

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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**PENTECOST
SUNDAY**

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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

WHEN GOD BREATHES AGAIN: PENTECOST AND THE RENEWAL OF THE HUMAN HEART

There are moments in life when people begin to feel spiritually exhausted. Not because they have lost faith completely, but because somewhere along the journey, the fire has become quieter. We continue our routines, attend to responsibilities, carry burdens silently, and often smile outwardly while inwardly feeling tired, anxious, disconnected, or empty. Many today live surrounded by noise yet experience a deep loneliness of soul.

It is precisely into such a world that Pentecost enters. Pentecost is not merely the memory of an event that happened two thousand years ago in Jerusalem. Pentecost is God's answer to a tired humanity. It is the moment when the Holy Spirit descends upon fearful disciples and transforms them into courageous witnesses. The Church teaches that Pentecost is the fulfillment of Easter, the moment when the risen Christ pours out His Spirit upon the Church and upon the world. The Catechism of the Catholic Church beautifully states, "On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was manifested, given, and communicated as a divine person" (CCC 731).

The Gospel this Sunday presents a powerful and intimate scene. The disciples are gathered behind locked doors, overwhelmed by fear and uncertainty. They are not brave heroes at this moment. They are wounded men, confused men, discouraged men. Yet Jesus comes and stands among them and says, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). Then He does something extraordinary. Saint John tells us that Jesus "breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" (John 20:22). This detail is deeply significant. The breath of God always brings life. In the Book of Genesis, God breathed into Adam and humanity came alive. Now, after the Resurrection, Christ breathes once again, not simply to create humanity, but to recreate it. Pentecost is the beginning of a new creation. The Holy Spirit restores what sin, fear, division, and hopelessness have damaged within us.

Many people today are living behind locked doors of another kind. Some are trapped by fear of the future, some by grief, some by anxiety, some by disappointment, some by guilt, some by loneliness. Even within families and communities, hearts can become closed. Pentecost reminds us that no locked door can prevent Christ from entering. The Holy Spirit has the power to enter the hidden places of the human heart and renew them from within.

The First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles describes the coming of the Spirit with images of "a sound like the rush of a violent wind" and "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:2-3). Wind and fire are not accidental symbols. Wind cannot be controlled, yet it moves everything in its path. Fire gives warmth, light, and purification. The Holy Spirit does not come merely to comfort us emotionally. The Spirit comes to awaken, purify, strengthen, and send us forth.

What is most remarkable in that Pentecost moment is not simply the miracle of languages, but the miracle of unity. People from different nations and cultures suddenly understand one another. The confusion of Babel is reversed by the power of the Spirit. Division begins to heal. Humanity begins to rediscover communion. How relevant this is for our world today. We live in an age of communication, yet misunderstand one another deeply. Families struggle to communicate. Marriages experience silence. Society becomes increasingly polarized. Even within the Church, people

sometimes forget that unity is not created by uniformity, but by the Holy Spirit. Saint Augustine once wrote, "Where the Church is, there is the Spirit of God, and where the Spirit of God is, there is the Church." Pentecost calls us back to this truth.

Saint Paul, in the Second Reading, gives us another profound insight into the work of the Spirit. "There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4). The Holy Spirit does not create copies; the Spirit creates communion through diversity. Every person has received gifts from God. Some lead quietly, some serve generously, some teach, some console, some pray deeply, some encourage others simply through kindness and presence. The Spirit works differently in each person, yet always for the building up of the Body of Christ.

This is something beautiful we continue to witness here at St. John Vianney Parish. Pentecost is not only something we read about in Scripture, it is something we see alive in parish life. We see it in the faith of families who continue to bring their children to the sacraments. We see it in the dedication of our volunteers, ministries, choir members, catechists, youth leaders, seniors, altar servers, hospitality teams, and parish staff. We see it in those who quietly pray for others, in those who support the lonely, in those who continue to serve the Church with love even amid personal struggles. The Spirit of God continues to move in this parish community. Our patron, Saint John Vianney, understood deeply that the transformation of the world begins with the transformation of the heart. He once said, "The Holy Spirit leads us like a mother." What a beautiful image. The Spirit does not force, the Spirit guides. The Spirit patiently forms souls toward holiness.

Pope Francis often reminded the Church that the Holy Spirit is not a distant theological idea, but the living presence of God who surprises us, moves us beyond comfort, and renews the Church in every age. Without the Holy Spirit, the Church becomes only an institution; with the Holy Spirit, the Church becomes alive with the presence of Christ.

Perhaps this Pentecost is inviting each of us to ask an honest question: What within me still needs the breath of God? Maybe it is a wounded relationship needing healing. Maybe it is fear that has paralyzed us spiritually. Maybe it is discouragement or spiritual dryness. Maybe it is a faith that has become routine rather than living. Maybe it is the need to forgive, to begin again, to trust again, to pray again. The beautiful truth of Pentecost is this: God never abandons His people. The Holy Spirit continues to descend upon ordinary people, imperfect people, struggling people, and transforms them slowly into witnesses of hope.

The world today does not simply need more information. It needs people filled with the Spirit of God. It needs Christians whose lives radiate peace, compassion, courage, mercy, and joy. It needs believers who remind others that God is still present, still working, still healing, still calling humanity toward communion and holiness.

As we celebrate this great Solemnity of Pentecost, let us not merely admire the story of the early Church. Let us allow the same Spirit to enter our hearts anew. Let us pray for the grace to become people who carry the fire of Christ into our homes, workplaces, schools, friendships, and parish community. May the Holy Spirit breathe once again upon our families, our parish, our Church, and our wounded world. And may we never be afraid to open the doors of our hearts to the transforming presence of God.

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK

Saturday
May 23rd

5:00 pm † **Francisco Loyola**
Requested by: Family

5:00 pm † **Shawna Hill**
Requested by: Dorothy & Jack Hill

Sunday
May 24th

8:00 am † **Anton & Tony Dolinar**
Requested by: The Kokelj Family

9:30 am For the special intentions of
Michael Son
Requested by: The Son Family

9:30 am For the special intentions of
Markus & Austin Aloise
Requested by: Maria Aloise

11:30 am † **Anthony Herbert O. Nwosu**
Requested by: The Knights of Columbus

Monday
May 25th

7:00 pm † **Evie & Leonard Robinson**
Requested by: Marinus & Lenore Logtenberg

Tuesday
May 26th

7:00 pm † **Keith Ward**
Requested by: Mike & Maria Hardie

7:00 pm † **John Emdin**
Requested by: Suzanne Emdin

7:00 pm † **Lydia Garcia**
Requested by: Lydia Harmazy

7:00 pm † **Laura Zanchetta**
Requested by: The Pisani Family

Wednesday
May 27th

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

Thursday
May 28th

9:30 am † **Lawrence & Davis Kim and Family**
Requested by: Anna Kim

Friday
May 29th

9:30 am † **Joe Egerton**
Requested by: John & Helen Russell

9:30 am † **Wiktor Kolkiewicz & Pawel Zorawski**
Requested by: Family

9:30 am For the deceased members of
Garisto 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
Martin Cremin
Requested by: Mary Cremin



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 will be provided.

Please RSVP to Kelly at 705-726-8007 ext. 205.



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 Mondays @ 7:30pm!

May 25th – Genesis: Chapter 6.
All are welcome!



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 this weekend and will then collect them next 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!



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. **ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE CHURCH!**



JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRTRY!!

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!



FELLOWSHIP

Join us after the 9:30 & 11:30 Masses for Fellowship. We encourage you to sit at a different table and get to know someone new. This is a wonderful way to make new friends and grow our parish family. This week's hosts are volunteers from the parish.



Please pray for those who are sick:
Aria Russo

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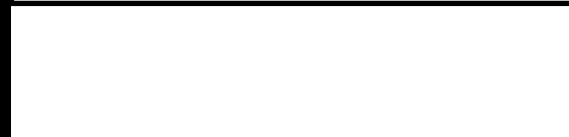
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