

# 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
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



**He is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia**

# EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



## Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate Easter Sunday the most solemn day of the whole liturgical season. We commemorate that Christ has conquered Death and shares with us His Resurrection and new life. The First Reading, from the Book of the Acts of Apostles, presents the witness of St. Peter testifying that the One who has been put to Death is Risen and has appeared to His disciples. We are also called to be witnesses of His Resurrection in our own lives. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians, encourages us to set our hope in heavenly things. It is certain that all of us encounter struggles and it is easy to feel discouraged, but the Risen Lord comes with compassion and lifts us up so that in Him we may find a new source of strength and hope. The Gospel, from St. Luke, shows us the manifestation of the Risen Lord to the women and to His disciples. When they go to anoint His dead body on Easter morning, they find to their surprise that the tomb is empty, and an angel announces to them that the Lord is Risen. This Good News is addressed to us: the Lord is Risen; He has conquered Death and He is victorious over sin and death. Whatever takes away our peace, He has vanquished, and He wants to share with us the fruits of His Resurrection!

At this very special Solemnity, I want to thank the Parish Staff for their constant and loving service to me and to the parishioners: Vicki Morgan, Gail Stewart, Francisco Perez, Susan Douglas, Breandan McCallister, and Sue McGee. Thanks to all the Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Cantors, Altar Servers, and Organists that they have been always available to make our liturgies very beautiful. Thanks to the ladies who have been decorating the Church because they have made our Church look amazing. Thanks to Christine Hannon and to the RCIA team for their witness in teaching the faith to the candidates. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus and the CWL for their constant help to the parish. Thanks to the members of the Prayer Group for making

our Church a place where we can pray and care for each other. Thanks to all of you the parishioners and families for attending the masses in spite of the pandemic and showing your generosity and care to me and to all around you!

Happy Easter and May the Hope of the Resurrection fill our hearts and families!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

## Pope Francis' Homily on the Easter Vigil (March 26, 2016)

The Gospel tells us that the eleven, including Peter, had not believed the testimony of the women, their Easter proclamation. Quite the contrary, "these words seemed to them an idle tale" (v. 11). Thus there was doubt in Peter's heart, together with many other worries: sadness at the death of the beloved Master and disillusionment for having denied him three times during his Passion.

There is, however, something which signals a change in him: after listening to the women and refusing to believe them, "Peter rose" (v. 12). He did not remain sedentary, in thought; he did not stay at home as the others did. He did not succumb to the sombre atmosphere of those days, nor was he overwhelmed by his doubts. He was not consumed by remorse, fear or the continuous gossip that leads nowhere. He was looking for Jesus, not himself. He preferred the path of encounter and trust. And so, he got up, just as he was, and ran towards the tomb from where he would return "amazed" (v. 12). This marked the beginning of Peter's resurrection, the resurrection of his heart. Without giving in to sadness or darkness, he made room for hope: he allowed the light of God to enter into his heart, without smothering it.

The women too, who had gone out early in the morning to perform a work of mercy, taking the perfumed ointments to the tomb, had the same experience. They were "frightened and bowed their faces", and yet they were deeply affected by the words of the angel: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" (v. 5).

We, like Peter and the women, cannot discover life by being sad, bereft of hope. Let us not stay imprisoned within ourselves, but let us break open our sealed tombs to the Lord – each of us knows what

they are – so that he may enter and grant us life. Let us give him the stones of our rancour and the boulders of our past, those heavy burdens of our weaknesses and falls. Christ wants to come and take us by the hand to bring us out of our anguish. This is the first stone to be moved aside this night: the lack of hope which imprisons us within ourselves. May the Lord free us from this trap, from being Christians without hope, who live as if the Lord were not risen, as if our problems were the centre of our lives.

This is the foundation of our hope, which is not mere optimism, nor a psychological attitude or desire to be courageous. Christian hope is a gift that God gives us if we come out of ourselves and open our hearts to him. This hope does not disappoint us because the Holy Spirit has been poured into our hearts (cf. Rom 5:5). The Paraclete does not make everything look appealing. He does not remove evil with a magic wand. But he pours into us the vitality of life, which is not the absence of problems, but the certainty of being loved and always forgiven by Christ, who for us has conquered sin, conquered death and conquered fear. Today is the celebration of our hope, the celebration of this truth: nothing and no one will ever be able to separate us from his love (cf. Rom 8:39).

The Lord is alive and wants to be sought among the living. After having found him, each person is sent out by him to announce the Easter message, to awaken and resurrect hope in hearts burdened by sadness, in those who struggle to find meaning in life. There is so necessary today.

Dear brothers and sisters, Christ is risen! And we have the possibility of opening our hearts and receiving his gift of hope. Let us open our hearts to hope and go forth. May the memory of his works and his words be the bright star which directs our steps in the ways of faith towards that Easter that will have no end.



## Easter Flowers

Your contributions to the Easter Flower Fund are greatly appreciated. Envelopes are on the back counter. Please put your name and address on the envelope. Thank you for your kind generosity.

APRIL 17, 2022

We welcome our RCIA Candidates into our Parish Community:

*Robin Gallagher  
Justin Steed  
Brooke Gagnon  
Paul Osinaike  
Godwin Ellis Akpotowho  
David McIlroy  
Quinn Wigle  
Victoria Gong  
Damaris White  
Olivia Elmhurst*  
Please keep them in your prayers!


 ShareLife

**COLLECTION TO DATE**  
As of April 7, 2022  
\$26,102

### ShareLife is making a difference

“Many aspects of pre-Covid life are returning, such as the gradual reopening of our parishes. But we must remember that, for many people, their suffering continues. ShareLife-funded agencies have been helping thousands of people since the pandemic began. They quickly adapted their programs in light of safety and the changing needs of the people they serve.” – Cardinal Thomas Collins

*Thank you for supporting ShareLife! The next ShareLife Sunday collection is May 1.*

 Masses For The Week

**Sat Apr 16 – 8:00pm Vigil**  
**NO INTENTION**

**Mon Apr 18 – 9:00am**  
**+Broderick Howard & Harrington Families**  
*req. by Joe & Joy*

**Tues Apr 19 – 8:20am**  
**+Deceased Members of the Coryat Family**  
*req. by Mary Yearwood*

**Wed Apr 20 – 7:00pm**  
**+Sharon Ladouceur**  
*req. by Don & Cathy Huppe*  
**+Jeannine Dagenais**  
*req. by Don & Cathy Huppe*  
**+Rudy Wisco**  
*req. by Francis & Lynette Miranda*  
**+Arnaldo D'Aurelio**  
*req. by Dru & Minnie Chillingworth*  
*Int. for Phil Bardoul*  
*req. by The Nicholls Family*

**Thurs Apr 21 – 8:20am**  
**+Geraldine Phelan**  
*req. by Pat Michieli*

**Fri Apr 22 – 8:20am**  
**+Andrew Marioselva**  
*req. by Christine Marioselva*

**Sat Apr 23 – 5:00pm**  
**+Brian McMonagle**  
*req. by The Hannon Family*

**Tabernacle Candle**  
*In thanksgiving to Lynne Childerhouse from Mary Yearwood*



**The Parish Office will be closed Easter Monday April 18<sup>th</sup>. Mass on Easter Monday is at 9am.**

### The Importance of Accurate Catholic Voter Lists

The upcoming year will be a busy one for Ontarian voters, with the Ontario Provincial Election and Municipal and School Board Elections happening just a few months apart.

The voice and vote of Catholic ratepayers is important to the future of our Catholic schools. To vote for Catholic trustees, our Catholic District School Board ratepayers must be registered as separate school supporters.

To make the process of verifying support easier for voters, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) has created [voterlookup.ca](http://voterlookup.ca).

Through [voterlookup.ca](http://voterlookup.ca), all Ontario residents can check to ensure that their information is accurately reflected on MPAC's Preliminary List of Electors for the municipal and school board elections.

Visit [voterlookup.ca](http://voterlookup.ca) to confirm information and follow the easy steps published on the

website to make any necessary updates and corrections. Only separate school supporters can vote for Catholic trustees.

**Day of Reflection and Prayer for the Bereaved**  
Manresa Jesuit Renewal Centre  
2325 Liverpool Rd., Pickering, L1X 1V4  
<http://www.manresa-canada.ca/>  
**Saturday, May 7, 2022**  
**9:30am – 5:00pm**

“Where is God in my pain?  
How is God working in my grief?”  
Grieving a loved one can shake or give a new shape to our faith.

At this gathering, you will have the opportunity to share your grief story in a community of faith and to reflect in a prayerful way on your experience, to draw renewed strength and hope to continue the journey.

Facilitators Sr Claire Marchal & Mary Hyland

Suggested offering: \$50 (includes lunch)  
**Contact:** Mary Hyland – (905)441-0957

**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 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 \[breandan.mccallister@archtoronto.org\]\(mailto:breandan.mccallister@archtoronto.org\)](mailto:breandan.mccallister@archtoronto.org).

### Looking Ahead

**Tues Apr 19**  
7pm Ladies Golf League Meeting, PC1

**Wed Apr 20**  
6:15pm Parish Home Catechism  
7:30pm Baptism Prep Class, St. Jos Rm

**Thu Apr 21**  
6:15 – 7:15pm Life Teen, St. Jos Rm

**Fri Apr 22**  
10am Mass at Taunton Mills

**Sat Apr 23**  
11am – 12noon First Eucharist Family Day  
Retreat for child and 1 parent - surnames A-L

1pm – 2pm First Eucharist Family Day  
Retreat for child and 1 parent - surnames M-Z



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