

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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Jazmyn Claudio Ext. 221



"Great is your faith!"

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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

WHEN FAITH REFUSES TO LEAVE THE DOOR

There are moments in the Gospel when Jesus surprises us. This Sunday's encounter with the Canaanite woman is one of them. At first glance, the conversation appears uncomfortable, even unsettling. A desperate mother pleads for her suffering daughter, yet Jesus seems silent. When He finally speaks, His words appear distant and exclusive. Then, within a few verses, everything changes. The woman remains steadfast, Jesus praises her extraordinary faith, and her daughter is healed. This is not a story about rejection. It is a revelation. The Gospel invites us to witness one of the most profound moments in salvation history, the gradual unveiling of God's universal plan. Jesus had first come to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Mt 15:24), fulfilling the promises made through Abraham, Moses, and the prophets. Yet even within that mission, the faith of a foreign woman shines so brilliantly that it anticipates what the Church would soon proclaim to every nation, namely, that the mercy of God knows no borders for those who seek Him with trust.

The first reading from Isaiah prepares us for precisely this vision. Through the prophet, the Lord declares, **"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples"** (Isaiah 56:7). These words would have been astonishing to ancient Israel. The Temple in Jerusalem was the heart of Jewish worship, yet God reveals that His final purpose reaches beyond one nation. The covenant is never abandoned, but it is destined to embrace the whole human family.

St. Paul echoes this mystery in today's Letter to the Romans. Reflecting on God's providence, he reminds us that "the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable" (Romans 11:29). God's fidelity never fails. Even when humanity proves unfaithful, God continues to write a story of mercy. As Pope Benedict XVI beautifully observed, **"God never tires of beginning anew with man."** Divine mercy is not God's last resort, it is His eternal intention. The Canaanite woman stands at the center of this revelation. She possesses no religious privilege, no social standing, no claim upon Israel's covenant. She comes with only one possession, an unshakable confidence that Jesus is good. Notice carefully what she does not do. She does not argue theology. She does not defend herself. She does not become offended. She does not walk away. She remains before Christ.

In an age that often equates dignity with winning arguments or demanding immediate recognition, the Gospel presents another path. True faith is not fragile. It is capable of waiting, listening, persevering, and trusting even when God seems silent. Many saints have experienced this silence. St. Teresa of Calcutta lived for decades with profound interior darkness while continuing to radiate Christ's love to the poorest of the poor. St. John of the Cross described the mysterious "dark night," not as God's absence but as His deeper work within the soul. Even our Blessed Mother knew moments when she could not fully understand God's ways, yet her constant response remained, "Let it be with me according to your word" (Lk 1:38).

Perhaps this is where today's Gospel speaks most personally to us. Many faithful people carry unanswered prayers. Parents pray for children who no longer practise the faith. Young couples long for the gift of a child. Families pray for healing after illness. Those seeking employment wait through months of uncertainty. Some quietly carry grief that no one else sees. Others pray simply for peace within their own hearts. The temptation is to measure God's love by the speed of His answers. Yet Scripture repeatedly teaches that God's silence is never indifference. Often it becomes the place where faith matures from seeking miracles to seeking God Himself. St. Augustine once wrote, **"God delays what you ask so that He may enlarge your desire."** Waiting, then, is not wasted time. It is often the workshop where trust is purified. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that prayer is fundamentally **"a covenant relationship between God and man in Christ"** (CCC 2564). Relationships deepen not merely through words but through fidelity. The Canaanite woman teaches us that **authentic prayer is less about perfect formulas and more about refusing to leave the presence of Christ.**

There is another remarkable lesson hidden within today's readings. Isaiah envisions foreigners welcomed into God's house. Paul celebrates God's mercy extended to all. Matthew presents a Gentile woman whose faith astonishes Jesus Himself. Together, these passages reveal the very identity of the Church. **The Church is not a gathering of the perfect. She is the home of those who have discovered mercy.** Every parish should therefore become a visible expression of Isaiah's prophecy, "a house of prayer for all peoples." At St. John Vianney Parish, where people of many cultures, languages, and life stories worship side by side, these Scriptures become wonderfully concrete. Each Sunday reminds us that the Eucharist gathers people who may never have met anywhere else, yet who become one Body in Christ. Our diversity is not an obstacle to communion; it is one of the beautiful signs that the Holy Spirit continues to fulfil the promises spoken through the prophets.

The Second Vatican Council expressed this beautifully in **Lumen Gentium**: "All men are called to belong to the new People of God." This calling is not based on nationality, language, social status, or personal achievement. It begins with grace and finds its fulfilment in Christ. Perhaps the most moving sentence in today's Gospel is also its shortest. Jesus simply says, **"Great is your faith!"** (Mt 15:28).

May our parish continue to be a place where every person, regardless of background, discovers a welcome rooted in Christ, where every wounded heart encounters compassion, where every searching soul finds hope, and where every believer learns again that God's mercy is always greater than our fears.

For the God who welcomed a persistent mother from Tyre still welcomes every heart that comes to Him in faith. His house remains a house of prayer for all peoples, and His Heart remains open to all who dare to believe.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday August 15 th	5:00 pm † Gerry Frigault Requested by: Vivian & Family
Sunday August 16 th	8:00 am For the special intentions of Casey & Ria van der Mast 9:30 am † Shirley Richard Requested by: Bob Richard 11:30 am † Maria Thuy Mai & Joseph Hien Tran Requested by: The Tran & Nguyen Families
Monday August 17 th	7:00 pm † Malik Khazan Requested by: Family
Tuesday August 18 th	7:00 pm † Pathrose Thomas Requested by: Biju Peter 7:00pm † Asuncion Sabaniano Requested by: Family 7:00pm † Luigi Potestio Requested by: Family 7:00pm For the special intentions of Jackie Bellenger Requested by: Mary Cremin 7:00pm For the living and deceased members of the CWL
Wednesday August 19 th	9:30 am † Maria Albertina Gomes Requested by: The Pisani & Cotugno Families
Thursday August 20 th	9:30 am † Fred Aloise & Family Requested by: Maria Aloise
Friday August 21 st	9:30 am † Annie & Leo Muschiana Requested by: Linda & Michelle Hodgins 9:30 am † Dave O'Donnell Requested by: Family 9:30 am † Lawrence & Davis Kim and Family Requested by: Anna Kim 9:30 am For the special intentions of Gloria & Rob Murtha Requested by: Margaret & Jim Nigh



CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN CANADA

This weekend is the annual collection for Canadian Missions. Catholic Missions in Canada and the selected dioceses in Northern Canada will benefit from your generosity to sustain and extend the Catholic faith to isolated, poor and hard-to reach mission areas in our country. Thank you for supporting this important work! Envelopes are available at the back of the church.



Rosary Sunday on Sept. 13th, is inviting a group of ten Parishioners from St John Vianney Church to recite a decade of the Rosary at the 2:30pm Rosary event at Martyrs Shrine, Papal Altar with our celebrant, His Eminence Cardinal Collins. Please RSVP to rayhaggan@gmail.com, cell 705-220-4781 if you are interested in reciting a Hail Mary and joining the procession representing the Parish of St John Vianney.



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

Online Registration for the 2026-27 First Communion, Confirmation & RCIC Programs is NOW OPEN! Please visit the parish website or scan the QR codes located on the bulletin board and at the Welcome Desk. RCIC is a program designed for children ages 7 and up who have not been baptized or have been baptized in a different Christian denomination but would like to become Roman Catholic.



Going Away?

Don't want the hassle of envelopes?

Please consider donating to the parish through **Pre-Authorized Giving**. This is a hassle-free way to support the parish and help provide the steady donations so needed to grow and maintain our place of worship.. There are PAG forms available at the back of the church and in the vestibule. Thank you for your support!

3rd Annual Symposium on Housing! Save the Date!

St. Mary's Church, Barrie is hosting our 3rd Symposium on Housing on **Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** Come and hear information about housing initiatives, resources in our community, the complexity of needs and practical ways to be involved in changing how we respond to the lack of housing. Speakers include: Erin Dej, Ph.D.; Staff from Redwood Builds; Community Bonds; Compassionate Care without Barriers and others.



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 is the last weekend to register your business! Please fill out a form offered at the Welcome Desk.

REMEMBRANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

† Ida Lenarduzzi & † Leta McGowan



Please pray for those who are sick:

Crystal Stasiuk, Irene MacDonald,
Dale Macdonald, John Pace. Maria Pace
Peter Bissonette Sr. & Kendra Frey

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