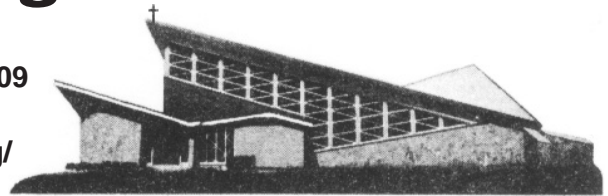


St. John the Evangelist Church

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
 Ms. Cassandra Sullivan 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 9 a.m. - 12 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	John Stafford	905-809-1731
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
St. John the Evangelist School	905-668-4011	St. Marguerite d'Youville School 905-666-9301
1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3		250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1
St. Luke the Evangelist School	905-665-5828	All Saints Catholic Secondary School 905-666-7753
55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9		3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1
Durham Catholic District School Board	905-576-6150	www.dcdsb.ca

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents to us the hopeful words of the coming of the Lord. The Lord will be anointed with the Holy Spirit and will come to save and to strengthen the weak and those in need. He will bring peace and mercy, even to those that find it difficult to love each other. We are waiting and expecting a Savior who comes to help us and for the possibility to make peace with those around us. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, invites us to remain faithful and steadfast since the Lord is coming soon. At times, it is easy to get discouraged especially when we see that the same problems and our same reactions continue to happen. However, the Lord is encouraging us to trust in Him because He will certainly transform our hearts and He will give us inner peace to be able to love those around us. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, presents us the figure of St. John the Baptist. He is a very important figure of the season of Advent who helps us to get ready for the coming of the Lord. He is one who calls us to prepare the way for the Lord since the Lord comes to give us life to the fullest. It is important that we recognize that we need the Lord to save us and transform our hearts. All of us have flaws, and commit sins; if we admit them with humility, the Lord will be able to destroy them and to give us a new heart, and we can be able to love and act like Christ. The Lord is the One who comes gives us to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire, which means He can transform our lives so that we can carry out good actions. Let us prepare the way for the coming of the Lord of life!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on the Second Sunday of Advent (December 4, 2016)

In the Gospel given this second Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist's invitation resounds: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Mt 3:2). With these very words, Jesus begins his mission in Galilee (cf. Mt 4:17); and such will also be the message that the disciples must bring on their first missionary experience (cf. Mt 10:7). Matthew the evangelist would like to present John as the one who prepares the way of the coming Christ, as well as the disciples as followers, as Jesus preached. It is a matter of the same joyful message: the kingdom of God is at hand! It is near, and it is in us! These words are very important: "The kingdom of God is in our midst!", Jesus says. And John announces what Jesus will say later: "The kingdom of God is at hand, it has arrived, and is in your midst". This is the central message of every Christian mission. When a missionary goes, a Christian goes to proclaim Jesus, not to proselytize, as if he were a fan trying to drum up new supporters for his team. No, he goes simply to proclaim: "The kingdom of God is in our midst!". And in this way, the missionaries prepare the path for Jesus to encounter the people.

But what is this kingdom of God, this kingdom of heaven? They are synonymous. We think immediately of the afterlife: eternal life. Of course this is true, the kingdom of God will extend without limit beyond earthly life, but the good news that Jesus brings us — and that John predicts — is that we do not need to wait for the kingdom of God in the future: it is at hand. In some way it is already present and we may experience spiritual power from now on. "The kingdom of God is in your midst!", Jesus will say. God comes to establish his lordship in our history, today, every day, in our life; and there — where it is welcomed with faith and humility — love, joy and peace blossom.

The condition for entering and being a part of this kingdom is to implement a change in our life, which is to convert, to convert every day, to take a step forward each day. It is a question of leaving behind the comfortable but misleading ways of the idols of this world: success at all costs; power to the detriment of the weak; the

desire for wealth; pleasure at any price. And instead, preparing the way of the Lord: this does not take away our freedom, but gives us true happiness. With the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, it is God himself who abides among us to free us from self interest, sin and corruption, from these manners of the devil: seeking success at all costs; seeking power to the detriment of the weak; having the desire for wealth; seeking pleasure at any price.

Christmas is a day of great joy, even external, but above all, it is a religious event for which a spiritual preparation is necessary. In this season of Advent, let us be guided by the Baptist's exhortation: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!", he tells us (v. 3). We prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight when we examine our conscience, when we scrutinize our attitudes, in order to eliminate these sinful manners that I mentioned, which are not from God: success at all costs; power to the detriment of the weak; the desire for wealth; pleasure at any price.

May the Virgin Mary help us to prepare ourselves for the encounter with this ever greater Love, which is what Jesus brings and which, on Christmas night, becomes very, very small, like a seed fallen on the soil. And Jesus is this seed: the seed of the kingdom of God.



Second Sunday of Advent

Families are encouraged to observe Advent by gathering around a wreath for brief Advent prayers and readings lighting the appropriate number of candles for each week.

Traditions assign specific symbolism to each of the candles:

- 1) The Prophet's Candle, symbolizing Hope
- 2) The Bethlehem Candle, symbolizing Love & Faith
- 3) The Shepherd's Candle, symbolizing Joy
- 4) The Angel's Candle, symbolizing Peace.

Suggested Daily Readings

Leader: The Lord is our faith and our life.
All: May the Lord's peace be with us all.
Leader: And may his love shine in our hearts.
All: Our hope is in the coming of the Lord.

Light the candle(s). During the week, relight whenever the family gathers together.

Scripture Reading

Leader: Let us pray that our faith may be strengthened for the coming of the Lord.
All: Amen

Readings for 2nd Week – Two purple candles are lit.

Suggested Scripture Readings:

Sunday	Romans 15:4-13
Monday	Psalms 43:3-6
Tuesday	Psalms 27:1-4
Wednesday	Psalms 119:105-106
Thursday	John 12:35-36
Friday	Ephesians 5:6-14
Saturday	1 Peter 2:5-9

Archdiocese Day of Confessions in St. John's Parish
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
9:30am – 11:30am
2:00pm – 4:00pm, 7:00pm – 8:00pm



Dear Parishioners, thank you for giving me the time to introduce the Development and Peace/Caritas Canada Membership Campaign this past Sunday, at all our Eucharistic celebrations. It was very encouraging to have so many of you approaching me with questions. If you didn't have a chance to pick up a Membership card you can connect directly to our website:

<https://www.devp.org/en/become-a-member/>, and become a D&P/Caritas Canada member for life for only \$ 10.00.

I was also asked about local events or activities for D&P members. Our parish hosted for many years a D&P group, regrettably Covid19 made communication more difficult as well limiting our ability to meet in person. I have plans to reconnect with all of you and plan for the future, if you are interested, please call me or email me to explore options for 2023.

Estela Rios, D&P parish representative for St. John the Evangelist Parish and Durham Region.

905-430-7753 or emr0001@hotmail.com

(extra membership cards available in the foyer of the church)

Our Pastoral Council

Members of our Pastoral Council for St. John the Evangelist:

- Gail Stewart
- Phyllis Pereira
- Amanda Roffey
- Amy Espiritu
- Irena Stebih
- Sylvie Forté
- Bernie Pyra
- Jishani Jaywardena
- Angelo Perera
- Nancy Mendez
- Liam Venner
- Cassandra Sullivan
- Breandan Orian McCallister
- Maria Conchis Abogado
- Gina Aguilar
- Patricia Escalona
- Iris McNulty

Reconciliation Evening Service
Sunday December 18, 2022 at 7pm in the church
Several priests available



Masses For The Week

Sat Dec 3 – 5:00pm

+Alcides Jeronimo
req. by His Family

Mon Dec 5 – 8:20am

+John Lennon
req. by Alice Deehan

Tues Dec 6 – 8:20am

+Francis & Herbert Doran
req. by Alice Deehan

Wed Dec 7 – 7:00pm

+Deceased Mbrs Harrington, Broderick & McClennan Families
req. by Joe & Joy

In Thanksgiving

req. by Susan & Joe Agar

+Cynthia Ho Sing Loy

req. by Nancy Mendez-Alcala

+Kamar Barrett

req. by Aba Maldonado & Graeme Smith

+Brian Barrett

req. by The Barrett Family

Thurs Dec 8 – 8:20am

+Katherine Barbolini
req. by Frank, Iris & Mathias McNulty

Fri Dec 9 – 8:20am

+Marcel Joseph LaBarre
req. by Maureen LaBarre & Family

Sat Dec 10 – 5:00pm

+Brian McMonagle
req. by The Burke Family

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday Dec 7, 2022 at 8PM at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St North with masking and social distancing still recommended but not mandatory. 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 Membership Director Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877

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