Pastor’s Message

Dear Friends,

With the Incarnation, God entered human history. Eternity entered time. Since God has entered our human time, there arises the duty to sanctify time. Against this background we understand the custom of Jubilees which began in Bible times and continues in the history of the Church.

A parish that has a strong sense of its history will have a better sense of identity to build on for the future. Periodically, we should take a look back to rediscover how our church came into being, what its early ministry was like, and how it has grown. As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of our new building, it’s an occasion for us to tell and hear stories of the past and present.

A Jubilee year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity. This brochure highlights the various events planned to strengthen faith, encourage works of charity and brotherly communion within the Church and in society. With excitement and incredible joy I welcome you to join us, as we explore the exciting themes of renewal, restoration, reaching-out and refocusing our commitment. Let us ‘follow Jesus Christ and fall in love with the Church.’

Fr. Biju Kannampuzha CMI, Pastor
St. John Vianney Parish

Jubilee of the Consecration of St. John Vianney Parish Church

In April, 2014 we begin to celebrate a year-long Jubilee culminating in April, 2015 which marks 25 years since the dedication of our new church building.

April:

6 - Opening Mass – 4 pm (reception to follow)
   Principal Celebrant: Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick

10 - An Interfaith Concert; “Songs of Our Sacred World” – 7:30 pm
   Choirs and soloists from the Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant traditions, as well as music and dance from the Syrian Orthodox Church.

May:

3 - "Knowing God Better"
   Six 1 hour sessions presented by the Archdiocese of Toronto. Fun, engaging activities for everyday Catholics. Dinner will be served before each session.
   Saturdays after evening Mass (May 3, 10, 31; June 7, 14, 21)

25 - Volunteer Appreciation Event - 1 pm
   - Parish Walk-a-Thon in support of Lifeteen & Edge Youth Programs.

June:

21 - SJV Jubilee Cafe - 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
   - Presented by the Catholic Women's League. Lunch includes French specialties, hot tea or coffee and "les petits patisseries." Participate in the best "chapeau" contest and browse through the stalls of the French marketplace.
   - Door Prizes. Silent Auction.

July:

- new sign board installed and front parking lot renewal

August:

- Annual Knights of Columbus Events
  (Service opportunities: Kempenfest, Barrie Fair, Dragon Boat Races)

Sept:

7 - Parish Picnic - 1 pm
   BBQ treats, potluck salads and desserts, activities for all.

17 - “Understanding the Mass”
   - Wednesday evenings -7:30 pm to 9:30 pm
   - Six 2 hour sessions presented by the Archdiocese of Toronto.
   - Valuable info and insights for confirmed Catholics, catechists, Catholic school staff and teacher candidates. (Certificates available for resumes or professional portfolios.) (Sept 17, 24; Oct 1, 8, 15, 22)

Oct:

18 - Thanksgiving Dinner and Dance - 6:30 pm

Nov:

- “Month of Remembrance”
  - Beginning Sun. Nov. 2, displays of our church history and memorial for our deceased members.
Nov: 16 - Parish Brunch - 12:30 pm
Our popular Sunday brunch returns in support of the upcoming parish Christmas parties for children.

29 - Advent Retreat - 9 am to 11:30 am
A morning of prayer and teaching by an Archdiocesan speaker followed by fellowship at lunch.

23 & 30 - “Gift Giving Tree” hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Society. Parishioners are invited to donate gifts for specific ages of boys and girls receiving SVDP assistance.

Dec: 5 - A Christmas Concert presented by the one hundred members of Toronto’s Pax Christi Chorale, along with a full string ensemble and percussion. Highlights of the program include a Christmas Oratorio by J.S. Bach, a collection of tone poems entitled Winter Nights by Stephanie Martin, as well as a selection of beautifully crafted Christmas carols.

7 & 14 - “Gift Giving Tree” collection of gifts after Sunday Masses.
7 - Parish Children’s Christmas Party
14 - St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Party

2015

Jan: 17 - Multicultural Festival
St. John Vianney Parish represents the beautiful cultural mosaic of the Catholic Church. Come out and celebrate! Food, music, clothing, dance, and displays in the Parish Hall.

Feb: 14 - Valentine’s Day Banquet
Saturday evening holy mass where parish couples may renew their vows and milestone marriages will be blessed. All parishioners will then be welcome at a parish banquet and dance to honour marriages with special attention to milestone marriages. Catered.

Mar: 2 - “Catholicism” - the DVD Series by Fr. Robert Barron.
Monday Evenings -7 to 9 pm
Nine 2 hour sessions presented by the Archdiocese of Toronto.
A variety of key faith topics for confirmed Catholics seeking deeper meaning. (Mar. 2, 9 16, 23; Apr. 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11)

20, 21, 22 - Parish Lenten Retreat -- 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Three 2 hour evening events.
With an opportunity for prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, this preached retreat will be led by Rev. Dr. Thomas Kalam, CMI, who holds multiple degrees from several international universities, most notably a Ph. D. in Psychology and Religious Studies. He has served the Church extensively in both India and the United States in positions of leadership and teaching. He is currently serving in pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Nashville and is the Director of Carmel Spirituality Center, Tennessee, USA.

Apr: 26 - Solemnity of the Consecration of the Parish Church - 3 pm
- Mass with His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins. Reception to follow.
A Prayer for Our Jubilee Year

God our Father, we your people of St. John Vianney Church, praise you for your goodness and thank you for your gifts. Make us faithful followers of your Son and help us to fall in love with the Church which Jesus began. Father, bless our community with good and holy families. Raise up from our families and friends dedicated and generous leaders who will serve as lay ministers, deacons, brothers, sisters and priests.

Be with the sick and the dying. Fill us with love for those in need of our help. We call upon you, O most Holy Trinity, with Mary, our Mother, and Saint John Vianney, our patron, to make this Jubilee, a year of grace. May we become a gift to the Church and the world. Amen.

An Invitation for Families This Jubilee Year

The Jubilee “100” Service Project

“As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me” - Matthew 25.40

St. John Vianney Parish has undertaken to provide 100 meals every Monday in our Jubilee Year for the clients of the Busby Street Centre. Responding to Jesus’ own call for social justice, nutritious breakfasts will be served for those in need at Barrie’s longstanding downtown outreach and support centre.

Our goal is to bring a sense of sharing and service into each home in our parish by making daily small gifts to Jesus as we thank God for his blessings. Please gather at one meal a day to say our Jubilee Prayer and place a daily amount into a donation envelope provided by the parish. Once a month we will pool our gifts at a Sunday collection.

This practice will be an especially powerful example in homes with children. Collectively, as little as a loonie a day will create a wonderful gift when placed in the offertory collection by our children.

Together We Will Make a Difference

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