

St. John Vianney Church



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Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 - 4:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 - Noon

Lunch: Closed from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

As followers of Jesus Christ, and as full members of the Roman Catholic Church, we, the Parish Community of St. John Vianney, joyfully proclaim our Saviour risen. Through prayer and sacramental celebration of life in Jesus, we join as co-creators in his mission of justice and peace, through the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.

Parish Priests:

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, C.M.I., Pastor
Fr. Saji Thomas, C.M.I., Associate Pastor
Fr. Joshy George, In Residence

Celebration of the Eucharist

Sunday Eucharist

Saturday at 5:00 p.m. (Life Teen Mass)

Sunday at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Weekday mass times

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday Adoration at 6:00 p.m., Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Celebration of Reconciliation

Saturday from 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. or any time by appointment.

Parish Information

Baptismal Information - Press 7

Parish Outreach for Seniors - Press 103

Emergency due to death or serious illness - Press 6

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, C.M.I., Pastor - 102

Fr. Saji Thomas, C.M.I., Associate Pastor - 108

Fr. Joshy George - 106

Karen Price, Parish Secretary - 101

Bernadette Brock, Youth Minister - 104

Marilyn Reesor, Music Director - 121

LORD, HELP MY UNBELIEF

Faith is a notoriously slippery customer. It is difficult to understand and difficult to grasp because it seems to come and go. For this reason, people are afraid of faith or rather of not having faith. It seems to come easily to those people whose faith does not depend on their understanding what it is they believe. Sometimes it seems they are the only people who are certain of their faith. But most of us are waverers.

This insecure type of faith has good biblical precedents and none as relevant to the problem as the story of Thomas in today's gospel. But it would be a mistake to start empathizing with Thomas, because that's not what the story is there for. Thomas, like many of the gospel characters, is a type and what happens to them reflects the various situations we encounter throughout our Christian lives. So Peter denying three times that he ever knew Jesus resonates with us because of the betrayals we have been guilty of or suffered from. Martha and Mary, who epitomize service and prayer and the gap that seems to separate them, are meant to bring home to us the necessity and equality of both.

And so it is with poor 'doubting' Thomas. He is out when the risen Jesus appears to the disciples and so he misses the event. On his return, when the others tell him that Jesus has risen from the dead, he cannot bring himself to believe them. He is so vehement in his disbelief that he tells the others that until he sees and feels the wounds made by the crucifixion nails in Jesus' hands and the gash made by the spear in his side, he cannot believe. We can imagine the others being shocked at his attitude but I wonder what their reaction would have been if they had been in the same position. They had all fled like cowards when Jesus was arrested in Gethsemane so I suspect they would all have behaved in the same way that Thomas did. But this is nothing to be ashamed of. I suspect John, the writer of this particular gospel, is telling us that most people's faith cries out for some sort of proof.

Later, when Jesus appears to the disciples again and Thomas is present, he doesn't berate him because his faith is seemingly weaker than that of the other disciples. In fact, Jesus isn't interested in the others at all at this point. He compares Thomas with those people in the future who believe, even though there is no chance that they will ever see the risen Lord in the flesh. 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe,' Jesus says. We are those people who believe and have not seen. We are those people who, because we have not seen, sometimes find it difficult to believe. And that's not just belief in the Resurrection. It's belief in the whole religious thing, the entire God thing. We believe but we don't know where that belief comes from.

This resurrection appearance story, which seems like failure on the part of Thomas, is there paradoxically to give us encouragement with regard to our own faith. Jesus says that the people who have not seen his risen body yet believe are blessed, are happy. Well perhaps they are but Jesus doesn't say that there are many of them around. Most Christians hang on to their belief, to their faith, because they have caught glimpses of the risen Lord. In our daily lives we occasionally experience something that speaks of God and the risen Jesus. The memory of them lingers in our hearts and it is this that we cannot let go of. We believe, and that is God's gift to us. What matters is not how much or how strongly we believe but that we do believe. It matters that we remember those times when God has been present to us, revealing that there is more to life than betrayal, war, violence, hatred, greed, selfishness and power-seeking.

But we live in hope that our faith will grow stronger as we learn to recognize the presence of the risen Lord in the world. Our faith may be like a grain of mustard seed but we have the promise that if we persevere it will become the greatest of all the trees and see us through. As with the apostle Thomas, it is through our doubt that we will gain our faith. And every so often we will catch a glimpse of God that takes our breath away.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday April 22nd 5:00 pm † **Antonio Diniz**
Requested by: Lourdes & Family

Sunday April 23th 9:30 am † **Do Kinh Thanh**
† **Tran Thi Ngo**, † **Do Kinh Trung**
Requested by: Tran & Nguyen Families

9:30 am For the special intentions of **Marjorie Oliveira**
Requested by: Family

11:30 am † **Herman Jacobs**
Requested by: Members of the St. Vincent de Paul

11:30 am For the special intentions of **Mrs. Mary Voisin** (90th Birthday)
† **S.R. Mildred Dietrich**
Requested by: Carol & Doug Woolway

Wednesday April 26th 7:00 pm † **Herman Jacobs**
Requested by: C.W.L.



What makes St. John Vianney Church so special are the people... On behalf of our entire parish family, I would like to thank all those who assisted in any small way

during the preparations for our celebrations during the Lenten season leading up to the Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday. We are truly blessed to have such kind and giving parishioners who make my ministry here so fulfilling. Let us continue to joyously love and trust in each other, working together to make a difference in the lives of others and our community.

May the joy and peace of Christ be with you during this Easter Season and throughout the coming year. God Bless you. *Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, Pastor*

THANK YOU!

The St. John Vianney - St. Vincent de Paul Society, would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our Parishioners who so generously supported our Ministry during this years' Lenten Poverty Meals. Your response was overwhelming. These days things don't seem to stretch quite as far as they used to. However, that never seems to deter you from faithfully supporting our Mission to, "live the Gospel message by serving the poor, with love, respect, justice and joy".

God bless you all and Happy Easter!

The Members of Your St. Vincent de Paul Society



SPRING TEA

St. John Vianney C.W.L. presents our Spring Tea



Celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday on **Saturday, April 29** from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Come dressed in your red and white or any fashions from the past 150 years. Indulge in our "Famous SJV High Tea Fare" with a bonus feature of "Canadian cuisine". Tickets are \$15.00 each and may be purchased in the hall after all Masses. (Tables of 6 or over can be reserved if advised.) For info. call Hazel Hawrish at 705-735-1375 or Barb Hargrave 705-424-3568. All proceeds are donated to St. John Vianney Parish.



The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Mother's Day Brunch in the hall at 12:30 pm on Sunday May 14th. The cost is \$20 per person, \$10 for ages 12 and under and 3 yrs and under free. The extensive buffet menu is posted on the board in the vestibule. Tickets are available after Mass. Only 200 tickets are available and will not be sold at the door.



Knights of Columbus 1st Annual Golf Tournament at Innisbrook Golf Course Saturday, June 3rd, 2017

Scramble Format. All proceeds going to Hospice Simcoe. Limited to the first 144 golfers. **Registration deadline is May 15th** (See Poster in Vestibule for details) Forms are available on the tables in the hall or from a K of C member. We are still looking for hole sponsors and prize donations; please speak to a K of C member if you'd like to contribute.



Please pray for those who are sick:

Jamie Ringler, Rosa Maria Santos, Jebreil Syed, Pauline & Barry Vincent, Maria DeMelo, Joanne Ransome, Richard Benoit, Lillian Pottage, Stephanie Chalmers, and Marjorie Oliveira

and for those who have died recently:
† Herman Jacobs

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