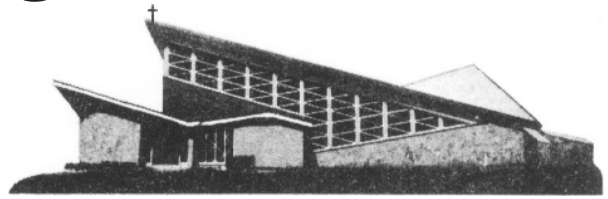


# St. John the Evangelist Church

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



## Pastoral Team

Rev. Francisco Fernandez Siles 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  
 Mrs. Sue McGee Bookkeeper  
 Mrs. Gail Stewart Cook/Housekeeper

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Mon & Fri - Closed Thursday  
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Evening Reception  
 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	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	905-706-1126

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	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

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

# THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

## Message from the Pastor

The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you all!

We celebrate this Sunday the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven. 40 days after His Resurrection, Christ ascends into Heaven. He sits at the right hand of the Father. What does this feast mean for us? It is easy to be understood as a celebration that has very little to do with us. Christ goes up to Heaven, very good for Him, but what is the connection with me, with my life? When Christ enters into Heaven, He brings with Him our weak human nature, which has been glorified by His Resurrection. This is a very powerful sign because it means that we share in His glorification. What does it change for me to know this in my life? It gives me the assurance that my existence is destined to live forever with God. I am called to inherit Heaven, if I remain faithful and attached to the Lord in my life. However right now, I can experience a foretaste of Heaven already on earth when I can witness that my everyday problems and struggles do not destroy me. I can remain at peace no matter what. We are living on earth struggling with our difficulties, but Christ is helping us from Heaven, giving us the strength that we need. This assures us that Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father, which means that He is stronger than any difficulty and struggle. He is not far away from us; He is closer than ever and ready to help us in time of need. In these challenging times, let us approach the Lord with the confidence that He is glorious, and He can help us to accept any situation.

I want to encourage you to participate with the Virtual Dinner of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Toronto this Sunday at 5 pm by going to the link [www.rmmstontoronto.org](http://www.rmmstontoronto.org). This is the Seminary to which I attended, and our summer seminarian, Carlos. It will be interesting to hear the vocation experiences of these seminarians, and how the Lord is working in their lives. Please support them in the way that you can. On Tuesdays at 7pm, we will meditate on the Sunday readings by zoom. If you wish to know the zoom link please call the parish office.

I encourage you also to receive communion on the weekends by reserving your ticket for Communion services on Saturdays from 2pm to 4pm, Sundays from 10:30 am to noon, and 3pm to 4:30pm. You can reserve your ticket by going to our website starting Thursday mornings at 10am. I also continue to encourage you to follow the mass online every day at 9am and Saturdays at 5pm and Sundays at 9am and 2pm in Spanish. We are going to get a lot out of it. If you need to avail of the sacrament of Confession and experience the life-giving mercy of Jesus Christ, please call the parish office to make an appointment.

May God continue to fill you with hope and peace during the Easter Season! Please keep praying for me and I pray for all of you!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

## Pope Francis *Regina Caeli*, Ascension of the Lord

Today, in Italy and in many other countries, the Solemnity of the [Ascension](#) of the Lord is being celebrated. This Solemnity embraces two elements. On the one hand it directs our gaze toward heaven, where the glorified Jesus is seated at the right hand of God (cf. Mk 16:19). On the other, it reminds us of the mission of the Church: why? Because Jesus, Risen and Ascended into heaven, sends his disciples to spread the Gospel throughout the world. Therefore, the Ascension exhorts us to lift our gaze toward heaven, in order to return it immediately to the earth, to implement the tasks that the Risen Lord entrusts to us.

It is what we are invited to do in the day's Gospel passage, in which the event of the Ascension occurs immediately after the mission that Jesus entrusts to the disciples. It is a boundless mission — that is, literally without boundaries — which surpasses human strength. Jesus says, in fact: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation" (Mk 16:15). The task which Jesus entrusts to a small group of common men lacking great intellectual capacity seems truly too bold! Yet this small company, insignificant compared to the great powers of the world, is sent to bring the message of Jesus' love and mercy to every corner of the earth.

But this plan of God can be accomplished only with the strength that God himself grants to the Apostles. In this sense, Jesus assures them that their mission will be supported by the Holy Spirit. And he says this: "you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). This is how this mission was able to be accomplished, and the Apostles began this work which was then continued by their successors. The mission that Jesus entrusted to the Apostles has continued through the centuries, and continues still today: it requires the cooperation of all of us. Each one, in fact, by the power of the Baptism that he or she received, is qualified in turn to proclaim the Gospel. Baptism is precisely what qualifies us and also spurs us to be missionaries, to proclaim the Gospel.

The Lord's Ascension into heaven, while inaugurating a new form of Jesus' presence among us, calls us to keep eyes and hearts open to encounter him, to serve him and bear witness to him to others. It is a matter of being men and women of the Ascension, that is, those who seek Christ along the paths of our time, bringing his word of salvation to the ends of the earth. On this journey we encounter Christ himself in our brothers and sisters, especially in the poorest, in those who suffer in their very flesh the harsh and humiliating experience of old and new forms of poverty. As at the beginning the Risen Christ sent his Apostles with the power of the Holy Spirit, so too does he send all of us today, with the same power, so as to establish concrete and visible signs of hope. Because Jesus gives us hope. He went to heaven and opened the gates of heaven and the hope that we will reach it.

May the Virgin Mary who, as Mother of the dead and Risen Lord, enlivened the faith of the first community of disciples, help us too to "lift up our hearts", as the Liturgy exhorts us to do. And at the same time may she help us to keep our "feet on the ground", and to bravely sow the Gospel in the practical situations of life and of history.



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**  
**St. John the Evangelist**  
**Conference**  
**BUNDLE WEEKEND**  
**June 19/20, 2021**



Our conference at St. John's will be holding a Bundle Weekend Collection drive to serve our neighbours in need living in the Durham community. A truck will be parked in St. John Parish parking lot over the weekend June 19/20 accepting gently used/new clothing, coats, linens, towels, bedding, textiles, drapery, shoes/boots.

We CANNOT accept furniture, mattresses, used baby equipment. **Please bring your items to the truck after mass Saturday at 5pm, Sunday 9am or 11am.** A member of the conference will assist you with your donation. Thank you!

## **Sunday Offertory & Renovation Giving**

<https://stjohntheevangelistwh.archtoronto.org/>

Envelopes can be mailed in or dropped off at the parish office mail slot at the bottom of the left side of the office

door. Pre-Authorized Giving is highly recommended! Forms are now on the new and improved website!

### **Long Term Care Planning 101**

During these times, Long Term Care homes have been front and center in the news.

What are the different facilities?

Are they the only option to care for someone?

Why would you need to transfer to one?

What are the costs?

What does the government pay for?

These are a few questions people ask, and this 1/2 hour Virtual Presentation will help you learn about Long Term Care in Ontario: what to expect (for those using LTC and family members); the different types; costs involved and who pays for what.

An email with the access information for your chosen date will be sent within 24 hours of registering (please look in the spam/junk if you don't receive it). You will also receive a reminder a few days before, and the night before.

Hosted by your Field Agent from the Mullin Agency -

Alexander Sgroi, PFA MBA FIC CPCA

Field Agent - Professional Financial Advisor

\*Don't forget to invite your spouse to this presentation. They might have questions you don't.

Please feel free to pass this on to any friends, neighbors, or parishioners that you think might benefit by attending.

\*Video conference tool is "Microsoft Teams" - it's free, secure, AND you don't have to download anything.

Date: May 19th 2021 @ 7:00pm EST (will be about 30 minutes)

To register, email Alexander.Sgroi@KOFC.ORG

## **HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR INDIA**

India is reeling from a devastating COVID-19 outbreak. In recent days, the country has been reporting more than 400,000 of new cases and 4,000 deaths every 24 hours. International observers expect that the actual numbers are significantly higher. The medical system, funeral services and other social supports are unable to meet the country's needs at this time.

In response to numerous inquiries from parishioners and clergy, we are providing information for those who may wish to contribute to relief efforts to assist the people of India. The Archdiocese of Toronto will send donations through Development and Peace to Caritas Internationalis, an international confederation of Catholic humanitarian organizations that is already in India helping those who are suffering during this COVID-19 outbreak.

Since the pandemic began, India's Catholic Church, acting principally through Caritas India, has been supporting some of the most disadvantaged groups, such as those with inadequate housing, migrant labourers, persons with special needs and widows. Relief services and materials provided by the Church, or with its support, include:

\*Food at kitchens and distribution centres in slums, at migration transit points, etc.

\*Masks, sanitizers and hygiene kits to vulnerable communities

\*Psychosocial support and hotline services to traumatized and grieving people

\*Public education campaigns on infection prevention and vaccination \* Supporting the public healthcare system, including donating expertise, facilities and equipment from Church-run clinics and hospitals

### **Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways:**

-Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website: [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)

-By phone through the Development Office – 416-934-3411

-Through the parish, making cheques payable to:

**St John the Evangelist Parish – India's COVID-19 Outbreak – Disaster Relief**



Masses For The Week

**Sat May 15 – 5:00pm**

**+Sam Saturno**

*req. by Tony & Rosa Saturno*

**Mon May 17 – 9:00am**

**+Giovanni Bozzarello**

*req. by Natale & Anna Ciardullo*

**Tues May 18 – 9:00am**

**+Deirdre Al Darraji**

*req. by Noreen & Bobby Hayden*

**Wed. May 19 – 9:00am**

**+Anton Perera**

*req. by His Family*

**Thur. May 20 – 9:00am**

**+Barbara Siciliano**

*req. by Her Family*

**Fri. May 21 – 9:00am**

**+Andrew Marioselva**

*req. by Christine Marioselva*

**Sat May 22 – 5:00pm**

**+Bobby Graham & Judy Tayeb Graham**

*req. by Gail & Leanne Stewart*

*Tabernacle Candle May 16 – 22, 2021  
For Mary's grandson*



**COLLECTION TO DATE, \$40,756**

### **Living the Gospel locally and around the world**

"You – the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese – haven't forgotten the needs of your neighbours.

"Thank you to our pastors and parish staff who have continued to educate the faithful about the work of ShareLife agencies."

– Cardinal Thomas Collins



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