

August 4, 2021

Good Morning All,

Adoration following the morning Mass till 5 PM.

1. Today's Readings: [Memorial of Saint John Vianney, Priest | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: It was not without some disappointment that on a winter day in 1818 the young Fr. John Vianney first caught sight of the village of Ars with its broken-down church and some 230 souls. "How small it is," a man of such greatness of heart would remark with a sigh. However, in a gesture which St. John Paul II was later to imitate as pope, he knelt down and kissed the ground of the mission entrusted to him. It was then that he said: this place will not be big enough to contain all who will come here. ([review.catechetics.com](#))

St. John Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests. Let us pray today, asking his help, inspiration and intercession for all parish priests, but especially for Fr. Gillespie as our pastor.

~ "Let us #PrayTogether for all priests so that, following the example of #SaintJohnVianney, they may bring to all their brothers and sisters in difficulty the living Gospel of their witness of love, mercy, and solidarity." *Pope Francis*

3. Quotes of the Day: *St. John Vianney*

~ "On the Way of the Cross, you see, my children, only the first step is painful. Our greatest cross is the fear of crosses. . . We have not the courage to carry our cross, and we are very much mistaken; for, whatever we do, the cross holds us tight – we cannot escape from it. What, then, have we to lose? Why not love our crosses, and make use of them to take us to heaven?"

~ "My little children, your hearts, are small, but prayer stretches them and makes them capable of loving God. Through prayer we receive a foretaste of heaven and something of paradise comes down upon us. Prayer never leaves us without sweetness. It is honey that flows into the souls and makes all things sweet. When we pray properly, sorrows disappear like snow before the sun."

~ "Let us not put off till the end of our life the care that we ought daily to take of our soul; let us labor while there is time."

***St. John Vianney, Pray for Us!***

***St. Joseph, Pray for Us!***

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## Why St. John Vianney Wasn't Afraid of the Devil's Harrowing Attacks



Fr Lawrence Lew, O.P. | CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

St. John Vianney was a threat to the devil and his malicious plan. For 35 years Satan threw everything he had against the holy priest who would hear confessions for 16 hours each day.

At night Vianney would hear taunts, harrowing voices, evil singing, or shouting. He was physically dragged from his bed and one night his bed caught on fire. This torment would prevent him from having much sleep, but it did not deter him from living a life of holiness.

His ability to read souls and teach the profound truths of the Gospel brought him a lot of attention. Men and women would flock to his parish from miles around. However, Vianney was a very humble man and never sought any reward or respect from his people. There is a story of a neighboring priest who was jealous of Vianney's fame and started a petition to remove him from Ars because of his lack of studies. Vianney caught wind of the petition, signed it himself and sent it off to the bishop! Thankfully, the bishop saw through the petition and didn't do anything with it.

Vianney accepted the torment from the devil and knew that he was being attacked because of the many sinners that were being reconciled. He would often get attacked the most the night before a “big sinner” came to town to confess their sins.

The attacks continued but he remarked later, “The demon is very cunning, but he is not strong. Making a Sign of the Cross soon puts him to flight ... when I made the Sign of the Cross they departed.”

He became so accustomed to the encounters that he gave a nickname to the devil, calling him “the grappin.” He said once, “Oh! the grappin and myself? We are almost chums.”



St. John Vianney underwent such horrifying attacks because God knew he could handle them and they would strengthen him for his ministry of mercy. Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians on this topic, “God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Satan’s attacks on St. John Vianney were a “last resort,” as the daily temptations that we are all familiar with did not do anything to the saint. So the devil amped up his game and tried to scare the priest into submission. However, instead of cowering in his room and submitting to the will of Satan, Vianney received God’s grace to follow will of the Father and remain faithful to the end.

The devil may try to frighten us, but he is powerless in the light of the cross.

*Source: aleteia.org*