

St. John Vianney Church

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Fr. Saji Thomas, C.M.I., Associate Pastor - 106

Karen Price, Parish Secretary - 101

Bernadette Brock, Youth Minister - 104 Marilyn Reesor, Music Director - 121



*Give thanks to the Lord for
His many Blessings
On Thanksgiving*

GRATITUDE IS THE BEST ATTITUDE

Many years ago, Arthur Simon, a well-known advocate for the poor, was visiting the African nation of Mozambique during a severe famine. He and his companions came across a group of refugees who had left their village in search of food. They had only the tattered clothes on their backs and a few cooking pots. At night they slept in makeshift tents, and by day they foraged for berries, nuts and little creatures to supplement the meager daily ration of grain provided by a relief agency. Many of their number had died, and each of them had a terrible personal tale to tell. Yet, as Simon was preparing to leave them, a group of their women began to sing, clap, and dance in a circle. They were obviously happy, and Simon asked an interpreter what it was they were singing. What he heard came as a shock. These impoverished and hungry refugees who had endured such hardships were singing, "We have food! We have clothes! We have everything!" They had so little, and yet they were so grateful.

We find a story like this amazing. We know that, in spite of the blessings that surround us, we sometimes grumble about our situation, and we should be both ashamed and inspired by the witness of those, like the women in Mozambique, who are truly grateful for the little they have.

Today's Scripture readings remind us that we, God's people, often fail to be as grateful as we might be. For instance, we heard how Naaman the Syrian was grateful for the healing ministry of Elisha the prophet, in contrast to God's people, who had rejected Elisha's ministry. In the gospel we heard how Jesus healed ten lepers. Yet only one of them came back to thank Jesus, and he was a Samaritan- not considered to be one of God's people, while the other nine were.

We are children of God. Are we truly grateful for all that God has done for us? It's a question we need to ask ourselves, because all of us, at times, can come up a little short in the gratitude department, for any number of reasons. Sometimes we take our blessings for granted. We think we're entitled to them or that we've earned them, and we forget that they're gifts from God. Maybe we're resentful about things we want but don't have, and we stop being grateful for the things we do have. It's so easy for envy and self-pity to squeeze gratitude out of our hearts. Or it could be that we so often focus upon the negative that we fail to ever see the positive. That's why it's important

for us to cultivate gratitude, by intentionally counting our blessings, and thanking God for them.

At a human level, cultivating gratitude is certainly worth the effort. Study after study has shown that grateful people are happier and healthier. Furthermore, the grateful people are more likely to reach out and help those with personal problems and offer them emotional support. This suggests that while ungrateful people are focused mostly upon their own needs, grateful people are more likely to consider the needs of others. In other words, ingratitude breeds selfishness, and gratitude inspires service.

Maybe that last insight can help us to appreciate what Jesus did for us at the Last Supper. Our Lord knew that he was about to be betrayed by a friend, and that he'd be abandoned, rejected, tortured, and brutally executed. Yet in spite of that, he was still able to be grateful- grateful to do God's will, and grateful to be able to do something that would help those he loved, namely, suffer and die for them that they might live forever. Because he was grateful, he was able to think of us. What's more, he left us a sacrament at that Last Supper- the Eucharist, which is a Greek word meaning "thanksgiving." In his darkest hour, Jesus gave us this gift so that we, like him, might give thanks to God, even when things seem pretty dark for us.

Jesus commands us to celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday. You might say then that Jesus commands us to be grateful, because he knows how easy it is for us to be ungrateful. He saw that when nine lepers he had healed ran off and left him behind, without even offering a simple word of thanks.

All of us have things that we should thank God for, but don't. This doesn't need to be the case, however. We can make a special effort to identify our blessings, especially those we often overlook or undervalue. Let's try that this week. Like the women in Mozambique, let's not forget the basics- food, clothing, life itself. Let's include family, friends, work, freedom and little things like a cool breeze or a fresh cup of coffee. Then there are those challenges that help us grow, and the lessons we've learned through hardship. Most of all, there's God's love for us, his gifts of faith and hope, and his promise of eternal life. Then, once we've counted our blessings, let's bring them all in our heart to our next Eucharist and offer praise and thanksgiving to God the Father, in union with Jesus, who himself has shown us the way.

Mass for the Intentions Week

Sunday Oct. 9th 8:00 am † Steve Perik
Requested by: Agnes Perik

11:30 am † Frank Mika
Requested by: Teresa Mika & Family

Wednesday Oct. 12th 7:00 pm For the special intentions of Donna Procher
Requested by: Jim & Phyl Taylor

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*Thanks for sharing.* The Knights of Columbus Council 10370 along with the St. Vincent de Paul Society wish to thank our many friends in our parish for their generous donations to our recent food drive. The shelves are once again full! Thank you so much.

### Planning to be a Catholic Teacher?

It is critical for you to know that to be hired to teach in any Catholic school board in Ontario, as part of your application for employment there must be a letter of reference from your Pastor. If you (or if your adult child) is planning to apply to teach in a Catholic school, it is highly recommended that you plan to have a conversation with your Pastor early in the process to avoid disappointment and stress at the time when applications are to be submitted.

### WELCOME TABLE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in desperate need of volunteers for the Welcome Table at the 11:30 am Mass. It only requires just 10 minutes before Mass and 15 minutes after Mass on your assigned days (approx. once a month). You will hand out information, give out offertory envelopes and sell missals. Please leave your name at the Welcome Table or call the office: 705-726 8007.

**Come join us, to pray the rosary each Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the church.**

Looking Ahead Seminar

Join us at ST. JOHN VIANNEY PARISH HALL

Saturday October 15, 2016 at 10:30am

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT

- The importance of memorializing a loved one
  - Catholic teachings on cremation
  - Burial options at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery
  - The peace of mind that comes from planning ahead
- Refreshments will be served and all participants will receive a free Estate Planning Guide. *RSVP to St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery at 705-726-3931 or [info@cc-fs.ca](mailto:info@cc-fs.ca)*

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

The Eucharistic Ministry is in need of new Eucharistic Ministers for the **11:30 am Mass**. This is a great spiritually rewarding opportunity to serve the Lord and others. Training is provided. Please contact the church office.



The CWL general meeting will take place Mon. Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing the allocation of funds and election nominations for a new 2 year Executive. Forms will be e-mailed and available at the meeting. Please plan on attending.



**C.W.L. CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SAT. NOV. 19<sup>TH</sup> 2016**  
**9:30 am – 2:30 pm**

Calling all knitters, crocheters, bakers and country cooks. We need your help and generous donations for our annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. We need mitts, gloves, colorful leg warmers for all ages, fingerless gloves, boot cuffs, scarves, hats, slippers and some baby items. Everything is very welcome. For wool or patterns please contact BERYL at 705-436-5142. Also remember to please save jars of your home made preserves and veggies for our country kitchen table. We will also be looking for baked goods, bread, butter tarts, pies, squares, cookies, and sugar free goods. You can contact me with any questions. Susan Mays 705-456-7836. Thank-you all for your generosity.



*Please pray for those who are sick:* Fred Tomlinson, Jennifer Dourado, Maria Grillo, Baby Jaxon Timmerman, Brendan & Michael McCormick, Peter Myatt, Maria Elena Ramos, Herman Jacobs, Shirley Chew, Neave Alderson, John Navarrete, Sophia Goulah, Barbara Durnin, Nancy Kearns, Stephenie Chalmers, Wilson Gasewicz, Lillian Pottage, Avery Maset & Carson Batters. *And for those who have died recently:* † Marie Borges & † Chester Nail  
*(father of Kevin & Gary Nail)*





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