ST. JOHN VIANNEY CONNECTIONS

OUR MISSION

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 Savior 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.

OUR PARISH TEAM

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MUSIC DIRECTOR

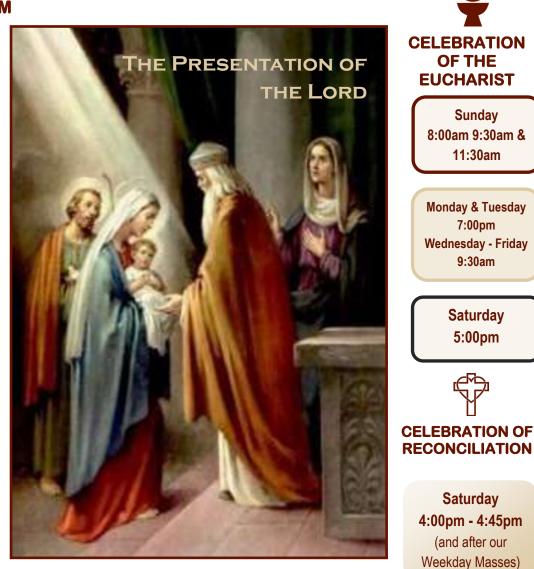
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CONTACT US

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OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm Closed from 12:00pm - 1:00pm for lunch

www.stjohnvianneyba.archtoronto.org

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, a moment rich in meaning and deep in mystery. This feast, also called **Candlemas**, marks the day when Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to the temple, in obedience to the Law of Moses, and encounter two faithful servants of God—Simeon and Anna—who recognize in this child the fulfillment of God's promises.

This event is not simply a legal ritual; it is a divine revelation. As Simeon proclaims, Jesus is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:32). Light is a powerful symbol in our faith. It represents truth, guidance, and the presence of God. That is why, in many traditions, this day is marked by the blessing of candles, reminding us that Christ is the light of the world, dispelling the darkness of sin and doubt.

Our first reading, from Malachi 3:1-4, presents a prophecy of the Lord's coming: "The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple" (Mal. 3:1). This prophecy finds its fulfillment in today's Gospel. Christ, the long-awaited Messiah, enters the temple not in majesty but in humility, carried in the arms of his mother. Yet his presence is transformative. Malachi also speaks of the Lord as a refiner and purifier, purging the sons of Levi so that their offerings may be righteous. This purification is not merely external but interior—a cleansing of hearts so that we may offer our lives to God in holiness.

The second reading, from Hebrews 2:10-11, 8-9, 10, reminds us that fully shares in our human experience: "For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father" (Heb. 2:11). He entered into our struggles, our sufferings, and our limitations to redeem us. The humility of the Presentation foreshadows the greater self-offering of Jesus on the Cross, where he becomes the ultimate sacrifice for our salvation. As St. Athanasius writes, "The Son of God became man so that we might become God"—sharing in his divine life through faith and grace.

This feast calls us to a twofold response: purification and witness:

1. A Call to Interior Purification

Just as Christ's presence in the temple signified purification, we too are called to allow Christ to refine our hearts. Lent is approaching—what better time to examine our lives and remove what hinders us from growing in holiness? We can ask ourselves:

- Are there areas of my life where I resist God's light?
- What attachments or habits need purification?
- How can I open my heart more fully to Christ's presence?

A practical way to do this is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which allows us to be cleansed and renewed in grace.

2. A Call to Be Light in the World

Simeon and Anna were faithful servants who recognized Christ's presence. Their example invites us to be vigilant, prayerful, and open to encountering God in unexpected moments. Each of us, by virtue of our baptism, is called to be a light to others—whether in our families, workplaces, or communities.

• Parents, like Mary and Joseph, are called to present Christ to their children, teaching them to walk in the light of faith.

• Young people are invited to seek God's presence in their lives and respond generously to His call.

• The elderly, like Simeon and Anna, remind us that every season of life has a purpose. Their wisdom and prayers are invaluable to the Church.

As Pope Benedict XVI once said, "Those who have encountered Christ must bring others to Him." How can we be bearers of Christ's light? Perhaps through acts of kindness, by bringing hope to the discouraged, or simply by living with integrity and joy.

A Feast of Thanksgiving and Renewal

Finally, this day invites us to a spirit of gratitude. Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in thanksgiving to God. So too, we are called to present our lives to the Lord—not just in obligation, but in love. Let us renew our commitment to walk in His light, allowing Him to purify our hearts and guide our steps.

As we light our candles today, may they remind us of the One who is the Light of the world. And as we carry that light into our daily lives, may we shine with the hope, faith, and joy that comes from belonging to Christ.

May the Lord bless you and your families on this sacred feast.



Saturday	5:00 pm For the special intentions of Edwina Smith
February 1 st	Requested by: Shelley Smith
Sunday	8:00 am 🕆 Herberth Escobar
February 2 nd	Requested by: Lidia Escobar & Family
	9:30 am 🕆 Maria Pellegrino Requested by: Gina & Emma Catallo
	11:30 am For the People of the Parish
Monday	7:00 pm 🕆 Paul Dallaire
February 3 rd	Requested by: Family
Tuesday	7:00 pm 🕆 Mark Jaklic
February 4 th	Requested by: Les & Mary Watts
Wednesday	9:30 am 🕆 Fred Aloise
February 5 th	Requested by: Maria Aloise
Thursday	9:30 am 🕆 Ed Henderson
February 6 th	Requested by: Colette Henderson
Friday	9:30 am 🕆 Frank Cutullo
February 7 th	Requested by: Mary Jane White
	9:30 am 🕆 Jebriel Syed Requested by: Arlene Chee Foon

9:30 am **한 Denise Wild** Requested by: Suzanne Emdin

9:30 am 🄁 **Murry Curran** Requested by: Anita & Scott Curran

9:30 am 🕆 Frank, Marina & Paul Prior

Requested by: Suzanne Prior

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Jubilee of Youth 2025

Calling all young adults (ages 19 -39), join Fr. Paul Magyar and the OCY team for the pilgrimage of a

lifetime! We will be embarking on a pilgrimage to Venice, Padua, Florence, Assisi and Rome from July 23rd to August 5th, 2025. Please contact <u>youth@archtoronto.org</u> to receive the pilgrim information package and detailed itinerary.



Friday, February 7th is the first Friday of the month. First Fridays have traditionally been associated with devotion to the Sacred Heart of

Jesus and the Blessed Sacrament. To appropriately observe First Fridays there will be Eucharistic Adoration following the 9:30 am Mass until 11:00 am when Benediction will be given.

2025 Donation Envelopes are available for pickup in the vestibule. (*Please discard any 2024 envelopes*) Thank you for your ongoing contributions to our Paris!



Dates for Regional Jubilee Mass Celebrations

With 2025 being the Jubilee Year of Hope, the

Archdiocese of Toronto has designated some parishes as pilgrimage sites and all are invited to plan a visit as a parish or as an individual in the coming months.

There is a special Jubilee Mass to be celebrated by Cardinal Leo on Tuesday February 4 at 7 pm at St Padre Pio's Parish in Woodbridge. All are invited to attend. Confessions will be available before Mass.

Tax receipts will be mailed in the next week or so. You should receive them via Canada Post by **February 17th**.





Join us for a 13-day European Pilgrimage from September 21st – October 3rd. We will be visiting Italy,

Vatican City, Switzerland, France, Spain and Portugal. The cost will be \$5880 each for double occupancy (an extra fee of \$850 will be added for single occupancy). Please call the parish office if you wish to put your name down.



WELCOME WEDNESDAY

Please join us at our Welcome

Wednesday Drop-In for videos, activities and plenty of conversation. We meet every Wednesday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Join us on **Wednesday, February 5th** for a guest speaker from the **Barrie Public Library.** Did you know that Barrie has three branches? Did you know that they loan out more than just books? Come join us to learn more about what the Barrie Public Library has to oiffer!

Please join us after the 9:30 am & 11:30 am Masses for Fellowship. This week's hosts are members of the parish.





Please pray for those who are sick:

Frances Miceli & Patrick Quinn

