

# 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.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



### 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



## A CALL TO CONVERSION: THE FIRE THAT TRANSFORMS

Dear Parishioners of St. John Vianney,

Lent is a sacred time when God invites us to turn back to Him, to be renewed, and to bear good fruit in our lives. This Sunday's readings challenge us to take a deep and honest look at our spiritual journey. They remind us that conversion is not just a moment but a lifelong process that requires vigilance, humility, and trust in God's mercy.

### 1. The Burning Bush: A Call to Encounter God (Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15)

In the First Reading, we see Moses encountering God in the burning bush; a fire that burns but does not consume. This is not just a dramatic moment in history; it is a symbol of how God's presence transforms us without destroying us. God reveals His sacred name: "I AM WHO I AM," showing that He is eternal, faithful, and ever-present in our lives.

Like Moses, we often feel unworthy or hesitant before God's call. But God does not choose the perfect; He perfects those He chooses. The fire of His love refines us, burning away fear, doubt, and sin. This Lent, are we attentive to God's presence in our lives? Are we allowing His love to refine us, or are we avoiding His call?

### 2. Learning from the Past: Warnings from Israel's Journey (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12)

St. Paul reminds us that the Israelites, though they witnessed great miracles, still fell into sin through ingratitude, idolatry, and complaining. Paul warns us: "So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). This is a sobering message: spiritual pride can be our downfall.

Lent is a time to examine our own hearts. Are we presuming upon God's mercy while remaining unchanged? Do we grumble instead of giving thanks? Do we take our faith for granted? The spiritual life is not automatic; it requires ongoing effort. The good news is that God's grace is always available to help us stand firm.

### 3. The Barren Fig Tree: A Call to Bear Fruit (Luke 13:1-9)

In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of a fig tree that has not borne fruit for three years. The owner wants to cut it down, but the gardener pleads for one more year, one more chance for it to bear fruit.

This parable speaks directly to us. God is patient, but He also expects transformation. We cannot keep delaying conversion. As St. Augustine famously said, "God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination."

Lent is our "one more year." It is a season of grace, a time to cultivate the soil of our hearts with prayer, fasting, and charity. Are we bearing the fruits of love, mercy, and generosity? Or are we spiritually stagnant? Jesus calls us to take our faith seriously, to nurture it so that it grows and bears fruit in our families, workplaces, and communities.

### Bringing It Home: A Personal Invitation

This week, let us reflect on three simple yet profound questions:

1. Where is God trying to get my attention, like He did with Moses?
2. What areas of my life need purification and renewal?
3. Am I bearing fruit, or am I delaying my conversion?

The good news is that God is patient, merciful, and ever ready to nourish us. But we must respond. As St. Catherine of Siena reminds us: "Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire."

Let this Lent be a time of true renewal. Let us not delay our response to God's call. He is ready to transform us; are we ready to say yes?



### The Stations of the Cross

Join us for **The Stations of the Cross** devotion on Friday evenings at **7:00 pm.** during Lent. The *Stations of the Cross* will take place **Friday March 28<sup>th</sup>** and will be led by the Eucharistic Ministers.

**We invite you to join us at 6:00 pm for a simple meal of soup and bread.**

# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

Saturday  
March 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:00 pm † **Raymond Stone**  
Requested by: Vivian Stone

Sunday  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:00 am **People of the Parish**

9:30 am For the special intention of  
**Auriel Johnston & Family**  
Requested by: Kieth Binns & Family

11:30 am † **Maria Thuy Mai & Anton Anh Nguyen**  
Requested by: The Tran & Nguyen Families

Tuesday  
March 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm † **Marilyn Soos**  
Requested by: The Soos & Anglin Families

Wednesday  
March 26<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am † **Maria Jose Senra**  
Requested by: The Sousa Family

Thursday  
March 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am † **Joe Spineto**  
Requested by: Teresa Spineto

Friday  
March 28<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am † **John Arksey**  
Requested by: Family

9:30 am † **John Annecca**  
Requested by: Family

9:30 am † **Larry White**  
Requested by: Family

9:30 am † **Fred Aloise**  
Requested by: Maria Aloise



## 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.

As you know, we are celebrating a Jubilee Year – **Pilgrims of Hope**. If you are interested in learning more about what that means and how you can participate fully, please join us on **Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>** as we welcome long time parishioner, Stephanie Maher to educate us about this very special event. The presentation will start at roughly 10:30am.



## LENTE CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered on:  
**Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 6:00 pm.**

All three of our priests will be available to hear confessions on that day.



The CWL Crafters are looking for donations of buttons, metal jar lids, and bits and bobs of jewelry. There will be small collection bins available in the foyer before all the Masses. All adults are welcome to join the Crafters on Tuesdays from 9am-12pm. Those attending are encouraged to bring a snack for themselves or one to share with the group.



## Community of Hope Outreach: Seniors Calling Service

This new project is funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP), which provides funding for projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors in their communities.

This calling service is for persons aged 55+ who may be socially or physically isolated and are looking for support, or a friendly person to talk to. We are looking for volunteers and participants to take part in this much needed program.

If you would like to find out more information, please call Suzanne at 647-448-8873 or email her at [outreach@beingwith.org](mailto:outreach@beingwith.org).



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

† Jorge Francisco † Marlene Churchill  
† Anna Patrick



*Please pray for those who are sick:*

Bob Westhaver, Patrick Quinn,  
Nicole Quinn & Rebecca Gibbs

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