to the Gospel, no, but of wasting your existence in the pursuit of trivial things that do not fill life with meaning.

This is important for us. Even today, in fact, some are ridiculed or discriminated against for not following certain fads, which, however, place second-rate realities at the centre — for example, pursuing things instead of people, achievement instead of relationships. Let us give an example: I am thinking of some parents who need to work to maintain their family, but who cannot live for work alone — they need enough time to be with their children. I am also thinking of priests or sisters who need to dedicate themselves to their service, without, however, forgetting to dedicate time to be with Jesus; otherwise, they will fall into spiritual worldliness and lose the sense of who they are. And again, I am thinking of a young man or woman who has thousands of commitments and passions — school, sports, various interests, cell phones and social networks — but who still needs to meet people and achieve great dreams, without wasting time on fleeting things that do not leave their mark.

All of this, brothers and sisters, requires some renunciation before the idols of efficiency and consumerism. But this is necessary so as not to get lost in things that end up getting thrown out, as they threw things out in Gehenna back then. And yet, people often end up in today's Gehennas. Let us think of the least ones, who are often treated like waste products and unwanted objects. There is a cost to remaining faithful to what matters. There is a cost to going against the tide. There is a cost to freeing oneself from being conditioned by popular opinion. There is a cost to being left aside by those who "go with the flow". But it does not matter, Jesus says. What matters is not to throw away the greatest good: life. This is the only thing that should frighten us.

Let us thus ask ourselves: What do I fear? Not having what I like? Not reaching the goals society imposes? The judgement of others? Or rather of not pleasing the Lord, and not putting his Gospel in first place? May Mary, ever Virgin, Mother most Wise, help us to be wise and courageous in the choices we make.

POPE FRANCIS — June 25, 2023

MISSION APPEAL: Father Kekai Anthony, of the Diocese of Bomadi (Nigeria), will be with us next weekend June 27 & 28 as a part of the Mission Co-operative Plan of our Diocese. Fr Kekai will share with us different ways to support the missionary work in his Diocese.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, June 20 5:00 PM
+Bill Fortney

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

Tuesday, June 23 11:00 AM

Wednesday, June 24 11:00 AM
The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
+Wally Polischuk

Thursday, June 25 11:00 AM

Friday, June 26 11:00 AM
+Peter Perilli

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, June 27 5:00 PM
+Gerard Hennessey

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

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XII Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 20 de junio 7:00 PM
+Ken Cobb +Juana Navarro

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

Martes 23 de junio 12:00 PM
+Juana Navarro

Miércoles 24 de junio 12:00 PM
Natividad de san Juan Bautista
+Juana Navarro

Jueves 25 de junio 12:00 PM
+Juana Navarro

Viernes 26 de junio 12:00 PM
+Juana Navarro

XIII Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 27 de junio 7:00 PM
+Juana Navarro +Ken Cobb

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

DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART: A WAY OF LIFE

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is more than a set of prayers; it is a way of life. It teaches us patience, generosity, forgiveness, and compassion in a world often marked by division and indifference. This month, consider simple practices such as praying as a family, performing acts of charity, or spending time in Eucharistic adoration or quiet prayer. 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

PARENTING TIP: Loving guidance and care for children by parents is a foundational principle of our Catholic teachings. In June we celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose love and care taught us how to live and love in our lives. As summer approaches take some time to relax into the season with purpose. Show how to love by your interactions and activities: pray together daily, attend Mass even when you are away, read together, take time for hiking, have a family games nights, spend time preparing and cooking as a family, etc. Teaching how to love with the heart of Jesus happens through interaction and will help create loving, confident, healthy children.