

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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...For where two or three
are gathered in my name, I
am among them."

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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 COURAGE TO CARE ENOUGH

There is a form of love that comforts, and there is a form of love that has the courage to speak. This Sunday, the Word of God places before us the second kind.

We often associate Christian love with patience, kindness, forgiveness, and compassion, as indeed we should. Yet Scripture reveals another dimension of charity that is sometimes more demanding: love accepts responsibility for the spiritual good of another. It does not remain indifferent when something is wrong, nor does it turn another person's weakness into an occasion for judgment or gossip. It seeks the person, speaks with truth, and works for reconciliation. This is the thread connecting today's three readings.

The Lord says to Ezekiel, **"I have made you a sentinel for the house of Israel"** (Ezekiel 33:7). A sentinel stands where others may not be looking. His task is not to condemn but to remain attentive and to warn when necessary. Ezekiel is reminded that responsibility for others belongs to the vocation of God's people. That principle remains deeply Christian. Faith cannot become merely a private relationship between "Jesus and me." Baptism places us within the Body of Christ. We belong to one another. Parents have responsibilities toward their children; spouses toward one another; pastors toward their people; parishioners toward their community; Christians toward their brothers and sisters. There are moments when silence is peaceful, but there are also moments when silence becomes indifference.

St. Paul gives us the principle by which this responsibility must always be exercised: **"Owe no one anything, except to love one another"** (Romans 13:8). This is crucial. Christian correction without love easily becomes criticism. Truth without charity becomes harshness. Charity without truth, however, can become mere avoidance. The Gospel asks us to hold the two together. The Catechism reminds us that charity is the virtue by which we love our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God. Christian love therefore seeks more than another person's immediate comfort; it seeks his or her genuine good. This explains why Paul can make the remarkable statement, **"Love is the fulfilling of the law"** (Romans 13:10).

Jesus then brings this teaching into the delicate reality of human relationships: **"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone"** (Matthew 18:15). There is extraordinary wisdom in those few words. **Go.** Do not simply wait for resentment to disappear. **Speak to the person.** Do not first speak about the person. **When the two of you are alone.** Protect the dignity of the other, even when addressing what is wrong. This is one of the most practical teachings Jesus gives about life together. Our natural instinct can be quite different. When hurt, we may withdraw, tell someone else, rehearse the offence repeatedly in our minds, or allow assumptions to grow. Jesus proposes another path: personal encounter. The purpose is not to prove that I am right. Jesus says, **"If the member listens to you, you have regained that one."** The goal is to regain a brother or sister. That changes everything.

In Christian life, reconciliation is not about winning an argument; it is about recovering communion. This teaching has particular meaning for parish life. A parish is not simply a place where individuals attend Mass at the same hour. The

Church is a communion, created by Christ and sustained by the Holy Spirit. We come with different personalities, cultures, histories, expectations, gifts, and weaknesses. Inevitably, misunderstandings arise. Feelings are sometimes hurt. Decisions may disappoint us. Words can be misunderstood.

The quality of a Christian community is not measured by whether such moments ever occur. It is revealed by how we respond when they do. As we continue building St. John Vianney as a **Welcoming and Connecting Parish**, perhaps today's Gospel gives us an important meaning of the word "connecting." Genuine connection is more than greeting one another after Mass or participating in parish activities. Christian communion asks us to care enough about one another to protect relationships, to listen before judging, to clarify before assuming, to forgive when wounded, and when necessary, to speak truth with gentleness.

There is also a quiet examination of conscience within today's readings. We might ask ourselves: Is there someone I have been speaking about when I should be speaking with them? Is there a relationship in which pride has prevented a conversation? Have I confused avoiding conflict with creating peace? Have I corrected someone because I genuinely desired their good, or simply because I wanted to establish that I was right? The Gospel does not promise that every attempt at reconciliation will succeed. Jesus Himself acknowledges that someone may refuse to listen. Christianity does not ask us to control another person's response. It asks us to ensure that our own response remains truthful, charitable, patient, and ordered toward communion.

The passage concludes with one of Christ's most beautiful promises: **"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"** (Matthew 18:20). We often hear these words in reference to prayer, and rightly so. Yet in their Gospel context they appear within Jesus' teaching about reconciliation and life in the community. Christ is present not only when a community sings together or prays together, but also when His disciples undertake the difficult work of restoring communion in His name. Perhaps that is one of the most sacred places in which Christ waits for us: the conversation we have been avoiding, the apology that requires humility, the forgiveness that costs something, the patient listening that allows another person to be understood. The Eucharist we celebrate every Sunday makes this even more profound. We approach one altar, receive one Lord, and become more deeply what St. Paul calls the one Body of Christ. Communion with Christ can never be completely separated from communion with one another. The Eucharist continually teaches us that the person beside us is not merely another parishioner; he or she is a brother or sister for whom Christ gave His life.

This week, the Word of God invites us to practice a mature and courageous charity. Not a love that ignores what is difficult, but a love strong enough to seek the good of another; not a truth that humiliates, but a truth spoken with reverence; not a peace created by avoiding one another, but the deeper peace that comes through reconciliation.

May our homes, friendships, ministries, and parish community increasingly become places where people speak truth without cruelty, listen without defensiveness, forgive without keeping score, and care enough to seek one another again. For when we do this in the name of Christ, He has already given us His promise: **"I am there among them."**

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday September 5 th	5:00 pm † Florence Hartman Requested by: Barb Hargrave
	5:00 pm † Joseph Wickramasinghe Requested by: Family
Sunday September 6 th	9:30 am † Maria Thuy Mai & Joseph Hien Tran Requested by: The Tran & Nguyen Families
	11:30 am For the People of the Parish
Monday September 7 th	9:30 am † Elmer Vigilia Requested by: Family
Tuesday September 8 th	7:00 pm † Lawrence & Davis Kim and Family Requested by: Anna Kim
	7:00pm For the special intentions of Tristan Stephens Requested by: Becca Branch
Wednesday September 9 th	9:30 am † Francisco Jorge Requested by: Family
Thursday September 10 th	9:30 am † Ed Henderson Requested by: Colette Henderson
Friday September 11 th	9:30 am † Fred Aloise & Family Requested by: Maria Aloise
	9:30 am † Mary Pranzo Requested by: Linda & Michelle Hodgins
	9:30 am For the special intentions of Jenny Mas Requested by: Jenny Mas



Welcome all parishioners to the 42nd Annual Rosary Sunday, Sunday, September 13, at Martyrs' Shrine. The celebration begins with Noon Outdoor Mass, followed by the Rosary, Liturgy, and Benediction at 2:30pm, led by our celebrant, His Eminence Thomas

Cardinal Collins.



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.

FELLOWSHIP will resume after the 9:30 am & 11:30 am Masses on **Sunday, September 13th**. We look forward to seeing you again!

The office will be closed on **Monday, September 7th** in observance of Labour Day. **Mass will be at 9:30am ONLY.**



Adopt - A - School

St. John Vianney Catholic School has been chosen for the exciting **Indigo Adopt a School Program!** When you visit the **Indigo store on Maplevue Drive this month**, you can make a

donation at the cash register to help buy brand-new books for the students. Every single dollar raised goes straight to the school library, so please help the school fill their shelves with wonderful stories!

IS THIS THE YEAR TO JOIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

If so, please scan the QR code to fill out the online inquiry form. Paul, our Catechist, will reach out to you with next steps.



Humanitarian Relief – Nepal & Columbia

The Archdiocese of Toronto is accepting donations to support humanitarian relief efforts following the recent devastating flooding in Nepal and earthquake in Columbia. These disasters have resulted in significant loss of life and injuries, displaced families and caused extensive damage to homes and critical infrastructure.

Those wishing to help may donate through the Archdiocese or through the parish. Please make cheques payable to **St. John Vianney – Humanitarian Relief – Nepal Mudslides** or **St. John Vianney – Humanitarian Relief – Colombia Earthquake**. Envelopes are available at the back of the church

Funds will be channeled through trusted Catholic partners assisting those most affected.

The CWL 31st ANNUAL BAZAAR - November 21, 2026 from 9-2

Dear Parishioners; on November 21st, plan to attend the annual Parish CWL bazaar event where you can purchase your seasonal items including beautiful greenery outdoor planters, delicious home baking & preserves, hostess gifts, jewellery, religious items, as well as unique handmade gifts, stocking stuffers, decorations and knitted & crochet goods. The ever popular "New to You" table will be back again too.

This SJV CWL parish event would love your donations of this year's preserves & jams, knitting, crochet, craft, religious items, Christmas decorations and household items in clean, good, working order for the "New to You" table (no clothing or books). Dates and times for drop off of all items will be arranged and announced at a later date.

If you have a business, please consider donating items for the draw table or other prizes.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS! Craft Tuesdays start again on September 15th from 9:30 -12:30. The knitting and crochet group will begin at the same time. Please bring a snack to share!

Parish Ministry Updates

Koinonia – **NEW** Young Adult Ministry

Ages **18–35** Starts **September 16** **7:00 PM**

Welcome Wednesday

Resumes **September 16** **10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Blessed Is She

Resumes **September 8** After **7:00 PM** Mass

Bible Study (now on Tuesdays)

Resumes **October 6** After **7:00 PM** Mass

Kids Connection (JK- grade 4)

Resumes **September 13** At **9:30 AM & 11:30 AM**

Volunteers Always Needed!

FOLLOW † - Grow. Serve. Lead. (grades 5-12)

Come be a part of our new **Youth Ministry!**

Please pick up a flyer from the Welcome Desk for dates and information on this year's gatherings. There are registration forms available as well. Information can also be found on our website.

Join us on September 19th as we start *Chapter 1* of our journey!

REMEMBRANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

† **Ida Lenarduzzi** (Funeral will be held at St. John Vianney Church on September 9th @ 11am)



Please pray for those who are sick:

Christopher Wijesinghe, Shawn Hunter, Crystal Stasiuk, Irene MacDonald, Dale Macdonald, John Pace, Maria Pace, & Kendra Frey

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