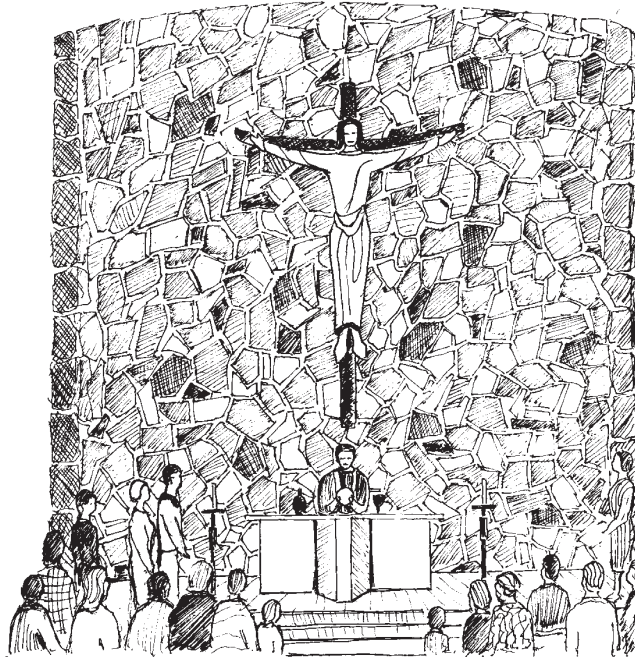


# St. John Vianney Church



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. 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

## **The Baptism of the Lord**

Today's gospel begins with John the Baptist insisting that he is *not* the Messiah that people are waiting for. The coming Messiah is so much greater than he is. John explains, that he is not worthy to even tie his sandals. John understands that he is the one sent to prepare the way for the Messiah. In other words, John the Baptist knows who he is, and he doesn't try to be someone that he is not.

Too often we spend our lives, not trying to be ourselves, but conforming ourselves to the expectations of others. We spend our time and our energy trying to be the person we think other people want us to be. Instead of being who we really are, following the deepest motivations of our hearts, we wear a mask and assume a role. We may even end up being lots of different people all wrapped into one- assuming different roles and wearing different masks depending on our circumstances or the company we find ourselves in. We're one person at home, another at work, another with friends, and maybe even another with God.

With time, we become stuck in our roles. It becomes difficult to change, and others around us may not want us to change. Marcel Marceau, the famous mime, has a classic routine about this. At the beginning, Marceau puts on an imaginary mask and then removes it, his expressive face returning to normal before putting on a new mask. He then continues putting on and taking off a variety of different masks, ending with that of a clown. He then dances around, performing the role of the clown with a silly, smiling face. But when he tries to take the clown mask off, he can't. He pulls and tugs at it with increasing desperation, but it refuses to budge. Like so many people, he is stuck behind his mask and locked in his role.

This is the unhappy result when we base our self-image on something other than God's love for us. It happens when we listen to those messages from our culture and our families that we need to be extraordinary or successful or accomplished or rich or beautiful in order to be liked, accepted, and respected. We can then become obsessed with our self-image, living our life in a state of competition, constantly comparing ourselves to others, and becoming hypersensitive when the public image we've created is challenged or undermined.

Or it could be that we just don't like ourselves very much. We've concluded that we're unlovable, and that the only way for others to love us is if we become, basically, somebody else. Perhaps we don't expect much of ourselves, because others have never expected much from us. And so we become a people-pleaser, a "Yes-Man," one who avoids confrontation, lacks self-confidence, and is afraid of rejection and being excluded.

All of us want to be liked, respected, and accepted. But if the person we hope is liked and respected isn't the real us, but simply a role or a mask, we will end up frustrated and unhappy, because deep down all of us want to be loved as we really are.

The good news is: God loves the real us. God created the real us- in his image and likeness- and that's the person he loves and wants us to be. As one popular saying goes, "God doesn't make junk." Other people may make us feel as if we're junk- but that's other people, not God. When God looks at us, he sees something unique, desirable, special, beautiful, and lovable, because he can see in us a little reflection of himself.

God loves us so much that he offers us a share in his divine life that we may join in the eternal dance between the three Persons of the Trinity. That's the whole point of Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate today, and was proclaimed in today's gospel. Jesus was baptized so that we could be baptized ourselves, receiving the Holy Spirit, becoming one with him and each other, and be filled with that faith, hope, and love which can only come from God. Indeed, God is head over heels in love with us. We see this expressed at Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, and everything else in-between.

It's been said that the hardest thing about Christianity is not the command to love others, but to believe that God actually loves us. We're either afraid of what it implies, or we think it's just too good to be true. But it is true. It's what makes the gospel truly "good news." And if we can even try to accept the fact that God loves us, and that we are truly precious in his sight, we can stop trying to be the person others *want* us to be, or the person we think we *ought* to be, and begin the process of being ourselves, and becoming the beautiful person God *created* us to be.

*Mass & Intentions for the Week*

Sunday  
January 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am † **Dorothy Ardito**  
Requested by: Fred & Hazel Hawrish

9:30 am † **Tina Rashid**  
Requested by: The Maher Family

11:30 am † **Pereira Family**  
Requested by: Maria Medeiros

11:30 am † **Maurice O'Connor**  
Requested by: Rosemarie Macdonell

Monday  
January 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am † **Peter Prior Sr.**  
Requested by: Suzanne Prior

Wednesday  
January 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm † **Loretta Wilson**  
Requested by: Tim & Karen Taylor

Thursday  
January 14<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am † **Dorothy Ardito**  
Requested by: Allan & MaryAnn Weishar

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 be reminded that the classes begin on **Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 a.m.** Registration packages may be picked up from the parish office or at the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall.

**Offering Envelopes**



Please remember to write your name and address on your 2016 Offertory Envelopes for the first month of the New Year to ensure proper allocation of all donations. **ALSO PLEASE DO NOT USE ENVELOPES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS AS NEW NUMBERS ARE ASSIGNED EACH YEAR AND THIS ONLY CREATES DIFFICULTY WHEN INPUTTING YOUR DONATIONS INTO THE COMPUTER.** 2016 Offertory Envelopes are available in the church hall. **Thank you all for your support throughout the year!**



Knights of Columbus Council #10370 presents:

**The 2016 Council Basketball Free Throw Competition**

Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup> at St. John Paul II School – 211 Ashford Drive in Barrie. Contest is open to girls and boys ages 9 – 14 years old (age as of Jan. 1, 2016)

Register at St. John Paul II School between 10 – 10:30 am. All contestants must complete the registration/entry form (signed by their parents or guardian) and provide proof of age (birth certificate, health card or passport). Winners go on to the district finals in February.

Ages 9-11 shoot from the 12 foot line & ages 12-14 shoot from the 15 foot line. Contact Brother Kyle Tilley at [kmtilley\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:kmtilley_1@hotmail.com) or (705) 722-0212 for more information.



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*Please pray for those who are sick:*

**Janet Herbert, John McCorkell, Nick Brooks, Ernie Gilligan, Lillian Pottage, Michael Foster, Baby Ayah Stewart, Baby Avery Maset, & Carson Batters.**

**AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: † Ed Arsenault**

Congratulations to Our Own Maria Hardie



The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board trustees are pleased to announce that Maria Hardie at the Board's initial meeting on Wednesday, December 2nd was elected Chair of the Board. Maria Hardie represents wards 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of Barrie and has been a trustee with the board since

November 2010. This is her third term as Chair. Congratulations Maria!

Valentine's Dinner & Dance on February 13<sup>th</sup>




Join us for an evening of fun...come dine and dance those winter blahs away! The evening will feature the sounds of a local DJ and dinner by Triple G Catering both of whom catered our last dance. Menu will consist of carved Roast Beef/Herb Chicken dinner, roast potatoes, vegetables, salad, rolls and dessert. There will be prizes, raffle draw, music and more. Beer/Wine will be available for purchase. Cost of tickets are: \$25 per person and are available for purchase after all Masses in the parish hall. We hope to see you all there!



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