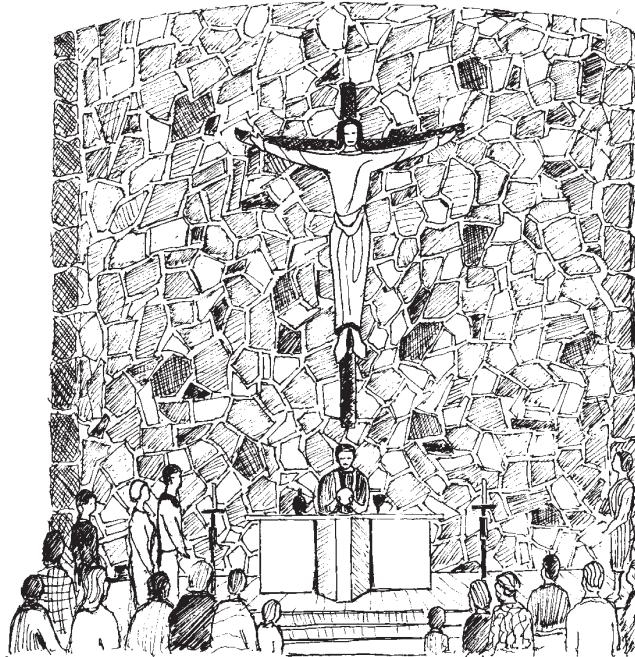


St. John Vianney Church



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Phone (705) 726-8007
Fax (705) 726-4543
www.stjohnvianney.ca

Email: stjohnvianney@rogers.com

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

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

Mass Times - Press 9

Baptismal Information - Press 7

St. Vincent de Paul - Press 8

Emergency due to death or serious illness - Press 6

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

Fr. Jose Koluthara, C.M.I., In Residence - 106

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

Karen Price, Parish Secretary - 101

Bernadette Brock, Youth Minister - 104

Marilyn Reesor, Music Director - 121

Will I go to Heaven?

At first reading, Jesus' words in today's gospel might lead us to believe that trying to get into heaven is a lot like trying to get into Harvard. When Jesus was asked if only a few would be saved, our Lord described heaven's door as being narrow, and spoke of the wailing and grinding of teeth on the part of those "cast out." It's not a very pleasant image, and one that could easily cause us stress and anxiety, as we fear being counted amongst the seemingly vast majority who will find heaven's door firmly locked.

If getting into heaven is really hard, we might wonder what kind of god we're dealing with. What god would condemn most of his creation to eternal destruction? What god would send his only son to suffer and die for just a tiny, select few? We might be able to obey this god out of fear. But such a god would be very difficult to love, and offer our thanks and praise. And hope would be hard to come by, because there would be little to hope for, if most of us were going to be consigned to hell.

However, in order to truly understand Jesus' words in today's gospel, we need to appreciate just who it was he was speaking with. The person who asked the question, "Will those who are saved be few?" was Jewish. He was asking Jesus if only Jewish people would be saved, something many people believed. In response, Jesus spoke of people from every nation- from the east and west and north and south- being welcomed into the kingdom of God. Here, our Lord echoed Isaiah's beautiful vision in today's first reading, in which a multitude of "brothers and sisters" from all nations would come to worship the Lord in Jerusalem.

At the same time, Jesus told his questioner to "strive to enter through the narrow gate." He said this not because God wishes to restrict heaven to a handful of people, but because Jesus' questioner assumed that his salvation was assured, just because he was Jewish. In effect, he was taking salvation for granted. But aren't we sometimes tempted to do exactly the same thing? It's easy to think that, because God is so good and merciful and loving, we can take our salvation for granted. That's why Jesus' words to strive to enter through the narrow gate are intended for us as well.

Our Lord knows that whenever we take his salvation for granted, we'll take him for granted. And when we take Jesus for granted, our love for him first turns lukewarm, and then it turns cold. Because we don't really love people we take for

granted. Jesus doesn't want us to take him for granted, because he loves us too much. In the gospel, he spoke of people dining with him in his kingdom. Sharing a meal together was deeply significant in Jesus' culture. It was an expression of friendship and intimacy. For Jesus to describe heaven as a meal, then, is a way of saying that in heaven we will be his intimate friends. Jesus wants this intimacy and friendship with us to begin now. Deep down, this is what we want as well. Because God made us that way. Because God loves us so much.

Today's gospel should challenge us to take a good look at our relationship with Jesus. Is Jesus for us an intimate friend? Or is he something less? Consider the people in the gospel who found themselves excluded from the heavenly banquet. It's not that Jesus was a stranger to them. They'd all seen him before. Some had heard him teach, and others had actually been at meals with him. But Jesus said that he didn't really know them. They hadn't made the effort to get to know him well. Their relationship with Jesus was superficial. He wasn't an intimate friend; he was simply a passing acquaintance.

Is Jesus a passing acquaintance to us? Think of it this way: If we don't see a passing acquaintance for a long time, it's no big deal. We may be happy to see them whenever we do. We'll wave, chat, exchange a few pleasantries, may be even express a wish to get together some time. But their absence doesn't really impact our lives.

What impact does Jesus have on our lives right now? Or to put it another way, how would Jesus' absence impact our lives? The eternal absence of Jesus is one way we might think of hell, just as heaven is to eternally enjoy Jesus' friendship. And like heaven, hell is something we can begin to experience even now, whenever we allow Jesus to slip away to the corner of our lives and become simply a casual acquaintance or, heaven forbid, something even less.

Jesus wants our relationship with him to be our top priority. He wants to be our friend, not a passing acquaintance. But the choice is ours, isn't it? Jesus' hand is always extended to us in friendship. We can wave politely from a distance, or we can take his hand firmly in ours and walk by his side as we journey through life, enjoying a taste of the heavenly banquet while we strive to enter through that narrow gate, not taking our salvation for granted, but knowing that the arms of God's mercy, are always open wide.

Mass for the Intentions Week

Sunday 8:00 am ✠ **Anthony Peter Mattachione**
August 21st Requested by: Vicky Urwin

11:30 am ✠ **Irvin White**
Requested by: His wife, Margaret

11:30 am ✠ **Wilson Mathew**
Requested by: Renish & Sofy

SACRAMENTS

Gr. 2 First Communion

Parents, if your child will be in Gr. 2 in the fall, mark your calendar for the opportunity to welcome your child to Sacraments of Holy Communion and of Confession. Registration for the program will be at the church:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 AT 7 PM OR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 AT 6 PM OR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 AT 12:30 PM

Bring a copy of your child's baptismal certificate to reserve a family space. For more information, see the bulletin board in the foyer or the parish website.

New Confirmation Age

Parents, if your child will be in Gr. 7 next year, mark your calendars now. Last year our Archbishop Thomas Cardinal Collins set Grade 7 as the new norm for the age of reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Registration for the program will be at the church:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 7 PM OR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 6 PM OR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 12:30 PM

(Please Remember, A Photocopy of Your Child's Baptismal Certificate Is Needed to Register!)

For more information, see the bulletin board in the foyer or the parish website.



CHRONIC PAIN

SELF-MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Those living with chronic pain, support persons, or family members, are invited to attend a 6 week workshop series with weekly sessions beginning on Wed. Sept. 7th at 6:00 pm in the parish hall. There is no cost for this workshop. Topics include: Pacing and planning, mediations for chronic pain, fatigue & weight management, communicating about pain, and an "Easy Moving Exercise Program". Receive a Chronic Pain Book and Moving Easy CD free. Limited space is available. A signup sheet will be available at the Welcome Table in the church hall on a first come, first serve basis. Deadline to register is September 1st. For more information contact Helen Russell 705-734-1346 or email: russellht@gmail.com

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in November 2016 and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 1-800-268-2637 for inquiries.

Biblical Lectures on the Book of Psalms

Rev. Dr. A. Joseph Lazar (Doctorate in Biblical Theology) and Associate Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Barrie is pleased to host **Biblical Lectures on the Book of Psalms**. Lectures start September 1st through to September 22nd, 4 consecutive Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. Please contact St. Mary's Parish office to register.



Please pray for those who are sick: Herman White, Shirley Chew, Neave Alderson, John Navarrete, Sophia Goulah, Carmen Sondhi, Barbara Durnin, Nancy Kearns, Joe Badali, Rose Marie D'Amelio, Stephenie Chalmers, Wilson Gasewicz, Lillian Pottage, Avery Maset & Carson Batters.

And for those who have died recently:

† Anna Maria D'Ambrosio

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