

# 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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### Fourth Sunday of Lent

### CONTACT US

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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

**From Blindness to Vision; From Darkness to Light**

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, traditionally called Laetare Sunday, the Church invites us to rejoice even in the midst of our Lenten journey, because the light of Christ is already breaking into our darkness. The readings today speak powerfully to the human heart. They touch one of the deepest struggles of our time: the inability to see clearly, to judge rightly, and to recognize the presence of God where we least expect Him.

In the First Reading from the First Book of Samuel, the Lord sends Samuel to anoint a new king from among the sons of Jesse. As each strong and impressive candidate passes before him, Samuel assumes that surely the Lord's chosen must be one of them. But God corrects him with words that remain ever relevant: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature... for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

How much of our modern world is built on appearances. People are judged by status, ideology, wealth, popularity, social media presence, or external achievement. Even in family life, parish life, and the life of faith, we can fall into the same temptation, measuring others by what is seen rather than by what is true. God sees differently. The Lord sees the heart.

David, the least expected, the youngest, the one left tending the sheep, is the one chosen and anointed. This is the divine pattern throughout salvation history. God delights in raising up what the world overlooks. He chooses not according to worldly calculation but according to the mystery of grace. This should give hope to anyone who feels forgotten, underestimated, wounded, or spiritually inadequate. The Lord's call does not depend on human prestige; it depends on His loving gaze.

The Second Reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians deepens this message. Saint Paul writes, "Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8). Notice that he does not say merely that we were in darkness; he says, "you were darkness." Sin darkens the intellect, weakens the will, and disorders the heart. Yet through Christ we are not merely improved; we are transformed. "Now in the Lord you are light."

The Catechism reminds us that Baptism is called illumination, because those who receive it are enlightened by Christ, the true light of the world (cf. CCC 1216). Lent, therefore, is a time to rediscover the grace of our baptism, to remember who we are, and to remove whatever dims the light of Christ within us.

This message is especially urgent today. We live in a time when moral clarity is often blurred, when truth is negotiated, and when many struggle with loneliness, anxiety, and uncertainty about identity and purpose. Families try to hand on the faith amid competing voices, and many carry hidden burdens in their personal lives. In such a moment Saint Paul's words echo with renewed urgency: "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (Ephesians 5:14).

All of this reaches its climax in today's Gospel, the powerful account of the man born blind in John chapter 9.

Saint Augustine saw in this miracle the story of every human life. The blind man represents humanity, unable to heal itself, waiting for the touch of Christ. Jesus approaches him, makes mud with the dust of the earth, anoints his eyes, and sends him to wash in the pool of Siloam. The One who formed humanity from the dust now begins a new creation. The early Church saw in this sign a baptismal mystery: the man washes and returns seeing.

What is striking in this Gospel is that the man who was physically blind gradually comes to faith, while those who believe themselves enlightened become increasingly blind. The Pharisees investigate, argue, and judge, yet fail to recognize the work of God before their eyes. The healed man, however, moves step by step toward deeper faith until he finally says, "Lord, I believe," and worships Jesus.

Here lies one of the great paradoxes of the spiritual life. Often it is not weakness that prevents us from encountering God, but pride. Not our questions, but our self-sufficiency. The worst blindness is not the blindness that knows it cannot see; it is the blindness that insists it already does.

For us as a parish community, this Gospel offers both consolation and challenge. It consoles us because it tells us that no darkness is beyond the reach of Christ. No blindness is final when brought to Him. No life is too broken to be touched by grace. But it also challenges us to allow Christ to question our own way of seeing, to recognize the blind spots, prejudices, and fears that still need healing.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us ask the Lord for three graces: the grace of honest self-knowledge, so that we may recognize where we are blind; the grace of interior light, so that Christ may illumine our decisions and relationships; and the grace of compassionate vision, so that we may see others not according to appearances, but according to the dignity God has given them.

On this Laetare Sunday, the Church invites us to rejoice, because Christ is still passing by, still opening blind eyes, still awakening sleeping hearts, and still calling His people from darkness into light. Let us not be afraid to come before Him with humility and trust, and simply pray: "Lord, that I may see."

*Fr. Joshy George, CMI*

Pastor, St. John Vianney Parish, Barrie

		Holy Week 2026		
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Holy Thursday</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
Sat. March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Saturday April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday April 5 <sup>th</sup>
5:00 pm	7:00 pm	10:00 am	8:00 pm	8:00am
Sun. March 29 <sup>th</sup>	The Mass of the Lord's Supper	3:00 pm		9:30 am
8:00am		The Passion of the Lord		11:30 am
9:30 am		Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm		
11:30 am				

*Mass Intentions*  
FOR THE WEEK

Saturday March 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm ✠ <b>Mike McGann</b> Requested by: Christine Liggett
Sunday March 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am ✠ <b>Theresa Prior</b> Requested by: Suzanne Prior
	9:30 am ✠ <b>Giovanna D'Antonio</b> Requested by: Rita & Joseph D'Antonio
	9:30 am For the special intentions of <b>Samantha Pugliese</b> Requested by: The Son Family
	11:30 am ✠ <b>Otilie Mieschke</b> Requested by: Conrad Mieschke
	11:30 am ✠ <b>P. Xavier Selvaratham</b> Requested by: Family
Monday March 16 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm ✠ <b>Boniface &amp; Angelina Uchendu</b> Requested by: Family
Tuesday March 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm ✠ <b>Charlie &amp; Grace Graham</b> Requested by: Family
	7:00 pm ✠ <b>Bill &amp; Helen Huntley</b> Requested by: Family
	7:00 pm ✠ <b>Gord Nixon</b> Requested by: Les & Mary Watts
	7:00 pm For the <b>living and deceased members of the CWL</b>
	7:00 pm For the special intentions of <b>Conrad Zarzycki</b> Requested by: Family
Wednesday March 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am ✠ <b>Fred Aloise &amp; Family</b> Requested by: Maria Aloise
Thursday March 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am <b>All Souls in Purgatory</b> Requested by: Marianne Strong
Friday March 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am ✠ <b>Ed Henderson</b> Requested by: Colette Henderson
	9:30 am ✠ <b>Lawrence &amp; Davis Kim</b> Requested by: Anna Kim
	9:30 am ✠ <b>Marshal &amp; Doris Prior</b> Requested by: Suzanne Prior
	9:30 am ✠ <b>Blazenka Skracic</b> Requested by: Zdenko Skracic
	9:30 am For the deceased members of the <b>Knights of Columbus</b>



**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 20<sup>th</sup>** and will be led by the **Eucharistic Ministers.** Please join us at **6:00 pm** for a simple dinner of soup and bread.



**WELCOME WEDNESDAY**

Please join us at our Welcome Wednesday Drop-In for fun activities, plenty of conversation and refreshments. We meet every Wednesday from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.



**LENTEN CONFESSIONS**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered on: **Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 pm.** We will have four priests available to hear Confessions on that day.



St John Vianney Catholic Women's League will host its Annual General Meeting Tuesday, March 17, 2026 in the parish hall following the 7:00 pm Mass. The CWL calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. All women of the parish are invited.



The CWL Tuesday morning craft sessions begin again this week starting March 17, 2026. Please bring along an embroidery needle and some fine scissors for this week's craft. Coffee and tea will be provided and please bring along a snack for yourself or to share. The craft sessions are open to the parish.



**Our next Parish trip will take place September 12<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>.** Join us as we tour England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Dublin. **If you would like more information, please call the office. Once we have a list of people who are seriously interested, we will schedule a information evening with Intersight Tours.**

**YOUTH NEWS - MARCH SCHEDULE**

- Holy Seeds**  
Friday, March 20th  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
  - Growing in Grace**  
Saturday, March 21st  
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
  - Stations of the Cross - Youth Led**  
Friday, March 27th  
6:00-8:00 PM
  - Rooted Youth**  
Saturday, March 28th  
3:30 PM - 6PM
  - Social in the church hall before Mass**
- We can't wait to see all of our youth there! Bring a friend!



**FELLOWSHIP**

Join us after the 9:30am & 11:30am Masses for refreshments and the get to know your priests and fellow parishoners. This weeks hosts are volunteers from the parish. We hope to see you there!



*Please pray for those who are sick:*

Tony Pereira, Chiara Basile, Jen McMorrow, Augusto Feltracco & David Gatt

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