

The Sunday Mass from St. Cyril's Church is available online at www.stcyrils.org.

St. John Mary Vianney

August 4 is the Memorial of St. John Mary Vianney, The Cure of Ars. He was born on May 8, 1786, in Lyons, France to a farm family and in his youth he taught prayers and the catechism to young children. He was ordained a priest in 1815, after several years of study as he was not the greatest student, with little education and poor Latin.

In 1818, he was assigned to the parish in Ars-sur-Formans, France. It was a very small village with very poor attendance. Fr. John was extremely dedicated to his position: he visited the parishioners in their homes, especially the sick and poor; spent days praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament; and even did penance for his parishioners when needed.

Crowds came to hear him preach and seek reconciliation; he taught by example and by 1855 there were 20,000 pilgrims a year to Ars.

He was their parish priest for 40 years. He died on August 4, 1859.

St. John Vianney was canonized on May 31, 1925 by Pope Pius XI.

The following are some meaningful quotes from St. John Vianney:

- There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us.
- Do not try to please everybody. Try to please God, the angels, and the saints – they are your public.
- Humility is like a pair of scales: the lower one side falls, the higher rises the other. Let us humble ourselves like the Blessed Virgin and we shall be exalted.
- The Lord is more anxious to forgive our sins than a woman is to carry her baby out of a burning building.
- 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.
- It is always springtime in the heart that loves God.
- The Devil writes down our sins – our Guardian Angel all our merits. Labor that the Guardian Angel's book may be full, and the Devil's empty.
- If people would do for God what they do for the world, what a great number of Christians would go to Heaven.

St. John Mary Vianney is the Patron Saint of Priests.

Judy Pearson