

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

Self-sacrifice and Self-transformation

Today we live in a world where so many atrocities are committed in the name of God and religion. Religious fanatics think they have a place reserved in heaven, when they kill somebody in the name of God. They believe that they can please God by a blood bath. It is in this context that we have to understand today's first reading from the Book of Genesis.

God asks Abraham to sacrifice his only son. It may sound that God is demanding a human sacrifice. But in fact it was a test of faith. God did not want an innocent boy to be killed. Instead he wanted to ban the practice of human sacrifice in a dramatic and explicit manner.

The story of Abraham's sacrifice teaches us two things. Firstly, it explicitly forbids the practice of human sacrifice and every act harmful to human life. Secondly, it underlines the spiritual significance of sacrifice. What is counted before God is the readiness to offer even those things which are dear to us. Abraham did not spare even his son, when it came to the obedience to the will of God. And God was pleased with the inner disposition of Abraham.

To offer one's own child to God is equal to offering oneself to God. For Abraham, offering his own son was a great fatherly act of self-sacrifice. Sacrifice must be directed to oneself, considering oneself as the victim. When it is directed to others it is nothing but an act of slaughter. One must feel the pinch of giving when offerings are made to God. It proves then real love. The ostentatious offerings given out of the surplus we have, or out of our unjust possessions, are not pleasing to God. True sacrifice will reduce our egoism and greed, since by that we admit that everything we have is a gift of God. We have no merit and claim to possess it and consider it as our own.

The selfless love of Abraham, who is ready to sacrifice his only son to God can be drawn as a parallel to God's love for humanity in offering his only Son to save the world. The mountain of Transfiguration in today's Gospel is the place where God declares the mission of his Son in the

world. God's fatherly concern is evident when declares: "This is my beloved Son, listen to him." With these words God entrusts his Son with a mission and sends him to the world. At the same time, he manifests himself as a loving Father who offers his son's life for redeeming the world. When the Father's voice was heard in the cloud, Jesus climbs down from the mountain of glory to the valley of human suffering, with the readiness to carry the cross.

A sacrificial act has two dimensions or aspects. The one aspect is the immolation or the killing of the victim. The other aspect is the transformation of the victim. The sacrificial victim is not annihilated, but reborn in a new form, with a new meaning. The death of the victim in the sacrifice is at the same time the victim's resurrection to a new life. It is exemplified in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Our life of faith has also a sacrificial pattern. Death and resurrection are ingrained to it. It is this sacrificial pattern of transformation that makes our crosses and sufferings meaningful and worthwhile. There is an unseen power that effects this transformation. It is the power of love which turns even thorns to flowers, suffering to joy and humiliation to glory.

The cross of Jesus does not frighten us, but gives us the reassurance that we are on the right path which leads to victory. Following on the way of the cross we can imitate the self-sacrifice of Jesus and thereby attain the joy of a fulfilled and fulfilling life. Self-sacrifice is not self-killing. It is not an act of self-annihilation, but an act of self-transformation. It is a process of growing to what we are intended to be, as willed by God.

The Stations of the Cross



Join us for **The Stations of the Cross** devotion on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm. during Lent. Next **Friday, March 2nd**, the Stations of the Cross will be led by members of the Choir.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Feb. 24th 5:00 pm † **Jebriel Syed**
Requested by: The Rosary Aposolate

5:00 pm † **Olga, Bill, & Sue Kovach**
Requested by: Bob, Linda & Michelle Hodgins

Sunday Feb. 25th 9:30 am For the special intentions of **Marjorie Oliveira**
Requested by: Family
9:30 am For the special intentions of **Robert Griffen**
Requested by: Knights of Columbus JJ Murphy

11:30 am † **Clayton Ferguson**
Requested by: Hardie Family

11:30 pm † **Tony Morriello**
Requested by: Family

11:30 pm † **Jack & Trudy Schoutsen**
Requested by: Schoutsen Family

Monday Feb. 26th 8:30 am † **Elio Scian**
Requested by: Ida Lenardduzzi
8:30 am For the special intentions of **Annie & Oscar Roussel** on their Wedding Anniversary
Requested by: Family

Thursday March 1st 8:30 am † **Marcella & Denis McCarthy**
Requested by: Suzanne Prior

Friday March 2nd 8:30 am † **Marina Prior**
Requested by: Suzanne Prior

SIGN UP SUNDAY

We Need Your Help!

Cardinal Collins and bishops across Ontario are asking for an email address from every Catholic family in their community, with a goal of 100,000 email addresses collected by the end of February 2018. This information will be used locally by Cardinal Collins and trusted faith partners to communicate periodically (approximately 6-8 times/year) on issues of particular importance for the Catholic community.

The first campaign of 2018 is the Call for Conscience, inviting our elected Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and those seeking office this June to increase funding/access to palliative care, to protect health care workers wishing to abstain from any involvement in euthanasia/assisted suicide and to protect faith-based facilities from participation in euthanasia/assisted suicide. The work builds on a similar campaign in 2017.



Mary Matthews Public Speaking Contest is being held at SJV Parish Hall on Sat. March 3rd, from 10 am to Noon. One student in grade 7 or 8 from each of the parish “feeder” schools is eligible. The contest is also open to parish students who attend public schools or who are homeschooled. Please call Bernadette Borysenko at 705-436-6240 for more info.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 1st HOLY COMMUNION



We congratulate those who are making their First Holy Communion this weekend. May you and your family be blessed on this special day and may you feel the warmth and love of your special friend Jesus, always.



ADULTS: Be inspired and encouraged and healed at the largest single day Catholic event in Canada, the 26th Annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally! The theme of this year’s rally is “Fire on the Earth” (Luke 12:49). Saturday, March 3rd, 2018, 9:00 am - 5:30 pm Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 255 Front St. W. Inspiring talks and a Mass will be celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins.

YOUTH: There will be a separate youth event (12-19 years) with great music, dynamic talks and inspirational skits. The youth Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Scott McCaig.

For Tickets: \$25 for adults and \$15 for the youth. Add \$15. For HEATED BUS that meets in the Parish parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and returns approximately 7:30 p.m. Call Parish office or contact Berna 705-790-7846 for your tickets.



REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Please pray for those who are sick: Carlos Berenger, Carol Aimola, Shelia Oleson, Jo-Anne Ransome, Kate Campbell Ramsbottom, Mary Turmelle, Leonard Gibbons, William Timmins, Yvette Doiron, Mary Heffernan, Nadia Allesio, Len Smyth, Bob Waring, & Marjorie Oliveira.

And for those who have died recently:

† Lorraine Boucher



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