St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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DIFFERENT WAYS OF APPROACHING GOD

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Today's Gospel presents us with the parable of the talents (cf. Mt 25:14-30). A master departs on a journey and entrusts his talents, or rather his possessions, his "capital", to his servants — talents were a monetary unit. He distributes them according to each one's abilities. On his return, he asks for an account of what they had done. Two of them had doubled what they had received, and the master praises them, while the third, out of fear, had buried his talent and can only return it, the reason for which he receives a severe rebuke. Looking at this parable, we can learn two different ways of approaching God.

The first way is that of the one who buries the talent he has received, who cannot see the riches God gave him: he trusts neither his master nor himself. In fact, he says to his master: "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow" (v. 24). He is afraid of him. He does not see the esteem, he does not see the trust that the lord places in him, but only sees the actions of a master who demands more than he gives, of a judge. This is his image of God: he cannot believe in his goodness. He cannot believe in the Lord's goodness towards him. This is why he gets stuck and does not allow himself to be involved in the mission he has received.

Let us next look at the second way, with the other two protagonists, who repay their master's trust by in turn trusting in him. These two invest everything they received, even though they do not know at the outset if everything will go well: they study, they see the possibilities, and prudently seek out the best. They accept the risk of putting themselves on the line. They trust, they study and they risk. They thus have the courage to act freely, creatively, generating new wealth (cf. vv. 20-23).

Brothers and sisters, this is the crossroads we face with God: fear or trust. Either you are afraid before God, or you trust in the Lord. And we, like the protagonists of the parable — all of us — have received talents — all of us — far more precious than money. But much of how we invest them depends on our trust in the Lord, which frees our hearts and makes us active and creative in goodness. Do not forget this: trust frees, always; fear paralyses. Let us remember: fear paralyses, trust liberates. This also applies to the education of children. And let us ask ourselves: do I believe that God is the Father and entrusts gifts to me because he trusts me? And do I trust in him to the point of putting myself on the line, without being discouraged even when the outcome is neither certain nor to be taken for granted? Am I able to say every day in prayer, "Lord, I trust in you, give me the strength to keep going; I trust in you, in the things you have given me: let me know how to carry them forward"?

Lastly, also as a Church: do we cultivate a climate of trust, of mutual esteem in our surroundings, one that helps us move forward together, that unblocks people and stimulates the creativity of love in everyone? Let us think about it.

And may the Virgin Mary help us to overcome fear — never be afraid of God! Awe, yes; fear, no — and to trust the Lord.

POPE FRANCIS — November 19, 2023

"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.

St. Vincent De Paul's News: We, the members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, St John the Baptist Conference, are sending out a big THANK YOU to all the parishioners/visitors of St John's and Our Lady of Guadalupe for their generous support of the Thanksgiving Food Drive. We collected approximately 798 lbs of non-perishable food items. Are cupboards are packed to the brim. Your generosity will enable us to continue to provide food hampers to individuals and families living in the St John's neighbourhood of Kitchener. God bless you for your acts of kindness towards the less fortunate in our neighbourhood.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

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

Tuesday, November 17 **11:00 AM**
St. Elizabeth of Hungary
+Daniel Hanlon

Wednesday, November 18 **11:00 AM**
+Dot Kelly

Thursday, November 19 **11:00 AM**
+Dot Kelly

Friday, November 20 **11:00 AM**
+Dot Kelly

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Saturday, November 21 **5:00 PM**
+Deceased Members of the Fortunato & Morabito Families

Sunday, November 22 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

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

Martes 17 de noviembre **12:00 PM**
Santa Isabel de Hungría

Miércoles 18 de noviembre **12:00 PM**
+Eliodoro Suarez Lopez

Jueves 19 de noviembre **12:00 PM**
+María del Rosario Suarez

Viernes 20 de noviembre **12:00 PM**

Solemnidad de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, Rey del Universo

Sábado 21 de noviembre **7:00 PM**

Domingo 22 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 next weekend of November 21/22. God bless you for your generosity.