

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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CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday (Vigil)

5:00pm

Sunday

8:00am - 9:30am & 11:30am

Monday & Tuesday

7:00pm

Wednesday - Friday

9:30am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION EVERY FRIDAY AFTER MASS

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

CONTACT US

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Emergency due to death or serious illness, press 9

THE FREEDOM OF A HEART THAT FORGIVES

There are some things we carry because they are precious: memories, gratitude, promises, the faces of people we love. There are other things we carry simply because we have never discovered how to put them down. An old insult, a betrayal, a family wound, an unfair judgment, a friendship that ended badly, words spoken years ago that still have the power to disturb our peace.

This Sunday, the Word of God asks a searching question: **What is resentment costing your heart?**

Sirach speaks with remarkable psychological and spiritual realism: "Anger and wrath, these also are abominations, yet a sinner holds on to them" (Sirach 27:30). The striking expression is **holds on**. Resentment rarely remains only a memory of what happened. When continually rehearsed, it becomes something we carry into the present. Sirach therefore offers a different path: "Forgive your neighbour's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven" (28:2). This is not a denial of justice. Christianity never asks us to pretend that evil is good, to remain in an abusive situation, or to abandon appropriate boundaries. Forgiveness and reconciliation are related, but they are not identical. Reconciliation ordinarily requires truth, repentance, rebuilding of trust, and the willingness of both parties. Forgiveness, however, begins within the wounded person. It is the decision not to allow another person's sin to become the permanent ruler of one's heart.

The Measure We Have Received

Peter's question in the Gospel is wonderfully human: "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" (Matthew 18:21). Seven times already sounds generous. Jesus answers, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." Jesus is not giving Peter a larger number to record in a notebook. He is removing the notebook. The parable that follows explains why. A servant owes his king an enormous debt, far beyond his ability to repay. He begs for patience, but the king does something greater than he requests: **he forgives the debt completely**. Yet that same servant immediately encounters someone who owes him a comparatively small amount and refuses to extend the mercy he himself has just received. The tragedy of the servant is not merely that he is unforgiving. It is that **he has forgotten what happened to him**. That is the heart of Christian forgiveness. We forgive not because every offender deserves our trust again, not because the wound was insignificant, and certainly not because Christians are expected to have no feelings. We forgive because we ourselves live every day from a mercy we could never purchase. The Catechism expresses this with unusual force when reflecting on the Lord's Prayer: God's mercy "cannot penetrate our hearts as long as we have not forgiven those who have trespassed against us" (CCC 2840). The obstacle is not a shortage of mercy in God. The danger is a heart that receives mercy while refusing to let mercy pass through it.

No One Lives for Himself

St. Paul brings another dimension to this Sunday's message: "We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves"

(Romans 14:7). Our interior life is never entirely private. What we carry within us eventually enters our homes, friendships, workplaces, marriages, ministries, and parish community. Gratitude spreads. Kindness spreads. Peace spreads. Unfortunately, bitterness can spread too. This matters greatly for us at St. John Vianney as we continue to become a **Welcoming and Connecting Parish**. Genuine Christian community is not created merely by programs, gatherings, or friendly greetings. It is created by people who repeatedly choose communion over resentment, patience over retaliation, conversation over assumption, and mercy over the desire to have the last word.

A welcoming parish must also be a forgiving parish.

There will inevitably be misunderstandings among people who worship, serve, work, plan, volunteer, and grow together. The Church is not a gathering of people who never wound one another. It is a community of sinners learning, through grace, how not to let wounds have the final word.

Forgiveness Is Not Amnesia

Some wounds are small enough to release quickly. Others are carried for years. A person may sincerely decide to forgive and still feel pain when the memory returns. That does not necessarily mean forgiveness has failed. Forgiveness is often less like erasing a page and more like surrendering the same page to God whenever it returns. For someone reading this bulletin today, the Gospel may have a very particular face attached to it. Perhaps there is a name you avoid, a conversation you replay, a family member you have not spoken to, an apology you never received, or a hurt that still awakens anger. Christ does not ask you to call the wound imaginary. He asks you not to make the wound your permanent home. Sometimes the first Christian act of forgiveness is simply this prayer: **"Lord, I am not yet able to feel forgiveness, but I am willing to let You begin it in me."** That willingness matters. Grace often begins there. Forgiveness may then require prayer, honest conversation, Confession, wise counsel, appropriate boundaries, or simply time. The process can be gradual. What matters is that we stop feeding resentment and begin placing the person, the wound, and our desire for justice into the hands of God.

The Eucharist Teaches Us Mercy

Every Sunday we approach an altar where mercy is not merely discussed but given to us. Before receiving the Eucharist, we pray, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof." None of us approaches because we have earned Christ. We come because He is merciful. Then we receive the One who, from the Cross, prayed for those who crucified Him. The Eucharist therefore forms us into a people capable of forgiveness. We receive the Body of Christ so that, little by little, our hearts may begin to resemble His.

This week, bring one unresolved hurt before the Lord. Do not excuse what happened. Do not force an emotion you do not feel. Simply loosen your grip and place it into the hands of Christ. Because sometimes the person released by forgiveness is not only the one who hurt us.

Sometimes, by the grace of God, the person finally set free is us.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday September 12 th	5:00 pm ✠ Richard Gautreau Requested by: His Sons & Family
Sunday September 13 th	8:00 am ✠ Ethel Prior Requested by: Suzanne Prior
	9:30 am ✠ Louise Daigle Requested by: Family
	11:30 am For the Stibrany Babies Requested by: Parents
Monday September 14 th	7:00 pm ✠ Joe Spineto Requested by: Teresa Spineto
Tuesday September 15 th	7:00 pm ✠ Anna Augimeri Requested by: Family
	7:00 pm ✠ Michael Isibor Requested by: Family
	7:00 pm For the living and deceased members of the CWL
	7:00pm For the special intentions of Julie Howard Requested by: Elizabeth Donald
Wednesday September 16 th	9:30 am For the deceased members of the Knights of Columbus
Thursday September 17 th	9:30 am ✠ Jebriel Syed Requested by: Arlene Chee Foon
Friday September 18 th	9:30 am ✠ Fred Aloise & Family Requested by: Maria Aloise
	9:30 am ✠ Mary & Edmund O'Keeffe Requested by: Mary Cremin
	9:30 am ✠ Frances & Henry Tomchysyn Requested by: Linda & Michelle Hodgins
	9:30 am ✠ Lawrence & Davis Kim and Family Requested by: Anna Kim



Online Registration for the 2026-27 First Communion, Confirmation & RCIC Programs is CLOSING on September 19th! Please visit the parish website or scan the QR codes located on the bulletin board and at the Welcome Desk.



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 Mapleview 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!

St. Mary's Parish, Barrie is hosting a 3rd Symposium on Housing on Thursday September 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. You are invited to 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 issues. **Registration is not required! All are welcome.**



Save the date! Blessed is She has organized a Marriage Retreat for Saturday, October 10th from 9am – 3pm. The theme of the retreat is, "Marriage and Community". More details to come!

IS THIS THE YEAR TO JOIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

If so, please scan the QR code on the bulletin board 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

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

Welcome Wednesday

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

Bible Study (now on Tuesdays)

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

FOLLOW f - 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!



Please pray for those who are sick:

Christopher Wijesinghe, Shawn Hunter, Irene MacDonald, Dale Macdonald, John Pace and Maria Pace

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