



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

office@stjohnskitchener.ca
519 745 7855
85 Strange St., Kitchener

A HIGH EXPRESSION OF LOVE

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Today the Gospel speaks to us about fraternal correction (cf. Mt 18:15-20), which is one of the highest expressions of love, and also one of the most demanding, because it is not easy to correct others. When a brother in faith wrongs you, then you, without rancour, help him, correct him: help by correcting.

Unfortunately, however, often the first thing that is created around those who make a mistake is gossip, in which everyone comes to know the mistake, complete with details, apart from the person concerned! This is not right, brothers and sisters; this does not please God. I never tire of repeating that gossip is a plague on the life of people and communities, because it leads to division, it leads to suffering, it leads to scandal; it never helps improve, it never helps grow. A great spiritual teacher, Saint Bernard, said that idle curiosity and superficial words are the first steps on the ladder of pride, which does not lead upwards, but downwards, plunging man towards perdition and ruin (cf. The twelve steps of humility and pride).

Instead, Jesus teaches us to behave in a different way. This is what he says today: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone " (v. 15). Speak to him about it "face to face", speak about it fairly, to help him understand where he has erred. And do this for his own good, overcoming embarrassment and finding true courage, which is not to slander, but to say things to his face with meekness and gentleness.

But, we might ask, what if this is not enough? What if he does not understand? Then we must look for help. Beware, though: not from the group that gossips! Jesus says: "Take one or two others along with you" (v. 16), meaning people who genuinely want to lend a hand to this brother or sister who has erred.

And if he still does not understand? Then, Jesus says, involve the community. But here too, let us be clear: this does not mean to pillory a person, putting him to shame publicly, but rather to unite everyone's efforts to help him change. Pointing the finger is not good; in fact, it often makes it more difficult for the wrongdoer to recognize his mistake. Rather, the community must make him or her feel that, while it condemns the mistake, it is close to the person with prayer and affection, always ready to offer forgiveness, understanding, and to start over.

And so, let us ask ourselves: how should I behave with a person who wrongs me? Do I keep it bottled up and accumulate resentment? "You will pay for it". Those words which come so often: "you will pay for it...". Do I talk about it behind their backs? "Do you know what he did?"; and so on... Or am I brave, courageous, and try to talk about it to him or her? Do I pray for him or her, ask for help to do good? And do our communities take care of those who fall, so that they can get back up and start a new life? Do they point fingers or open their arms? What do you do: do you point the finger or open your arms?

May Mary, who continued to love even as she heard people condemn her Son, help us to always seek the path of good.

POPE FRANCIS — September 10, 2023

Daily Masses Announcement: Father Francisco Cruz will be on the Annual Priests' Seminar next week. *There will be no Mass neither Sacrament of Reconciliation from Tuesday, September 8th until September 11th inclusive.*

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-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 5 **5:00 PM**
+Wally Polischuk +Joseph Vassalo

Sunday, September 6 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, September 8 **NO MASS**
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday, September 9 **NO MASS**

Thursday, September 10 **NO MASS**

Friday, September 11 **NO MASS**

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 12 **5:00 PM**
Intentions of the Ray & Diplock Families
+William & Stella Dombroskie

Sunday, September 13 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XXIII Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 5 de septiembre **7:00 PM**
+Marvin Castillo Courtade +William Rodriguez

Domingo 6 de septiembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 8 de septiembre **NO HAY MISA**
Fiesta de Natividad de la Santísima Virgen María

Miércoles 9 de septiembre **NO HAY MISA**

Jueves 10 de septiembre **NO HAY MISA**

Viernes 11 de septiembre **NO HAY MISA**

XXIV Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 12 de septiembre **7:00 PM**
+Pedro Antonio Molina +William Rodriguez

Domingo 13 de septiembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

MISA MULTICULTURAL El **domingo 27 de septiembre a las 3:00 pm** en la **Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King** (700 King St. West, Hamilton) nuestro obispo Joseph Dabrowski presidirá la Misa para dar gracias a Dios por la diversidad cultural en nuestra Diócesis. Después de la Misa habrá comida y expresiones de las diversas culturas. Si quieres ayudar en la comida que aportaremos escribenos a oficina@parroquiaguadalupe.ca

Jornada de Espiritualidad en español

Transformando un Corazón de Piedra en un Nuevo Corazón

Jueves 24 de septiembre de 6:00-8:30pm en la
Iglesia de St. Mary of the Visitation, 16 Cooper St. Cambridge. Aporte de \$15.

Misas durante la semana: El padre Francisco estará participando en la Reunión Anual de Formación para Sacerdotes a partir del martes 8 hasta el Viernes 11 de septiembre. No habrá Misa ni sacramento de la Reconciliación durante estos días.