

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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Fifth 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

CONTACT US

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

COME FORTH: FROM THE TOMBS OF DESPAIR TO THE BREATH OF NEW LIFE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Church gently but firmly leads us to the threshold of one of the most powerful moments in the Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. We stand today between death and life, between despair and hope, between what seems finished and what God is just beginning.

The Word of God this Sunday speaks with a voice that is both deeply human and profoundly divine. It addresses not only physical death, but the many forms of "death" we encounter in our daily lives, discouragement, broken relationships, loss of faith, anxiety about the future, and the quiet exhaustion that so many carry within.

In the First Reading, through the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord makes a stunning promise to a people in exile and hopelessness, "I will open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people... and I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live" (Ezekiel 37:12,14). This is not merely poetic language, it is a declaration of God's power to restore life where everything appears lost. The Catechism reminds us that "God reveals himself as the Lord of life from its beginning until its end" (CCC 2258), and here we see that even the grave is not beyond His reach.

How relevant this is for our times. We live in a world where many feel buried under pressures, war, economic uncertainties, family struggles, loneliness, and a growing sense of spiritual emptiness. Some feel as though they are living, yet not truly alive. To them, and to each of us, God says, "I will open your graves."

Saint Paul, in the Second Reading, deepens this promise by reminding us that life in the Spirit is not a future dream alone, but a present reality, "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he... will give life to your mortal bodies also" (Romans 8:11). The Christian life is not simply about avoiding sin, it is about becoming fully alive through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. As Saint Irenaeus beautifully expressed, "The glory of God is man fully alive," and that life flows from communion with God.

Then we arrive at the Gospel, the moving and deeply personal story of Lazarus. Jesus does not rush to prevent death, instead, He enters into the sorrow of the moment. He stands before the tomb and weeps. "Jesus began to weep" (John 11:35). These are among the most tender words in all of Scripture. They reveal a God who is not distant from our suffering, but who shares in it.

Today many question whether God truly understands human pain, this moment offers a profound answer. Christ does not stand far away from our grief, He stands beside us, He weeps with us.

And yet, the story does not end in tears. Standing before the sealed tomb, Jesus cries out with authority, "Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43). With that command, death gives way to life, darkness gives way to light, silence gives way to hope.

This Gospel invites each of us to ask a very personal question, what are the "tombs" in my life? What are the areas where I feel trapped, bound, unable to move forward? Is it fear, resentment, addiction, doubt, or a sense of unworthiness?

Lent is precisely the season when Christ stands before those very places and calls us by name. He does not shout in general terms, He calls personally, lovingly, powerfully, "Come out."

Saint Augustine once reflected on this passage saying, "Lazarus, come forth, the Lord called him by name, lest all the dead should come forth." This reminds us that God's call is always personal. He knows us, He loves us, and He calls each of us into life.

But notice something important, when Lazarus comes out, he is still bound in burial cloths. Jesus then tells the community, "Unbind him, and let him go" (John 11:44). This is where the Church enters the story. We are called not only to receive life, but also to help one another live it. In our parish community, through the sacraments, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist, through prayer, encouragement, and accompaniment, we participate in this mission of "unbinding" one another.

As we journey closer to Holy Week, this Gospel prepares us to understand the deeper mystery of Christ's own death and resurrection. The raising of Lazarus is a sign, it points forward to the greater victory of Easter, where Christ will not only call another from the tomb, but will Himself conquer death forever.

Dear parishioners, perhaps this Lent the Lord is inviting you to step out of something that has held you back for years. Perhaps He is inviting you to return to confession, to renew your prayer life, to reconcile with someone, or simply to trust Him again.

Whatever it may be, hear His voice today. It is not a voice of condemnation, but of life. It is not a voice that shames, but one that restores. "Come forth." And when you do, know that you do not walk alone. Christ walks with you, the Spirit lives within you, and the Church stands beside you.

May this Eucharist strengthen us to leave behind every form of spiritual death and to embrace the new life that Christ offers so freely and so lovingly.

With prayerful blessings,

Fr. Joshy George, CMI

Pastor, St. John Vianney Parish, Barrie

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



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 27th** and will be led by the **Youth Ministry**. Please join us at **6:00 pm** for a simple dinner of soup and bread.

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Saturday March 21 st | 5:00 pm For the special intentions of Stephen & Elizabeth Kenney Requested by: Irene Savaryn |
| Sunday March 22 nd | 8:00 am † Bridget Prior Requested by: Suzanne Prior 9:30 am † Francis Loyola Requested by: Family 11:30 am † Fred Aloise & Family Requested by: Maria Aloise |
| Monday March 23 rd | 7:00 pm † Maria Thuy Mai & Anton Anh Nguyen Requested by: The Tran & Nguyen Families |
| Tuesday March 24 th | 7:00 pm † Maria & Elisa Jappinen Requested by: Lynne Askey |
| Wednesday March 25 th | 9:30 am † Maria Senra & Joao Amaral Requested by: The Sousa Family |
| Thursday March 26 th | 9:30 am † Joe Spineto Requested by: Teresa Spineto 9:30 am † Lawrence & Davis Kim and Family Requested by: Anna Kim |
| Friday March 27 th | 9:30 am † Mabel Kiley Requested by: Jack & Dorothy Hill 9:30 am † Marilyn Soos Requested by: The Anglin Family 9:30 am † Frank & Marina Prior Requested by: Suzanne Prior 9:30 am † Rosa Perfetti & Maria Rossi Requested by: Grace Cotugno 9:30 am For the special intentions of Marg White-Jacobs Requested by: Self |



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.



LENTEEN CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered this Thursday, March 26th starting at 6:00 pm. We will have four priests available to hear Confessions on that day. Please note, Mass will still be at 9:30am.



Tip Tap Pay for Offertory

We invite you to take advantage of “Tip Tap to Give”. This is a hassle-free way to donate to the parish. Simply tap the device located at the Welcome Desk, then immediately scan the accompanying QR code to register the card used. This will ensure all donations made with that specific card will be credited to your year-end tax receipt. Please note: if you choose to use more than one card, each one will need to be registered.

Majestic Britain
AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY THROUGH THE UNITED KINGDOM

Our next Parish trip will take place September 12th – 24th. 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.



This weekend is the FIRST Collection for ShareLife

Every day, people in our community need a helping hand due to homelessness, trafficking, or violence. ShareLife agencies ensure the safety of those in need and provide them with much needed hope This is all made possible thanks to amazing people like you who choose to support ShareLife. We thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Our parish goal this year is **\$367,000.00**. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

YOUTH NEWS - MARCH SCHEDULE

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



FELLOWSHIP

Join us after the 9:30am & 11:30am Masses for refreshments and the get to know your priests and fellow parishoners. This week, the Nigerian Community will host. We hope to see you there!

REMEMBRANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

† Terence FitzGerald



Please pray for those who are sick:

Irene Zsigmond, Tony Pereira, Chiara Basile and Jen McMorro

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