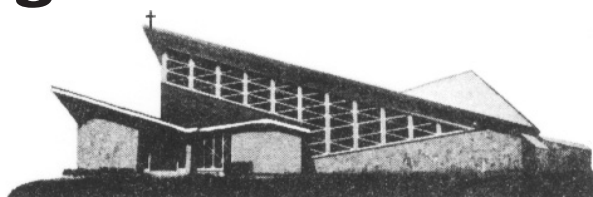


St. John the Evangelist Church

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



Pastoral Team

Rev. Francisco Fernandez Siles Pastor
 Rev. Michael Holmes Associate Pastor
 Rev. Mr. Raymond Del Castilho Permanent Deacon
 Miss Susan Douglas Lay Pastoral Asst.
 Mrs. Vicki Morgan Secretary
 Mrs. Cathy Dykeman Parish Home Catechism
 Mr. Brendon Orian Youth Ministry

Support Staff

Mr. Troy Sabaot Caretaker
 Mr. Kevin Dashney Director of Music
 Mr. Bill Rios System Support & Webmaster
 Mrs. Sue McGee Bookkeeper
 Mrs. Gail Stewart Cook/Housekeeper

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Evening Reception
 Tues., Wed., Thurs.
 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 — It is highly recommended that parents 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. Baptisms generally take place one Sunday per month at 3:30 p.m.

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	Roberta Deschenes	905-430-2978
Finance Council	Brian McMonagle	905-668-8993

Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA	Christine Hannon	905-444-9913
Baptism	Fr. Francisco or Fr. Michael	905-668-3676
First Reconciliation & First Eucharist Preparation	Susan Douglas	905-668-3676
Confirmation Preparation	Susan Douglas	905-668-3676
Parish Home Catechism Program	Cathy Dykeman	905-668-0724

Altar Servers	Brendon Orian	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	Therese Howard	905-436-7115

Catholic Women's League	Lynne Childerhouse	905-431-6582
Development & Peace (CCODP)	Estela Rios	905-430-7753
Knights of Columbus #4895	Bryan Childerhouse	416-508-9877
St. Vincent de Paul Society - Help Line		905-430-6734

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Greetings to all of you!

Today we celebrate an especially important feast, the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven. It could mean for some of us that the Lord is distant from my life and that He is up in Heaven and I am here on earth struggling. Especially, at this time, we may feel “abandoned” by the Lord or that He does not listen to our prayers. However, this feast announces to us that the Lord is ever nearer and closer to us than any time before. He has gone up to Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God to show us that He has power over our lives and that He has destroyed our anxieties and wants to share with us the peace and consolation that only He can give us. The Lord shares our struggles and weaknesses and even though we complain and question Him, He treats us with mercy and He acts in our lives giving us life beyond our sufferings. This particular time is showing us that we can only rely in the Lord and in nothing else. Let us go to Him at any time, especially when we need Him the most and let us find life in abundance despite our shortcomings.

Pope Francis on the Ascension of the Lord (1 June 2014)

The Acts of the Apostles recounts this episode, the final separation of the Lord Jesus from his disciples and from this world (cf. Acts 1:2-9). The Gospel of Matthew, however, reports Jesus’ mandate to his disciples: the invitation to go out, to set out in order to proclaim to all nations his message of salvation (cf. Mt 28:16-20). “To go” or, better, “depart” becomes the key word of today’s feast: Jesus departs to the Father and commands his disciples to depart for the world.

Jesus departs, he ascends to Heaven, that is, he returns to the Father from whom he had been sent to the world. He finished his work, thus, he returns to the Father. But this does not mean a separation, for he remains forever with us, in a new way. By his ascension, the Risen Lord draws the gaze of the Apostles — and our gaze — to the heights of Heaven to show us that the end of our journey is the Father. He himself said that he would go to prepare a place for us in Heaven. Yet, Jesus remains present and active in the affairs of human history through the power and the gifts of his Spirit; he is beside each of us: even if we do not see him with our eyes, He is there! He accompanies us, he guides us, he takes us by the hand and he lifts us up when we fall down. The risen Jesus is close to persecuted and discriminated Christians; he is close to every man and woman who suffers. He is close to us all; he is here, too, with us in the square; the Lord is with us! Do you believe this? Then let’s say it together: the Lord is with us!

When Jesus returns to Heaven, he brings the Father a gift. What is the gift? His wounds. His body is very beautiful, no bruises, no cuts from the scourging, but he retains his wounds. When he returns to the Father, he shows him the wounds and says: “behold Father, this is the price of the pardon you have granted”. When the Father beholds the wounds of Jesus, he forgives us forever, not because we are good, but because Jesus paid for us. Beholding the wounds of Jesus, the Father becomes most merciful. This is the great work of Jesus today in Heaven: showing the Father the price of forgiveness, his wounds. This is the beauty that urges us not to be afraid to ask forgiveness; the Father always pardons, because he sees the wounds of Jesus, he sees our sin and he forgives it.

But Jesus is present also through the Church, which He sent to extend his mission. Jesus’ last message to his disciples is the mandate to depart: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19). It is a clear mandate, not just an option! The Christian community is a community “going forth”, “in departure”. More so: the Church was born “going forth”. And you will say to me: what about cloistered communities? Yes, these too, for they are always “going forth” through prayer, with the heart open to the world, to the horizons of God. And the elderly, the sick? They, too, through prayer and union with the wounds of Jesus.

To his missionary disciples Jesus says: “I am with you always, to the close of the age” (v. 20). Alone, without Jesus, we can do nothing! In Apostolic work our own strengths, our resources, our structures do not suffice, even if they are necessary. Without the presence of the Lord and the power of his Spirit our work, though it may be well organized, winds up being ineffective. And thus, we go to tell the nations who Jesus is.

MAY 24, 2020

And together with Jesus Mary our Mother accompanies us. She is already in the house of the Father, she is the Queen of Heaven and this is how we invoke her during this time; as Jesus is with us, so too she walks with us; she is the Mother of our hope."

Fr. Francisco, your servant and your Pastor
Fr. Mike Holmes, Associate Pastor
Carlos Torres, Seminarian

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! When our parish reopens for Mass, we will experience a different way of celebrating the mass together. Whether we fewer numbers scattered in the pews, and wearing masks and gloves, the touch point surfaces in the church will need to be sanitized between masses. We are looking for 12 volunteers per each mass that is held, to help wipe down the pews and other surfaces before the next mass begins. Please email us! sje.whitby@sympatico.ca

Join Us for live stream mass on [facebook.com/stjohnwhitby](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnwhitby) every Sunday at 9am in English, 11am in Spanish. Weekdays Monday through Friday at 9am.

Knights of Columbus Council 4895, St John the Evangelist meetings are normally the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. The next General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday June 3, 2020 at 8PM at the Columbus Club Hall 133 Brock St North **has been cancelled** due to COVID -19. For further information on becoming a Knight virtually and supporting your St John's Community contact Grand Knight Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com 416-508-9877

REMINDER!

Tuesday evening Lectio Divina at 7pm on Zoom!
We reflect on the Sunday Gospel and readings.

PAG FORMS for St. John & San Juan Diego are on our website!!!
<https://stjohntheevangelistwh.archtoronto.org/>
Go to News & Events and scroll down for the forms



Masses For The Week

Mon May25 –9:00am

+Catherine Cleary
req. by Catherine Ingram

Tues May 26 – 9:00am

+Bernadette Nannery
req. by Bridget Rooney

Wed. May 27 – 9:00am

Intentions for the Victims & Families Worldwide of the COVID-19 Virus

req. by The Catholic Women's League

+ Richard Reilly
req. by His Family

+Deceased Members of the Bonello Family

req. by Rita & Saviour Bonello

+Debbie Beegan
req. by Carol Demoe

+Karen Delore
req. by the Stebih & Zor Families

Thur. May 28 – 9:00am

+Sheila Larkin
req. by Pat MacDonald

Fri. May 22 – 9:00am

+Rosemary & Gerard Morgan
req. by Pat & Vicki Morgan

ShareLife

ShareLife donations are gratefully accepted, however the formal collections have been postponed. Our agencies are still being supported. Please donate online at www.sharelife.org or mail your cheque to the parish office.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR FLOCK!

If you know of a senior, or someone who could benefit from a friendly phone call, or contact from Fr. Francisco, Fr. Mike, or our Lay Pastoral Ministry, please call the parish office today! 905-668-3676

Totus Tuus – CANCELLED

Candle Prayer Intentions

Some parishioners are requesting candle prayer intentions. Father(s) Francisco and Mike will gladly light a candle with your requested prayer intention. The 5-day candles are \$5.00 per candle and the 15-hour votives are \$2.00 per candle. The Sanctuary candle is \$10. Please drop off your candle donation(s), with an enclosed note for your prayer intention, and the specific candle stand you wish to light a candle from, and Father Francisco or Father Mike will gladly light the candle and pray with your intention.

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