

St. John Vianney Church



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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

Remember and Forgive

This Sunday's readings challenge two pieces of popular wisdom. The first is that a person who has had a particular negative experience will automatically be sympathetic and understanding towards another person having a comparable experience. Much pastoral care and counselling support operates on this basis and it seems reasonable. We expect that those who have experienced a particular loss or anxiety will be better placed to help others undergoing that loss or feeling that anxiety.

But the servant in the gospel parable has no sympathy for the man who owes him money even though his own creditor had just released him from a much greater debt. His action is astonishing to those looking on and it remains astonishing to us, to the point where we may well be unmoved by the torture to which he is subjected at the end. We might even find ourselves rejoicing in that torture and saying 'Well good enough for him'.

And here is the wonderful trap set by this parable, because we then find ourselves behaving as he did. Who is he except a character in a story with a fictional debt, and who are we except real sinners who have been released by God from a real debt, the consequence of our sins?

We might imagine the wicked servant turning his head on the rack, looking towards us with bloodshot eyes, and saying 'So you think you are different from me? Which of you, even though you have been released by God from the debt of your sins, has not sometimes refused to forgive others, has not borne grudges and nursed hurts, has not maneuvered to get away with things yourself while calling others strictly to account?'

The other piece of popular wisdom challenged by the readings is that human beings make progress by forgiving and forgetting. Once again it seems reasonable, the advice often offered to people who cannot leave behind some sad experience or painful betrayal: 'Try to forgive and forget, you've got to move on and not allow this thing to continue to poison your life'.

But the readings today tell us that forgiveness is possible not by forgetting the past but by remembering it, by remembering more about the past, and by remembering our present situation, and by remembering our future destiny. If popular wisdom says 'Forgive and forget', biblical wisdom,

coming to a climax in Christ, says 'Remember, and so learn forgiveness'.

The wicked servant's colleagues are astonished that he could so quickly forget the mercy he had been shown. If you or I find it difficult to forgive somebody, then we can begin here, by remembering the times we have been forgiven. The first reading, from the Book of Sirach, begins its teaching about forgiveness from this point. It is not reasonable to expect forgiveness and mercy if you are not prepared to show them. It is absurd to continue to ask mercy of God if you are not prepared to show mercy to others. We need to remember at least that much.

But there are other things we ought to remember as we try to forgive. Remember the end of your life, Sirach says, remember destruction and death. How will it seem looking back, we can imagine him saying, if you have not been able to find a way to forgive. Perhaps he is also reminding us of the judgement, that each of us must give an account of himself to God and where will we be then, anxious to be forgiven but not understanding what forgiveness means because we have not practiced it ourselves.

Remember the commandments, Sirach continues, and remember the covenant of the Most High. Remember the covenant of the Most High, the new and everlasting covenant, sealed not by a heartless servant stretched on the rack, but by the Son of God nailed to the cross. If you want to learn forgiveness remember how the human heart of the Eternal Word was pierced. Remember how that blood dissolved the walls of hostility between people and established peace. It is not a case of forgiving and forgetting. It is a case of remembering, remembering many things, and so learning what forgiveness means.

Those who believe in Jesus are to be ambassadors of forgiveness in the world, and messengers of reconciliation. But forgiveness is not easy to do and the capacity to forgive is not one that is willfully achieved. No matter how powerful we consider our willpower to be we cannot force ourselves into forgiveness. In the end it is a gift from God as Alexander Pope intimated in his famous comment that 'To err is human, to forgive divine'.

Perhaps it is not strictly speaking something we 'do' but something we find ourselves capable of experiencing, a fruit of the Holy Spirit in us, a sign of the life of Christ in us, a participation in the divine nature, a way of relating to others in which we find ourselves becoming compassionate as the Heavenly Father is compassionate.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday September 16th 5:00 pm † **Mary Dunnett**
Requested by: Michael & Maria Hardie

5:00 pm † **Helen Wagner**
Requested by: Daniel Francavilla & Renee Blaney

Sunday September 17th 9:30 am For the special intentions of **Marjorie Oliveira**
Requested by: Family

9:30 am † **Joe Erdelji**
Requested by: Judy Eschenbach

9:30 am † **Clarence McCorkell**
Requested by: Helen McCorkell

11:30 am For the special intentions of **Joey Beers**
Requested by: The Wells Family

9:30 am For the special intentions of **Richard & Virginia Ladouceur**
Requested by: Drew Davie

Tuesday September 19th 8:30 am For the special intentions of **Gord Kavanaugh & Chris Adair**
Requested by: Dinie Vanderwerf

Thursday September 21st 8:30 am † **Gerd Meisler**
Requested by: The Rosary Apostolate



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Parents, mark your calendar for the opportunity to welcome your child to the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registration will take place on the following dates and times:

- GR. 2 FIRST COMMUNION**
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 6:00 PM AT ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH OR
- SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 AT 12:30 PM AT ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH OR
- TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26 AT 6:30 pm AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

If your child attends one of the six feeder schools associated with St. John Vianney Church and is in Grade 2 a registration package will be distributed to children through their class when they return to school. (Please bring with you a photocopy of your child's Baptismal Certificate and \$75 to reserve a family space)

CONFIRMATION

Registration for the program will be at the church:
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT 6:00 PM OR
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, AT 12:30 PM OR
THURSDAY OCTOBER 19, AT 7:00 PM
(Please remember to bring with you a photocopy of your child's Baptismal Certificate and \$75 to reserve a family space)

CWL NEWS:

- ❖ September 18 at 7:00 pm CWL General Meeting Everyone welcome!
- ❖ Heritage Quilt tickets are now on sale after all Masses.
- ❖ Sunday September 24, at 12 noon our last luncheon at Kempenfelt Centre cost \$20 per person.
- ❖ Northern Regional General Meeting will be held on September 26 at Holy Spirit Parish, Barrie Mass at 7 pm.

THINKING OF 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 parish office to make an appointment to meet with the Pastor.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Welcome Table invites parishioners to serve the church by donating a few minutes of their time. It 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. We are looking for the 11:30 am Mass. Please leave your name at the Welcome Table or call the office: 705-726 8007.



Please remember in your prayers those who are sick:
Ted Huston, Denise Foster, Gisela Witt, Jerry Gulka, Trudy Schoutsen, Marg Nixon, Baby Clare Dary, Sherry Wyman, Jebreil Syed, Maria DeMelo, Joanne Ransome, Richard Benoit, Lillian Pottage, & Marjorie Oliveira.
And for those who have died recently:
† Jack Schoutsen

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