

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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***Emergency due to death or serious illness, press 9.



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Sunday
8:00am 9:30am &
11:30am

Monday & Tuesday
7:00pm
Wednesday - Friday
9:30am

Saturday
5:00pm



CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday
4:00pm - 4:45pm
(and after our
Weekday Masses)

OFFICE HOURS

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

LOVE BEYOND MEASURE: THE CALL TO MERCY AND FORGIVENESS

The readings for this **Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time** invite us to reflect deeply on the radical call of Christ: to love our enemies, to show mercy without limits, and to embrace the divine image within us. At first glance, this call seems almost impossible. But as we reflect on today's Scriptures, we realize that God does not ask us to do the impossible—He asks us to do the divine.

David's Mercy: A Reflection of God's Heart

In the **First Reading (1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-25)**, we witness one of the most powerful moments of mercy in the Old Testament. David, who has been relentlessly pursued by King Saul, finds himself with a perfect opportunity to take revenge. Instead, he spares Saul's life, choosing mercy over vengeance.

David's decision was not weakness; it was strength. The world often tells us that power is in domination and retribution. But the true power, as Jesus reveals, lies in mercy. **As St. John Chrysostom said, "To return evil for evil is devilish; to return good for good is human; but to return good for evil is divine."**

The New Adam: Living in the Image of Christ

In the **Second Reading (1 Corinthians 15:45-49)**, St. Paul contrasts Adam, the man of dust, with Christ, the man of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of Adam—prone to sin, weakness, and revenge—we are now called to bear the image of Christ, who is full of grace and truth.

What does this mean? It means that we are not bound by our fallen nature. In Baptism, we have been given a new identity in Christ, a calling to reflect His mercy and love. When we forgive, when we show kindness even when it is undeserved, we are not just being "good people"—we are living out our true identity as children of God. **"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).**

The Challenge of Jesus: A Love Beyond Limits

Then we come to the **Gospel (Luke 6:27-38)**—perhaps one of the most challenging teachings of Jesus. He calls us not only to love our friends but also our enemies. He tells us to bless those who curse us, to pray for those who mistreat us, to give without expecting repayment. And He sums it all up with the golden rule: **"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).**

This is not just moral advice; it is a way of life that sets us apart as disciples of Christ. It is easy to love those who are kind to us. But Jesus calls us to a love that goes beyond what is natural—it is supernatural. **This love is not a feeling, but a decision.** It is the decision to

break the cycle of hatred, to return blessing for insult, to choose mercy over vengeance.

Practical Ways to Live Out This Message

How can we apply this to our daily lives? Here are some concrete steps:

1. **Forgive someone who has wronged you.** Not because they deserve it, but because you are called to reflect God's mercy.
2. **Pray for those who hurt you.** Prayer softens our hearts and aligns them with God's.
3. **Respond to negativity with kindness.** Instead of retaliating when someone is rude or unkind, respond with patience and charity.
4. **Give without expecting anything in return.** Whether it is your time, your resources, or your love, give generously.
5. **Remember God's mercy toward you.** The more we reflect on how much we have been forgiven, the easier it is to extend that forgiveness to others.

A Heart Like Christ's

At the heart of today's message is a simple but profound truth: **We are called to love like Christ.** And this love is most evident not when it is easy, but when it is difficult—when we choose forgiveness over resentment, kindness over retaliation, and mercy over judgment.

Let us ask the Lord for the grace to love beyond measure, to be true reflections of His mercy in a world that so desperately needs it. May we always remember that in showing mercy, we are not only blessing others—we are becoming more like Christ Himself.

**"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."
— St. Francis of Assisi**

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



As has become a parish tradition, the Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual Parish Pancake Supper on **Tuesday, March 4th** in the parish hall from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. This will be a great time to get together as a church community and enjoy a delicious dinner as we enter the season of Lent. The dinner will include pancakes, sausages, baked beans, dessert, and tea, coffee and juice. The cost is \$10 for adults with children under 16 free. There are only 125 Tickets, which will be sold after all Masses this weekend and next, but not at the door. Payment can be made by cash, credit or debit card. Any monies surplus after the cost of supplies has been covered will be donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please join us for this fun evening.



CALLING ALL KIDS in Grade 4 and above. We are looking for more **Altar Servers**. If you are interested, please fill out a registration form at the Welcome Desk and hand it to the volunteer once completed. THANK YOU!

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

Saturday February 22 nd	5:00 pm For the People of the Parish
Sunday February 23 rd	8:00 am † Shellie Lynn Scott Requested by: Bill Scott
	9:30 am † Krystyna, Dariuse & Eugeniusz Jakubiec Requested by: Andy Fuks
	11:30 am † Maria Thuy Mai & † Joseph Hien Tran Requested by: The Tran & Nguyen Families
Monday February 24 th	7:00 pm † Denise Wild Requested by: Catherine Landry
Tuesday February 25 th	7:00 pm † Peter Feltracco Requested by: Gus Feltracco
	7:00 pm † David Aguayo Garcia Requested by: Lydia Harmazy
	7:00 pm † For the special intentions of Nicole Gordanier & Alexander Mallinos Requested by: Wendy Gordanier
Wednesday February 26 th	9:30 am † Fred Aloise Requested by: Maria Aloise
Thursday February 27 th	9:30 am † Ed Henderson Requested by: Colette Henderson
Friday February 28 th	9:30 am † Larry White Requested by: Family
	9:30 am † Karl Amm Requested by: Anné & Marc Gariepy
	9:30 am † Marcella & Denis McCarthy Requested by: Suzanne Prior



On February 27th, the church Hall will be used as a polling station for the 2025 Ontario Election.



THE LENTEN SEASON

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season in which we prepare ourselves to celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Christ by drawing closer to him through good works, repentance, prayer, and fasting.

This year, Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on **Wednesday, March 5th**. There will be two Masses – one at 9:30 a.m. and the other at 7:00 p.m.



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 – 1:00 pm. **We have planned an information event for caregivers on Wednesday, February 26th**. Many parishioners have people who depend on us, or we know someone who gives care. Whether you are helping family members, friends, the young or the old, come hear how to be more resilient in the loving service you give.



Project Rachel at St. Mary's Refuge is offering a weekend retreat, May 2-4, 2025, for women who have been hurt by abortion. You can speak with someone who understands and cares and have a chance to begin the healing from loss and grief. Phone 289-691-6840, or e-mail ProjectRachel@stmarysrefuge.org.



Save the Date: On Saturday, May 31, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a new archdiocesan event called "A Day With Mary" will be taking place at Villanova College in King City.

We will gather together from all corners of the archdiocese to participate in Mass, pray the Rosary, grow deeper in our devotion to Our Lady through a keynote address for the adults and children's catechesis for the kids. There will be music and fellowship, and we hope you will consider joining the Cardinal Archbishop and so many others who love the Blessed Mother.

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



REMEMBRANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

† Everdina Robinson & † Rosemarie Coulson



Please pray for those who are sick:

Patrick O'Reilly



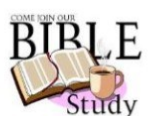
EXCITING NEWS!

Life Teen for Students in **Grades 9-12** will be launching on

Saturday, March 1st after the 5pm Mass. Please register on the **St. John Vianney website** under **Youth Ministry** or contact Youth Minister Kelly for more information at:

Email: kluvisotto@archtoronto.org

Phone: 705-726-8007 Ext. 205



We are looking for a faith filled individual to lead a new Bible Study Group. If you feel you have a knowledgeable background in Catechesis, please speak to Fr. Joshy.

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