St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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

TAKING CARE OF THE HEART

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - NOVEMBER 8, 2026

Today's Gospel offers us a story regarding the meaning of life of each person. It is the parable of the 10 maidens, called to go out to meet the bridegroom (cf. Mt 25:1-13). Living is this: a great preparation for the day when we will be called to go to Jesus! In the parable however, five of the 10 virgins are wise and five are foolish. Let us see what constitutes wisdom and foolishness. Wisdom in life, and foolishness in life.

All those bridesmaids are there to welcome the bridegroom, that is, they want to meet him, just as we too desire a happy fulfilment of life: the difference between wisdom and foolishness is therefore not in goodwill. Nor does it lie in the punctuality with which they arrive at the meeting: they were all there. The difference between the wise and the foolish is another: preparation. The text says: the wise "took flasks of oil with their lamps" (v. 4); the foolish, on the other hand, did not. This is the difference: the oil. And what is one of the characteristics of the oil? That it cannot be seen: it is inside the lamps, it is not conspicuous, but without it, the lamps have no light.

Let us look at ourselves, and we will see that our life runs the same risk: many times, we are very careful about our appearance — the important thing is to take good care of one's image and make a good impression in front of others. But Jesus says that the wisdom of life lies elsewhere: in taking care of what cannot be seen but is more important; taking care of the heart. Nurturing an inner life. This means knowing how to stop and listen to one's heart, to keep watch over one's own thoughts and feelings. How often are we unaware of what has happened in our heart on a [given] day? What happens within each one of us? Wisdom means knowing how to make room for silence, in order to be able to listen to ourselves and to others. It means knowing how to give up some of the time spent in front of telephone screens, to look at the light in the eyes of others, in one's own heart, in God's gaze upon us. It means not falling into the trap of activism, but devoting time to the Lord, to listening to his Word.

And the Gospel gives us the right advice so as not to neglect the oil of inner life, the "oil of the soul". It tells us that it is important to prepare it. In fact in the story, we see that the maidens already have the lamps, but they have to prepare the oil: they have to go to the sellers, buy it, put it in the lamps… (cf. vv. 7-9). It is the same for us. An inner life cannot be improvised, it is not a matter of a moment, of once in a while, of once and for all. Inner life has to be prepared by dedicating a little time every day, with constancy, as one does for every important thing.

So, we can ask ourselves: what am I preparing at this moment in life? Within myself, what am I preparing? Perhaps I am trying to put aside some savings, I am thinking about a house or a new car, concrete plans… They are good things; they are not bad things. But am I also thinking about dedicating time to the care of the heart, to prayer, to service to others, to the Lord who is the destination of life? In short, how is the oil of my soul? Each one of us, let us ask ourselves this: how is the oil of my soul? Do I nourish it, do I keep it well? May Our Lady help us to cherish the oil of inner life.

POPE FRANCIS — November 12, 2023

REMEMBRANCE DAY – NOVEMBER 11

Canadians pause in silence every November 11th to remember those who died in war and to pray for the victims of aggression and inhumanity throughout the world.

This is a day to pray for peace, to consider what we are doing as individuals, as a community and as a nation to bring God's peace into the world.

This is a day when a believing community should rededicate itself by prayer and action to the ideals Jesus gives us in the Beatitudes.

"REMEMBRANCE CIRCLE": In this month of November, you may wish to set aside a special moment to remember someone significant in your life who was called home to God during this year. We are planning a "Remembrance Circle" on November 18th in the parish hall 3 - 4 pm English and 6:30 - 7:30 pm in Spanish. Feel free to bring a picture of that person and a heart filled with gratitude for the gift that person has been for you.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, November 7 **5:00 PM**
+Nicola Scarfone & Family +Yutronkie & Dombroskie Families

Sunday, November 8 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, November 10 **11:00 AM**
St. Leo the Great
+Wilfred & Eleanor Hoch

Wednesday, November 11 **11:00 AM**
St. Martin of Tours
+Wally Polischuk

Thursday, November 12 **11:00 AM**
St. Josaphat
+Ron & Pauline Craig

Friday, November 13 **11:00 AM**
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
+Dot Kelly +Deceased Members ot the Bleskie & Belkwell Families

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, November 14 **5:00 PM**
+Dot Kelly

Sunday, November 15 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XXXII Domingo Ordinario

Sábado 7 de noviembre **7:00 PM**
+Marvin Castillo Courtade +Pedro Antonio Molina +Nuria Trujillo

Domingo 8 de noviembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 10 de noviembre **12:00 PM**
San León Magno
+Antonio Fernandez

Miércoles 11 de noviembre **12:00 PM**
San Martín de Tours
+Isabel Moreno Guzman

Jueves 12 de noviembre **12:00 PM**
San Josafat
+Pedro Fernandez

Viernes 13 de noviembre **12:00 PM**
Santa Francisca Javier Cabrini
+Isabel Fernandez

XXXIII Domingo Ordinario

Sábado 14 de noviembre **7:00 PM**
+Heliodoro Dominguez +Adelaida Suarez

Domingo 15 de noviembre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

DONATION DRIVE FOR SANGUEN HEALTH CENTRE/SANGUEN COMMUNITY HEALTH VAN

St John's Catholic Women's League is collecting donations for Sanguen Health Centre/Sanguen Community Health Van, an organization dedicated to providing compassionate care and support to those facing hardship due to substance use, mental health challenges, homelessness, and chronic poverty. New Items only. Blankets, sleeping bags, coats, gloves, socks, underwear, personal hygiene products (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, feminine pads, deodorant). Let's come together as a parish community to support Sanguen Health Centre and help bring hope to those in need. Items can be dropped off in the narthex, the weekends of November 14/November 15 and November 21/November 22. God bless you for your generosity.