

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 - 104

Marilyn Reesor, Music Director - 121



prepare the way...



“I Need You”

Sometimes our road to redemption seems to be a rocky one. We imagine ourselves as playing a minor role in salvation history. We buy into the idea of a distant God who set the world into motion and then walked off and forgot about it—and us! An all-powerful God calling out to us to say “I need you” is beyond our imagination. Yet that is what God is saying to each and every one of us. In Mary we find the perfect example of the ideal disciple who hears the word, says “yes” in total openness, and acts upon it.

In today’s Gospel, Saint Luke presents to us a virgin betrothed to Joseph, a man of the family of David. God, from all eternity, had chosen a young woman named Mary to be the mother of the Savior of the world. Saint Luke says that, when she received the announcement from the angel, the Virgin Mary was startled. She was greatly troubled—not because she doubted that she would do whatever God wanted her to do but because she did not understand how it could occur. In spite of this, she had only one answer: “Be it done unto me according to your word.” With this answer, the Virgin shows us how faith and obedience to the will of the Lord play a decisive role in the life of someone who is completely dedicated to God.

This Sunday, the last Sunday of Advent, we prepare ourselves to celebrate with joy the Christmas. During this season we have been preparing ourselves, with a sincere attitude of faith and hope, to commemorate the birth of the Savior.

Yet without the Blessed Mother’s consent, without the “fiat,” that she gave, the Messiah who came to spread His kingdom of peace and world throughout the world would not have taken flesh. We all yearn for the kingdom that Our Lord came to establish and consolidate. Yet we sometimes forget that that kingdom of justice and righteousness will last forever because a simple young girl, who loved God more than life itself, 2,000 years ago, decided to change her life, risking it, simply because God asked her to do so.

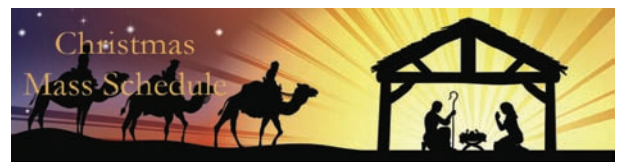
God has an urgent need for our help, just as He did for Mary’s. God calls on us to announce His presence to a world that would rather not hear about Him! What better season than Christmas, when we commemorate the Lord’s birth into this world, to show our need for the Messiah as well as our Messiah’s need for us? What better time of year for us to resolve to be God’s eyes, ears and hands, to be God’s instruments of consolation, of peace, of mercy in our families, in our homes, in our neighborhoods, in our schools, in our workplace?

If this season of Advent has gone by rapidly without being as fruitful in our spiritual lives as we had planned, if we have not taken the opportunity to meditate on our lives with the intention of changing what needs to be changed and strengthening what needs to be strengthened, we still have a little time to do so. Maybe if we contemplate the faith and the courage of Our Most Blessed Mother, Mary, we will find, in her attitude, a new perspective on our own valor and decisiveness.



Merry Christmas

The Gift of Christmas is a precious reminder that we are loved. I hope that your Christmas is filled with love, joy and peace surrounded by family and friends. On behalf of Fr. Joshy and the staff, I wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas, with good health and peace now and in the year to come. *Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, CMI*



Sunday December 24th

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

Monday December 25th

9:30 am & 11:30 am

Sunday December 31st

New Year’s Eve 5:00 pm Vigil Mass,

Monday January 1st

New Years Day
9:30 am & 11:30 am

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday
Dec. 23rd

5:00 pm † Patricia Corbett

Requested by: Leslie de Repentigny & Family

5:00 pm † Therese Geurtin

Requested by: Leslie de Repentigny & Family

5:00 pm † Andre de Repentigny

Requested by: Leslie de Repentigny & Family

5:00 pm † George Scyllion

Requested by: Olive

Sunday
Dec. 24th

9:30 am † Tony Pantele

Requested by: Joseph Kawa

9:30 am † Tina Rashid

Requested by: Paul Rashid & Family

9:30 am For the special intentions of Marjorie Oliveira

Requested by: Family



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.



Rite of Christian

Initiation for Children

Baptism is a prerequisite for other Sacraments such as First Holy Communion and Confirmation. If you wish your child in Grade 2 or older to be baptized or to be welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church (when baptized in another Christian church) please contact the parish office to register. RCIC will begin on **Sunday, January 14th at 9:30 a.m.**



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 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 forms for parishioners requesting wishes to begin pre-authorized monthly giving. **Thank you for your continued support!**

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

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you are new to St. John Vianney Church, welcome! We invite you to register with the parish office. All parishioners are asked to please notify the office of any changes in address or phone number. Thank you!



Offering Mass for a special Intention is a long standing tradition in the Catholic Church. Masses are offered for many reasons, for the souls in purgatory, in remembrance for someone who is deceased, or in honor of a birthday. If you would like to have a Mass said for someone, please contact Karen in the Parish office at (75) 726-8007 Ext. 101 or drop by the office during regular business hours.

Fr. Joshy will be away from Dec. 26th and return on Feb. 3rd. Please keep him in your prayers while he is visiting with family and friends in India. May God Bless and keep him safe.



Please pray for those who are sick:

David Demorest, 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.



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