



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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A GOOD QUESTION

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 23, 2026

Today in the Gospel (cf. Mt 16, 13-20), Jesus asks the disciples a good question: "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" (v. 13). It is a question we too can ask ourselves: what do people say about Jesus? In general, good things. Many see him as a great teacher, as a special person: good, righteous, consistent, courageous... But is this enough to understand who He is, and above all, is it enough for Jesus? It seems not. If He were simply a person from the past — just as the figures cited in the same Gospel, John the Baptist, Moses, Elijah and the great prophets were for the people — He would merely be a good memory of a bygone time. And for Jesus, this will not do. Therefore, immediately afterwards, the Lord asks the disciples the decisive question: "But who do you — you! — say that I am?" (v. 15). Who am I for you, now? Jesus does not want to be a key figure from the past; He wants to be an important person for you today, of my today; not a distant prophet: Jesus wants to be the God who is close to us!

Christ, brothers and sisters, is not a memory of the past, but the God of the present. If He were merely an historical figure, to imitate Him today would be impossible: we would find ourselves faced with the great chasm of time, and above all, faced with his example, which is like a very high, unscalable mountain; we want to climb it, but lack the ability and the necessary means. Instead, Jesus is alive: let us remember this. Jesus is alive, Jesus lives in the Church, He lives in the world, Jesus accompanies us, Jesus is by our side, He offers us His Word, He offers us His grace, which enlighten and refresh us on the journey. He, an expert and wise guide, is happy to accompany us on the most difficult paths and the steepest slopes.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are not alone on the path of life, because Christ is with us. Christ helps us to walk, as He did with Peter and the other disciples. It is precisely Peter, in today's Gospel, who understands this, and by grace recognizes in Jesus "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (v. 16): "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God", says Peter; He is not a character from the past, but the Christ, that is, the Messiah, the awaited one; not a deceased hero, but the Son of the living God, made man and come to share the joys and the labours of our journey. Let us not be discouraged if at times the peak of Christian life seems too high and the path too steep. Let us look to Jesus, always; let us look to Jesus who walks beside us, who welcomes our frailties, shares our efforts and rests his firm and gentle arm on our weak shoulders. With Him close at hand, let us also reach out to one another and renew our trust. With Jesus, what seems impossible on our own is no longer so; with Jesus we can go forth!

Today it will do us good to repeat the decisive question that comes out of his mouth: "Who do you say I am" (cf. v. 15). "Who do you — Jesus says to you — who do you say that I am?". Let us hear the voice of Jesus, who asks us this question. In other words: who is Jesus for me? An important figure, a point of reference, an unattainable model? Or is He God the Son, who walks by my side, who can lead me to the peak of holiness, that I cannot reach by myself? Is Jesus truly alive in my life, does Jesus live with me? Is He my Lord? Do I entrust myself to Him in moments of difficulty? Do I cultivate his presence through the Word, through the Sacraments? Do I let myself be guided by Him, together with my brothers and sisters, in the community?

May Mary, Mother of the way, help us to feel her Son alive and present beside us.

POPE FRANCIS — August 27, 2023

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Human Dignity: Pope Leo's Vision for Technology



The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invites you to join us as we explore Pope Leo's first encyclical, **Magnifica Humanitas** and our call to protect human dignity in an age of technological revolution.

There will be 2 locations for this series: Hamilton and Kitchener.

Please only register at 1 location.

Kitchener: Saturday, October 24th, 2026 (1:00 – 3:00pm): St. Anthony Daniel Parish, Kitchener

Hamilton: Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026 (1:00 – 3:00pm): Chancery Office, Hamilton

Light refreshments will be provided at each session.

Contact the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis at catechesis@hamiltondiocese.com or (905) 528-7988 ext. 2339 if you have any questions.

For registration details or visit: <https://bit.ly/4wnsmq7>

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>Saturday, August 22</u> +Omar Quintero	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, August 23</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	9:00 AM
<u>Tuesday, August 25</u>	11:00 AM
<u>Wednesday, August 26</u> +Patrick Longworth	11:00 AM
<u>Thursday, August 27</u> Saint Monica	11:00 AM
<u>Friday, August 28</u> Saint Augustine	11:00 AM

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>Saturday, August 29</u> +Wally Polischuk	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, August 30</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	9:00 AM

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XXI Domingo Ordinario

<u>Sabado 22 de agosto</u> +Obdulia Ramírez +Jaime Cerquera	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 23 de agosto</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
<u>Martes 25 de agosto</u> +Efrain Figueroa +Martha Galan	12:00 PM
<u>Miércoles 26 de agosto</u> +José Zavalza	12:00 PM
<u>Jueves 27 de agosto</u> Santa Monica	12:00 PM
<u>Viernes 28 de agosto</u> San Agustin	12:00 PM

XXII Domingo Ordinario

<u>Sabado 29 de agosto</u> +Jaime Cerquera	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 30 de agosto</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Prayer Vigil - Thursday, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Opposite Freeport Hospital, 3570 King St. E., Kitchener, for babies being aborted. All are welcome to pray quietly for those who have no voice, but our own! Parking - across the road, Schneider Park. Any queries, please contact Cathy at: cmlamers@rogers.com