



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

office@stjohnskitchener.ca

519 745 7855

85 Strange St., Kitchener

SINNERS YES, CORRUPT NO!

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Today, the Gospel speaks about two sons, whose father asks them to go to work in the vineyard (cf. Mt 21:28-32). One of them responds "yes", right away, but then does not go. The other one instead, says "no", but then repents and goes.

What is there to say about the behaviour of these two? What quickly comes to mind is that going to work in the vineyard requires sacrifice, and making sacrifices is demanding. It does not come naturally, even with the beauty of knowing they are sons and heirs. But the problem here is not so much linked to a resistance to going to work in the vineyard, as much as it is to sincerity, or lack thereof, with the father and with themselves. Even though neither of the sons behaves impeccably; one lies, while the other one makes a mistake but remains sincere.

Let us look at the son who says "yes", but then does not go. He does not want to do the father's will, but neither does he want to get into a discussion or talk about it. Thus, he hides behind a "yes", behind a false compliance that conceals his laziness, and he saves face for the time being. He is a hypocrite. He gets by without conflict, but he cheats and disappoints his father, disrespecting him in a way that is worse than if he had responded with a blunt "no". The problem with those who behave this way is that they are not only sinners, but also corrupt, because they lie without difficulty to cover up and disguise their disobedience, rejecting any honest dialogue or feedback.

The other son, instead, who said "no" but then went, is sincere. He is not perfect, but sincere. Certainly, it would have been nice to hear him say "yes" right away. That did not happen, but at least he shows his reluctance honestly and, in a certain sense, courageously. That is, he takes responsibility for his behaviour and acts out in the open. Then, with this basic honesty, he ends up questioning himself until he understands he has made a mistake and retraces his steps. We could say he is a sinner, but he is not corrupt. Pay close attention to this: this son is a sinner, but he is not corrupt. And there is always hope of redemption for a sinner. For the corrupt on the other hand, it is much more difficult. In fact, the corrupt person's false "yesses", elegant but hypocritical façades and habitual false pretences, are like a thick "rubber wall", behind which to take cover from qualms of conscience. And these hypocrites do so much evil! Brothers and sisters, sinners yes — we all are — corrupt no! Sinners yes, corrupt no!

Let us now look at ourselves and, in the light of all this, ask ourselves some questions. When faced with the difficulty of living an honest and generous life, of dedicating myself to the Father's will, am I willing to say "yes" each day, even if it is demanding? And when I fail, am I sincere before God about my difficulties, my failings, my weaknesses? And when I say "no", do I turn around after? Let us speak with the Lord about this. When I make a mistake, am I willing to repent and retrace my steps? Or do I pretend everything is okay and go through life wearing a mask, concerning myself only with appearing good and righteous? Finally, am I a sinner, like everyone, or is there something corrupt in me? Do not forget: sinners yes, corrupt no.

May Mary, mirror of holiness, help us be sincere Christians.

POPE FRANCIS — October 1, 2023

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

This 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.

AI AND HUMAN DIGNITY 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:

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

Registration and more information can be found here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/2026/07/ai-and-human-dignity-workshop/>.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Purpose: To provide information and support to adults struggling with grief after a loss.

When: 6 Weeks, Beginning Monday September 28 to November 9th from 6-7:30 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church, 305 Laurentian Drive, Kitchener, Ont.

To Register: Email – Deacon Michael and Jen Kuhl at whenlifechanges2026@gmail.com

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 26 5:00 PM

+Marie & Leo Fortney +Daniel Hanlon

Sunday, September 27 9:00 AM

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, September 29 11:00 AM

Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

Wednesday, September 30 11:00 AM

St. Jerome

Thursday, October 1 11:00 AM

+Wally Polischuk

Friday, October 2 11:00 AM

+Peter & Mario Perilli

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 3 5:00 PM

+Wally Polischuk

Sunday, October 4 9:00 AM

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XXVI Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 26 de septiembre 7:00 PM

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

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 29 de septiembre 12:00 PM

Santos Arcángeles Miguel, Gabriel y Rafael

Miércoles 30 de septiembre 12:00 PM

San Jerónimo

Jueves 1 de octubre 12:00 PM

Viernes 2 de octubre 12:00 PM

XXVII Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 3 de octubre 7:00 PM

+Marvin Castillo Courtade

Domingo 4 de octubre 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE sponsored by St. John's Catholic Women's League. Help us share our blessings with those in need in our parish community this Thanksgiving season. Collection dates are the weekends of *October 3, 4 and October 10, 11*. Please place all donations in the bin located in the narthex. Some examples include canned tuna, salmon, stews, soups, peanut butter, dry pasta, rice, breakfast cereal, oatmeal, canned vegetables, canned fruits, applesauce, pasta sauce, boxed macaroni and cheese, granola bars, snacks, dried beans, lentils. Thank you for your generosity.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me." — Matthew 25:35