



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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GOD IS SO BIG-HEARTED

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Today's Gospel presents us with a surprising parable: the master of a vineyard goes out from the first dawn until evening to call in some workers, but in the end, he pays everyone equally, even those who had only worked one hour (cf. Mt 20:1-16). It would seem to be an injustice, but the parable is not to be read through wage criteria; rather, it intends to show us the criteria of God, who does not calculate our merits, but loves us as children.

Let us look more closely at two divine actions that emerge from the story. First, God goes out at all hours to call us ; second, He repays everyone with the same "coin" .

First, God is he who goes out at all hours to call us . The parable says that the master "went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard" (v. 1), but then continues to go out at various times of the day until sunset, to look for those whom no one had yet hired to work. We thus understand that in the parable, not only the men are the ones who work, but above all God, who goes out all day without tiring. This is how God is: he does not wait for our efforts to come to us, he does not examine us to assess our merits before seeking us out, he does not give up if we are late in responding to him. On the contrary, he himself took the initiative and in Jesus "went out" — towards us, to show us his love. And he seeks us at all hours of the day, which, as Saint Gregory the Great states, represent the different stages and seasons of our life up to old age (cf. Homilies on the Gospel, 19). For his heart, it is never too late; he always seeks us and awaits us. Let us not forget this: the Lord always seeks us and awaits us, always!

Precisely because he is so big-hearted, God — this is the second action — repays everyone with the same "coin", which is his love. Here is the ultimate meaning of the parable: the labourers of the final hour are paid like the first because, in reality, God's justice is a superior justice. It goes further. Human justice says to "give to each his own according to what he deserves", while God's justice does not measure love on the scales of our returns, our performance or our failures: God just loves us, he loves us because we are his children, and he does so with an unconditional love, a freely-given love.

Brothers and sisters, sometimes we risk having a "commercial" relationship with God, focusing more on our prowess than on his generosity and his grace. Sometimes even as a Church, instead of going out at all hours of the day and extending our arms to all, we can feel like we are top of the class, judging others who are far away, without thinking that God loves them too with the same love he has for us. And even in our relationships, which are the fabric of society, the justice we practise sometimes fails to break free from the cage of calculation, and we limit ourselves to giving according to what we receive, without daring to go the extra mile, without counting on the effectiveness of good done freely and of love offered with a generosity of heart. Brothers, sisters, let us ask ourselves: do I, a Christian, know how to go out towards others? Am I generous towards everyone, do I know how to give that extra understanding and forgiveness, as Jesus has done and does every day with me?

May Our Lady help us to convert to God's measure: that of a love without measure.

POPE FRANCIS — September 24, 2023

MULTICULTURAL MASS All are warmly invited to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our Diocese **on Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King**, 700 King St. West, Hamilton. The Mass will be celebrated by The Most Reverend Joseph Dabrowski, C.S.M.A., Bishop of Hamilton, and followed by a multicultural celebration in McNally Hall. All are welcome!

2026 World Day of Migrants & Refugees Pope Leo XIV has chosen “Even Just One of These Children” as the theme for the 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which will be observed on Sunday, September 27, 2026. The World Day invites Catholics to pray for migrants and refugees around the world. Drawing on Matthew 18:5 – “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me” – this year’s theme focuses particularly on children and minors on the move. It reminds us of the Lord’s promise, and of the Church’s call to welcome, protect and accompany every migrant child, emphasizing that each individual life has immeasurable dignity and value.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 19 **5:00 PM**

+Omar Quintero

Sunday, September 20 **9:00 AM**

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, September 22 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, September 23 **11:00 AM**

St. Pius of Pietrelcina

Intentions of Ruth Davis on her 90th Birthday

Thursday, September 24 **11:00 AM**

Friday, September 25 **11:00 AM**

+Kate Okwechine

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 26 **5:00 PM**

+Marie & Leo Fortney

Sunday, September 27 **9:00 AM**

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XXV Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 19 de septiembre **7:00 PM**

+Marco Antonio Perez

Domingo 20 de septiembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 22 de septiembre **12:00 PM**

Miércoles 23 de septiembre **12:00 PM**

San Pio de Pietrelcina

Jueves 24 de septiembre **12:00 PM**

Viernes 25 de septiembre **12:00 PM**

XXVI Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 26 de septiembre **7:00 PM**

Domingo 27 de septiembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada—September 26–27

Next weekend, our parish joins Catholics from coast to coast in supporting the shared mission of the Church in Canada. Your gift help the Church proclaim the Gospel, support families and communities, promote respect for human life and the dignity of every human person, accompany migrants and refugees, and provide catechetical resources for Catholics throughout Canada. What begins as a gift in our parish becomes part of the shared mission of the Church across the country. Please give prayerfully and generously.

Upcoming Meeting Reminder: The Catholic Women's League will be having our next general meeting in the church hall on September 22nd at 7pm. Come out to enjoy some fellowship and refreshments and newcomers are always welcome.