

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 PASTOR

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

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

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

SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR

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

LAY PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Mekha Jafri David
705 726-8007 Ext 206
MJafriDavid@archtoronto.org

CATECHIST

Paul LaPlume
705 726-8007 Ext 204
PLaplume@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

THE STRENGTH THAT COMES THROUGH GENTLENESS

There is a quiet assumption in our culture that strength must always appear impressive. We admire speed, efficiency, achievement, influence, and the ability to stay in control. Yet today's Scriptures invite us into a very different vision of greatness. They reveal a God who conquers not by force, but by humility, who transforms hearts not through domination, but through love, and who offers true freedom not by removing every burden, but by walking beside us within it.

The prophet Zechariah presents one of the most beautiful images of the Messiah found in the Old Testament. "See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey" (Zech. 9:9). Every earthly king entered a city displaying military power, surrounded by soldiers and symbols of conquest. God's chosen King enters in simplicity. His authority is inseparable from humility, and His victory brings peace rather than fear.

Centuries later, this prophecy finds its perfect fulfillment in Jesus Christ. The Lord deliberately embraces humility because humility is not weakness. As St. Augustine reminds us, "It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels." Christ reveals that genuine greatness is measured by the capacity to love, to serve, and to give oneself without counting the cost. This truth deserves renewed attention in our own lives. We often spend tremendous energy trying to prove ourselves, defending our reputation, comparing ourselves with others, or carrying the hidden burden of having to appear successful. Such pressures quietly rob us of peace. The Gospel proposes another way. Jesus does not ask us to become extraordinary in the eyes of the world. He asks us to become faithful.

Perhaps this explains why today's Gospel begins with one of the most surprising prayers of Jesus. "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants" (Mt. 11:25). Our Lord is not praising ignorance, nor dismissing learning. The Church has always honoured the life of the mind. Rather, Jesus distinguishes between knowledge that produces self-sufficiency and wisdom that opens the heart to God. There is a profound difference between knowing many things about God and allowing God to shape one's entire life.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that faith is "a personal adherence of the whole man to God" (CCC 176). Faith is therefore not merely an intellectual exercise. It is an act of trust. It is the willingness to receive before attempting to control, to listen before speaking, and to surrender before calculating every outcome. Children possess this remarkable capacity naturally. They receive gifts with gratitude, they trust those who love them, and they know that dependence is not something to be ashamed of. Spiritual maturity, paradoxically, often means recovering this childlike openness before God. St. Thérèse of Lisieux called this her "Little Way." She discovered that holiness does not require extraordinary achievements but extraordinary confidence in God's mercy. "What pleases God," she wrote, "is to see me love my littleness and poverty." Such spirituality is neither sentimental nor passive. It demands enormous courage because it requires abandoning the illusion that we can save ourselves.

This leads us naturally to St. Paul's teaching in today's second reading. He reminds the Christians in Rome that "if the

Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ... will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit" (Rom. 8:11). Notice that Paul speaks not first about human effort, but about divine presence. Christianity begins not with what we accomplish for God, but with what God accomplishes within us. The Holy Spirit is not simply an occasional source of inspiration. He is the living presence of Christ dwelling in every baptized believer, gradually reshaping our minds, our desires, and our relationships.

This transformation is rarely dramatic. Most often it unfolds quietly, almost imperceptibly, through daily fidelity. A sincere confession, a faithful Sunday Eucharist, time spent before the Blessed Sacrament, family prayer, acts of hidden charity, forgiveness offered when resentment feels easier, these ordinary moments become the workshop of the Holy Spirit.

Then comes perhaps the most beloved invitation in all of today's Gospel. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Mt. 11:28). Notice carefully what Jesus does not say. He does not promise a life without responsibilities. He does not eliminate every sorrow, uncertainty, illness, disappointment, or unanswered prayer. Instead, He offers Himself. Christian rest is not simply the absence of work. It is the presence of Christ. The word "rest" in the biblical tradition signifies much more than relaxation. It points toward communion with God, the peace that comes from living within His will, and the confidence that our lives ultimately rest in His loving providence. St. John Paul II frequently reminded the faithful that Christ does not merely give peace, He is our peace.

Many burdens weigh upon people today. Some carry the silent grief of losing someone they deeply love. Others struggle with illness, loneliness, financial uncertainty, family tensions, or the quiet fatigue of caring for aging parents. Young people often carry the pressure of constant comparison. Parents worry about their children. Seniors sometimes wonder whether their lives still matter. Even active parishioners can quietly become spiritually exhausted while generously serving others. The Lord knows every one of these hidden burdens. His invitation remains astonishingly personal. "Come to me." Not to an idea, not merely to a moral system, but to a living Person.

Every Eucharist becomes the fulfillment of that invitation. Christ gathers His people, speaks through His Word, nourishes us with His Body and Blood, and quietly renews the weary heart. As the Second Vatican Council teaches, the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, 11).

Our patron, St. John Vianney, understood this deeply. He spent countless hours hearing confessions because he knew that every human heart longs for reconciliation, healing, and peace. He once observed, "Our greatest cross is the fear of crosses." We often suffer twice, once from the burden itself, and again from our anxiety about carrying it. Jesus invites us to lay that second burden down.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Gospel this Sunday gently asks each of us a simple question. Where have I been seeking my strength? In my own ability, or in the grace of Christ? In constant activity, or in quiet prayer? In controlling every circumstance, or in trusting the Lord who already walks before me? The Christian journey is not about becoming stronger than everyone else. It is about allowing Christ to become stronger within us. Above all, may we accept the gracious invitation of Jesus, who still says to every weary soul, "Come to me."

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK

Saturday July 4 th	5:00 pm † Scotty Morrison Requested by: Angie Purvis & Kim Keyes
Sunday July 5 th	8:00 am For the People of the Parish
	9:30 am † Luigi & Anna Pezza Requested by: Family
	11:30 am † Joe Egerton Requested by: Fred & Hazel Hawrish
Monday July 6 th	7:00 pm † Huynh Thi Dung & Tran Chi Lau Requested by: The Tran & Nyugen Families
Tuesday July 7 th	7:00 pm † Julie Burchell Requested by: Family
	7:00 pm † Ed Wild Requested by: Sherri & Mike Biehl
	7:00 pm † Kayla Johnston Requested by: Mike & Maria Hardie
	7:00 pm † Mary & Danny Lyons Requested by: Family
	7:00 pm † Manuel Pereira Arruda Requested by: Mike & Maria Hardie
	7:00 pm For the special intentions of Russ Liggett Requested by: Christine Liggett
	7:00 pm For the special intentions of Kendra Frey Requested by: Helen & John Russell
Wednesday July 8 th	9:30 am † Jose & Maria Lopes Requested by: The Sousa Family
Thursday July 9 th	9:30 am † Robert Hodgins Requested by: Linda & Michelle Hodgins
Friday July 10 th	9:30 am † Fred Aloise & Family Requested by: Maria Aloise
	9:30 am For the special intentions of Jakairy & Kassiana Richards Requested by: Janine Bissonette



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. **People who are interested should apply now using our RCIA link on the Parish website or the QR code for the application form.**



On **Sunday, July 19**, our parish will celebrate a **Multicultural Festival** at the **11:30 AM Mass**. We invite everyone to wear cultural attire, participate in the multilingual Prayers of the Faithful, bring a traditional dish for our multicultural potluck, and share their heritage through music, dance, or other performances. Sign-up sheets are available in the vestibule after Mass. Come and celebrate as **one parish family, gathered from many cultures, united in Christ**.

Blessed is She, Welcome Wednesday and Bible Study have been **cancelled** for the summer months – see you in the Fall!



Sacraments

Online Registration for the 2026-27 Sacramental Programs is NOW OPEN! Please visit the parish website or scan the QR codes located on the bulletin board and at the Welcome Desk. **Please note - it is imperative you view the information sheet containing the mandatory program dates before registering.** These dates can be found on the website, or you will see them on page one of the registration form. If your child is older and has either missed a step or has not been baptized, please register for RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children).

Break and Breathe

Catholic Family Services of Toronto is pleased to introduce a virtual group called the Break and Breathe Online Caregiver Support Group for those who are currently caring for a loved one. This 6-week group program provides a safe, welcoming, and non-judgmental environment to connect with others who truly understand the challenges and rewards of caregiving. Caregivers of middle-aged and older adults are welcome to join the group to gain knowledge, learn skills, and develop coping strategies for their selfless caregiving. Join us Thursdays, from September 17th to October 22nd, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. via ZOOM. This is no charge to attend.

What to expect:

- **Learning coping skills to manage emotional responses to external and internal stressors.**
- **Gaining access to community resources and information for planning and navigating social and healthcare systems.**
- **Finding relief in a supportive and non-judgmental space.**

To learn more or to register, please contact Yan Yan Woo at ywoo@cfstoronto.com or 416-921-1163 ext. 2249.

NO FELLOWSHIP

REMEMBRANCE ANNOUNCEMENT
† Delbert Spragg



Please pray for those who are sick:
Russ Liggett, Kendra Frey, Ursula Dempsey, Brian Watts, George Barrie, Shawn Hunter, Baby Isahak, Kyle Ramdial, Tatum Peddle, Irene Zsigmond & Tony Pereira

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