

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

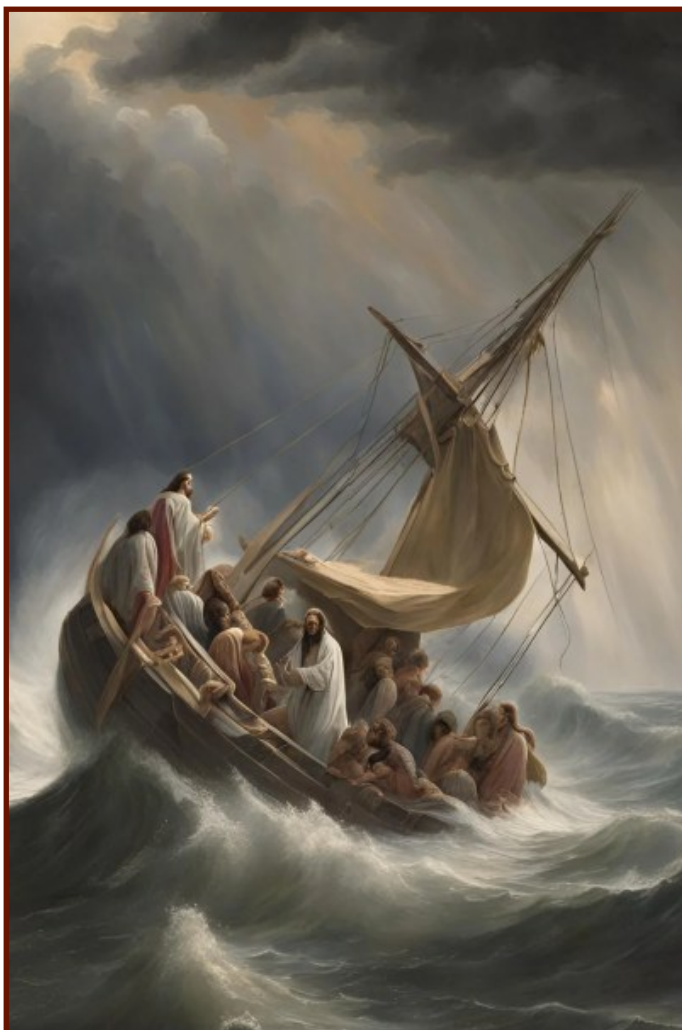
Mekha Jafri David
705 726-8007 Ext. 206
MJafriDavid@archtoronto.org

RCIA CATECHIST

Paul LaPlume
705 726-8007 Ext. 204
PLaplume@archtoronto.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

Joshua Pâté Ext. 219
Aly D'Antimo Ext. 220
Jazsmyn Claudio Ext. 221



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

WHEN GOD CHOOSES TO WHISPER

There is a remarkable truth that runs quietly through this Sunday's Scriptures. God often reveals Himself where we least expect Him. We naturally look for Him in extraordinary moments, dramatic answers, unmistakable signs, and visible successes. Yet the history of salvation repeatedly teaches us that the Lord frequently comes in ways that require not sharper eyesight, but a quieter heart.

The prophet Elijah knew what it meant to experience God in extraordinary ways. He had witnessed fire descend from heaven on Mount Carmel, proving the power of the living God before the prophets of Baal. One might imagine that after such a victory, Elijah's faith would never again be shaken. Yet, remarkably, the prophet fled into the wilderness exhausted, discouraged, and fearful for his life. His greatest external triumph was followed by one of his deepest interior struggles. At Mount Horeb, Elijah waited for God. First came a mighty wind that shattered rocks. Then an earthquake. Then fire. Scripture carefully tells us that **"the Lord was not in the wind... not in the earthquake... not in the fire"** (1 Kings 19:11-12). Finally came **"the sound of sheer silence"** or, as many translations beautifully render it, **"a still small voice."** Only then did Elijah cover his face, recognizing that he stood before the Holy One.

This passage offers one of the most profound lessons in biblical spirituality. God's absence from the dramatic events does not mean He lacks power. Rather, it reveals that divine power is different from human power. As Pope Benedict XVI once observed, **"God does not impose Himself through force, but proposes Himself in love."** Love does not shout. Love invites. Love waits for a free response. The problem is rarely that God has become silent. More often, our lives have become too loud. We inhabit a culture that rewards constant stimulation. Our attention is pulled in countless directions. Notifications replace contemplation, opinions replace wisdom, information replaces understanding. Even prayer can become another task to complete rather than a relationship to enter. The soul, however, was not created for endless noise. It was created for communion. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that **"the heart is the dwelling place where I am, where I live... the place of truth, where we choose life or death"** (CCC 2563). Before God transforms our circumstances, He first desires to transform our hearts. That transformation usually begins not in noise but in silence.

This helps us understand why the Gospel presents Jesus withdrawing alone to pray before walking upon the sea. Prayer is never an escape from reality. It prepares us to enter reality with divine strength. The disciples, meanwhile, are struggling against contrary winds in the darkness. The sea in biblical symbolism often represents chaos, uncertainty, and the forces opposed to God's creative order. Their little boat becomes an image of the Church journeying through history, and also an image of every Christian life navigating unexpected storms. It is significant that Jesus does not prevent the storm. Instead, He comes to them in the midst of it.

How often we pray, "Lord, remove this difficulty." Yet Christ frequently answers with something greater, His own presence. St. Augustine beautifully wrote, **"If Christ is in the boat, it cannot sink."** The promise of the Gospel is not the absence of storms but the presence of the Savior. Peter's response is both courageous and deeply human. "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." For a few extraordinary moments Peter does the impossible. He walks upon the sea because his eyes remain fixed on Christ. The miracle ends only when his attention shifts from the Lord to the strength of the wind. This scene is not primarily about Peter's failure. It is about the fragile nature of faith. Faith is not pretending that storms do not exist. Faith is choosing whom we will look at while they rage. The great theologian **Hans Urs von Balthasar** observed that Christian faith is fundamentally **"a gaze fixed upon Christ."** Everything else flows from that. Whenever the Church loses sight of Christ, she becomes anxious. Whenever families lose sight of Christ, they become divided. Whenever individuals lose sight of Christ, fear begins to define their decisions.

Fear always narrows our vision. Faith enlarges it. Notice something beautiful in today's Gospel. Peter begins to sink, but he never reaches the bottom. Before the water can overwhelm him, Jesus stretches out His hand. The Fathers of the Church saw in this gesture an image of grace itself. We are not saved because our faith is perfect. We are saved because Christ's hand is stronger than our weakness. Peter's experience reminds us that holiness is not never falling. Holiness is always allowing Christ to lift us again.

The second reading from St. Paul adds another beautiful dimension. His heart aches for his own people, Israel, who have not yet recognized Christ as the Messiah. Paul does not speak with resentment but with profound love. Genuine Christian faith never leads to superiority or condemnation. The closer we grow to Christ, the more we carry others within our hearts. Evangelization begins not with arguments but with compassion.

At St. John Vianney Parish, we are striving to become ever more a **Welcoming and Connecting Parish**. This mission is not merely a pastoral slogan. It reflects the very movement of today's Gospel. Jesus came toward frightened disciples. Peter reached out in trust. Christ extended His saving hand. The Church continues that same movement whenever we welcome the stranger, accompany those searching for meaning, strengthen the discouraged, or simply become attentive to someone who feels forgotten. Every genuine act of Christian hospitality becomes an extension of Christ's outstretched hand.

As we gather around the altar this Sunday, may we ask for three simple graces, the silence of Elijah that recognizes God's whisper, the courage of Peter that steps beyond fear, and the compassion of Paul that carries others in prayer. Then, whatever storms we encounter, we shall discover that Christ has already come toward us, His hand forever extended, His words forever true: **"Take heart, it is I, do not be afraid."**

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday August 8 th	5:00 pm † Nuno Ramos Requested by: His Mother
Sunday August 9 th	8:00 am † Jorge Francisco Requested by: Family
	9:30 am † Eugeniusz & Janina Fuks Requested by: Family
	11:30 am For the deceased members of the Knights of Columbus
Monday August 10 th	7:00 pm † Lawrence & Davis Kim and Family Requested by: Anna Kim
Tuesday August 11 th	7:00 pm † Evie & Leonard Robinson Requested by: Marinus & Lenore Logtenberg
	7:00pm † Phyl Taylor Requested by: Family
	7:00pm † Helene Vaillancourt Requested by: Suzanne Emdin
	7:00pm For the special intentions of Suzanne Emdin Requested by: Self
Wednesday August 12 th	9:30 am † Paul Prior Requested by: Suzanne Prior
Thursday August 13 th	9:30 am † Hugh Loughran Requested by: Linda & Michelle Hodgins
Friday August 14 th	9:30 am † Fred Aloise & Family Requested by: Maria Aloise
	9:30 am † Ed Henderson Requested by: Colette Henderson
	9:30 am † Lawrence & Davis Kim and Family Requested by: Anna Kim
	9:30 am For the special intentions of The Cremin Family Requested by: Mary Cremin



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.**



Sacraments

Welcome Desk.



This weekend we welcome **Sally Roddy**, a member of **Viatrores Christi**, who will speak at all the Masses. This is part of the Toronto Archdiocese Mission Cooperative Program. Sally is from Dublin, Ireland and has been a missionary for 10 years helping in Thailand and Ethiopia. She looks forward to talking to us about the good works of Viatrores 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

This weekend we are blessed to have a first class relic of St. Bernadette at our parish. The relic has been entrusted to the Archdiocese of Toronto by The Sactuary at Lourdes, France. All will have the opportunity to venerate the relic after the Masses.
St. Bernadette...pray for us.

The St. John Vianney Knights of Columbus would like to thank all the parishioners who stopped by the Oasis Patio last Friday night. The turnout was great and the Knights are happy to report that the 2 for 1 pizza promo was a success! Thanks so much for your support – SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



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 you business.

REMEMBRANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

† James Dietrich & † Laurence Dusauzay



Please pray for those who are sick:

Peter Bissonette Sr. & Kendra Frey

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