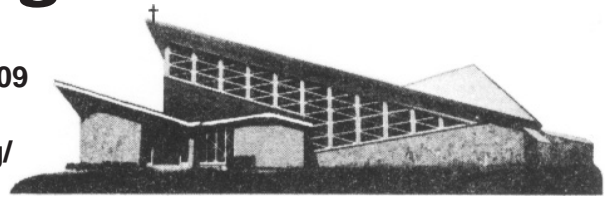


St. John the Evangelist Church

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, Ontario L1N 2S3
 Rectory Office: **Ph:905-668-3676 Fax: 905-668-9109**
 email: stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org
 website: www.stjohntheevangelistwh.archtoronto.org/



Pastoral Team

Rev. Francisco Fernandez Siles Pastor
 Miss Susan Douglas Lay Pastoral Asst.
 Mrs. Vicki Morgan Secretary
 Ms. Cassandra Sullivan Youth Ministry

Support Staff

Mr. Francisco Perez Caretaker
 Mr. Kevin Dashney Director of Music
 Mrs. Sue McGee Bookkeeper
 Mrs. Gail Stewart Cook/Housekeeper

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Fri 9 a.m. - 12 noon
 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Evening Reception

Tues & Wed.
 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY LITURGY — Saturday 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
SPANISH MASS — Sunday 2:00 p.m.
WEEKDAY MASSES — Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:20 a.m.
 Wednesday (Rosary at 6:30 p.m.) 7:00 p.m. (OLPH Devotions)

EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

On first Friday of each month following morning mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION — Saturday 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. By appointment any time.

PARISH REGISTRATION — All parishioners especially those who live outside our parish boundaries are expected to complete a Parish Registration form and use Sunday Offertory Envelopes. This will greatly assist the Parish Team when parishioners request sacraments, funerals or letters of reference.

N.B. — When parishioners move you are asked to notify the parish office.

INFANT BAPTISMS — Two Sundays per month at 4:00 p.m. Contact the parish office at least two months in advance of the birth of their child. Parents are obliged to participate in our baptismal preparation program.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE — The Archdiocese of Toronto requires that you contact your parish priest at least one year in advance of the planned date of your wedding and that you participate in a marriage preparation course.

PARISH HOME CATECHISM PROGRAM — Children attending public, private or alternative school are required to participate in this program from grade 1 - 7 in order to prepare to receive the sacraments.

VISITATION OF THE SICK — Please notify the Rectory when a member of your family is in the hospital.

BULLETIN DEADLINE — Monday 9:00 a.m. in writing or by e-mail.

Pastoral Council	Fr. Francisco Fernandez	905-668-3676
Finance Council	Paul D'Aurelio	905-665-3056

Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA	Christine Hannon	905-444-9913
Baptism	Fr. Francisco	905-668-3676
First Reconciliation & First Eucharist Preparation	Susan Douglas	905-668-3676
Confirmation Preparation	Susan Douglas	905-668-3676
Parish Home Catechism Program	Lorraine Thomas	905-409-1743

Altar Servers	Breandán Orian McCallister	905-668-3676
Auxiliary Ministers of Communion	Fred Shady	905-668-1081
Choir	Kevin Dashney	905-432-1173
Feed the Hungry	Paula Campbell	905-668-2293
Home Communion	Clark Weddell	905-434-8121
Lay Pastoral Visitation	Iris McNulty	905-668-3218
Lectors	Deidre Newman	905-665-6360
Liturgy of the Word with Children (JK-Gr.2) Sun. 9:00 a.m. Mass	Phyllis Pereira	905-665-5917
Ministers of Consolation	Anne Marie Yaraskavitch	905-666-3860
Parish Prayer Group	Klara Bari	905-668-9579
Ushers	Sharon Weslake	905-668-4817

Catholic Women's League	Lynne Childerhouse	905-431-6582
Development & Peace (CCODP)	Estela Rios	905-430-7753
Knights of Columbus #4895	John Stafford	905-809-1731
St. Vincent de Paul Society - Help Line		905-430-6734

Catholic Cemeteries	Oshawa 905-725-3513	Ajax	905-668-8912
Catholic Family Services	1-800-241-3534	or	905-428-1984
Rose of Durham (Young Parent Support Services)			905-432-3622

St. John the Evangelist School	905-668-4011	St. Marguerite d'Youville School	905-666-9301
1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3		250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1	
St. Luke the Evangelist School	905-665-5828	All Saints Catholic Secondary School	905-666-7753
55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9		3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1	
Durham Catholic District School Board		905-576-6150	www.dcdsb.ca

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, offers us a very encouraging and hopeful message to the people of Israel. Those who lived in the north were passing through a great period of anguish because they had been invaded and ill-treated by the Assyrians. In front of this dreadful situation, it is announced to them the coming of a future king who will free them and fill them with peace and joy. Even when there are times when we feel oppressed with burdens and it seems that God has abandoned us, yet He comes to our rescue to free us and to give us peace. Let us present to the Lord all the trials and difficulties so that in Him we find support and consolation. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, presents us a passage that deals with the problem of disunity and disagreement that there was in the Church of Corinth. There were factions and four parties that caused the community to be divided. St. Paul called them to be in agreement and united because they all follow Christ and not other apostles. A sign of a strong community is that there is unity and peace rather than division and disagreement. We are focusing this week on the unity and agreement that must be in the Church. Yet, the Church is divided into many denominations. We pray that the Lord brings harmony and unity within all the Christian denominations. Let us also pray that the community of St. John may be united and grow in peace. It will be a strong sign for all the people who live in Whitby. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, indicates that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah. He is the true king and Messiah who is going to free humanity from the oppression to sin. He comes to live, and He settles in the north of Israel announcing the kingdom of God and curing people who were in need. Jesus Christ calls us as well to share in his kingdom and to participate in the new life that He brings us. We just need to open our hearts and to see that we need Christ to transform our hearts. He calls his disciples to share in this mission by living with Him and announcing to those around the coming of God's kingdom. Jesus also calls us to be with Him, to follow Him and to receive life from Him. If we are shaped by Him, then we can attract those around us to follow Him as well. Let us accept this invitation from the Lord and enter into a wonderful adventure of life to the fullest!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 19, 2020)

"Jesus began to preach" (Mt 4:17). With these words, the evangelist Matthew introduces the ministry of Jesus. The One who is the Word of God has come to speak with us, in his own words and by his own life. On this first Sunday of the Word of God, let us go to the roots of his preaching, to the very source of the word of life. Today's Gospel (Mt 4:12-23) helps us to know how, where and to whom Jesus began to preach.

How did he begin? With a very simple phrase: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (v. 17). This is the main message of all Jesus' sermons: to tell us that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. What does this mean? The kingdom of heaven means the reign of God, that is, the way in which God reigns through his relationship with us. Jesus tells us that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, that God is near. Here is the novelty, the first message: God is not far from us. The One who dwells in heaven has come down to earth; he

became man. He has torn down walls and shortened distances. We ourselves did not deserve this: he came down to meet us. Now this nearness of God to his people is one of the ways he has done things since the beginning, even of the Old Testament. He said to his people: "Imagine: what nation has its gods so near to it as I am near to you?" (cf. Dt 4:7). And this nearness became flesh in Jesus.

This is a joyful message: God came to visit us in person, by becoming man. He did not embrace our human condition out of duty, no, but out of love. For love, he took on our human nature, for one embraces what one loves. God took our human nature because he loves us and desires freely to give us the salvation that, alone and unaided, we cannot hope to attain. He wants to stay with us and give us the beauty of life, peace of heart, the joy of being forgiven and feeling loved.

We can now understand the direct demand that Jesus makes: "Repent", in other words, "Change your life". Change your life, for a new way of living has begun. The time when you lived for yourself is over; now is the time for living with and for God, with and for others, with and for love. Today Jesus speaks those same words to you: "Take heart, I am here with you, allow me to enter and your life will change". Jesus knocks at the door. That is why the Lord gives you his word, so that you can receive it like a love letter he has written to you, to help you realize that he is at your side. His word consoles and encourages us. At the same time it challenges us, frees us from the bondage of our selfishness and summons us to conversion. Because his word has the power to change our lives and to lead us out of darkness into the light. This is the power of his word.

Here there is a message for us: the word of salvation does not go looking for untouched, clean and safe places. Instead, it enters the complex and obscure places in our lives. Now, as then, God wants to visit the very places we think he will never go. Yet how often we are the ones who close the door, preferring to keep our confusion, our dark side and our duplicity hidden. We keep it locked up within, approaching the Lord with some rote prayers, wary lest his truth stir our hearts. And this is concealed hypocrisy. But as today's Gospel tells us: "Jesus went about all Galilee preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity" (v. 23). He passed through all of that varied and complex region. In the same way, he is not afraid to explore the terrain of our hearts and to enter the roughest and most difficult corners of our lives. He knows that his mercy alone can heal us, his presence alone can transform us and his word alone can renew us.

BIBLE STUDY

**Monday February 20 to Monday March 27th
"CONVERSION" by Bishop Robert Barron**

In this film and study program, Bishop Robert Barron illuminates six biblical stories of conversion, demonstrating how six ordinary people, just like you, were met by Jesus where they were and called to a better life through him. The common theme in each story is the turning of all one's attention and energy toward an ever deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In his characteristically energetic style, Bishop Barron explains how conversion is not so much a one-time event, but a life-long process. "Jesus Christ calls us in thousands of different ways to follow Him, as we strive on the path for spiritual excellence," explains Bishop Barron.

Please contact the parish office by phone or email before February 1, if you are interested in participating so that we can order the study books. Cost is \$25.
905-668-3676 or email
stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org

JANUARY 22, 2023

SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM

2022-2023

FIRST EUCHARIST

(Grade 2)

PARENTS' MEETING in the Church (parents only)
Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

****NEW DATES FOR RITE OF ENROLMENT****

at the Church (children & families)
Saturday, January 28 at 5:00 pm OR
Sunday, January 29 at 9:00 am OR 11:00am

CONFIRMATION

(Grade 7)

Sessions 1 – 5

February 4, 11, 25 and March 4 in the Parish Centre
(date for Session 5 to be determined)
9:00 am – 10:30 am or 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (as scheduled)

Youth Ministry

The youth of our parish are invited to join our youth ministry on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00pm in St. Joseph's Room. We meet to have fun together and talk about our faith. For more information, contact Cassandra at cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org.

Due to High school exams, there will be a change in the youth ministry schedule. We will have EDGE (for grade 5-8) January 19th and 26th and Life Teen (for grade 9-12) February 2nd and 9th. We are praying for you in your studies and wish you the best of luck in your exams!



Masses For The Week

Sat Jan 21 – 5:00pm

+Jeyarani Johnpillai
req. by Belshia Victor

Mon Jan 23 – 8:20am

+Andrew Marioselva
req. by Christine & Family

Tues Jan 24 – 8:20am

+Andre Des Vignes
req. by Francois & Wendy Des Vignes

Wed Jan 25 – 7:00pm

+Shirley Barrett
req. by Her Family
+Deceased Mbrs Harrington, Broderick & MacLellan
req. by Joe & Joy
+Bill Stafford
req. by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Thurs Jan 26 – 8:20am

+Nazareth John D'Souza
req. by The Coleman Family

Fri Jan 27 – 8:20am

+Catherine
req. by Yesu

Sat Jan 28 – 5:00pm

+Elvia Tobon de Maya
req. by Sarah Francis

Manresa Jesuit Renewal Centre
Day of Reflection

Monday, January 30, 2023

With Fr. Henk van Meijel, SJ

Praying with the life of Sr. Faustina Kowalska, OLM

See Poster in church for details

\$65 per person, includes lunch and coffee/tea break

Register online <https://manresa-canada.ca/events/>

Or email registration@manresa.ca

ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES

Our next Marriage Preparation Course at St. John the Evangelist will be held on 6 Monday evenings from April 10 to May 15, 2023 at 7pm in the Parish Centre. Call 668-3676. Fee is \$250 per couple.

Feed the Hungry Containers

Our Parish *Feed the Hungry* Ministry distributes covered aluminum containers with a recipe, to parishioners interested in preparing a meal to be served to clients in need of a hot meal. These containers are available every first weekend of the month. The containers are prepared with the recipe provided, frozen, and then brought our Ministry team at the parish parking lot on the following Saturday. The team takes the frozen meals to Durham Outlook for the Needy, previously known as St. Vincent Palotti Kitchen.

Containers will be available in the foyer February 4th & 5th. Please take one, prepare the recipe provided and return the FROZEN meal to the parish centre parking lot on Saturday February 11th between 1pm – 1:30pm. Your meal will be heated and served to their clients.

In these times of food insecurity, please help us provide a basic meal to those in need.

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