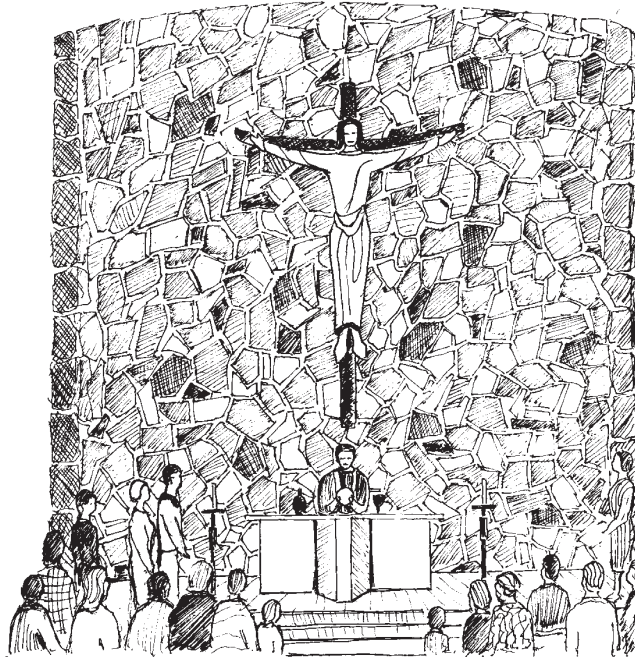


St. John Vianney Church



13 Baldwin Lane
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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. Jose Koluthara, C.M.I., Associate 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., Associate Pastor - 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

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Has there ever been a time in your life, or even a particular moment, when God was very real and present to you? When you heard the voice of God speak? When God reached down and tapped you on the shoulder? When the truths of our faith became crystal clear and made perfect sense? When God was nearby, like a friend, guiding you, protecting you, challenging you? Experiences and times like these move us so deeply, that they're almost impossible to forget.

Peter, James, and John surely must have felt this way about their having witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus on a mountaintop. The brilliant divinity of Jesus as the Son of God shone so powerfully that it was blinding. The voice of God the Father proclaimed Jesus as his Son, and ordered the three disciples to listen. They were enveloped in a cloud; Moses and Elijah appeared; they fell on their knees.

But then it was all over in a flash. Perhaps it lasted a few minutes, maybe less. We don't know. What we do know that it was not meant to last. Jesus had given his friends a privileged "mountaintop experience." But then he led them back down the mountain, and on toward Jerusalem, where he would suffer and die, and the disciples would experience sorrow, shame, fear, confusion, and anger. The light on the mountaintop had to give way to darkness.

Perhaps that's been our story as well. We've had mountaintop experiences. They didn't seem to last long, or as long as we might like. Then the darkness came. Our darkness might have been caused by all sorts of things. Maybe we lost a loved one. Maybe we lost a job. Maybe it was an illness or another hardship we had to endure. Things didn't go the way we planned. A dream was shattered; our heart was broken.

We can call times like this a "spiritual darkness." We feel discouraged, empty, hurt, confused, and mad. We can think that God doesn't care. Or that he isn't listening. Or that he's not there for us. Or that he's just not there at all.

Periods of darkness, as hard as they might be, can serve a useful purpose. They're opportunities for us to grow in trust of God. God knows that it's easy for us to trust him when he seems very close and present to us. He knows it's difficult to trust when he appears to be absent or far away. But it's

especially at times like this that our faith can grow much stronger.

God does give us mountaintop experiences for good reasons. He sometimes gives them so we can understand that he loves us or that he even exists in the first place. Sometimes he does it to change the direction of our life or heal us of a wound. But God allows periods of darkness too. We need to accept them, and ask God how we might benefit from them. In addition, there are three things we can do when we experience darkness.

First, we need to realize that everyone has them. They're a normal and expected part of our following in the footsteps of Jesus. They're an opportunity for us to ask ourselves: Do we really love God? Or do we just love what he might do for us or the way he makes us feel? Love like that, if we can call it love, is pretty selfish, if you think about it. It makes God into our servant. God can use darkness, however, to help us to love him for who he is, not what he can do.

Second, it's important in times of darkness to persevere in faith, to keep putting one foot in front of the other- to keep praying, to keep receiving the sacraments. This is all part of the test. Consider Mother Teresa. Her letters published after her death reveal that she spent most of her life in spiritual darkness. For over half a century she felt no presence of God whatsoever-either in prayer or in Communion. But she persevered, and came to appreciate the meaning, and purpose, of her darkness.

Third, Jesus wants us to remember our mountaintop experiences when we're in the midst of darkness. He allowed Peter, James, and John to see him transfigured, so the memory of this event could strengthen them during the dark days that followed, when he suffered his Passion. He wants our mountaintop experiences to strengthen us in the same way.

Even if we've never had what we might call a mountaintop experience, there is something we can all remember during our dark periods. Something that Jesus commands us to remember. "Do this in remembrance of me." He's talking about the Mass, at which we remember, and encounter ourselves, Jesus death on the cross. Even in our darkest moments, the memory of Jesus' darkness, can give us hope to carry on.

First Communion Masses: February 27 th at 5:00 pm and 28 th at 9:30 & 11:30 am.

Confirmation Mass: Sunday February 28 th at 3:00 pm
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Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday
February 21th
8:00 am † **Janet Herbert**
Requested by: Ron & Mary Anne Collingbourne
9:30 am † **Tina Rashid**
Requested by: The Rashid Family
9:30 am † **Stefania Kluszczynski**
Requested by: St. Marie of the Incarnation Catholic School

Tuesday
February 23rd
8:30 am For the special intentions of **Nathan Hobbs**
Requested by: Blanche Roy
8:30 am † **Peter Feltraco**
Requested by: Augusto Feltraco

Thursday
February 25th
8:30 am † **Michael Czirjak**
Requested by: Len & Terry Smyth

Friday
February 26th
8:30 am † **Hilda Ziegler-Demy**
Requested by: Arnold Ziegler



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Plans are underway to organize a religious, cultural and heritage trip to India under the leadership of Fr. Biju Kannampuzha. We will begin our journey from the Tomb of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta and then proceed to visit Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, and finish our adventure in God's own Country, Kerala.

Travel price is \$3,750.00 per person based on double occupancy and \$4,250.00 for single occupancy. Inclusions of the trip: Flight Tickets: International and Domestic. Accommodation in 5* and 4* hotels and resorts. Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. All transfers are with air conditioned Volvo coach. All entry tickets for the entire trip. Elephant Safari in Thekkady. English speaking guide and tour manager. Traditional cultural show in Cochin. Tea plantation visit and boat safari in Thekkady. An Ayurveda massage and all taxes. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to experience a cultural kaleidoscope and a banquet for your senses! For further details speak to Fr. Biju at (705) 726-8007 Ext. 102



AN EVENING TO REMEMBER!

Everyone was delighted with the delicious dinner, the wonderful ambiance, and great music and dancing last Saturday night at our Valentines Dinner & Dance. All in all it was an outstanding evening and everyone had a great time! Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers: Val Egerton, Helen McCorkell, Marie Cockburn, Brenda Malone, Sue & Andy Gribbons-Shrubsole, Barbara Hargrave, Gisele & Jim Mello-Murphy, Susan Mays, Ray & Eileen Haggan, Sean Roberts, Ross Armstrong, John Keats, Yvonne & Alex Juhauz, Bernadette and Lifeteens. Special thanks to the organizing committee and all those who worked behind the scenes and contributed their time and effort to make this evening one to remember!



Join us for **The Stations of the Cross** devotion on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm. during Lent. Friday February 26th devotion will begin with a poverty meal at 5:00 pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm led by the Lectors.

LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY



St. John Vianney Parish has booked a bus for The 24th ANNUAL LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY, "Unshakable Kingdom" on Saturday, March 6th, 2016 from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. \$30./adult and \$20.00/Youth which includes admission and bus to the door of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Please contact Berna at 705-790-7846 or email lifeteensjv@rogers.com to register.

LIFT JESUS HIGHER YOUTH RALLY: Permission Forms are available next to Youth Bulletin board. Forms and payment can be dropped off at the office, or in offertory basket (in envelope marked Youth Ministry-L.J.H.R) at Mass.



50/50 DRAW

The Knights of Columbus #10370 and the C.W.L. are once again having a 50-50 draw. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Only 3750 tickets printed and should all be sold at 3-\$10.00, the winning ticket could be worth \$6250.00. Whatever the final tally, the winner will receive 50% of the funds from the tickets sold. The draw will be held in the church hall on June 26th 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

COME & SEE

Office of Vocations is hosting a **COME & SEE WEEKEND** at St. Augustine's Seminary from Friday Feb. 26 (7pm) to Sunday Feb. 28 (1.30 pm). Provides a time to pray, to learn what seminary formation is about and time to interact and socialize with the Seminarians & Priests of the Seminary. For more information call 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org



Please pray for those who are sick:
Nathan Hobbs, Ina Rackley, John Durnin, Carl Wachowiak, Gina Racco, Clayton Leonard, Dyril Hayen, Gerald Borho, Lillian Pottage, Michael Foster, Baby Avery Maset, & Carson Batters.

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