

# St. John Vianney Church

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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 - 103

Marilyn Reesor, Music Director - 121





HOLY MARY

The gospel invites us to spend this last Sunday of Advent with Mary. As we come to the final days of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus again into our homes and into our world,

who better to spend it with than his mother who was in the final week of her pregnancy, preparing in silent contemplation to give birth to the child in her womb.

Through the consecration of baptism and the intimacy of Holy Communion we have Christ living within us too. God wants us also to reveal the mystery of this sacred life hidden within us. We are called to bear fruit for God. Who better to introduce us into the secrets of contemplative wonder and gratitude before the mystery unfolding in our lives that she who carried within her the incarnation of God? She knew that he was relying on her life-blood to nurture him within the temple of her womb. She can teach us that God is relying, too, on our cooperation with grace to do through us the wonderful things that he wants us to offer to the world.

We are accustomed to contemplating her at Cana as her heart goes out to the people who long, seemingly in vain, to quench their thirst with the best wine, the wine of God's Spirit pouring from the heart of God's Son. It is Mary who senses their need and who invites her Son to respond. It is time for his ministry of love to begin. We are accustomed to contemplating her standing in grief at the foot of his cross, saying yes to the awful wrenching as her Son is taken from her in death. We are accustomed to contemplating her gathering his disciples together as they await his coming to them through the gift of his Spirit.

But today we are invited to go right back to the time before his birth and to watch her in prayer, drawn in spirit to the life within her. She is the first temple of the new covenant and today she begs each of us not to allow ourselves to be so distracted in extroversion that we neglect to tend the sanctuary lamp of our heart as we, too, sense his presence in our soul and await the moment in which the one who is within us will allow his

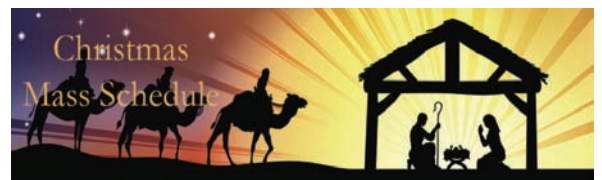
beauty to radiate out from us in that special loving which is the grace of Christmas.

God's grace led Mary to the crib and the cradle. It will lead us, too, to the crib and cradle of our own family and our own home. The Spirit of God led her, as we learn in today's gospel, to the Judean hills on an errand of mercy. He will lead us on a similar errand.

We associate Mary with the great basilicas, the jeweled shrines and cathedrals of earlier ages. We also associate her with our own local church. Sometimes we see her holding her Son in warm embrace revealing his sacred heart. Sometimes we see her standing beneath the cross, and we see his heart pierced but exalted in God's glory and displayed for us to receive the compassion of his heart into our own and to go forth and carry on his mission of love among the poor, the outcasts, the paralyzed and imprisoned of our own broken world.

Past ages thought that they were honoring Mary to speak of her as a queen. When we think, as we should, in terms of the kingdom of God as being the reign of God's love, it is appropriate to speak of her as queen who nurtured Jesus and nurtured the early community in love. In 1974, Pope Paul VI in his encyclical on devotion to Mary encouraged us to think of her in terms more accurate to her real life and more relevant to the concerns of today's world. The real Mary gives us hope in our real and ordinary lives for she directs our attention to God's love and inspires us to respond to that love in faith, whatever our circumstances.

Let us ask her to help us make room for him in our hearts and in our homes, and help us to take him with us on every journey we take in this Christmas season.



Monday December 24<sup>th</sup>

5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:00 pm (no Midnight Mass)

Tuesday December 25<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am & 11:30 am

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

- Saturday  
Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:00 pm † Ludvik Kirec  
Requested by: The Galic Family
- Sunday  
Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:00 am † Eileen Shiel  
Requested by: Marg Hope
- 9:30 am For the special intentions of  
**Maria Thuy Mai & Maria Khuyen Hoang**  
Requested by: Tran & Nguyen Families
- 9:30 am For the special intentions of  
**Marjorie Oliveira**  
Requested by: Family
- 9:30 am † Tina Rashid  
Requested by: Paul Rashid & Family
- 11:30 am † Qara Maristella Clemente  
Requested by: Leonarda & Ronald  
Clemente
- Monday  
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm † Joan Armstrong  
Requested by: Ross & Family

**There will be no Adoration and Mass on Wednesday December 26<sup>th</sup>.**



**CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

St. John Vianney Church relies on the help and generosity of our parishioners every year to help decorate the church for Christmas. Everyone is invited and no experience is necessary.

Please join us on **Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> after the 11:30 am Mass.** We hope to see you there!



**2019 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**

2019 Envelopes are now available in the parish hall. **To avoid any confusion, please do not use 2019 envelopes until the New Year.** Please ensure you put your name and address on the first 3 envelopes beginning with January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. 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!**



Warmest of greetings are extended to our many holiday visitors as well as any parishioners new to the parish. We hope you feel welcome and at home at St. John Vianney and that your Christmas is filled with peace and love surrounded by family and friends. Have a blessed Christmas.  
Fr. Biju Kannampuzha



**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.

**CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR**



**LEPROSY** Did you know that saving used stamps can help fight leprosy worldwide? Each year, approximately \$10,000 is raised for The Leprosy Mission with the help of Canadian churches like St. John Vianney. Please bring in your used stamps and leave them at the Welcome Table in the parish hall. Thank you for your support.

**The Parish Office will be closed on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup>. & 28<sup>th</sup>**



*Please pray for those who are sick:* Martin Matchett, William Kerr, John Bradbury, Monica Freer, Jennifer Durst, Mary Dickson, Shirley Richard, Francois Pelletier, Len Smyth, Barbara Nadon, Nadia Allesio, Sherry Wyman, Graeme Sutherland, Ted Huston, Rigo Ongaro, Jean Boileau, Jo-Anne Ransome, & Marjorie Oliveira.

*And for those who have died recently:*  
† Sheila Olesen, † Joen daCosta, and † Benjamin Zipagang



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