

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

PASTOR

Fr. Joshy George C.M.I.
705-726-8007 Ext. 202
JoshyGeorge@archtoronto.org

ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Fr. Arun Davis C.M.I.
705-726-8007 Ext. 212
ADavis@archtoronto.org

Fr. Eduardo Lopez
705-726-8007
ELopez@archtoronto.org

LAY PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Paul LaPlume
705 726-8007 Ext 204
PLaplume@archtoronto.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS

Wendy Gordanier
705-726-8007 Ext 201
WGordanier@archtoronto.org

Anita Curran
705-726-8007 Ext. 203
ACurran@archtoronto.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Marilyn Reesor
705-726-8007 Ext 206
MReesor@archtoronto.org

YOUTH MINISTER

Kelly Luvisotto
705-726-8007 Ext 205
KLuvisotto@archtoronto.org

CONTACT US

Phone: 705-726-8007

Email: stjohnvianneyba@archtoronto.org

***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

THROUGH THE NARROW DOOR: GOD'S UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS

The Scriptures this Sunday invite us into a profound reflection on the mystery of salvation and the urgency of our response to God's call. In Isaiah, the Lord declares: "I am coming to gather all nations and tongues, and they shall come and see my glory" (Is 66:18). This sweeping vision reveals God's universal salvific will, His desire that all peoples may share in His covenant and glory. The Psalmist echoes this desire when proclaiming: "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord" (Ps 150:6).

Yet, in the Gospel, Jesus turns our hearts to a sobering reality: "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able" (Lk 13:24). The tension between God's universal invitation and the narrow door of discipleship raises the crucial question: How do we live so as to be counted among those who enter the banquet of the Kingdom?

1. God's Universal Invitation

Isaiah paints a breathtaking image of God's glory being revealed to the nations. Early Christian theologians like St. Irenaeus of Lyons marvelled at this universal horizon, writing: "Where the Church is, there is the Spirit of God; and where the Spirit of God is, there is the Church and every grace" (Against Heresies, III,24). God's saving plan is not reserved for a select few but extends to all peoples. Vatican II's *Lumen Gentium* echoes this: "All are called to this union with Christ, who is the light of the world, from whom we go forth, through whom we live, and toward whom our whole life is directed" (LG 3).

In our parish life, we see glimpses of this universality: families from diverse cultures gathered around one altar, children of many backgrounds learning the same faith, the poor and the well-off kneeling side by side at Communion. The Church is catholic because her mission is to all.

2. The Narrow Door of Discipleship

But Jesus warns us: not all who think they are close to Him will enter. Merely saying "We ate and drank with you" is not enough (Lk 13:26). The door is narrow not because God wishes to exclude, but because true discipleship demands conversion, humility, and perseverance.

The Letter to the Hebrews helps us understand this challenge: "Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children" (Heb 12:7). The hardships, sacrifices, and even sufferings we face are not obstacles but divine instruments shaping us for eternal life. St. Augustine once wrote, "God had one Son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering". The narrow door, then, is the way of the Cross, the path of holiness that strips away self-centeredness and opens us to love.

3. The Kingdom Turns Expectations Upside Down

Jesus' words remind us that "some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last" (Lk 13:30). Here lies a reversal that shakes human complacency. Salvation is not about privilege, status, or external association, but about living faith. Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* reminds us: "The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step toward Jesus, we come to realize that He is already there, waiting for us with open arms" (EG 3).

Think of ordinary human experiences:

- A parent who tirelessly sacrifices for their children enters through the narrow door of self-giving love.
- A young adult who resists peer pressure to live authentically in faith embraces the narrow door of integrity.
- An elderly parishioner who offers daily sufferings for the intentions of others walks through the narrow door of redemptive prayer.

The Kingdom belongs to such as these, not because of their achievements, but because of their fidelity in the small, hidden choices of daily life.

4. Striving Together as a Parish

St. John Vianney, our parish patron, once said: "The saints did not all begin well, but they ended well." His reminder is a consolation: our failures are not the final word. What matters is that we keep striving, supporting one another as we journey through the narrow door.

As a parish community, we are called not only to be spectators of God's mission, but also to be participants. Let us:

- Deepen our Eucharistic devotion, for the Eucharist strengthens us for the narrow way.
- Invest in catechesis and family formation, so that children and youth learn to choose the narrow door early.
- Build a parish culture of welcome and mercy, extending Christ's invitation to those who feel distant.

Walking Toward the Banquet

Dear friends, the banquet of the Kingdom is prepared. God desires to gather all into His glory, yet the entrance requires our daily "yes" to the narrow way of Christ. May we not be found knocking at a closed door, but walking together, persevering in love, discipline, and faith.

As Hebrews exhorts us: "Strengthen your drooping hands and weak knees and make straight paths for your feet" (Heb 12:12-13). In this Eucharist, Christ Himself goes before us and within us. Let us walk confidently through the narrow door, for beyond it lies the eternal joy of the Father's house.

In Christ,

Fr. Joshy George

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday August 23 rd	5:00 pm † Robert & Marguerite McCahery Requested by: Barbara McCahery
Sunday August 24 th	8:00 am † Ruffieux Michel Requested by: The Ruffieux Family 9:30 am For the deceased members of the Aloise Family Requested by: Maria Aloise 11:30 am For the People of the Parish
Monday August 25 th	7:00 pm † Lidia Oliveira Requested by: Mike & Maria Hardie
Tuesday August 26 th	7:00 pm † Marita Tonnos Requested by: Judy Tonnos 7:00 pm † Maria & Berto Bozzetto Requested by: Mirella Bozzetto
Wednesday August 27 th	9:30 am † Giovanna & Ettore D'Antonio Requested by: Iolanda Mattucci
Thursday August 28 th	9:30 am † Carmine Mattucci & Marise Vettor Requested by: Iolanda Mattucci
Friday August 29 th	9:30 am † Lawrence Kim & Family Requested by: Anna Kim 9:30 am † Tom Hogenbirk Requested by: Suzanne Emdin 9:30 am For the deceased members of the Feltraco Family Requested by: Gus Feltraco

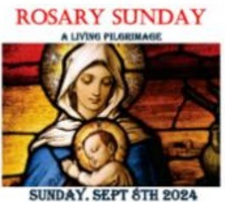


For **ADULTS** interested in **Is this the year to join the Catholic Church?** If so, the RCIA process is for you. This process begins each fall and runs with weekly meetings up to and including the Easter season. For those who are not baptized and for those of other Christian denominations who are already baptized, the RCIA process is a wonderful response to the Lord's call to His disciples to "Come and See". If you are interested, you may pick up a registration form from the Welcome Desk. You may also chat with Paul LaPlume after Mass or call him at 705-726-8007 ext.204.



The registration process for **FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION & RCIC** has begun. Information on these sacramental programs and their corresponding application links can be found on our website. Alternately, you may scan the appropriate **QR code** located on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

Rosary Sunday, the Annual Pilgrimage to honour Mother Mary, will be held on Sept.14 at Martyrs Shrine beginning at 2:30pm.



Bus reserved for Parishioners by K of C, departing the Parish front parking lot at 12:30pm following the 11:30am mass and return to the front parking lot at approximately 5:20pm. Tickets are \$20, including round trip bus fare, entrance fee and are available after all weekend masses on Aug.30/31 & Sept.6/7



Starting on Friday, September 5th, we will be offering Eucharistic Adoration **EVERY** Friday after 9:30am Mass. Adoration will conclude at 11:00 am when Benediction will be given.

2ND ANNUAL PARISH FIESTA

Save the date! On Sunday, September 7th we will be holding our 2nd Annual Parish Fiesta. Once again we will be using the park across the street for food, music and lots of fun. Stay tuned for more details!



REMEMBRANCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

† **Davis Kim**



Please pray for those who are sick:

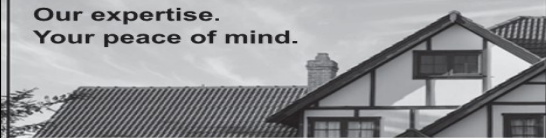
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