

# St. John Vianney Church

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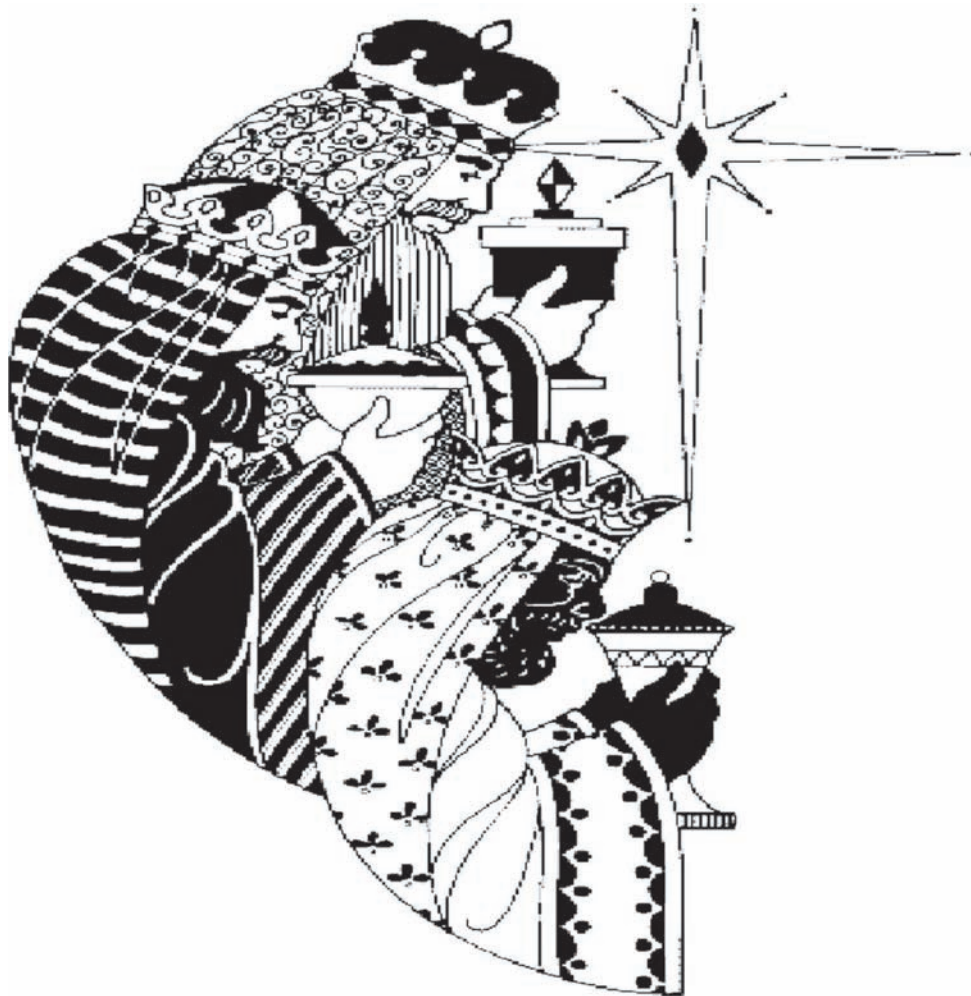
Fr. Biju Kannampuzha, C.M.I., Pastor - 102

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



*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations  
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to  
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*



Sunday January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 am † <b>John Gerada</b> Requested by: Camilleri Family
	9:30 am † <b>Tina Rashid</b> Requested by: The Rashid Family
Monday January 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 am † <b>Loretta Wilson</b> Requested by: Dan & Karen Leavitt
Thursday January 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 am † <b>John Adam McHattie</b> Requested by: Karina Phillion

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### **Solemnity of the Epiphany**

It's the three wise men, or "magi," who take the center stage in today's celebration of the Epiphany. Without a doubt, they and their journey to find a newborn king are essential elements in Matthew's account of Jesus' birth. However, in spite of their importance, Scripture doesn't give us much information about them. In fact, it doesn't even tell us that there were three of them. It wasn't until later that they were numbered and identified by the traditional names of Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Scripture also doesn't tell us exactly where they came from. Scholars tell us that Persia was a likely country of origin. Scripture, however, is content simply to tell us that they came from the East.

This vague geography is significant, however, as it identifies the wise men as Gentiles, or non-Jewish people. They foreshadow the truth that God in Jesus would gather people from every corner of the world into one, universal, catholic community that we know as "Church." No one would be excluded from this assembly. Instead, all men and women, regardless of race, color, ancestry, ethnicity, or country of origin, would be invited to take their place within the new people of God.

Indeed, we discover this theme throughout our entire liturgy today. The Opening Prayer reminds us that, through the guidance of a star, Jesus was revealed to people of every nation. The reading from Isaiah and the psalm speak of people from all nations coming to Jerusalem to

praise the Lord. And St. Paul explains to the Ephesians that the good news of the gospel and membership in the church are meant for everyone- both Gentiles and Jews.

It could be that Paul had to stress this point because some people resisted it or found it difficult to accept. Unfortunately, this continues to be a problem today, and that's what makes Paul's words so relevant to our contemporary situation. They speak directly to the continuing scourge of racism and discrimination in the world.

In response to this experience, our Catechism states clearly that discrimination and racism are wrong. It says: "Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design." (CCC 1935)

As Christians what can we do to fight racism and discrimination? First, we can pray for racial reconciliation. Second, we need to examine our consciences and attitudes. For instance, do we see ourselves as superior to those of other backgrounds? Do we hate or have animosity towards those of different races? Do negative racial stereotypes contaminate our thoughts, words, and deeds? Do we belong to groups or institutions that subtly reinforce a sense of racial privilege, or at least diminish the contributions of other peoples and cultures? Based on our answers to these questions, we might seek forgiveness and the Holy Spirit's help in changing our ways. Third, we can vote and advocate for justice and equal rights, and support those groups that promote them. And fourth, we can strive to be welcoming and hospitable to those in our parish and communities who are culturally different from us.

Racism and discrimination divide and wound the one body of Christ, the Church, a body which Christ calls to be lovingly, harmoniously unified in its rich diversity. On this feast of the Epiphany, we're reminded that Jesus loves everyone, and that everyone should be loved, by those who follow Jesus.



On behalf of all our parishioners I would like to thank all those who helped out in various ways to make our Christmas Mass celebrations meaningful and beautiful once again this year.

Without naming names, I would like to acknowledge and thank all those who worked behind the scenes on flowers, altar linens, and cleaning of the church and to the youth and other volunteers who gave of their time to help decorate the church and set up the parish hall for Christmas Masses; to those involved in setting up the video feed that allowed parishioners in the hall to view and take part in the Mass; to the choir members for their dedication and beautiful music and to all those involved in the liturgy including Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Ushers who volunteered to serve at our Christmas Masses.

Also many thanks to the Knights of Columbus who organized the parking on Christmas Eve; - a heartfelt thank you for helping make the commemoration of Christ's birth all that more wonderful. *Fr. Bijukannampuzha, Pastor*



Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus 10370 for their recent donations of \$9,000.00 that will go a long way in contributing to the recent renovations that our parking lot has undergone as well as a cheque for \$1,000.00

to be put towards our social outreach programs. We are most grateful for your continued support of all our initiatives.

### 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!**

### LIFETEEN & EDGE



The Lifeteen and Edge programs will resume the weekend of January 9<sup>th</sup> 2016. From the Youth Ministry to your households, peace, love and joy throughout the New Year!

### St. John Vianney Refugee Resettlement Committee

At the end of September 2015 St. John Vianney parish community came together to raise \$30K in support of Project Hope, a private refugee sponsorship.

In early November, the parish formed a 'Refugee Resettlement Committee' and the first training session was completed in association with the Archdiocese of Toronto's Office for Refugees (ORAT). This committee is a critical component to a successful resettlement strategy. The Refugee Resettlement Committee's planning strategy includes the following; budgeting, housing, shopping, culture and language awareness, transportation and job search preparation. The committee will journey with the newcomers and provide practical assistance during their first year in Canada.

The family selected by St. John Vianney parish is expected to arrive in late February to early March, 2016. There will be many opportunities for volunteers to assist in welcoming the sponsored family. A volunteer list is available for anyone wishing to give of their time or skill in the months ahead. Please contact Arlene Chee Foon, the head of St. John Vianney Refugee Resettlement Committee at 705-737-5016. Thank you for your ongoing support.



### CONGRATS... WE HAVE A WINNER!

The Knights of Columbus - St. John Vianney Council 10370 would like to thank all those who participated in our 50/50 Draw. We sold 900 tickets @ \$5.00 each. The winner was Thomas Armstrong who received \$2,250.00! Our expenses were \$175.00 (licence & printing) leaving \$2,075.00 being donated to the parish for social outreach projects.

A special Thank You to Helena Hedrick, Sue Gibbons-Schrubsole, for their support in selling the tickets.



*Please pray for those who are sick:*

**Lillian Pottage, Michael Foster, Herman Jacobs, Geraldine Ocsai, Baby Avery Maset, & Carson Batters.**

**AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED; Thomas Slark and Irene Maludzinski (Hunt)**

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