



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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GLIMPING GOOD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 26, 2026

Today the Gospel narrates the parable of a merchant in search of precious gemstones, who, Jesus says, "on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Mt 13:46). Let us pause a little on the actions of this merchant, who first seeks, then finds and finally buys.

The first action: to seek. He is an enterprising merchant, who does not stand still, but leaves his house and sets out in search of precious pearls. He does not say: "I am satisfied with the ones I have"; he looks for more beautiful ones. And this is an invitation to us not to close ourselves up in habit, in the mediocrity of those who are complacent, but to revive desire, so that the desire to seek, to go on, is not extinguished; to cultivate dreams of good, to seek the newness of the Lord, because the Lord is not repetitive. He always brings newness, the newness of the Spirit. He always makes the realities of life new (cf. Rev 21:5). And we must have this attitude: to seek.

The merchant's second action is to find. He is an attentive person who "has a keen eye" and knows how to recognize a pearl of great value. This is not easy. Let us think, for example, of the fascinating oriental bazaars, where the stalls, filled with goods, are crowded along the walls of streets filled with people; or of some of the stalls one sees in many cities, full of books and various objects. Sometimes if one stops to look closely in these markets, one can discover treasures: precious things, rare volumes that, mixed in with everything else, one does not notice at first glance. But the merchant in the parable has a sharp eye and knows how to find, he knows how to "discern" to find the pearl. This too is a teaching for us: every day, at home, on the street, at work, on holiday, we have the possibility of glimpsing good. And it is important to know how to find what counts: to train ourselves to recognize the precious gems of life and to distinguish them from junk. Let us not waste time and freedom on trivial things, pastimes that leave us empty inside, while every day life offers us the precious pearl of the encounter with God and with others! It is necessary to know how to recognize it: to discern in order to find it.

And the merchant's last action: he buys the pearl. Realizing its immense value, he sells everything, he sacrifices all his goods just to have it. He radically changes the inventory of his warehouse; there is no longer anything other than that pearl: it is his only wealth, the meaning of his present and his future. This too is an invitation for us. But what is this pearl for which one can renounce everything, the one of which the Lord speaks to us? This pearl is Him: it is the Lord! Seeking the Lord and finding the Lord, encountering the Lord, living with the Lord. The pearl is Jesus: He is the precious pearl of life, to be sought, found and made one's own. It is worth investing everything in him because, when one encounters Christ, life changes. If you meet Christ, your life changes.

Let us then return to the merchant's three actions: seeking, finding and buying — and ask ourselves some questions. Seeking : am I searching, in my life? Do I feel fine, accomplished, do I settle for things, or do I exercise my desire for good? Am I in spiritual retirement? How many young people are in retirement! The second action, finding : do I practise discerning what is good and comes from God, knowing how to renounce what leaves me with little or nothing? Finally, buying : do I know how to spend myself for Jesus? Is he in first place for me, is he the greatest good in life? It would be nice to say to him today: "Jesus, You are my greatest good". Each one of you in your heart, say now: "Jesus, you are my greatest good".

May Mary help us to seek, find and embrace Jesus with all of ourselves.

POPE FRANCIS — July 30, 2023



After a careful process of review and discernment, I would like to inform our parish community about an important adjustment to one of the goals of the One Heart One Soul Campaign. Although we initially proposed installing a lift/elevator in our parish building, after exploring every possible option, we have confirmed that this is not feasible due to the

structural limitations of the building. The only viable alternative would be to construct a significant extension, whose cost far exceeds the funds raised and would most likely be rejected because of the recent heritage designation of our parish by the City of Kitchener. In addition, based on the experience of other parishes, the long-term maintenance and repair costs of elevators are often quite high, making this option even less sustainable for our community.

Since a primary need behind the elevator was to provide accessible washrooms, the campaign chairs and I have agreed that the best use of these funds is to build a washroom at the church level. This solution respects our historic building, addresses our accessibility needs, and remains faithful to the original intention of the campaign. The Diocese agrees that this change would be the best way to go. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have.

With prayers, Fr Francisco

The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

The Pope reminds us today (July 26): "The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them."

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, July 25 **5:00 PM**
+Omar Quintero

Sunday, July 26 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, July 28 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, July 29 **11:00 AM**
Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

Thursday, July 30 **11:00 AM**
For the intentions of Steve & Sherrie Woodworth

Friday, July 31 **11:00 AM**
Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 1 **5:00 PM**
+Wally Polischuk

Sunday, August 2 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XVII Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 25 de julio **7:00 PM**
+Priscilla Crisan-Szabo

Domingo 26 de julio **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 28 de julio **12:00 PM**
+Priscilla Crisan-Szabo

Miércoles 29 de julio **12:00 PM**
Santas Marta, María y Lázaro

Jueves 30 de julio **12:00 PM**
+Priscilla Crisan-Szabo

Viernes 31 de julio **12:00 PM**
San Ignacio de Loyola

XVIII Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 1 de agosto **7:00 PM**
+Marvin Castillo Courtade + Isabel Marin

Domingo 2 de agosto **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial