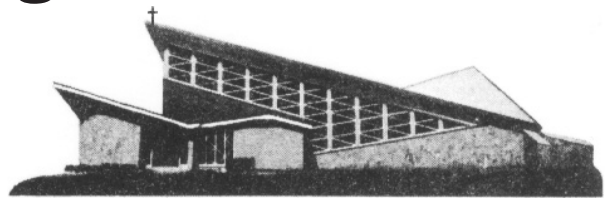


St. John the Evangelist Church

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 Sabao	Caretaker
Mr. Kevin Dashney	Director of Music
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.
 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.

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	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	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	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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Peace to all of you!

Today we are starting the season of Advent. It is a season of hope, a time of expectation. During Advent we prepare ourselves to meet Christ. There is a threefold meeting with Christ. Firstly, we get ready for the upcoming feast of Christmas in which we celebrate that our Savior came among us and was born in order to give us life. Secondly, we are reminded that Christ will come again at the end of time to judge us according to our deeds. Thirdly, every time that we come to mass or we listen to his word, Christ meets with us at that particular moment. During this time in which the cases of Covid-19 are increasing and it could be that we are more afraid and getting discouraged, the time of Advent comes at an opportune time to give us hope. I encourage all of you to get hold of Christ and open our hearts to his presence. In the midst of this difficult time that we are passing through, Christ, Emmanuel is among us to support us and to give us courage. Even if we feel lonely and we are fed up with so many restrictions and regulations, we can lean on Christ and in Him we can find hope and consolation. We are probably going to miss getting together with people and the warmth of Christmas; however, the reason for this season is with us: CHRIST IS WITH US, LIFE WITH US. Let us open our hearts so that we may meet Him in our lives! The Church is still open for mass, sacraments and personal prayer. I really encourage you to come to mass because we need the Lord now more than ever. The rest of the meetings: Lectio Divina (on Mondays at 7 pm), PHCP, RCIA, etc. are going to be in Zoom. I ask you please, that as much as you can, **register with Eventbrite for the weekend mass**. Call the office and speak to Vicki if you need assistance. We have masses at 5 pm, 9 am and 11 am. God bless you and I am here to walk with you and with God anything is possible!

Pope Francis Homily, First Sunday of Advent

Today we begin the journey of Advent, which will culminate in Christmas. Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return. He will return to us in the celebration of Christmas, when we will remember his historic coming in the humility of the human condition; but he enters our heart each time we are willing to receive him; and he will come again at the end of time to "judge the living and the dead". Therefore, we must always be vigilant and await the Lord with the hope of encountering him. Today's liturgy introduces us precisely to this evocative theme of vigilance and waiting.

In the Gospel (cf. Mk 13:33-37) Jesus exhorts us to *take heed* and *watch*, so as to be ready to welcome him at the moment of his return. He tells us: "Take heed, watch ... for you do not know when the time will come.... Watch therefore ... lest he come suddenly and find you asleep" (vv. 33-37).

The person who *takes heed* is the one who, amid the worldly din, does not let himself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality, but lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost *for others*. With this manner we become aware of the tears and the needs of neighbours and we can also understand their human and spiritual strengths and qualities. The heedful person then also turns *toward the world*, seeking to counter the indifference and cruelty in it, and taking delight in its beautiful treasures which also exist and are to be safeguarded. It is a matter of having an understanding gaze so as to recognize both the misery and poverty of individuals and of society, and to recognize

the richness hidden in little everyday things, precisely there where the Lord has placed us.

The *watchful person* is the one who accepts the invitation to keep watch, that is, not to let himself be overpowered by the listlessness of discouragement, by the lack of hope, by disappointment; and at the same time it wards off the allure of the many vanities with which the world is brimming and for which, now and then, time and personal and familial peace is sacrificed. It is the painful experience of the people of Israel, recounted by the Prophet Isaiah: God seemed to have let his people err from his ways (cf. 63:17), but this was a result of the unfaithfulness of the people themselves (cf. 64:4b). We too often find ourselves in this situation of unfaithfulness to the call of the Lord: He shows us the good path, the way of faith, the way of love, but we seek our happiness elsewhere.

(December 3, 2017).

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor



The Catholic Church Liturgical Year starts with the 1st Sunday of Advent

- Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas.
Latin "adventus" (Preparation)
- Marks the four Sundays before Christmas
- Developed as a way of helping Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ
- Turn our attention more fully to the true meaning of Christmas.

It was historically known as "*little Lent*," because, like Lent, it is a time of repentance, with prayer, fasting, and Reconciliation.

Advent Wreaths

Part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas. Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (John 3:19-21).

- The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life.
- The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the everlasting life found in Christ.
- The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent.
- The purple candles, in particular, symbolizes the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time.
- The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday which is called Gaudete Sunday. It is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas.
- Only one purple candle is lit during the first week, two in the second week, three (incl. the pink one) in the third week, and all four during the fourth week of Advent
- The gradually increasing light symbolizes the approach of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

- A fifth candle (white) can be added in the middle of the wreath for Christmas Eve and Day (or replace all four purple and pink candles with white ones) symbolizing the arrival of Christ, the light of the world. Light the white candle(s) until The Baptism of the Lord.

Families are encouraged to observe Advent by gathering around a wreath for brief Advent prayers and readings lighting the appropriate number of candles for each week.

Traditions assign specific symbolism to each of the candles:

- 1) The Prophet's Candle, symbolizing Hope
- 2) The Bethlehem Candle, symbolizing Love & Faith
- 3) The Shepherd's Candle, symbolizing Joy
- 4) The Angel's Candle, symbolizing Peace.

Suggested Daily Readings

Leader: The Lord is our faith and our life.
All: May the Lord's peace be with us all.
Leader: And may his love shine in our hearts.
All: Our hope is in the coming of the Lord.

Light the candle(s). During the week, relight whenever the family gathers together.

Scripture Reading

Leader: Let us pray that our faith may be strengthened for the coming of the Lord.
All: Amen

1st Week – One purple candle is lit.

Suggested Scripture Readings:

Sunday	Romans 13: 11-14
Monday	Corinthians 1: 3-9
Tuesday	Mark 13: 33-37
Wednesday	John 1: 1-5
Thursday	John 1: 6-9
Friday	Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Saturday	Isaiah 6



Masses For The Week

Sat. Nov. 28 – 5:00pm

+Endre Bari
req. by Karl & Klara Bari

Mon Nov 30 – 8:20am

+Shirley Barrett
req. by Her Family

Tues Dec 1 – 8:20am

+ Rev. Ernie Schibli
req. Annette & Gary Hudson

Wed. Dec 2 – 7:00pm

+John Chadwick
req. by Mary-Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly
+John Foxwell
req. by Maureen LaBarre & Family

Thur. Dec 3 – 8:20am

+
req. by

Fri. Dec 4 – 8:20am

+
req.

Sat. Dec 5 – 5:00pm

+Louise Dorothy Maddock
req. by The RCIA Team

Youth Ministry Update:

As the Durham Region has moved into the Red Zone as preventative means to reduce the spread of Covid-19 all youth ministry activities will be moved online until we can safely join again in person.

What this means is that both Edge and Life Teen will take place as Zoom meetings. Registration for Edge and Life Teen will still be necessary so that the meeting's Zoom link can be shared with the youth & families. Those who have not yet registered please contact me at my email sjewhitbyyouth@gmail.com.

Edge will take place on **Friday, December 18th 7pm-8pm** and **Life Teen** will take place on **Thursday, December 3rd 7pm-8pm**. Zoom links will only be provided to those who are registered. A schedule for 2021 will be released in the coming weeks.

In addition to online youth nights I will be filming weekly YouTube videos. I'll start with discussing upcoming Sunday readings, but other topics may be added in the future. Videos will be uploaded on Wednesday afternoons. Links will be shared on the Youth Ministry Instagram and Facebook pages (@sjewhityouth). They will also be shared on the parish Facebook page. These videos aren't just for the youth, but for everyone in the parish.

If anybody needs to contact me my email is the best option. I will gladly schedule any kind of virtual meeting or phone call with you or your family if you need me.

ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES! MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES

Our next Marriage Preparation Course at St. John the Evangelist will be held on 6 Tuesday evenings from January 5 to February 9, 2021 at 7:00pm to 9:00pm. There is room for one more couple (total of 3 couples max) Call 668-3676. Fee is \$150 per couple.

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June and newsletters are available for those members without email at the back of the church, the weekend prior to our meeting. Next Meeting is Wednesday Dec 2, 2020 at 8PM on Zoom (details to follow by member email) For further information assisting the St John's community and becoming a Knight through our online virtual application and exemplification process taking less than an hour, contact Grand Knight Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877

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