



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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THE LANGUAGE OF THE CROSS

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 30, 2026

Today's Gospel passage (cf. Mt 16:21-27) is linked to that of last Sunday (cf. Mt 16:13-20). After Peter, on behalf of the other disciples as well, has professed his faith in Jesus as Messiah and Son of God, Jesus himself begins to speak to them about his Passion. Along the path to Jerusalem, he openly explains to his friends what awaits him at the end in the Holy City: he foretells the mystery of his death and Resurrection, of his humiliation and glory. He says that he will have to "suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised" (Mt 16:21). But his words are not understood, because the disciples have a faith that is still immature and too closely tied to the mentality of this world (cf. Rom 12:2). They think of too earthly a victory, and therefore they do not understand the language of the cross.

At the prospect that Jesus may fail and die on the cross, Peter himself rebels and says to Him: "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you!" (v. 22). He believes in Jesus — Peter is like this — he has faith, he believes in Jesus; he believes; he wants to follow him, but does not accept that his glory will pass through the Passion. For Peter and the other disciples — but for us too! — the cross is an uncomfortable thing, the cross is a "hindrance", whereas Jesus considers the "hindrance" escaping the cross, which would mean avoiding the Father's will, the mission that the Father has entrusted to him for our salvation. For this reason Jesus responds to Peter: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men" (v. 23). Ten minutes earlier, Jesus had praised Peter. He had promised him he would be the base of his Church, its foundation; ten minutes later he says to him, "Satan". How can this be understood? It happens to us all! In moments of devotion, of fervour, of good will, of closeness to our neighbour, we look to Jesus and we go forward; but in moments in which we approach the cross, we flee. The devil, Satan — as Jesus says to Peter — tempts us. It is typical of the evil spirit, it is typical of the devil to make us stray from the cross, from the cross of Jesus.

Addressing everyone then, Jesus adds: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (v. 24). In this way he indicates the way of the true disciple, showing two attitudes. The first is "to renounce oneself", which does not mean a superficial change, but a conversion, a reversal of mentality and of values. The other attitude is that of taking up one's own cross. It is not just a matter of patiently enduring daily tribulations, but of bearing with faith and responsibility that part of toil, and that part of suffering that the struggle against evil entails. The life of Christians is always a struggle. The Bible says that the life of Christians is a military undertaking: fighting against the evil spirit, fighting against Evil.

Thus the task of "taking up the cross" becomes participating with Christ in the salvation of the world. Considering this, let us make sure that the cross hanging on the wall at home, or that little one that we wear around our neck, is a sign of our wish to be united with Christ in lovingly serving our brothers and sisters, especially the littlest and most fragile. The cross is the holy sign of God's Love, it is a sign of Jesus' Sacrifice, and is not to be reduced to a superstitious object or an ornamental necklace. Each time we fix our gaze on the image of Christ crucified, let us contemplate that he, as the true Servant of the Lord, has accomplished his mission, giving life, spilling his blood for the pardoning of sins. And let us not allow ourselves to be drawn to the other side by the temptation of the Evil One. Therefore, if we want to be his disciples, we are called to imitate him, expending our life unreservedly out of love of God and neighbour.

May the Virgin Mary, united to her Son unto Calvary, help us not to retreat in the face of the trials and suffering that witnessing to the Gospel entails.

POPE FRANCIS — August 30, 2020

First Friday of the Month, September 4th Eucharistic Adoration will start at 10am, concluding with Benediction before the 11am Mass.

Epic: The Early Church is a ten-session DVD study that explores the people, places, and events that shaped the Church's first five hundred years. Presented and authored by Steve Weidenkopf, Church historian from Christendom College and published by Ascension Press.

Offered by St. Louis Parish in Waterloo either on Sundays from 12:30 – 1:40 PM with lunch, or on Mondays from 7:30 – 9 PM with refreshments in Large Hall from Sep. 20 or 21 to Dec. 6 or 7. For more details, or to reserve your spot, contact stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com, or 519-743-4101, or check www.saintlouisparish.ca.

The CWL invites you to join us for our **Last Scoop of Summer!** Come enjoy some food, sweet treats, and fellowship with our parish community!

- **Saturday September 12:** Join us after the 5:00 p.m. Mass for hot dogs and ice cream.
 - **Sunday September 13:** Join us after the 9:00 a.m. Mass for pancakes and ice cream.
- Just a goodwill donation is appreciated and we hope to see you there as we celebrate the end of summer together! ☕

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

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
<u>Tuesday, September 1</u> +Wally Polischuk	11:00 AM
<u>Wednesday, September 2</u> +Karl Friedrich	11:00 AM
<u>Thursday, September 3</u> St. Gregory The Great	11:00 AM
<u>Friday, September 4</u> +Jordan Runstedler +Karl Friedrich	11:00 AM

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>Saturday, September 5</u> +Wally Polischuk +Joseph Vassalo	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, September 6</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	9:00 AM

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

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
<u>Martes 1 de septiembre</u> +Jaime Cerquera	12:00 PM
<u>Miércoles 2 de septiembre</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Jueves 3 de septiembre</u> San Gregorio Magno	12:00 PM
<u>Viernes 4 de septiembre</u>	12:00 PM

XXIII Domingo Ordinario

<u>Sabado 5 de septiembre</u> +Marvin Castillo Courtade	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 6 de septiembre</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Viernes Primero del Mes (4 de septiembre): El Santísimo Sacramento se expondrá para adoración silenciosa después de la Misa de 12:00 pm hasta las 2:00 pm y nuevamente de 5 a 7p.m.

A las 6 de la tarde se tendrá una Hora Santa, que concluirá con la Bendición con el Santísimo a las 7pm.

Mientras el Santísimo esté expuesto, se ofrecerá el sacramento de Reconciliación.