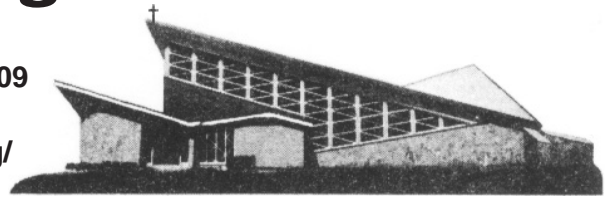


# St. John the Evangelist Church

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, Ontario L1N 2S3  
 Rectory Office: **Ph:905-668-3676 Fax: 905-668-9109**  
 email: [stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org)  
 website: [www.stjohntheevangelistwh.archtoronto.org/](http://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 Sundays 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	Fr. Francisco Fernandez	905-668-3676
Finance Council	Paul D'Aurelio	905-665-3056
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	Lorraine Thomas	905-409-1743
Altar Servers	Breandán Orian McCallister	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
<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	www.dcdsb.ca

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



### From the Pastor's Desk

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent. This Sunday is called Laetare, which means to rejoice. We are in the middle of Lent; we are approaching Easter and the Church calls us to focus on the new life that Christ is offering us. The First Reading, from the book of Joshua, presents the Passover celebration of the people of Israel as soon as they entered the Promised Land. When they crossed the Promised Land, they ate from their fruits, and they stopped eating the manna. During the Lenten season, we are asked to realize that God is bringing us out of our sins into a new life on which we can experience peace, thanksgiving, patience, and mercy. The Second Reading, from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, give us an encouraging message from St. Paul on which he tells us that Christ wants to reach out to us with mercy and to offer us a new life in Him. Christ has taken upon Himself our sins and its consequences; He crushes them on the Cross, and He gives us the wonderful opportunity of being resurrected in Him. With Christ, we can now live a new life in which we can love like Christ in our everyday lives. The Gospel, from St. Luke, presents the Parable of the Prodigal Son. We know very well this beautiful parable that presents God's merciful love for each one of us. There is an ungrateful son who wants to live his life selfishly away from his father. Yet, he lives miserably, and he cannot stand anymore the consequences of his actions. He returns to his father, and he is welcomed with mercy and forgiveness. This is an image of God's immense mercy towards us. When we sin, we suffer and we cut ourselves from God, but God is always willing to reach out to us in Christ to forgive us and to give us a new life. This time of Lent is a favourable opportunity to experience the mercy of God. His mercy is what really renews us and fills us with peace. Let us open our hearts with confidence to Christ who comes to forgive us and transform us!

We have confession every Saturday from 4pm to 4:45pm. On Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, we will have the Day of Confessions, I will be available from 9:30am to 11:30am, 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 8pm. On Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will have the Evening of Reconciliation at 7pm. 6 priests will be available to listen to our confessions.

Come and experience God's transformative mercy!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

### Pope Francis' Homily on the Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 6, 2016)

In Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel, we find three parables of mercy: that of the sheep found (vv. 4-7), that of the coin found (vv. 8-10), and the great parable of the prodigal son, or rather, of the merciful father (vv. 11-32). Today, it would be nice for each of us to open Chapter 15 of the Gospel according to Luke, and read these three parables. During the Lenten itinerary, the Gospel presents to us this very parable of the merciful Father, featuring a father with his two sons. The story highlights some features of this father who is a man always ready to forgive and to hope against hope. Especially striking is the father's tolerance before the younger son's decision to leave home: he could have opposed it, knowing that he was still immature, a youth, or sought a lawyer not to give him his inheritance, as the father was still living. Instead, he allows the son to leave, although foreseeing the possible risks. God works with us like this: He allows us to be free, even to making mistakes, because in creating us, He has given us the great gift of freedom. It is for us to put it to good use. This gift of freedom that God gives us always amazes me!

But the separation from his son is only physical; for the father always carries him in his heart; trustingly, he awaits his return; the father watches the road in the hope of seeing him. And one day he sees him appear in the distance (cf. v. 20). But this means that this father, every day, would climb up to the terrace to see if his son was coming back! Thus the father is moved to see him, he runs toward him, embraces him, kisses him. So much tenderness! And this son got into trouble! But the father still welcomes him so.

The father treated the eldest son the same way, but as he had always stayed at home, he is now indignant and complains because he does not understand and does not share all that kindness toward his brother that had wronged. The father also goes to meet this son and reminds him that they were always together, they share

everything (v. 31), one must welcome with joy the brother who has finally returned home. And this makes me think of something: When one feels one is a sinner, one feels worthless, or as I've heard some — many — say: 'Father, I am like dirt', so then, this is the moment to go to the Father. Instead, when one feels righteous — 'I always did the right thing ...' —, equally, the Father comes to seek us, because this attitude of feeling 'right', is the wrong attitude: it is pride! It comes from the devil. The Father waits for those who recognize they are sinners and goes in search of the ones who feel 'righteous'. This is our Father!

In this parable, you can also glimpse a third son. A third son? Where? He's hidden! And it is the one, 'who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant' (Phil 2:6-7). This Servant-Son is Jesus!

He is 'the extension of the arms and heart of the Father: he welcomed the prodigal Son and washed his dirty feet; he prepared the banquet for the feast of forgiveness. He, Jesus, teaches us to be "merciful as the Father is merciful".

In this time of Lent that still separates us from Easter, we are called to intensify the inner journey of conversion. May the loving gaze of our Father touch us. Let us return and return to him with all our heart, rejecting any compromise with sin. May the Virgin Mary accompany us until the regenerating embrace with Divine Mercy.

### **FRIDAY APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>**

***Holy hour of Adoration from 9am to 10am in the church. Please join us!***

### **OFFERTORY ENVELOPES NOT IDENTIFIED**

***Are you holding envelope number 75 or 246? If so, please contact Vicki as soon as possible. (905) 668-3676.***

MARCH 27, 2022



Madagascar: an ecological village to cope with climate change. Development and Peace's *People and Planet First* campaign celebrates what solidarity can achieve, even against seemingly impossible odds. In Madagascar, for instance, Development and Peace's partner, the Development Council of Andohatapenaka (CDA), empowers people to manage and transform their neighbourhoods. In the capital region, which is afflicted by flooding and poor waste management, CDA has helped the residents of one vulnerable area to turn their environs into a thriving ecological village. Today, each of the 50 households involved in the project has a vegetable garden, a stove and solar panels. This transformation reflects a true ecological conversion. Watch the video at [devp.org/lent/act](http://devp.org/lent/act).



- Sat Mar 26 – 5pm  
+Brian Hamill  
*req. by Mary Kristiansen*
- Mon Mar 28 – 8:20am  
+Terry Deery  
*req. by Maureen Armstrong*
- Tues Mar 29 – 8:20am  
+Sharon Ladouceur  
*req. by Marjorie Shields*
- Wed Mar 30 – 7:00pm  
+Sharon Ladouceur  
*req. by Frank & Joanne Meagher*  
+Shirley Barrett  
*req. by Her Family*  
+Walter Ratnasingham  
*req. by His Family*  
+Theresa Bone  
*req. by Mary-Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family*  
+Helen MacDonald  
*req. by Tony & Sabine Cahill*
- Thurs Mar 31 – 8:20am  
+Deceased Members of the Pingul Family  
*req. by The Torres Family*
- Fri Apr 1 – 7:00pm  
+George Cassar  
*req. by The Cassar Family*

Sat Apr 2 – 5pm  
+Brian McMonagle  
*req. by Tiny Sorrichetti*



**Schedule of Stations of the Cross begin at 6:30pm in English and 7:30pm in Spanish**

Apr 1 Development & Peace  
Apr 8 Family Centered Way  
of the Cross

**PRAYER FOR PEACE**

*As violence spreads across Ukraine, we pray that world leaders may focus on the good of all people by advancing peace, rather than descending further into war. May God comfort the Ukrainian people who are suffering, distressed and grieving, and may he welcome the faithful departed into his kingdom. We pray to the Lord.*

**Archdiocese Day of Confessions in St. John's Parish**  
**Tuesday, March 29, 2022**  
**9:30am – 11:30am**  
**2:00pm – 4:00pm,**  
**7:00pm – 8:00pm**

**Reconciliation Evening Service**  
**Sunday April 3, 2022 at 7pm in the church**  
*Several priests available*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday April 6, 2022 at 8PM in person\* at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St North with masking and social distancing still recommended. 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](mailto:bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com) or call 416-508-9877 \*limited Zoom access will be made available for those members still requiring it**

**New Ministry Members Needed!**  
Altar Servers needed, grades 3 and up.  
Ministers of Communion for residents at Fairview Lodge and Taunton Mills after the 9am mass on Sundays. Teams are scheduled on a rotating basis.  
We are also looking for more adult funeral altar servers.  
All of these ministries are important for the life of the parish. Call the office (905) 668-3676

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**TOTUS TUUS**  
**July 3 – 8, 2022**  
Totus Tuus will be returning to the parish this summer and will run Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday July 8th. The Evening Program runs Sunday through to Thursday and is for students entering Grades 7-12. The Day Program runs Monday to Friday and is for students entering Grades 1-6. Please save the date as more information will be coming in the following weeks. Anybody interested in learning more can contact Breandán McCallister at [bmccallister@archtoronto.org](mailto:bmccallister@archtoronto.org).



**This weekend is ShareLife Sunday**  
"Vulnerable members of our community are relying on you and me to ensure ongoing access to the care they so desperately need. This is why it's crucial we meet our parish campaign goal of \$13.8 million. Our goal can be met, but only if we each do our part." – Cardinal Thomas Collins

Our parish goal is \$137,000. Please give generously on ShareLife Sunday during the special collection or at [sharelife.org](http://sharelife.org).

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