



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

office@stjohnskitchener.ca

519 745 7855

85 Strange St., Kitchener

THANK YOU, I'M SORRY, EXCUSE ME

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 4, 2026

Today, the Gospel presents us with a dramatic parable that has a sad ending (cf. Mt 21:33-43). A landowner planted a vineyard and took good care of it. Then, needing to go away, he entrusted it to some tenants. When harvest time drew near, he sent his servants to collect his crop. But the tenants maltreated and killed them. So, the owner sent his son, and those tenants killed him too. How come? What went wrong? There is a message from Jesus in this parable.

The landowner did everything well, with love. He himself toiled to plant the vineyard. He surrounded it with a hedge to protect it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower (cf. v. 33). Then he entrusted his vineyard to some tenants, leasing his prized possession to them, thus treating them on an equal plane, so that his vineyard would be well cultivated and bear fruit. Given these circumstances, the harvest should have come to a happy end, in a festive atmosphere, with a fair division of the produce to everyone's satisfaction.

Instead, ungrateful and greedy thoughts insinuated themselves into the minds of the tenants. Indeed, there is always some ungratefulness at the root of conflicts, as well as greedy sentiments — wanting to quickly take possession of things. "We do not have to give anything to the owner. The fruit of our labour belongs to us alone! We do not have to be accountable to anyone". This is the reasoning of these labourers. And this is not true: they should have been grateful for what they had received and for how they had been treated. Instead, ingratitude gave rise to greed, and a progressive sense of rebellion grew within them, which led them to see the situation in a distorted way, to feel that the owner was in their debt rather than that they were in debt to the owner who had given them work. When they saw the son, they went as far as saying: "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance!" (v. 38). And they go from being tenants to murderers. It is a whole process. And many times, this process takes place in the hearts of people, even in our hearts.

With this parable, Jesus reminds us what happens when people deceive themselves into thinking that they are self-made, and they forget to be grateful, they forget the real basis of life: that good comes from the grace of God, that good comes from his free gift. When one forgets this gratitude to God, one ends up facing one's situation and limitations no longer with the joy of feeling loved and saved, but rather with the sad illusion of needing neither love nor salvation. These people stop letting themselves be loved and find that they are prisoners of their own greed, prisoners of the need to have more than others, of wanting to stand out over others. This process is ugly, and it often happens to us. Let us think about this seriously. Many dissatisfactions and recriminations, many misunderstandings and many feelings of envy arise from this. And, driven by resentment, one can fall headlong into a spiral of violence. Yes, dear brothers and sisters, ungratefulness generates violence, it takes peace away, and makes us feel and yell when we speak, without peace, while a simple "thank you" can restore peace!

So, let us ask ourselves: Am I aware that I have received the gifts of life and of faith? Am I aware that I myself am a gift? Do I believe that everything comes from the grace of the Lord? Do I understand that, without merit, I am the beneficiary of these things, that I am loved and saved gratuitously? And above all, in response to grace, do I know how to say "thank you"? Do I know how to say "thanks"? Three words that are the secret to human coexistence are thank you, excuse me, sorry. Do I know how to say these three things? Thanks, excuse me, I'm sorry. Do I know how to say these three phrases? "Thanks" is a small word, "excuse me" is a small expression, saying I am sorry, "forgive me", is a small expression. It is what God and our brothers and sisters await every day. Let us ask ourselves if these small words, "thanks", "excuse me", "forgive me, sorry", are present in our lives. Do I know how to thank, to say "thank you"? Do I know how to say sorry, "forgive me"? Do I know how not to be intrusive — "excuse me"? Thank you, I'm sorry, excuse me.

May Mary, whose soul magnifies the Lord, help us make gratitude the light that dawns daily in our hearts.

POPE FRANCIS — October 8, 2023

PREPARING FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: "One in Christ" Today Jesus speaks of a vineyard entrusted to tenants (Mt 21:33-43). The Church is that vineyard. Pope Leo XIV's theme for World Mission Sunday, two weeks away, begins here: we are one in Christ before we are sent. The Alleluia verse says, "I have chosen you from the world to go and bear fruit that will remain." This week, pray for the unity of our parish and of the whole Church. Mission begins when Christ lives in us.

STRUGGLING IN YOUR MARRIAGE? Find Hope with Retrouvaille – Retrouvaille is a marriage program that helps couples who are struggling to restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. Retrouvaille helps to improve communication, build stronger marriages and aids couples to reconnect. Join us for our upcoming weekend Oct. 16th (evening), 17th and 18th because no marriage is beyond hope. For more information visit www.retrouvaille.org, email: hamilton@helpourmarriage.org, or call 905-664-5212.

PARENTING TIP: October is the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, a chance to remember all that we are grateful for in our lives. It is a perfect time to have children focus on the good things in their lives: the people they love and care for and who love and care for them, their friends, the ability to go to school, having a place to live and food to eat, to name a few. It is also a time to remind them to thank God for their gift of life and faith.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

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

Tuesday, October 6 11:00 AM

Wednesday, October 7 11:00 AM

Our Lady of the Rosary

+Kinga & Mikolaj Caruk

Thursday, October 8 11:00 AM

+Ron Craig

Friday, October 9 11:00 AM

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 10 5:00 PM

+Kate Okwechime

Sunday, October 11 9:00 AM

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

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

Martes 6 de octubre 12:00 PM

Miércoles 7 de octubre 12:00 PM

Virgen María del Rosario

Jueves 8 de octubre 12:00 PM

Viernes 9 de octubre 12:00 PM

XXVIII Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 10 de octubre 7:00 PM

+Pedro Antonio Molina

Domingo 11 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 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