



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

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# THE CROSS IS NOT FRIGHTENING

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JUNE 28, 2026

This Sunday, the Gospel (cf. Mt 10:37-42) forcefully echoes the invitation to live out our bond with the Lord fully and without hesitation. Jesus asks his disciples to take the demands of the Gospel seriously, even when that requires sacrifice and effort.

The first demanding request that he addresses to those who follow him is that of putting love for him above family affection. He says: "He who loves father or mother... son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (v. 37). Jesus certainly does not intend to undervalue love for parents and children, but he knows that if family bonds are put in first place, they can deviate from the true good. We see this: some forms of corruption in governments come about precisely because love for family is greater than love for country, and so they put family members in charge. It is the same with Jesus: when love [for family] is greater than [it is] for him, it is not good. All of us can give many examples in this regard, not to mention those situations in which family affections are intermingled with choices that are contrary to the Gospel. When, instead, love for parents and children is inspired and purified by love for the Lord, it then becomes wholly fruitful and produces good fruits within the family itself and well beyond it. Jesus says this phrase in this sense. Let us also remember how Jesus rebukes the doctors of the law who cause their parents to lack what is necessary to them on the pretext of offering it at the altar, of giving it to the Church (cf. Mk 7:8-13). He rebukes them! True love for Jesus requires a true love for parents and children, but if we seek out family interests first, this always leads to the wrong path.

Then, Jesus says to his disciples: "he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt 10:38). This means following him along the path that he himself trod, without looking for shortcuts. There is no true love without the cross, that is, without a personal price to pay. Many mothers, many fathers who sacrifice a great deal for their children, and bear true sacrifices, crosses, because they love them, say this. And the cross is not frightening when borne with Jesus, because he is always at our side to support us in the hour of the most difficult trial, to give us strength and courage. Nor is it helpful to get agitated to preserve one's own life through fearful or egotistical behaviour. Jesus admonishes: "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake" — that is, for love, for love of Jesus, love for one's neighbour, for service towards others — "will find it" (v. 39). This is the Gospel paradox.

In so doing, we can experience God's generosity and gratitude. Jesus reminds us of this: "He who receives you receives me... And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water... shall not lose his reward" (vv. 40, 42). God's generous gratitude takes into account even the smallest gesture of love and service given to our brothers and sisters. It is a contagious gratitude, which helps each of us to be grateful to those who take care of our needs. When someone offers us a service, we should not think that we deserve everything. No, many services are carried out freely. Gratitude, appreciation is, first of all, good manners, but it is also a characteristic of a Christian. It is a simple but genuine sign of the Kingdom of God, which is the kingdom of gratuitous and grateful love.

May Mary Most Holy, who loved Jesus more than her own life and followed him even to the cross, help us to always put ourselves before God with willing hearts, allowing his Word to judge our behaviour and our choices.

*POPE FRANCIS — June 28, 2020*

## ENGLISH SCHEDULE

### *Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

<u>Saturday, June 27</u>		<b>5:00 PM</b>
<i>+Gerard Hennessey</i>		
<u>Sunday, June 28</u>		<b>9:00 AM</b>
<i>For All Parishioners Living &amp; Deceased</i>		
<u>Tuesday, June 30</u>		<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Wednesday, July 1</u>	<i>Canada Day</i>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Thursday, July 2</u>		<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Friday, July 3</u>	<i>St. Thomas</i>	<b>11:00 AM</b>

### *Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

<u>Saturday, July 4</u>		<b>5:00 PM</b>
<u>Sunday, July 5</u>		<b>9:00 AM</b>
<i>For All Parishioners Living &amp; Deceased</i>		

## HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

### *XIII Domingo Ordinario*

<u>Sabado 27 de junio</u>		<b>7:00 PM</b>
<i>+Juana Navarro +Ken Cobb</i>		
<u>Domingo 28 de junio</u>		<b>11:00 AM &amp; 1:00 PM</b>
<i>Por la Comunidad Parroquial</i>		
<u>Martes 30 de junio</u>		<b>12:00 PM</b>
<u>Miércoles 1 de julio</u>	<i>Canada Day</i>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<u>Jueves 2 de julio</u>		<b>12:00 PM</b>
<u>Viernes 3 de julio</u>	<i>Santo Tomás</i>	<b>12:00 PM</b>

### *XIV Domingo Ordinario*

<u>Sabado 4 de julio</u>		<b>7:00 PM</b>
<i>+Brenda Surós +Marvin Castillo Courtade</i>		
<u>Domingo 5 de julio</u>		<b>11:00 AM &amp; 1:00 PM</b>
<i>Por la Comunidad Parroquial</i>		

## PRAYER FOR VENEZUELA

God of mercy and compassion,  
you are our refuge and our strength in times of difficulty.

We lift up our prayer for the people of Venezuela,  
where the land has trembled and houses have collapsed,  
and where fear and uncertainty weigh on so many hearts.

Be with all who have been injured or displaced,  
and those waiting for news of their loved ones.

Bring comfort to those who are shaken and grieving,  
and peace to those feeling anxious in the midst of this emergency.  
Strengthen the first responders and everyone providing help.

Bless the Church in these communities,  
especially the parishes that open their doors  
to give shelter to families and share the resources they have.

Guide the leaders and humanitarian workers  
in their efforts to meet urgent needs for shelter, food, relief, and care.  
In a country that already bears the weight of so many difficulties,  
renew hope and protect the most vulnerable.

Lord, in your mercy, grant us strength in the midst of despair,  
healing in the midst of destruction,  
and unity in the midst of suffering.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**First Friday of the Month**, July 3<sup>rd</sup> Eucharistic Adoration will start at 10am,  
concluding with Benediction before the 11am Mass.