

St. John the Evangelist Church

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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 | Secretar |
| Mrs. Cathy Dykeman | Parish Home Catechism |
| Mr. Brendon Orian | Youth Ministry |

Support Staff

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Troy Sabaut | Caretaker |
| Mr. Kevin Dashney | Director of Music |
| Mrs. Sue McGee | Bookkeeper |
| Mrs. Gail Stewart | Cook/Housekeeper |



Feast of the Holy Family

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Peace to all of you!
I would like first of all to greet you all a very Merry and blessed Christmas! It has been almost a year since I became a pastor here at St. John's. What a ride it has been! I never expected it to be like this. It has been very challenging with the Covid situation, but it has been very productive. I want to thank all of you because you have been very supportive and have

shown a lot of care and love. I am amazed at how much fervor you have with attending all the events in the parish. It has given me a lot of consolation to see how well you are responding to all the initiatives. Thanks for your incredible financial support. I want to thank especially at this time all the ushers and sanitizers. Your faithful service has been essential to make our parish a very welcoming and safe place. I am extremely grateful to all the parish staff for being creative and adjusting to everything that is happening around us. To Vicki Morgan, Gail Stewart, Susan Douglas, Brendon Orian, Troy Sabaot, Sue McGee, Cathy Dykeman, Al Sinclair, Fr. Mike Holmes, and I deeply grateful for their tireless effort. I want to thank all the counters and the Finance Council for their help and advice, they have been very helpful at this time. Thanks also to all the ladies that have decorated the Church so beautifully, Pat Milburn & Pat Garrard, and Gail Stewart for the liturgical banners and altar changes. Thanks to Don and Cathy Huppe and Stacey Leadbetter for leading us in the Bible Course so well. Thanks to Christine Hannon and all the RCIA team for making it available even in this time. Thanks to Cathy Dykeman and all the PHCP team for continuing to provide teaching for our children. Thanks to all the lectors and ministers of communion who have been very faithfully serving at every mass week after week. Thanks to Theresa Robinson and the baptismal preparation team for providing monthly classes to the parents. Thanks to Joan Willems and her baptismal hospitality for all their help during the baptisms. Thanks to the Knights for their support to our parish because they are always available to help. Thanks to the ladies of the CWL. Thanks to our Parish council, Social and Fundraising committee because they are ready to come out with ideas even in this time. Thanks to our marriage preparation coordinators Lynne & Bryan Childerhouse and their teams, for being available to adjust to a new program. Thanks to our home communion teams lead by Clark Weddell, for the homebound, and our lay pastoral visitation teams lead by Iris McNulty. Thanks to our Funeral altar servers, lead by Aggie Sandrelli, I am very grateful for your constant support. Thanks to our St. Vincent de Paul Society, you have been very generous with your time provident help to the needy of our parish. Thanks to Robert and Maritza for

always helping the migrant workers. Thanks to Kevin Dashney, Marisa, Ken Merola, Afton Brown, Eileen McGowan for making our liturgies so beautiful. Thanks for the altar servers, because you have been always very helpful. Thank you to the gardeners for making the gardens so beautiful all summer long. Thanks to Brendon and all our youth for meeting regularly in spite of the current situation. I want to wish to all of you a blessed and hopeful new year! May the peace of Christ overflow in all your homes!

Pope Francis Homily, Mary, Mother of God

"All who heard were amazed at what the shepherds told them" (Lk 2:18). *To be amazed*: this is what is asked of us today, at the conclusion of the Octave of Christmas, as we continue to contemplate the Child born for us, lacking everything yet abounding in love. Amazement is what we should feel at the beginning of each year, for life is a gift that constantly gives us a chance to make a new start, even from the most lowly of circumstances.

Today is also a day to be amazed by the Mother of God. God appears as a little child, held in the arms of a woman who feeds her Creator. The statue before our eyes depicts the Mother and Child so close as to appear as one. That is the mystery we celebrate today, which gives rise to boundless amazement: God has become one with humanity forever. God and man, always together, that is the good news of this new year. God is no distant lord, dwelling in splendid isolation above the heavens, but love incarnate, born like us of a mother, in order to be a brother to each of us, to be close to us: the God of closeness. He rests on the lap of his mother, who is also our mother, and from there he pours out upon humanity a new tenderness. Thus we come to understand more fully God's love, which is both paternal and maternal, like that of a mother who never stops believing in her children and never abandons them. God-with-us, Emmanuel, loves us despite our mistakes, our sins, and the way we treat our world. God believes in mankind, because its first and preeminent member is his own Mother.

At the beginning of the year, let us implore from Mary the grace to be amazed at the God of surprises. Let us renew the amazement we felt when faith was first born in us. The Mother of God helps us: the Mother who gave birth to the Lord, now presents us, reborn, to the Lord. She is a mother who generates in her children the amazement of faith, because faith is an encounter, not a religion. Without amazement, life becomes dull and routine, and so it is with faith. The Church too needs to renew her amazement at being the dwelling place of the living God, the Bride of the Lord, a Mother who gives birth to her children. Otherwise, she risks turning into a beautiful museum of the past. A "Church museum". Our Lady instead gives the Church the feel of a home, a home in which the God of newness dwells. Let us receive with amazement the mystery of the Mother of God, as the inhabitants of Ephesus did at the time of the

DECEMBER 27, 2020

Council. Like them, let us acclaim her "Holy Mother of God". From her, *let us allow ourselves to be gazed upon, to be embraced, to be taken by the hand.*

Let us allow ourselves to be gazed upon. Especially in times of need, when we are entangled in life's knots, we rightly lift our eyes to Our Lady, to Our Mother. Yet first, we should let ourselves be gazed upon by Our Lady. When she gazes upon us, she does not see sinners but children. It is said that the eyes are the mirror of the soul; the eyes of Mary, *full of grace*, reflect the beauty of God, they show us a reflection of heaven. Jesus himself said that the eye is "the lamp of the body" (Mt 6:22): the eyes of Our Lady are able to bring light to every dark corner; everywhere they rekindle hope. As she gazes upon us, she says: "Take heart, dear children; here I am, your Mother!"

(January 1, 2019).

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Office Hours Christmas to New Year

The parish office is closed on Monday, December 28th. It will be open December 29th & 30th. The office will also close at noon on Thursday December 31st and reopen at 9am on Monday, January 4, 2021.

Mass Schedule for Octave of Christmas

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Sat Dec 26 | 9am Feast of St. Stephen |
| Sat Dec 26 | 5pm Vigil of The Holy Family |
| Sun Dec 27 | 9am, 11am 2pm Solemnity of the Holy Family |
| <u>Mon Dec 28</u> | <u>9am</u> Holy Innocents, Martyrs |
| Tues Dec 29 | 8:20am Fifth Octave Day |
| Wed Dec 30 | 7:00pm Sixth Octave Day |
| Thur Dec 31 | 5pm Vigil of Mary, Mother of God |
| Fri Jan 1 | 9am, 11am, 2pm Solemnity Mary, Mother of God |



Masses For The Week

Sat. Dec 26 – 9:00am *Feast of St. Stephen*
+Bryan McEachen
req. by His Family

Sat. Dec 26 – 5:00pm
+Werner Kuenzle
req. by Jenny & Heidi Kuenzle

Mon Dec 28 – 9:00am
+
req. by

Tues Dec 29 – 8:20am
+
req.

Wed. Dec 30 – 7:00pm
+Bonnie Kay Latour
req. by Margaret Lance
+Doris Agius

req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly

Thur. Dec 31 – 5pm **Vigil of Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
NO INTENTIONS

Fri. Jan 1 – 9am, 11am **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
NO INTENTIONS

Sat. Jan 2 – 5:00pm
+Shirley Barrett
req. by Her Family

Tabernacle Candle intention for the Staff of St. John the Evangelist, req by a parishioner

The Holy Family Prayer

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family.

Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

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 Jan 6, 2021 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

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if
You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

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