

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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***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 MIRACLE THAT BEGAN BEFORE THE BREAD WAS BROKEN

There is a remarkable detail in today's Gospel that can easily escape our attention. Before Jesus multiplies the loaves, before the crowds are fed, before twelve baskets of leftovers are gathered, St. Matthew tells us something much more important. "When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them" (Matthew 14:14). The miracle did not begin with bread. It began with the heart of Christ. The Greek word used by the evangelist for compassion is one of the strongest expressions in the New Testament. It describes a love that is moved in the deepest part of one's being, a love that cannot remain indifferent before human need. Jesus does not first see a crowd, He sees persons. He does not first calculate resources, He first responds with mercy. Divine compassion always comes before divine action. This offers an important key for understanding all three readings today.

The prophet Isaiah opens with one of the most beautiful invitations in Sacred Scripture, **"Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters."** God does not begin with commandments or conditions. He begins with an invitation. Humanity spends enormous energy searching for satisfaction in places that cannot truly nourish the soul. We invest ourselves in achievements, possessions, recognition, entertainment, success, and even good things that were never meant to become ultimate things. Yet Isaiah gently asks, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?" This question is strikingly contemporary. Our culture has become exceptionally skilled at producing desires, yet increasingly unable to satisfy them. Technology connects us instantly, yet loneliness continues to grow. Material comfort has increased dramatically, yet anxiety often remains close at hand. We possess more conveniences than previous generations ever imagined, yet many still struggle to discover lasting peace.

St. Augustine understood this centuries ago when he wrote, **"You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You."** Every human longing ultimately points beyond itself. The deepest hunger of the human heart is not simply for more things; it is for communion with the living God. This is precisely where today's Gospel becomes profoundly Eucharistic. The multiplication of the loaves is not merely an extraordinary display of divine power. The Church has always recognized it as a sign pointing toward the Eucharist. Jesus takes the bread, looks to heaven, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to His disciples. The sequence is unmistakable. These are the very actions that will reach their fullness at the Last Supper and continue at every celebration of the Holy Mass. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that **"The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life"** (CCC 1324). Everything in the life of the Church flows toward the altar, and everything flows outward from it. The miracle in the wilderness prepares God's people for the greater miracle that continues every day upon our

altars, where Christ Himself becomes our true food and our lasting nourishment.

Yet another detail deserves careful attention. The disciples wanted to send the people away. Jesus answered, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." What an astonishing sentence. The Lord deliberately chooses to involve ordinary disciples in His extraordinary work. Five loaves and two fish appear painfully insufficient, yet once placed into the hands of Christ, they become more than enough. This has always been God's way throughout salvation history. Moses carried only a staff, David possessed only a sling, the widow of Zarephath had only a handful of flour, the Blessed Virgin Mary offered only her humble **"yes,"** yet God transformed each small offering into something far greater than anyone could have imagined.

The Christian life has never been about possessing extraordinary abilities. It has always been about offering ordinary lives to an extraordinary God. Many people quietly wonder whether their faith makes any real difference. They see only their limitations, their weaknesses, their lack of time, their aging bodies, their disappointments, or their unanswered prayers.

Today's Gospel gently answers those fears. Christ has never asked us to produce miracles. He simply asks us to place what we have into His hands. Grace does the rest. St. John Chrysostom beautifully observed that Christ could have created bread directly from heaven, yet He chose the loaves offered by the disciples so that they might become participants in His work. God delights not merely in helping His children, but in allowing His children to help Him bring His love into the world. This naturally leads us to St. Paul's magnificent proclamation in today's second reading. "Who will separate us from the love of Christ?" Paul's answer is absolute. Neither hardship nor distress, neither persecution nor danger, neither death nor life, neither present realities nor future uncertainties, nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Notice what Paul does not say. He does not promise that Christians will never experience suffering. Rather, he proclaims that suffering itself has lost the power to separate us from Christ. The Cross has permanently transformed the meaning of human trials. Every joy may now become gratitude, every sorrow may become prayer, every sacrifice may become love.

The saints repeatedly discovered this truth. They were not people who lived without difficulties. They were people who learned to recognize the presence of Christ even within them. As we gather for Sunday Eucharist at St. John Vianney Parish, perhaps the Lord is asking each of us a simple question. What hunger have you carried into church today? Is it the hunger for peace, forgiveness, purpose, hope, healing, reconciliation, courage, or simply the desire to know that God has not forgotten you? Bring that hunger to Christ. The same Lord who welcomed the crowds on the hillside still welcomes His people at every altar. The same compassionate Savior who multiplied the bread continues to multiply His grace. The greatest miracle of today's Gospel is not that bread was multiplied. It is that the compassionate Heart of Jesus still feeds the world.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday
August 1st 5:00 pm † **Marguerite & Robert McCahery**
Requested by: Barra McCahery

Sunday
August 2nd 8:00 am For the special intentions of
Ria & Casey van der Mast

9:30 am † **Krystyna, Dawiasz & Eugeniusz Jakubiec**
Requested by: Family

11:30 am † **Henry Hahn Tran & Anton Anh Nguyen**
Requested by: The Tran & Nguyen Families

Monday
August 3rd **9:30AM** † **June & John Szeman**
Requested by: Linda & Michelle Hodgins

Wednesday
August 5th 9:30 am For the **People of the Parish**

Thursday
August 6th 9:30 am For the special intentions of
Irene Savaryn
Requested by: Elizabeth Kenney

Friday
August 7th 9:30 am † **Fred Aloise & Family**
Requested by: Maria Aloise

9:30 am † **Frank, Marina & Paul Prior**
Requested by: Suzanne Prior



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 the RCIA link on the Parish website or this QR code for the application form. **There will be an information and orientation meeting held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 23rd in the Luke Room of the Parish Hall.**



St. John Vianney Church

is happy to offer a way for parishioners to connect their hearing aids directly to our sound system. Please scan the QR code on the image then download and

set up the app. Once you have done that, while at church, you can connect with our our designated WIFI

WIFI: STJV Ear Aid
Password: 13BaldwinLane



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. You can register for First Communion, Confirmation and RCIC.



Music Equipment for Sale

We have a variety of speakers and mixers from our old sound system available for purchase. If you are in need or know of anyone who might be interested in purchasing some of these items, please call the parish office.



Sally Roddy, a member of **Viatores Christi**, will speak at all the Masses the weekend of August 8th & 9th as part of the Toronto Archdiocese Mission Cooperative Program. Sally is from Dublin, Ireland and has been a missionary for 10 years serving in Thailand and Ethiopia. She looks forward to talking to us about the good works of Viatores Christi.



ANNUAL MASS FOR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Wednesday, August 12, 2026
at 7:00 p.m.

In Barrie, the Mass will be celebrated at
St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery
208 Sunnydale Road Barrie, ON
Rev. Msgr. Owen Keenan will be the celebrant.
In the event of rain, Mass will be celebrated at Holy Spirit Church



St. Bernadette

We are blessed to have a first class relic of St. Bernadette at our parish the weekend of August 8th & 9th. The relic has been entrusted to the Archdiocese of Toronto by The Sanctuary at Lourdes, France. All will have the opportunity to venerate the relic after the Masses that weekend.

St. Bernadette...pray for us.



Going Away?

Please consider donating to the parish through **Pre-Authorized Giving**. This is a hassle free way to support the parish even if you are away. There are PAG forms available at the back of the church and in the vestibule. Thank you for your support!



3RD ANNUAL PARISH FIESTA

Save the date! On Sunday, August 30th we will be holding our 3rd Annual Parish Fiesta. Once again we will be using the park across the street for food, music and lots of fun. There is no cost to this event and no sign up required! We look forward to sharing this day with you!

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES

This year we are inviting vendors to join our picnic. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to advertise your business and support the parish. Please fill out a form at the Welcome Desk to register your business.

Registrations must be in by August 16th

REMEMBRANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

† Joe Varga, † Michael Lichtenfeld
† Francesco Ingrubelli



Please pray for those who are sick:

Peter Bissonette Sr. & Kendra Frey

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