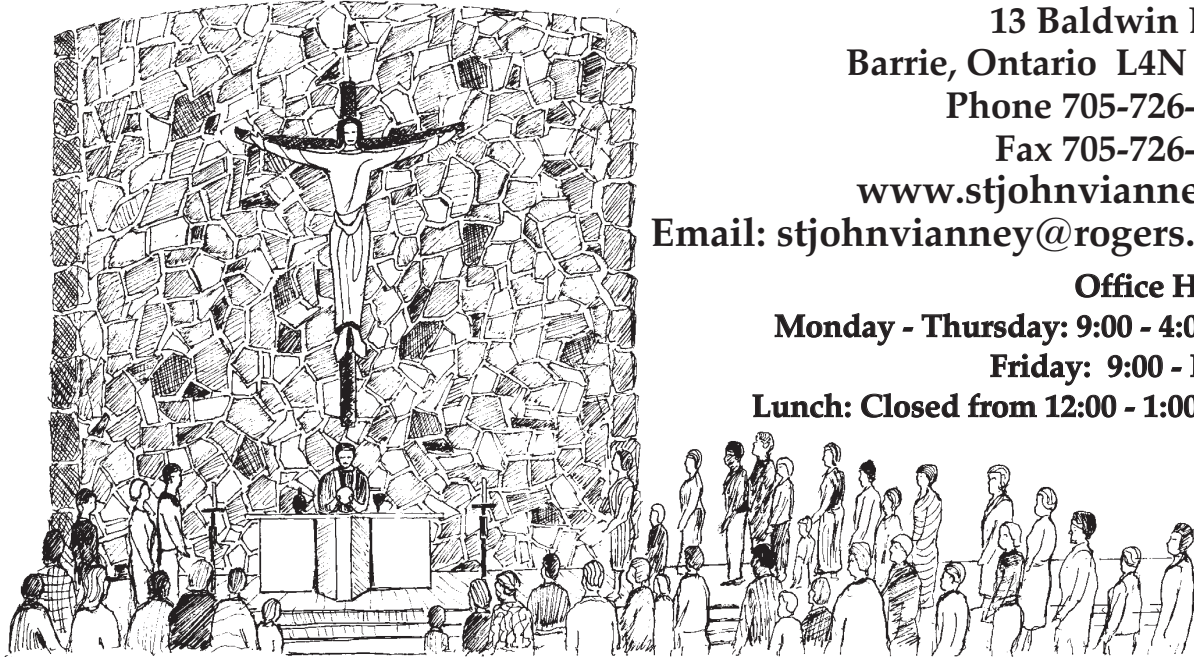


# St. John Vianney Church



13 Baldwin Lane  
Barrie, Ontario L4N 2W1  
Phone 705-726-8007  
Fax 705-726-4543  
[www.stjohnvianney.ca](http://www.stjohnvianney.ca)

Email: [stjohnvianney@rogers.com](mailto: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, 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 - 106

Karen Price, Parish Secretary - 101

Bernadette Brock, Youth Minister - 104

Marilyn Reesor, Music Director - 121

Growth in the Kingdom

*'Is your church growing?'* This is the question asked by an internet website concerned with church growth. It offers to help us double the numbers of our congregation so that the pews will be overflowing with enthusiastic worshippers. And the financial support will grow too, with the possibility of large donations.

Who could resist this offer at a time when many Christians get depressed with the constant drip-drip of news about declining church membership, the closing of church buildings and crippling financial burdens? Who would not welcome just a few tips about how to make our church grow?

It seems from today's Gospel that Jesus could have done with some advice in the face of his disciples' disappointment that their Master's campaign was not attracting more followers.

He had announced the presence of God's kingdom in a world dominated by the rule of Satan. The battle had begun but was not going as well as expected because already some of the religious leaders were accusing Jesus of being in league with Beelzebub. John the Baptist was wondering whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah and even his own family were turning against him.

But today Jesus has his own kind of advice and it comes in parable form. He gets his disciples thinking by telling them about a farmer who is prodigal in the sowing of seed: he throws it all over the place. Some seed does fall in fertile soil but much is wasted.

So having provoked the disciples with the parable Jesus now explains it with reference to his own preaching of the Word. He has been very generous in teaching and performing miracles, reaching out to all sorts people especially misfits and sinners.

Jesus makes it clear from the beginning of his ministry that he wants a greater righteousness than that of the scribes and Pharisees. He calls for a change of heart and mind in his hearers. But many of his hearers resist his appeal and their hearts become as hard as the path on which some of that seed fell. They lack understanding.

What is this understanding? It is an act of faith, an act of generous response to Jesus' call. Having such understanding is the only way their hearts can be opened up, freed from a superficial welcome of the gospel which crumbles under testing and freed from the choking lure of riches.

So Jesus explains the lack of numbers and the resistance to his gospel but God is not defeated. His kingdom will come; it's coming is conditioned not only by refusal but also by the generous response of open hearts like the one who hears the word and understands it ;he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.

Now that is a prodigal response but it seems a bit over the top. Is such a response possible or is it just hyperbole? In the face of disappointment and low morale it is important to recognize such abundant harvests are possible.

Where and when?

First in Jesus' own faith. His willingness to die, as the grain of wheat dies, and face the desolation of the cross produced the abundant harvest of the new creation God brought about through the resurrection.

Second, the Acts of the Apostles tells the story of amazing growth of the church as the Holy Spirit worked in the generous hearts of apostles like Peter and Paul as the faith spread from Jerusalem as far as Rome.

And third, see how God worked through the rich soil of the early Christians as a small Palestinian sect grew into the religion of the empire despite the persecutions they endured.

God's kingdom does not grow bigger and better along human models of evolution. No one knows how it will come in its fullness, only God. It is a mystery, but Jesus gives us understanding into that mystery.

And we learn in faith that although it would be foolish not to hope for a generous response to Jesus' call to discipleship, growth comes not just when the church is prosperous and triumphant but more often when she is weaker and persecuted. She will grow only if she allows the power of God's word to enter those generous hearts who have faith that He alone can produce the rich harvest.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm † **Deacon William Barker**  
Requested by: Dora Barker

Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am For the special intentions of **Marjorie Oliveira**  
Requested by: Family

9:30 am † **Ada & Maria Pellegrino**  
Requested by: Maria Fiorenzo

9:30 am † **Coi Thi Nguyen & † Hong Kim Nguyen**  
Requested by: Family

Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm † **Lucia & Angelo**  
Requested by: Ida

Thursday July 20<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am For the special intentions of **Marg Nixon**  
Requested by: Al & Maryann Weishar



WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS TO OUR CHURCH!

Warmest of greetings are extended to our summer visitors as well as any new parishioners of the parish. We hope you feel welcome and at home at St. John Vianney. New parishioners are invited to register by filling out a parish registration form available in the church vestibule or visit us in the Parish Office. Offertory Envelopes and Pre-Authorized Giving forms are also available.

Thank you to those parishioners who have signed up for the Pre-Authorized Giving. In the summer months our attendance drops but our expenses remain. It's easy to enroll, just fill out a yellow registration form (available at the back of the church), attach a void cheque and drop it in the offertory basket. Thank you for your support. ☺

**THE ANNUAL MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**  
St. Mary's Cemetery Mass will be held on **Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** with the main celebrant Most Reverend Wayne Kirkpatrick presiding. In the event of rain, the Mass will take place at St. Mary's Church.



## Archdiocese of Toronto 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Northern Pastoral Region Celebration – September 21, 2017:

As we celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Archdiocese of Toronto, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, extends an invitation for all to join him for Mass and a reception to commemorate this historic milestone. The Northern Pastoral Region celebration will take place at St. Mary's Church on Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit [www.archtoronto.org/175](http://www.archtoronto.org/175)

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Have you or someone you know ever considered becoming a Catholic? If so, the RCIA process is for you. This process begins each fall and runs with weekly meetings up to and including the Easter season. For those who are not baptized and for those of other Christian denominations who are already baptized, the RCIA/RCIC (children ages 7 and up) process is a wonderful response to the Lord's call to His disciples to "come and see". If you are interested in joining the RCIA/RCIC process for the fall of 2017 please call the office to make an appointment to meet with Fr. Biju. (705) 726-8007

### Vocation Seeds



"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Accept the invitation that is being extended, an invitation by the one who sent him. If you feel you are being called to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:**  
Mary Dunnett, Gizela Witt, Art Coulson, Jerry Gulka, Trudy Schoutsen, Joy Gunt, Marg Nixon, Baby Clare Dary, Rosaleen Thyne, Sherry Wyman, Raymond Valney, Jamie Ringler, Rosa Maria Santos, Jibreil Syed, Maria DeMelo, Joanne Ransome, Richard Benoit, Lillian Pottage, Stephanie Chalmers, & Marjorie Oliveira.



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