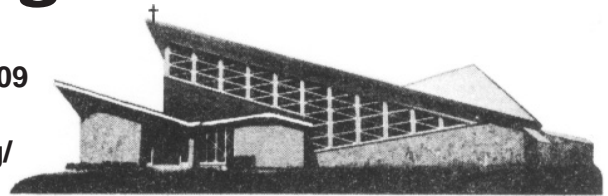


St. John the Evangelist Church

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday is called Gaudete or Sunday of Joy because the Lord is coming soon. Today we light the rose candle as a sign that the Lord will give us fullness of joy when He comes. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, offers us the hopeful announcement of what the Lord is going to do in our lives. If we feel tired or discouraged, the Lord comes to strengthen us and to lift us up. The Lord is going to bring us peace and regeneration to any situation that we find difficult to accept or bear. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. James, encourages us to be patient and remain steadfast, even in difficult times, since the coming of the Lord is imminent. He will come to fill us with life and peace. Even if we are surrounded by problems and struggles, the Lord is near to us to help us and give us the strength we need. We need to trust in Him and rely in His strength. When we feel overwhelmed, He will come to sustain us with His grace. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, gives the account of the episode of St. John the Baptist in which he asks himself whether Christ is the waiting messiah or not. St. John is in prison because he has proclaimed the truth to Herod that is not licit to divorce his wife. He has the impression that he is there, struggling, and nothing happens. Therefore, he asks his disciples to make sure whether Christ is the expected Savior or not. Christ assures them that He is really the Savior who comes to give us new life. Even though there is suffering, Christ comes to help us live at peace with our struggles. It is difficult to recognize the presence of the Lord, especially when He allows difficulties to happen. However, Christ has come to share our sufferings and to help us find hope and peace even while we go through them. Let us wait with joy and hope for the coming of our Savior!

I really encourage you to avail of the sacrament of Confession in our parish, which will take place on Tuesday, December 13th from 9:30am to 11:30am, 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 8pm and on Sunday, December 18th at 7pm. Come and experience God's mercy in our lives!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

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

On this third Sunday of Advent, called the Sunday of "joy", the Word of God invites us on the one hand to joy, and on the other to the awareness that existence also includes moments of doubt, in which it is difficult to believe. Joy and doubt are both experiences that are part of our lives.

To the prophet Isaiah's explicit invitation to joy: "The desert and the parched land will exult, the steppe will rejoice and bloom" (35:1), the Gospel contrasts to the doubt of John the Baptist: "Are you the one who is to come or should we wait for another?" (Mt 11.3). Indeed, the prophet sees beyond the situation: he has discouraged people before him: weak hands, faltering knees, lost hearts (cf. 35:3-4). It is the same reality that in every age tests faith. But the man of God looks beyond, because the Holy Spirit makes his heart feel the power of his promise, and he announces salvation: "Courage, do not fear! Here is your God, [...] He comes to save you" (v. 4). And then everything is transformed: the desert blooms, consolation and joy take hold of the lost heart, the lame, the blind, those who can't speak are healed (cf. vv. 5-6). This is what is accomplished with Jesus: "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are purified, the deaf hear, the dead rise, the poor have the Gospel proclaimed to them" (Mt 11:5).

This description shows us that salvation envelops the whole person and regenerates him. But this new birth, with the joy that accompanies it, always presupposes a death to ourselves and to

the sin that is in us. Hence the call to conversion, which is the basis of the preaching of both the Baptist and Jesus; in particular, it's about converting the idea we have of God. And the time of Advent stimulates us to this precisely with the question that John the Baptist asks Jesus: "Are you the one who must come or do we have to wait for another one?" (Mt 11.3). We think: all his life John has waited for the Messiah; his way of life, his own body is shaped by this expectation. For this reason too Jesus praises him with those words: no one is greater than him among those born of a woman (cf. Mt 11:11). And yet, he too had to convert to Jesus. Like John, we too are called to recognize the face that God has chosen to take in Jesus Christ, humble and merciful.

Advent is a time of grace. It tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary every day to purify our faith. It is a question of preparing to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us, involves us and before whom a choice is imposed. The Child lying in the crib has the face of our most needy brothers and sisters, of the poor who "are the privileged ones of this mystery and, often, those who are the most able to recognize the presence of God among us" (Lett. ap. Admirabile signum, 6).

May the Virgin Mary helps us, so that, as we approach Christmas, we do not allow ourselves to be distracted by the external things, but we make room in our hearts for the One who has already come and wants to come again to heal our illnesses and to give us His joy.

Diaconate Program – Daniel Humphries

Our St. John's parishioner, Dan Humphries has been involved in the diaconate program for three and a half years. On Sunday, December 4th, he was instituted acolyte, to serve at mass. We are very happy that he has progressed so far in his formation, and we will continue to support him with our prayers.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Food donations are requested for the following:

Canned fruit, canned salmon, juice boxes and drinks, canned ravioli and alphasgetti, side dishes ie/rice, potatoes and pasta, baked beans, peanut butter, crackers

Please check the expiry dates on all donations. Leave your donations in the gray bin provided in the foyer of the church.

Thank you for your support.

NO DECEMBER CWL GENERAL MEETING

With Advent in full swing, and our preparations for Christmas underway, the December CWL Christmas meeting has been cancelled. We want to thank our league sisters and parishioners for your support in 2022.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022
VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
5PM, 8PM, 11PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022
NATIVITY OF THE LORD
9AM, 11AM, 2PM SPANISH

MONDAY DECEMBER 26, 2022
ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR
9AM

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27, 2022
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
8:20AM

OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY

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

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



Advent Candle Week 3 - Joy

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

3rd Week – Two purple candles and the one pink candle are lit.

Suggested Scripture Readings:

Sunday Isaiah 60:1-3
Monday 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Tuesday 1 John 1:4-7
Wednesday John 3:16-21
Thursday Isaiah 40:1-11
Friday John 9:1-7
Saturday Luke 3:1-6



Masses For The Week

Sat Dec 10 – 5:00pm

+Brian McMonagle
req. by The Burke Family

Mon Dec 12 – 8:20am

In Thanksgiving
req. by Iris McNulty

Tues Dec 13 – 8:20am

+
req. by

Wed Dec 14 – 7:00pm

+Rosario Cannella
req. by Giuseppina Cannella
+Raymond D'Souza
req. by Millicent Bower & Family
+Alex Berry
req. by Dorothy, Don & Shawn Berry
Int. for Juan Bernal
req. by Sarah Francis

Thurs Dec 15 – 8:20am

+Jim Dashney
req. by Clare Dashney

Fri Dec 16 – 8:20am

+Michelle LaBarre Huinink
req. by Maureen LaBarre & Family

Sat Dec 17 – 5:00pm

+Dorothy Schroeder
req. by Barry Schroeder

ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES!
MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES
Our next Marriage Preparation Course at St. John the Evangelist will be held on 6 Monday evenings from April 10 to May 15, 2023 at 7pm in the Parish Centre. Call 668-3676. Fee is \$250 per couple.


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