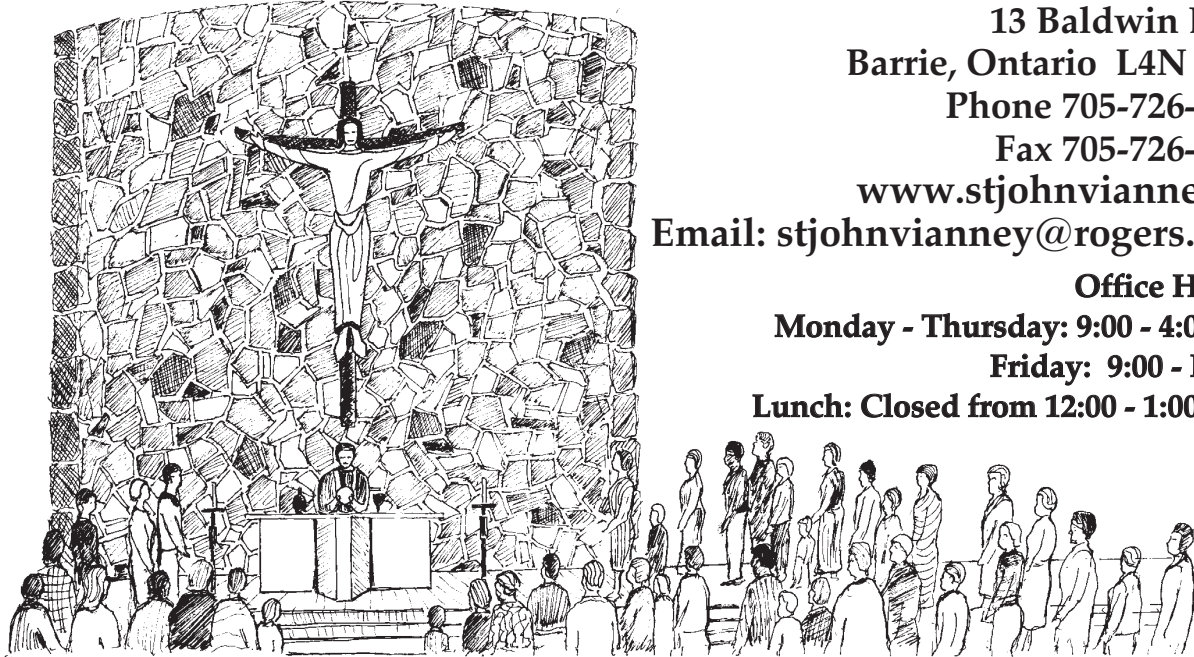


St. John Vianney Church



13 Baldwin Lane
Barrie, Ontario L4N 2W1
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. Joshy George, 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

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. Joshy George, C.M.I., Associate Pastor - 106

Karen Price, Parish Secretary - 101

Bernadette Brock, Youth Minister - 104

Marilyn Reesor, Music Director - 121



Putting People in Boxes

When a father confronts his adolescent son over something bad that he did and he answers back justifying his conduct, the father may respond, "Who do you think you are that you speak to me like that?" From this way of talking, the father wants his son to know who the boss is. But though true, it turns his son off. Before long he will spend more time with his peers because "My parents do not understand me."

How different would the outcome have been if the father gets out of his "authority box" and instead asks himself, "What can I learn from what he says?" This may make him change his approach to his son. Then he will understand better what his son is going through as an adolescent. It will also keep the line of communication between them open. Thus, when his son will have a serious problem later, he will not hesitate to come to and confide in his father.

Today's gospel is concerned with the question "Who?" Priests and Levites asked John the Baptist who he was. John knew that at the back of their minds they wanted to know whether he was "the one who is to come" or not. So John responded: "I am not the Messiah." But they did not stop there. Going back to the tradition that the Prophet Elijah would return as the herald of the Messiah, they asked him if he was Elijah. John answered "No!" Later, the Pharisees joined in and asked, "What do you have to say for yourself?" John told them: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

It is not difficult to figure out what the questioners had in mind: to "box" John as a "nobody" despite his claim that God missioned him "to testify to the light." They reasoned that if they told people that he was not any of those they asked him about, then they would stop following him.

The problem with John's questioners was that they stuck to their "boxing" of him as a "nobody." Thus instead of listening to what he was saying as God's messenger, they completely ignored him and his message. No wonder that when Jesus finally came to John to be baptized in the river Jordan and John pointed Him out to the people as the Messiah, they did not accept Him.

Are we not often guilty of the same? For example, how often have we "boxed" someone as "good for nothing" and thus refuse to appreciate anything he says or does? After a while, he himself will believe that he is good for nothing. He then stops trying to develop his God-given potentials. Very likely, a sad future awaits him.

How different is the lesson we can learn from the responses of John to his questioners. John gloried in playing second fiddle to the One "who is to come" whose sandal strap he was not even "worthy to untie." In short, he refused to be "boxed" in the way his questioners wanted. Instead he had himself "boxed" in the way God wanted him to, namely, "to testify to the light." There is thus an upside to being boxed. First if we refused to be boxed as people wanted and second, if we "box" ourselves and others in a positive way.

A story is told of a priest assigned in a seminary who took his sabbatical year in Calcutta, India to work with Mother Theresa. Towards the end of his sabbatical, he wondered what he could take back to his seminarians. Thinking back, he remembered how Mother Theresa received Communion: her eyes and face glowed with love for Jesus as she expressed the desire to give Him back her love completely. For the priest, that was understandable for she was then already known as "a living saint." But what he could not understand was what he saw one evening when she was with a sick person. The same glow in her eyes and face was present when she was attending to him.

Reflecting on these two experiences, the priest discovered why. For Mother Theresa, that sick person was Jesus Himself for did He not say: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you did unto me?" That was how she "boxed" all the sick who came to her. Thus she cared for them as she would for Jesus and in the process "testified to the light."

We may be rich or poor, powerful or insignificant, well-educated or unlettered, healthy or sickly, etc. Regardless, as Christians, we can "box" ourselves in the same way as John did: "to testify to the light" -- not only in words but also in deeds. And this we can be and do especially if we carry out Jesus' commandment of love in all that we do. Isn't this one good way to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Jesus' birthday come Christmas day?



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday Dec. 16 th	5:00 pm † Anton Karin Requested by: The Galic Family
	5:00 pm † Hugh McCormick Requested by: Bridie McCormick
	5:00 pm † Joseph Azhikanniyil Requested by: The Family
Sunday Dec. 17 th	9:30 am † Renee King Requested by: Graeme & Family
	9:30 am † Tina Rashid Requested by: Paul Rashid & Family
	9:30 am For the special intentions of Maria Thuy Mai & Maria Khuyen Hoang Requested by: Nguyen & Tran Families
	9:30 am For the special intentions of Marjorie Oliveira Requested by: Family
	11:30 am † Lucille Brisson Requested by: Willa Wilson
	11:30 am For the special intentions of Jebreil Syed Requested by: His Family
Monday Dec. 18 th	8:30 am † Chiandet Dea Requested by: Ida Lenarduzzi
Tuesday Dec. 19 th	8:30 am † Chiandet Dea Requested by: Maria Del Mul & Family
Thursday Dec. 21 st	8:30 am † Butch & Marion Prior Requested by: Suzanne Prior

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24th: 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:00 pm (no Midnight Mass)
Monday December 25th: 9:30 am & 11:30 am



CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Do you need to get in the Christmas Spirit? Please join us in the church on Friday December 22nd at 5:00 pm to help decorate the church.



2018 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

2018 Envelopes are now available in the parish hall. To avoid any confusion, please do not use 2018 envelopes until the New Year. Please ensure you put your name and address on the first 3 envelopes beginning with January 1st 2018. All those with pre-authorized monthly giving are reminded to pick up envelopes as not all envelopes are covered by your pre-authorized giving. There are registrations pamphlets for parishioners wishing to begin pre-authorized monthly giving. **Thank you for your continued support!**

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG



Sun. Dec. 17th from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm with the choir in the church. Refreshments to follow in the hall. All are welcome!

SUNDAY MISSALS

The 2017-2018 SUNDAY MISSALS are available at the Welcome Committee table in the hall following Mass at a cost of \$5.00



PARKING ON CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 PM MASS

The Knights of Columbus will once again be overseeing the parking arrangements for both the front and back parking lots. Please follow their instructions and return to your vehicle immediately after Mass. Your co-operation is appreciated.



Please pray for those who are sick: Judy Schoeneich, Kurt Kroeger, Bob Waring, Catherine Dion, Ted Huston, Denise Foster, Jerry Gulka, Sherry Wyman, Jebreil Syed, Maria DeMelo, Joanne Ransome, Lillian Pottage, & Marjorie Oliveira.

And for those who have died recently:
† Gordon Kavanagh



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