

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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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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Email: stjohnvianneyba@archtoronto.org

WHY ARE YOU STANDING LOOKING UP?

“The Ascension Is Not Christ Leaving the World, but Christ Filling It With His Presence.”

The Solemnity of the Ascension often leaves us with an image of departure. The disciples stand looking toward heaven as Jesus is taken from their sight. It feels like a farewell. Yet the Church invites us to understand this mystery much more deeply. The Ascension is not the story of Christ abandoning the world, but of Christ entering into His glory and remaining present to His Church in a new and powerful way.

The angels ask the disciples: “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?” (Acts 1:11). It is a profound question. The disciples cannot remain frozen between memory and mission. The Risen Lord now sends them into the world to continue His saving work. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that in the Ascension, “Christ’s humanity enters into the glory of God once and for all” (CCC 665). In Jesus, human nature itself is lifted into heaven. This is one of the greatest theological truths of our faith. The Ascension reveals not only where Christ has gone, but also the destiny prepared for humanity. Heaven is no longer closed. Through Christ, humanity has entered the very life of God.

St. Leo the Great beautifully wrote, “The Ascension of Christ is our elevation.” The Lord does not ascend to distance Himself from us, but to draw us upward toward eternal communion with the Father. **This feast also marks the beginning of the Church’s missionary identity.** Before ascending, Jesus gives what the Church calls the “Great Commission”: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). The Church exists to evangelize. As St. Paul VI wrote in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, “The Church exists in order to evangelize.” **The Ascension reminds us that Christianity is never passive or private. Faith must move outward. The disciples who once hid in fear are now sent into the world with courage and responsibility.**

This mission continues today through the life of the Church. Every parish, every family, every believer participates in Christ’s work of sanctifying the world. At St. John Vianney Parish, we see this lived concretely through the sacraments, Eucharistic Adoration, daily confessions, catechesis, outreach, fellowship, and the many quiet acts of faith and service offered by parishioners each day.

The Ascension also reveals something deeply comforting about Christ’s presence. Although Jesus ascends bodily to the Father, He does not become absent. Vatican II teaches that Christ remains present in His Church, especially in the Eucharist, in the proclamation of the Word, in the sacraments, and in the gathered faithful (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 7).

This is why Jesus can say with confidence: “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Not symbolically, not emotionally alone, but truly and sacramentally.

In a world marked by loneliness, anxiety, and uncertainty, this promise becomes deeply personal. Many people today carry hidden burdens, worries about family, health, grief, relationships, or spiritual struggles. Some feel distant from God even while trying to remain faithful. The Ascension reminds us that Christ has not withdrawn from human suffering. Rather, the glorified Lord continues to accompany His people through the Holy Spirit.

The second reading from Ephesians offers a beautiful prayer that “the eyes of your heart” may be enlightened (Ephesians 1:18). St. Paul is speaking about spiritual vision, the ability to see life not merely from an earthly perspective, but through the light of eternity.

The Gospel also honestly tells us that even as the disciples worshiped Jesus, “some doubted” (Matthew 28:17). What a deeply human moment. Faith does not eliminate every struggle or question. Yet Christ still entrusts His mission to imperfect disciples. The Church has always been a community of believers learning daily to trust more deeply. Perhaps that is why the Ascension speaks so powerfully to our own time. We are often tempted either to look backward with fear or upward without action. Yet Christ calls us outward, into the reality of the world, carrying His presence to others.

The Ascension asks every Christian a serious question: **will we merely admire Christ from a distance, or will we become witnesses of His Gospel?** There are people longing for hope, for meaning, for mercy, for healing. There are families carrying silent wounds, young people searching for direction, elderly persons longing not to be forgotten, and many who hunger spiritually without even realizing it. Christ now reaches them through His Church, through ordinary believers living extraordinary faith in daily life.

May this Solemnity of the Ascension renew in us the awareness that we are not abandoned. Christ reigns in glory, intercedes for His people, and remains truly present within His Church. And may we, the people of St. John Vianney Parish, never simply stand looking upward, but become joyful witnesses who bring the hope of heaven into the heart of the world.



Today, there will be a second collection for the Pope’s Pastoral Works. These funds are passed on to the Holy Father for immediate response in countries stricken by war, famine and natural disasters. The Pope’s Pastoral Works displays Christ’s love and compassion for people in desperate need. Please give generously.



Saturday
May 16th 5:00 pm For the deceased members of
The Bench & McNally Families
Requested by: Paul and Susan Bench

Sunday
May 17th 8:00 am † **Alfred Cobb**
Requested by: Family

9:30 am † **Luigi Pezza & † Domenic Pecchia**
Requested by: Family

11:30 am For the deceased members of
The Macdonell & Cooper Families
Requested by: Rosemarie Macdonell

Monday
May 18th **9:30 am SPECIAL MASS TIME**
† **Ettore D'Antonio**
Requested by: Rita & Joseph D'Antonio

Tuesday
May 19th 7:00 pm † **Robert Westhaver**
Requested by: The Abspoel Family

7:00 pm † **Donnelly Brothers**
Requested by: Lynne Askey

7:00 pm † **Sheila Terry**
Requested by: Lynne Askey

7:00 pm † **Catherine Sloan**
Requested by: Staff & Students of St. Gabriel the Archangel School

7:00 pm † **Maria Thuy Mai & † Joseph Hien Tran**
Requested by: The Tran & Nguyen Families

7:00 pm † **Salvatore & Giuseppina Pisani, † Angelo & Carmella Mongillo, † Rose Perfetti and † Rocco & Rosa Cotugno**
Requested by: Stefanie & Anthony Cotugno

7:00 pm For the living and deceased members of
The CWL

Wednesday
May 20th 9:30 am † **Lawrence & Davis Kim and Family**
Requested by: Anna Kim

Thursday
May 21st 9:30 am † **Ed Henderson**
Requested by: Colette Henderson

Friday
May 22nd 9:30 am † **Joe Egerton**
Requested by: Nancy & Clarence Joncas

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

9:30 am † **Sheila Terry**
Requested by: Anne Walker

9:30 am † **Paul Lindros**
Requested by: Mary Lindros

9:30 am For the deceased members of **The Menalo Family**
Requested by: Mary Conte

9:30 am For the special intentions of
Winfred Brownridge
Requested by: Angela Brownridge

9:30 am For the special intentions of
Selma Taylor
Requested by: Loma, Ed and Family & Janine and Family



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.



Our Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound needs you! Please call the parish office if you are interested in joining this very rewarding ministry. The need for the Eucharist in our community is ever growing. We pray you are able to share a small amount of your time with us.

Bible Study is CANCELLED for Monday, May 18th

The Parish office will be **closed on Monday, May 18th** in observance of Victoria Day. Have a safe and happy long weekend!



SPRING FOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul have teamed up for a much needed food drive. The Knights will be handing out bags after all the Masses **NEXT** weekend and will then collect them the following weekend, May 30th & 31st. Some much needed food items include; *school snacks, cereal, peanut butter, jam, Kraft Dinner, cookies, crackers, spaghetti sauce, coffee, tea, juice boxes, cakes mixes, sugar, pancake mix and syrup, canned meat, canned pasta, canned fruit, toilet paper and toiletries.*

Please be careful not to bring in expired food or pasta (we have an excess of dried pasta!)

Thank you for your support!



Crochet & Knitting Gathering

Join us Thursday, May 28th after the 9:30 am Mass in the Blackwell Room for a crochet and knitting social. Thank you to all making squares for Youth Haven, and welcome to anyone who'd like to join this project. Refreshments provided. Please RSVP to Kelly at 705-726-8007 ext. 205.

A Day with Mary

The Archdiocese of Toronto invites you to **A Day with Mary** on Saturday, May 30th at Villanova College in King City. This family friendly day will include Holy Mass with His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo, the Rosary, confessions, a keynote address and children's catechesis. Enjoy music, fellowship and more. For more information, registration please visit the link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/a-day-with-mary>



The St. John Vianny CWL Spring Tea

will be held on Saturday, May 30th from 12:00pm-2:00pm. There will be door prizes and entertainment. Tickets are \$25 each and will be sold after all the Masses. Tickets will not be available at the door.



JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRY!!

If you or someone you know wishes to share their talents with us, please call the parish office, or speak to Fr. Joshy directly. Thank you!

NO FELLOWSHIP THIS WEEKEND

REMEMBRANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

† Patty Lavine and † Leonesa Pires



Please pray for those who are sick:
Aria Russo & Maureen McMorow

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