

St. John Vianney Church

13 Baldwin Lane, Barrie, Ontario L4N 2W1

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Email: stjohnvianney@rogers.com

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



Feast of the Holy Family

**Mass Intentions
for the Week**

Sunday
Dec. 30th 8:00 am † **Joaquim Alfonso**
Requested by: The Mays Family

9:30 am † **Christian Rynkowski**
Requested by: Dorota Rynkowski

9:30 am † **Tina Rashid**
Requested by: Paul Rashid & Family

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

11:30 am † **Qara Maristella Clemente**
Requested by: Leonarda & Ronald
Clemente

Monday
Dec. 31st 5:00 pm † **Margaret Gauci**
Requested by: Her Family

5:00 pm † **Helen "Suzanne" Derome**
Requested by: Bev Douglas-Hecker

Friday
Jan. 4th 8:30 am † **Marina Prior**
Requested by: Suzanne Prior



**A FAMILY TRIED
AND TESTED**

It's the first Sunday after Christmas - the 'Feast of the Holy Family'. That's how this Sunday is remembered in the Catholic church at any rate, and our Gospel reading this morning does also give us a depiction of the earthly family of Jesus during his childhood such that it seems appropriate for us too to remember the Holy Family today.

Even though we call them the Holy Family that does not mean that they did not have problems and difficulties, just as every family must. To put it another way, as each follower of Jesus has a cross to carry, so also the holy family had to experience the cross in their shared life.

To mention just a few examples, we can imagine how misunderstood both Mary and Joseph must have been about the conception of Jesus before they came to live together. Joseph was even planning to divorce Mary privately before being assured that it was the work of God.

Nine months later, the birthplace of Jesus was an animal shelter, since no better lodgings could be found. Then the family had to flee as refugees to Egypt because the child Jesus' life was in danger from King Herod, in much the same way as refugees from war-torn countries have to flee to save their lives.

Later, when Jesus was twelve, they were shocked to lose him for three days and then had to deal with the unsatisfactory explanation that he "had to be about his Father's business." Still, he returned with them to Nazareth and was subject to them, in the quiet rhythm of family life in their village.

Since we hear no more about Joseph after that, presumably he died before Jesus left Nazareth to preach the Gospel. Then too, the public life of Jesus must have taken its toll on Mary. In the Temple when he was an infant, old Simeon had predicted that a sword of sorrow would pierce Mary's soul. How she must have been pained to hear his enemies say that Jesus was a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners, and at the end, when Mary watched her son die in public disgrace, on the cross.

What sustained the family of Nazareth through all of these trials and crosses? What holds families together in times of difficulty is love and trust. Whenever families are happy, it is because love is highly prized. A major threat to family life nowadays is that we don't spend enough time together. We are so busy working, socializing, using our electronic gadgets or watching TV that we have no time to talk to each other.

The Holy Family of Nazareth; they were real people, who had to negotiate their daily ups-and-downs, just like every other family. They had their problems, struggles and challenges, just like every family on earth. But they stayed true to each other, because there was so much love, acceptance and respect between them, and they trusted in God. The Holy Family can be much closer to us than we realize. Let us pray for their help in our own family life.



New Year's Eve Mass

5:00 pm Vigil Mass
(No 8:30 am Mass)

New Year's Day Masses

9:30 am, & 11:30 am

Fr. Biju, Fr. Joshy and the staff send New Year wishes to everyone in the parish. May 2019 be a grace filled, blessed and happy one for you!



Thank you so much to our generous parishioners who supported our recent initiative in bringing Christmas Cheer to the residents of the

Women and Children's Shelter of Barrie and clients of the David Busby Centre. Your response was overwhelming and truly inspirational. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this event a success: many thanks to the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, Music Ministry, Lifeteen, The Italian Bakery, and The Barrie Food Bank for their generous contributions and support. Thank you to his Excellency, Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick for his presence.



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 call the parish office to make an appointment to meet with Fr. Biju. The program begins on **Sunday, January 13th**.



Many thanks to the C.W.L for their recent donations totaling \$1,500.00 As always, we appreciate your support and dedication to the development and growth of

our parish.

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!

Fr. Joshy will be away from January 6th and return on January 29th. Please keep him in your prayers while he is visiting with family and friends in India. May God Bless and keep him safe.



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.



The **2018-2019 SUNDAY MISSALS FOR ADULTS** are available at the Welcome Committee table in the hall following Mass at a cost of \$5.00.



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

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