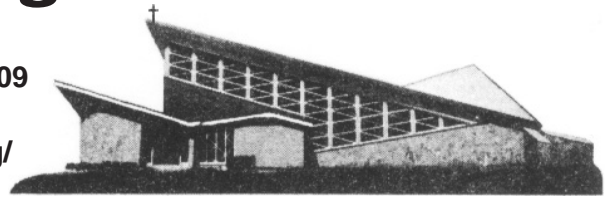


St. John the Evangelist Church

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



Pastoral Team

Rev. Francisco Fernandez Siles Pastor
 Miss Susan Douglas Lay Pastoral Asst.
 Mrs. Vicki Morgan Secretary
 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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon & Fri - Closed Thursday
 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 — Two Sudays per month at 4:00 p.m. 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 Finance Council | Fr. Francisco Fernandez Paul D'Aurelio | 905-668-3676 905-668-8993 |
| Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA Baptism First Reconciliation & First Eucharist Preparation Confirmation Preparation Parish Home Catechism Program | Christine Hannon Fr. Francisco Susan Douglas Susan Douglas | 905-444-9913 905-668-3676 905-668-3676 905-668-3676 905-706-1126 |
| Altar Servers Auxiliary Ministers of Communion Choir Feed the Hungry Home Communion Lay Pastoral Visitation Lectors Liturgy of the Word with Children (JK-Gr.2) Sun. 9:00 a.m. Mass Ministers of Consolation Parish Prayer Group Ushers | Breandán Orian McCallister Fred Shady Kevin Dashney Paula Campbell Clark Weddell Iris McNulty Deidre Newman Phyllis Pereira Anne Marie Yaraskavitch Klara Bari Sharon Weslake | 905-668-3676 905-668-1081 905-432-1173 905-668-2293 905-434-8121 905-668-3218 905-665-6360 905-665-5917 905-666-3860 905-668-9579 905-668-4817 |
| Catholic Women's League Development & Peace (CCODP) Knights of Columbus #4895 St. Vincent de Paul Society - Help Line | Lynne Childerhouse Estela Rios Bryan Childerhouse | 905-431-6582 905-430-7753 416-508-9877 905-430-6734 |
| Catholic Cemeteries Catholic Family Services Rose of Durham (Young Parent Support Services) | Oshawa 905-725-3513 1-800-241-3534 | Ajax or 905-668-8912 905-428-1984 905-432-3622 |
| St. John the Evangelist School 905-668-4011 1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3 St. Luke the Evangelist School 905-665-5828 55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9 Durham Catholic District School Board | St. Marguerite d'Youville School 250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1 All Saints Catholic Secondary School 3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1 905-576-6150 | 905-666-9301 905-666-7753 www.dcdsb.ca |

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



From the Pastor's Desk

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. This Sunday has been declared by Pope Francis as the Sunday on the Word of God. We are called to reflect on the importance of God's word for our lives. It is in the Word of God that we find nourishment for our souls, and we also receive an answer to understand God's Will for us in our daily events. The First Reading, from the book of Nehemiah, brings us the account of the reading of the law to the people of Israel. They have been in exile because of their infidelity to keep the covenant with God. When they come back to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple, the covenant with God is renewed and the Law is proclaimed to the people as a sign that God wants to enter a new relationship with them. The people are very much struck that God is faithful in spite of their sins and they promise to keep the demands of the Law. Every time that we listen to the Word of God is an occasion that God wants to renew our lives. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, gives us the image of the human body as a representation of the Christian community. As in the human body, each member is necessary to its proper functioning, the same happens in our parish community, each parishioner with his/her own gifts is needed for the proper functioning of the Christian community. The Gospel, from St. Luke, gives us the account of the visit of Christ to the synagogue of Nazareth. Every Jewish adult who came to the synagogue was called to give an interpretation to a text from the prophets that was read before. Jesus Christ proclaims a text from Isaiah on which it announces that He announces that someone has been sent by the Lord to proclaim the good news to the poor, to bring release to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed, and to proclaim salvation to everybody. What is astonishing is that the Lord says that this prophecy has been fulfilled in Him. Through His ministry, these words became a reality in the lives of the peoples. The implication for us is that whatever is proclaimed in the scriptures is accomplished in our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. At times, we have the risk to understand the word of God as something disconnected with our lives and as a nice story. However, the Word of God has to do with our lives and Christ wants to accomplish it and through it we receive new life. Let us open our hearts to the power of God's word in our lives and let Christ fulfill its saving promise of new life in us!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jan 24, 2016)

In today's Gospel, before presenting Jesus' programmatic speech in Nazareth, Luke the Evangelist briefly recounts the work of evangelization. It is an activity that Jesus carries out with the power of the Holy Spirit: his Word is original because it reveals the meaning of the Scriptures; it is an authoritative Word because he commands even impure spirits with authority, and they obey him (cf. Mk 1:27). Jesus is different from the teachers of his time. For example, he doesn't open a law school but rather goes around preaching and teaching everywhere: in the synagogues, on the streets, in houses, always moving about! Jesus is also different from John the Baptist, who proclaims God's imminent judgment. Instead Jesus announces God's fatherly forgiveness.

Now let us imagine that we too enter the synagogue of Nazareth, the village where Jesus has grown up, until he is about 30 years old. What happens is an important event, which delineates Jesus' mission. He stands up to read the Sacred Scripture. He opens the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah and takes up the passage where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor" (Lk 4:18). Then, after a moment of silence filled with expectation on the part of everyone, he says, in the midst of their general amazement: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (v. 21).

Evangelizing the poor: this is Jesus' mission. According to what he says, this is also the mission of the Church, and of every person baptized in the Church. Being a Christian is the same thing as being a missionary. Proclaiming the Gospel with one's word, and even before, with one's life, is the primary aim of the Christian community and of each of its members. It is noted here that Jesus addresses the Good News to all, excluding no one, indeed favouring those who are distant, suffering sick, cast out by society.

Let us ask ourselves: what does it mean to evangelize the poor? It means first of all drawing close to them, it means having the joy of serving them, of freeing them from their oppression, and all of this in the name of and with the Spirit of Christ, because he is the Gospel of God, he is the Mercy of God, he is the liberation of God, he is the One who became poor so as to enrich us with his poverty. The text of Isaiah, reinforced with little adaptations introduced by Jesus, indicates that the messianic announcement of the Kingdom of God come among us is addressed in a preferential way to the marginalized, to captives, to the oppressed.

In Jesus' time these people probably were not at the centre of the community of faith. Let us ask ourselves: today, in our parish communities, in our associations, in our movements, are we faithful to Christ's plan? Is the priority evangelizing the poor, bringing them the joyful Good News? Pay heed: it does not only involve doing social assistance, much less political activity. It involves offering the strength of the Gospel of God, who converts hearts, heals wounds, transforms human and social relationships according to the logic of love. The poor are indeed at the centre of the Gospel.

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of evangelizers, help us to strongly perceive the hunger and thirst for the Gospel that there is in the world, especially in the hearts and the flesh of the poor. May she enable each of us and every Christian community to tangibly bear witness to the mercy, the great mercy that Christ has given us.

Pope Francis has designated a prayer to the Holy Family in 2022

Prayer to the Holy Family from *Amoris Laetitia*

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; To you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too, may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.

Amen

SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAMS

2021 – 2022

FIRST EUCHARIST

****UPDATE****

PARENTS' MEETING will now be held ONLINE (NOT in the Church as was originally scheduled) –
Susan will email parents with a link to join this meeting on
Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 7:00 pm
(Further instructions will be provided as to when you will pick up your child's workbook)

CONFIRMATION

**** UPDATE****

CONFIRMATION CLASSES (Feb. 5, 12 & 26, Mar. 5 & 26) will now be held ONLINE (NOT in the Parish Centre as was originally scheduled)
Susan will provide more information regarding the online classes in an email to parents of children registered in our program.

**DCDSB Kindergarten Registration
Opens January 11, 2022**

Begin your child's journey at the
Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB)!
Your child must be turning 4 years of age by December 31,
2022 to register for Year 1/Junior Kindergarten or 5 years of
age by December 31, 2022 to register for Year 2/Senior
Kindergarten.
Complete your online registration by
visiting dcdsb.ca/Kindergarten

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Lectio Divina

**We will return to Lectio Divina beginning Monday
January 17th at 7pm on zoom Please call the office if
you need the meeting information. For any
returning members, the contact information
remains the same.**

**A new bible study will be on the Seven Deadly Sins
by Bishop Robert Barron on Monday February 28th
to Monday April 4th from 7pm to 8:30pm through
Zoom (TBA). Please register with the parish office.
Fee is \$20. Book provided.**



Masses For The Week

Sat Jan 22 – 5pm

+John Robinson
req. by The Hannon Family

Mon Jan 24 – 8:20am

+Herbert Doran
req. by Alice Deehan

Tues Jan 25 – 8:20am

+Brian McMonagle
req. by Jack & Betty McCabe

Wed Jan 26 – 7:00pm

+Susan Roy
req. by Ken Reilly & Mary Louise LaBarre & Family
+John Griffith
req. by Ken Reilly & Mary Louise LaBarre & Family
+Dr. Paul Hoy
req. by Julia & Dan McNeill
Int. for Philip Prior
req. by Christiane Prior
+Anne Marie Bainbridge
req. by Charles Bainbridge

Thurs Jan 27 – 8:20am

+Brian McMonagle
req. by Marjorie Shields

Fri Jan 28 – 8:20am

+Jack Pratt
req. by John & Chris Stafford

The Synod on Synodality: Share your thoughts

Pope Francis has launched the Synod on Synodality, an ambitious two-year global process of listening to the faithful.

"Synod" comes from an ancient Greek word meaning "walking together on the road." There have been many synods in the history of the Church, but these have traditionally been opportunities for bishops to come together to determine the path forward for the Church.

With the Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis is asking every Catholic to help discern what the Holy Spirit is telling us at this moment as the Church enters its third millennium.

The first phase of the Synod on Synodality will last through the first half of 2022 and will see the world's faithful sharing their thoughts at a diocesan level. All those diocesan-level responses will be collected and summarized. Then the bishops of Canada will meet to discuss what they heard in their respective dioceses, followed by larger multinational meetings and, ultimately, culminating in a synod of bishops in the Vatican in 2023.

This graphic provides answers to some frequently asked questions about the Synod on Synodality. Your participation is incredibly important for the success of the Synod on Synodality, so we kindly ask you to complete the survey below. Thank you and God bless.
(archtoronto.org/synodality)

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