

St. John the Evangelist Church

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Pastoral Team

Rev. Francisco Fernandez Siles Pastor
Miss Susan Douglas Lay Pastoral Asst.
Mrs. Vicki Morgan Secretary
Mrs. Cathy Dykeman Parish Home Catechism
Mr. Breandán Orian McCallister Youth Ministry

Support Staff

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



Feast of the Holy Family

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you! I would like first of all to wish you all a very Merry and blessed Christmas! It has been two years since I became a pastor here at St. John's. I am very glad of your enormous support and care during this very difficult period. I

am very grateful and edified to see how you have attended masses and have responded wholeheartedly to any pastoral initiative. I feel very blessed to grow in faith together with you. Thanks for your constant and generous financial support. I want to thank especially all the ushers and sanitizers who have been giving us the opportunity to worship at Church safely every single week. Your faithful service has been essential to make our parish a very welcoming and safe place and more and more people are slowly coming back to Church. I am extremely grateful to all the parish staff for their faithful support and strenuous help. To Vicki Morgan, Gail Stewart, Susan Douglas, Breandán Orian McCallister, Troy Sabao, Sue McGee, Cathy Dykeman, Al Sinclair, Patrick Treacy, and our new parish custodian, Francisco Perez. I am deeply grateful for their constant love to the parish. I want to thank the Offertory Counters and the Finance Council for their help and advice. My deepest thanks to the late and always remembered Brian McMonagle, for his constant support and years of service as Chair of the Finance Council. To our new Finance Chair, Paul D'Aurelio, and committee members Lisa Maltby and Pierre Pilon. Thanks to our new screening committee, Minnie Chillingworth and Cathy Fernandes, for organizing so well, all our ministry volunteers. Thanks also to all the ladies who decorated the church so beautifully, Pat Milburn & Pat Garrard, and Gail Stewart for the liturgical banners, fresh flowers, and altar changes. Thanks to Stacey Leadbetter for leading us in the Bible Course so well. Thanks to Christine Hannon and all the RCIA team for their cooperation and sharing. Thanks to Cathy Dykeman, Lorraine Thomas 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 Ron Locas for opening the Church every day in the morning and to Pat and Marie Fitzpatrick for taking care of the candles. 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 every other week. Thanks to the Knights for their support to our parish through the different ministries in which they are involved and always they are available to help. Thanks to the ladies of the CWL. Thanks to our Parish Council, Social and Fundraising committees as they are always ready to come up with ideas even in this time. Thanks to our Marriage Preparation coordinators Lynne & Bryan Childerhouse and their teams, for training the couples for marriage. Thanks to our Home Communion teams lead by Clark Weddell, for the homebound, for Claire Brown for organizing communion at Fairview, and our Lay Pastoral visitation teams lead by Iris McNulty. Thanks to our Funeral Altar Servers, lead by Aggie Sandrelli, I am very grateful because you always come to help at funeral masses. Thanks to Phyllis Pereira and Mia for teaching our younger children through the Children's Liturgy. Thanks to our St. Vincent de Paul Society, you have been very generous with your

time and provident help to the needy of our parish. Thanks to Robert and Maritza Cartwright for always helping the Migrant Workers. Thanks to Kevin Dashney, Marisa Dashney Ken Merola, Afton Shah, Eileen McGowan, and Henry, and Kate Remiz for making our liturgies and masses so beautiful and harmonious. Thanks for the Altar Servers for all your helpfulness. Thank you to the Gardeners for our beautiful gardens all summer long. Thanks to Breandán for leading the Altar Servers and visiting the schools and all our youth for meeting regularly through Edge and Life Teen. I want to wish to all of you a blessed and hopeful new year!

May the peace of Christ overflow in all your homes!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec 30, 2018)

Today we are celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family, and the liturgy invites us to reflect on the experience of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, united by an immense love and inspired by great trust in God. Today's Gospel passage (cf. Lk 2:41-52) recounts the journey of the family of Nazareth to Jerusalem, for the celebration of Passover. But, on the return journey, the parents realize that their 12-year-old son is not in the caravan. After three days of searching and fear, they find him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, focused on a discussion with them. At the sight of the Son, Mary and Joseph "were astonished" (v. 48) and the Mother revealed their fear to him, saying: "your father and I have been looking for you anxiously" (ibid.)

Astonishment — they "were astonished" — and anxiety — "your father and I, anxious" — are the two elements to which I would like to call your attention: astonishment and anxiety.

In the family of Nazareth astonishment never waned, not even in a dramatic moment such as Jesus being lost: it is the ability to be astonished before the gradual manifestation of the Son of God. It is the same astonishment that even strikes the teachers of the temple, "amazed at his understanding and his answers" (v. 47). But what is astonishment; what is it to be astonished? Being astonished and being amazed is the opposite of taking everything for granted; it is the opposite of interpreting the reality that surrounds us and historical events according to our criteria alone. A person who does this does not know what amazement is, what astonishment is. Being astonished is being open to others, understanding others' reasons: this attitude is important for mending compromised interpersonal relationships, and is also indispensable for healing open wounds in the familial environment. When there are problems in families, we take for granted that we are right and we close the door to others. Instead, it is important to think: 'What is good about this person?', and to be astonished by this 'good'. And this helps family unity. If you have problems in the family, think about the good things in the family member with whom you have problems, and be astonished by this. This will help to heal familial wounds.

The second element that I would like to grasp from the Gospel is the anxiety that Mary and Joseph felt when they could not find Jesus. This anxiety reveals Jesus' centrality in the Holy Family. The Virgin and her husband welcomed that Son, protected him and watched him grow in age, wisdom and grace in their midst, but above all he grew in their hearts; and, little by little, their affection

for him and their understanding of him grew. This is why the family of Nazareth is holy because it was centred on Jesus; all of Mary and Joseph's attention and concerns were directed toward him. That anxiety that they experienced in the three days that Jesus was missing should also be our anxiety when we are distant from him, when we are distant from Jesus. We should feel anxious when we forget Jesus for more than three days, without praying, without reading the Gospel, without feeling the need of his presence and of his comforting friendship. And many times, days pass in which I do not remember Jesus. But this is bad, this is really bad. We should feel anxious when these things happen. Mary and Joseph searched for him and found him in the temple while he was teaching: for us too, it is especially in the house of God that we are able to encounter the divine Teacher and receive his message of salvation. In the Eucharistic celebration we have a living experience of Christ; he speaks to us; he offers us his Word; he illuminates us, lights our path, gives us his Body in the Eucharist from which we draw vigour to face everyday difficulties.

And today let us go home with these two words: astonishment and anxiety. Do I know how to be astonished, when I see the good things in others, and in this way resolve family problems? Do I feel anxious when I am distant from Jesus?

Let us pray for all the families in the world, especially those in which, for various reasons, peace and harmony are lacking. And let us entrust them to the protection of the Holy Family of Nazareth.



Masses For The Week

Sat Dec 25 – 9am, 11am, 2pm Spanish
NO INTENTIONS

Mon Dec 27 – 9:00am
+Robin Morgan
req. by Pat & Vicki Morgan & Family

Tues Dec 28 – 9:00am
+Brian McMonagle
req. by Paul & Geni D'Aurelio

Wed Dec 29 – 7:00pm
Int. for James O'Hara
req. by John Lennon
Int. for Peter Milligan
req. by John Lennon
+Joze Grsic
req. by Peter & Anne Struna
+Deborah Beegan
req. by Mary-Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly
+Brian McMonagle
req. by Staff of St. John's Parish

Thurs Dec 30 – 8:20am
+Bonnie Kay Latour
req. by Margaret Lance

Fri Dec 31 – 5pm
NO INTENTIONS
Adoration
Tabernacle Candle Dec 26 – Jan 1, 2022
Intention for Natasha, req. by Mary

ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES!
MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES
Our next Marriage Preparation Course at St. John the Evangelist will be held on 6 Thursday evenings from January 20 to February 24, 2022 at 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the Parish Centre. Call 668-3676. Fee is \$200 per couple.



Office Hours Christmas to New Year
The parish office will close at noon on Friday, December 24th through to Tuesday, December 28th. The office will be open December 29th & 30th and until noon on December 31st. The office will reopen at 9am on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

CWL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
\$25.00
email lchilderhouse@hotmail.com

Mass Schedule for Octave of Christmas

Mon Dec 27	9am, Solemnity of St. John the Evangelist, Patron
Tues Dec 28	9am Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Wed Dec 29	7pm Fifth Octave Day
Thur Dec 30	8:20am Sixth Octave Day
Fri Dec 31	5pm Vigil of Mary, Mother of God
Fri Dec 31	6pm -7pm Adoration
Sat Jan 1	9am, 11am, 2pm Spanish Solemnity Mary, Mother of God
Sun Jan 2	9am, 11am, 2pm Spanish, 5pm



CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND
Special envelopes are available at the back of the Church for donations to offset the cost of decorating at Christmas. We appreciate your support and assistance at this time of year!

IMPORTANT: Donations for the 2021 tax year must be received no later than January 2, 2022 for tax receipt purposes.

The Knights of Columbus next meeting is Wednesday January 4, 2022 at 8PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 133 Brock St North and on Zoom (details to follow by member email). Proof of double Covid vaccination and masking will be required. 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

The St. John the Evangelist 2022 calendars are available for pickup, generously provided, courtesy of WC Town Funeral Chapel.

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