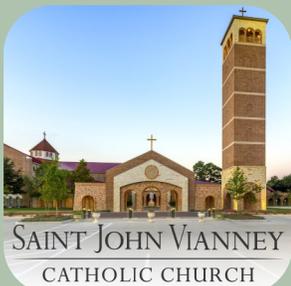


Living Faith Changing Lives Making a Difference



SAINT JOHN VIANNEY
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Archdiocese of Galveston -Houston

625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079
Tel.: 281-497-1500
Fax: 281-584-2024
www.stjohnvianney.org

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. R. Troy Gately
Pastor

Rev. Richard Hinkley
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Charles J. Talar
In Residence

Deacons

Fred Kossegi
Dale Steffes
Greg Stokes
Al Vacek
Jeff Willard

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil
5:30 pm

Sunday
8:00 am, 9:30 am
11:00 am
12:30 pm, 5:30 pm
Spanish: 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Weekdays:

Monday - Friday
9:00 am

Tuesday & Thursday
7:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturday
10:00 am & 4:00 pm

Dear Friends in Christ:

Today is born a Savior, Christ the Lord!

Our hearts are filled with joy this day and all creation exalts in praise for Salvation has come to the world in Jesus Christ! This is our faith and this is what gives meaning to our lives. That God in his love for us has given us His only Son, who has taken our human condition upon himself so that we in turn might live in all eternity with Him! Now to many, this sentence seems like utter nonsense. What is there to be joyful about? Why should we exalt? What do we need a savior for in the first place? To be saved from what? What difference does it make if Jesus was born or not or if He is God or not?

That's fair and those are honest and sincere questions.

Who can deny that the world is in many ways a big hot mess? Russian collusion, Impeachment, red state/blue state divide, trade wars, crime and violence, border walls, gender dysphoria, cyber bullying, economic disparity, Islamic Terrorism, market volatility, racial tensions, #MeToo, freeway traffic and road construction, prescription drug prices, clergy sexual abuse, global warming, opioid crisis and on and on and on. But then it always has been. The world of 2000 years ago did not have ISIS or I-phones but there were terrorists and new means of communication were being introduced to unite the masses. There were political upheavals and economic challenges. Yet, amidst human struggles and suffering, confusion and frustration there was still a hope for something better. This was the world where in a tiny Judean town in the backwater of the Roman Empire, a baby was born. Truth be told, outside a few ragged and smelly shepherds almost no one noticed or was aware. But in that moment, the world changed.

That baby grew to be a boy and then a man. Except for a brief period of his life, he was basically unknown and his life hidden. A carpenter turned itinerant rabbi, he changed the world. While the power of his words drew crowds and miracles were attributed to him, in the end he was rejected by the religious establishment, betrayed by his closest followers and arrested, convicted and executed as a political insurrectionist by the ruling civil authorities. Dying an ignominious death as a political criminal, he changed the world. He wrote no stirring manifestos or intriguing autobiography. He commanded no army and led no revolt but he has changed the world.

The power of Jesus is the power of love, the power of mercy and the power of hope. Jesus changed the world because of who He is – the Light of the World, Son of God, The Word made flesh, The Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus changed the world in what he did. In the birth of Jesus, creation received divinity and humanity received perfection. In the death and resurrection of Jesus, the world received redemption. The world still shows its brokenness and new scars are added each day, but because of Jesus, the baby in a manger who became the man on the cross, evil has been defeated and death has been conquered for all those who believe in Him. A world of division and hatred is offered a path of healing and reconciliation. Hearts that are broken are restored. Lives weighed down under the burden of despair are renewed and filled with hope. The darkness of sin and death has forever been shattered by a light that cannot be extinguished. By his birth, life, death and resurrection, the world has been saved from crimes of our own making. Jesus has changed the world!

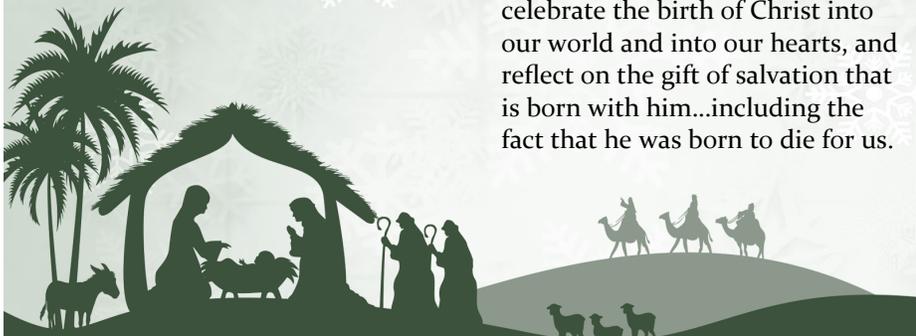
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The Christmas Season: More than Just One Day

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh. It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only transcendent, but also wholly immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He

is at the same time immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His body and blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.



What is Epiphany?

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 5th

The Epiphany is the feast of the manifestation of the majesty and divinity of the newborn Savior. As early as the third century, the Eastern Church, in celebrating the birth of the Redeemer, viewed it primarily as the manifestation of God to man. Hence the name Epiphany, which means manifestation, was given to the feast. Toward the end of the fourth century, as the feast gradually came to be known and celebrated in the West, the adoration of the Christ-Child by the Magi or Wise Men was stressed. Soon these sages were looked upon as the Three Kings.

In order to strengthen and reinforce this divine manifestation to the Magi, the Church commemorates on this feast two other incidents, both of which strongly testify to the divinity of Christ: His baptism in the Jordan and the first miracle at the marriage feast in Cana. In this way, the Redeemer, whose coming was known imperfectly at Christmas, is made known to the whole world. Thus we have three supernatural interventions: the star that guided the Magi from the East, the wine miraculously brought into being from water, and the voice of the Father ringing out from the heavens, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

If the Feast of Epiphany is to be fully understood as the Church sees it, it will have to be viewed from two aspects: that of God who manifested Himself to man, and that of man, typified in the Magi, who responded with wholehearted faith and love. It is, therefore, a day of faith and grace on which no other prayer ought to take precedence over that petition of the Our Father, "Thy Kingdom Come!"

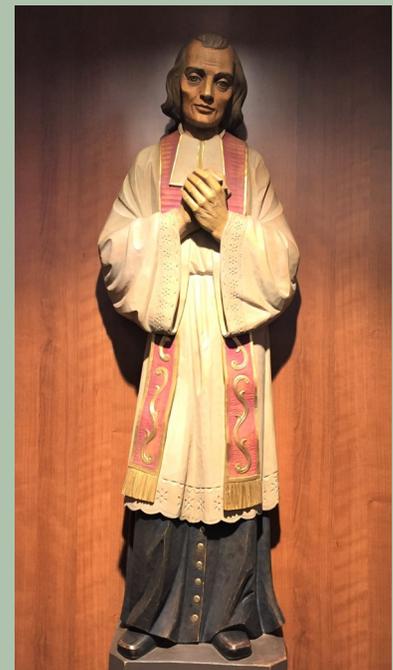
Excerpts from With Christ Through the Year, Rev. Bernard Strasser, O.S.B.

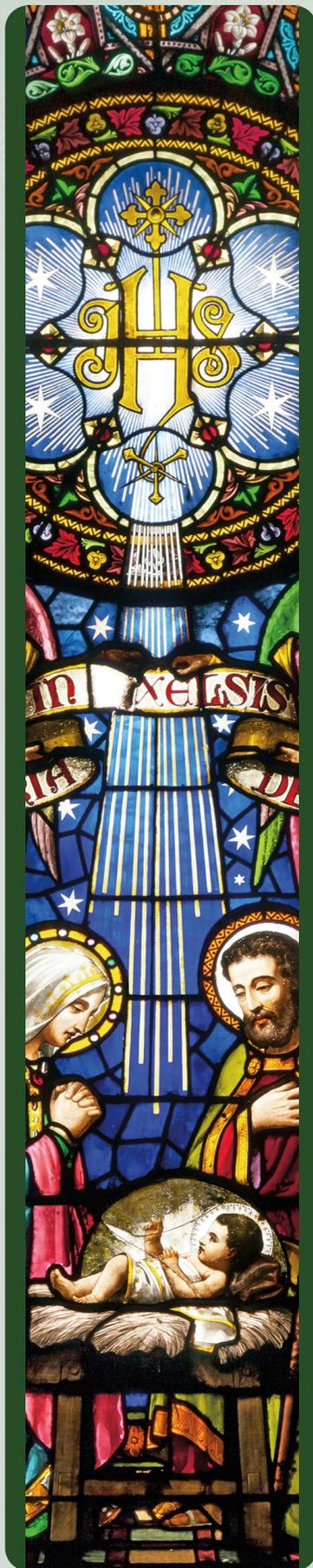
Welcome to St. John Vianney!

If you are new to our area or to the parish, we want to welcome you!

If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to register as a member. It's easy and simple! Registering helps us keep you informed so that you don't miss out on the exciting things that are happening here at St. John Vianney.

To register, just call our parish office at 281.497.1500, or visit: stjohnvianney.org/new-to-sjv





Emmanuel Means God with Us!

Ways in which we Celebrate and Live our Catholic Faith

Confession: An Encounter of God's Love

"We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us." ~St. John Paul II.

In order to make a good confession, we begin with prayer, placing ourselves in the presence of God. We ask His help to know our sins and be truly sorry for them. If possible, use an examination of conscience to guide you.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

The penitent and the priest begin with the sign of the Cross, saying:
In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The penitent continues:

Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (say how long) since my last confession.

The penitent then states his or her sins. For the confession to be valid, the penitent must confess all of the mortal sins he or she is aware of having committed since the last confession, be sorry for them, and try not to commit the same sins in the future. The priest is always there to help you.

After this, the priest will generally give some advice to the penitent and assign a penance. Then he will ask the penitent to make an act of contrition. The penitent may do so in his or her own words, or may say one of many memorized acts of contrition.

The priest then says the Prayer of Absolution while the penitent listens. At the conclusion of the prayer, the penitent makes the sign of the Cross and answers: *Amen.*

Priest: *Go in peace.*

Penitent: *Thanks be to God.*

Complete your penance as soon as possible. If you were given prayers to say, try to pray them in church before departing.

For additional resources: stjohnvianney.org/reconciliation.

The Two Shall Become One: Getting Married in the Church

Salvation history was changed forever through a family, the Holy Family. In the Church a family begins with the Sacrament of Marriage. Young couples shouldn't wait until everything is perfect to get married. That day will never come. Trust in God to bless you in your life together and get married in the Catholic Church. St. John Vianney wants to help you prepare not only for the wedding day but for marriage, a lifetime experience of hope and joy in which you will love and honor each other all the days of your lives. For more information on how to get started: stjohnvianney.org/marriage

The Gift of Faith: Getting your Child Baptized

The best **gift** a parent can give their child is Baptism. Our baptism is the key to our ultimate happiness and truest identity. If you have not had your child baptized yet, call the Parish Office to start the process. Baptism is an opportunity to welcome our little ones into our faith and support parents and godparents in raising their children in that faith. We look forward to growing in faith with you and your family.

Christian Disciples: Always on a Mission

By our Baptism, we are called to action! Have you ever considered going on a Mission Trip? This life changing experience and the opportunity to share your faith with others is open to all adult parishioners regardless of age or skill level.

Here's what we've learned from our latest Mission Trip to Eagle Pass, Texas in November 2019:

Seventeen SJV Parishioners participated in a Service Mission Trip to Eagle Pass, TX, during the first week of November. Our Team was thrilled to welcome 5 new participants! Over the course of five days the team completed a great deal of work on three homes.

In addition to meeting and assisting new families, the Team continues to foster the relationships with the homebound whom we have assisted in the past. They also make time for fellowship and growing together in their faith. We thank and congratulate our Mission Team! Your hard work and generosity of spirit are true examples of what it is to live your faith, change lives and make a difference!



Welcoming All Moms!

Families and marriages face many challenges today. Learn how SJV families are joining together to support each other, grow in faith, and enjoy fellowship. Moms have monthly meetings and invite guest speakers; families enjoy many activities and programs throughout the year.

St. Anne's Society:

Families with young children (infants through early elementary children).

St. Monica's Society:

Families with school-age children (elementary through college).

For more information, visit:

stjohnvianney.org/moms

Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night.

-Homily of Pope Benedict XVI at Mass for the Solemnity, of the Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2008

ADULT FORMATION

Welcome Home!

Welcoming Back Catholics who have been Away

Re-Membering Church is a ministry that welcomes back Catholics who have been away from the Church. A series of five sessions designed to catch you up on what's been happening while you've been away. The sessions also offer a wonderful opportunity to ask questions, have your voice heard and heal wounds. Major topics of discussion include Early Church History, the Commandments, the Sacraments, Discipleship and Evangelization.

New Sessions on Monday evenings will be offered this spring.

If you, a relative, friend, or co-worker is interested, please contact the Director of Adult Formation, Yvonne Gill, 281.584.2022, for an appointment.

stjohnvianney.org/returning-catholics



Enriching Mind and Heart

New opportunities in 2020:



Paul's Letter to the Romans:

The newest study in the Great Adventure Series.
Wednesday evenings, begins January 8.



Walking with Jesus: A new study

Through the Holy Land... Through Sacred Scripture.
Monday evenings, begins January 20.



The Legacy Series : The Sacraments

The History, Development, and Celebration.
Sunday mornings, begins January 12.



Sacred Story: An Ignatian Path to Christ

An introspective journey to God's love and mercy.
Monday evenings, begins January 13.



The JoyFull Women's Guild

Be inspired by scripture and spiritual readings, guest speakers and more! Women of all ages welcome!

Registration available online at stjohnvianney.org/adult-formation
or at the Adult Formation office.

Becoming Catholic

Maybe you've thought about it.
Maybe even prayed about it?

Why not do something about it?

If you are not Catholic, we invite you to
consider becoming Catholic.

It is a journey to a deeper relationship
with God.

Learn more about our 2000 year old
faith and see for yourself what has
inspired the greatest saints and the
most humble believers.

Come and explore the joy, beauty and
the splendor of truth of
the Catholic Faith.

If you have questions about God, the
meaning of life, eternity, truth...

Come let us share with you
the walk of faith!

For more information, contact
the Director of Adult Formation,
Yvonne Gill, 281.584.2022
stjohnvianney.org/rcia

YOUTH FORMATION



Sacrament Preparation

A Wonderful and Special Time for Families

St. John Vianney is blessed to partner with families and guide them through this process. Preparation for RCIC/Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, and Confirmation is open to children and youth ages 7 to 17 years old who have consistently attended CCE for the year immediately prior.

Registration for CCE is open and ongoing!

Forms are available in the Youth Formation Office.

CCE Classes resume January 5, 6 and 8, 2020

I ♥ Revolution

A Retreat for High School Students

February 14th - 16th

Forest Glen Campground

Join us for our Annual High School retreat as this year we dive into what it really means to love our neighbor as yourself. Our purpose is to challenge the Young Church to go out and make a difference in their world.

Register by January 20

stjohnvianney.org/hs-retreat



Get your questions answered...

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

with Reason

Discussions lead by
Fr. Richard Hinkley



8 week series starting January 6

Register at: stjohnvianney.org/defending

Save the Date!

January 9, 2020

Young Catholic Men's Group:

Come enjoy some guys time after the holiday rush!

Women & Wisdom: A Young Catholic Women's Group:

Post Holiday Treat Yourself Time!

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY YOUNG ADULTS

In your 20s or 30s?

Check out SJV's

Young Adult Ministry!

Email: tcooper@stjohnvianney.org

Facebook.com/SJVYoungAdults



Subscribe to our Newsletter!

Parish Life



Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Sunday, January 5 | Coffee & Donuts
Hot Oatmeal for our healthy eaters. |
| Friday, January 10 | Family Fun Night
Food, Fellowship, and Bingo! |
| Sunday, January 19 | Parish Breakfast
Waffles, Egg & Bacon. |
| Saturday, January 25 | Annual Wine Tasting Event
Benefiting The Gabriel Project. |
| Sunday, January 26 | Catholic Schools Fair
During Coffee & Donuts. |
| Sunday, February 2 | Super Bowl Party
Football, Food, Fun & Fellowship. |

All events in the Activity Center
Details and RSVP at stjohnvianney.org
Or contact the Parish Life Office at 281.497.1555

Where do I find...?



St. John Vianney
is a BIG parish with lots to offer!

There is something for just about everyone!

But sometimes, even if you've been around a while,
you may not know where exactly to find everything or
what is going on.

Just go to our parish website!

There you can find names and places, schedules,
helpful instructions, dates and times, happenings,
maps of the campus and much more.

Young Adult activities?

Fun gatherings for moms?

When is the next Date Night for parents?

What service opportunities to help the poor?

What youth events or bible studies do we have?

What time is confession?

It's all there at stjohnvianney.org

MUSIC



The University of St. Thomas

University Singers in Concert

Dr. Brady Knapp, Conductor

February 11, 2020 | 7:30 pm | St. John Vianney Chapel
Free Admission

Introducing Two New Music Ensembles

Our **Credo Singers** group sings Mass at least once a month and is open to all skill levels with no audition to join. We meet on Thursday mornings after Mass.

Celebration Singers, the new teen choir is open to 7th to 12th graders with two rehearsals and Mass each month.

For information contact Michael Madrid:
mmadrid@stjohnvianney.org



PASTORAL CARE & SPIRITUAL LIFE



A Spiritual Lift

Most of us need a spiritual lift now and again. A situation at work. Our marriage is changed. An issue with the kids. Nothing's really wrong but I just don't have the peace that I want.

Come and spend some time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration.

Spend some quiet time with Jesus and let Him give you His peace.

Our Adoration Chapel is open 24 hours a day.

When we place ourselves before the Lord in his Eucharistic Presence, we respond to His invitation:

"Could you not watch one hour with Me?"

By our prayer and presence we bring the peace of Christ to our lives, our homes and those we encounter.

Have your Marriage Blessed in the Church



Are you married but not in the Catholic Church?

A Convalidation, having your marriage blessed in the Church, is a relatively simple process.

Are you previously married and interested in an annulment?

We are here to help.

Please contact Deacon Jeff Willard.



Walking Through Grief

Our grief support groups are led by individuals who are no strangers to grief and who foster a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Everyone grieves in his or her own way, but one doesn't need to go through the grieving process alone. These support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help.

Eight week bereavement group begins early in January.

Group meets Tuesday Evenings:
6:30 - 8:30 pm

For more information, contact:
Maureen Akin at 714.305.9891