

St. John the Evangelist Church

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, ON 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 |



The Nativity of the Lord

NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

I would like to wish to all of you and your families a blessed Christmas. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, gives us the announcement of the coming of the Messiah among us. Amid the darkness and the suffering of the world, a great light shines into our lives. This child is given to us as a source of joy and salvation. He is a Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. God Himself comes to us and makes Himself small and humble in a little baby so that we can welcome Him into our hearts. We should be full of gratitude for this amazing fact, that the Almighty God comes to share our daily lives and struggles so that He can help us and save us. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to Titus, offers us the consoling words that, with the coming of Christ among us, the love of God has been manifested in our lives. Christ has been born so that we can be redeemed and saved. Through Him, we receive the grace to transform our hearts. With a grateful attitude, let us allow God's amazing and creative gift to restore our lives. He is the answer to the deepest desires of our hearts. With Him, we can receive fullness of life. The Gospel, from St. Luke, gives us the account of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. He is born in a humble way, in a stable and is placed in a manger. There are some signs that are given to us so that we can recognize our Savior. He is wrapped in swaddling clothes because His mission is to die on the Cross for our salvation. These same clothes that he is wearing now, He will wear as well on the Cross. He is placed in a manger because He will become the Bread of Life that nourishes us. We can see how the Nativity of Christ relates to the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. He has been born with the mission to give His life so that we may receive life. He has become a Son of man to make of us sons of God. With the birth of Jesus, Heaven has come down to us so that, with Him, we can inherit Heaven. Let us welcome with humble and grateful hearts this wonderful event in our lives so that we may have life to the fullest!

I would like to thank all the parishioners for your love, care, and prayers. It is a gift and a privilege to serve you and to walk with you in faith. Thanks for your constant and generous financial support. I am extremely grateful to all the parish staff for their faithful support and strenuous help. To Vicki Morgan, Gail Stewart, Susan Douglas, Cassandra Sullivan, Francisco Perez, Sue McGee, I am deeply grateful for their constant love to the parish. I want to thank all the counters and the Finance Council for their help and advice. Thanks to Paul D'Aurelio, Lisa Maltby and Bob Koziol. Thanks to our screening responsables, Minnie Chillingworth, Christine Marioselva and Cathy Fernandes. Thanks also to all the ladies that have decorated the Church so beautifully, Pat Milburn & Pat Garrard, and Gail Stewart for the liturgical banners, fresh flowers, and altar changes. Thanks to Stacey Leadbetter for leading us in the Bible Courses so well. Thanks to Christine Hannon and all the RCIA team for their cooperation and sharing. Thanks to Lorraine Thomas and all the PHCP team for their great program for children. Thanks to Deidre Newman and all the lectors and Fred Shady and all ministers of communion who have been very faithfully serving during this year. Thanks to Ron Locas for opening the Church every day in the morning and to Pat and Marie Fitzpatrick for taking care of the candles. Thanks to Theresa Robinson and the baptismal preparation team for providing monthly classes to the parents. Thanks to Joan Willems and her baptismal hospitality for all their help during the baptisms every other week. Thanks to the Knights for their support to our parish through the different

activities in which they are involved and always they are available to help. Thanks to the ladies of the CWL. Thanks to our prayer group for bringing many people into relationship with Christ and praying for many people. Thanks to our Parish council, Social and Fundraising for their support. Thanks to our marriage preparation coordinators Lynne & Bryan Childerhouse and their couples. Thanks to our home communion teams lead by Clark Weddell, for the homebound, for Claire Brown and Kathie Steffler for organizing communion at Fairview, and our lay pastoral visitation teams lead by Iris McNulty. Thanks to our Funeral altar servers, lead by Mac Beynon, I am very grateful because you always come to help at funeral masses. Thank you to Florence Venner and the teams of ladies who assist at the Funeral luncheons. Thank you to Anne Marie Yaraskavitch and the Consolation Ministry team for their dedication to the Mass of All Souls and serving families in grief. Thanks to Phyllis Pereira and for teaching our younger children through the Children's Liturgy. Thank you to Paula Campbell for helping Feed the Hungry. Thank you to our teams of Offertory collection counters. Thanks to our St. Vincent de Paul Society, you have been very generous with your time provident help to the needy of our parish. Thanks to Robert and Maritza for always helping the migrant workers. Thanks to Kevin Dashney, Eileen McGowan, Marisa, Ken Merola, Afton Brown, Mary Lynne Calvert, Arianna Veltri, Henry, and Kate Remiz for making our liturgies and masses so beautiful. Thanks for the altar servers. Thank you to the gardeners for making the gardens so beautiful all summer long. Thanks to Breandan for leading the altar servers. I want to wish to all of you a blessed and hopeful new year! May the peace of Christ overflow in all your homes!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on Christmas (December 24, 2021)

In the darkness, a light shines. An angel appears, the glory of the Lord shines around the shepherds and finally the message awaited for centuries is heard: "To you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:11). The angel goes on to say something surprising. He tells the shepherds how to find the God who has come down to earth: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling cloths, and lying in a manger" (v. 12). That is the sign: a child, a baby lying in the dire poverty of a manger. No more bright lights or choirs of angels. Only a child. Nothing else, even as Isaiah had foretold: "unto us a child is born" (Is 9:6).

The Gospel emphasizes this contrast. It relates the birth of Jesus beginning with Caesar Augustus, who orders the census of the whole world: it presents the first Emperor in all his grandeur. Yet immediately thereafter it brings us to Bethlehem, where there is no grandeur at all: just a poor child wrapped in swaddling cloths, with shepherds standing by. That is where God is, in littleness. This is the message: God does not rise up in grandeur, but lowers himself into littleness. Littleness is the path that he chose to draw near to us, to touch our hearts, to save us and to bring us back to what really matters.

Brothers and sisters, standing before the crib, we contemplate what is central, beyond all the pretty lights and decorations. We contemplate the child. In his littleness, God is completely present. Let us acknowledge this: "Baby Jesus, you are God, the God who becomes a child". Let us be amazed by this scandalous truth. The One who embraces the universe needs to be held in another's arms. The One who created the sun needs to be warmed. Tenderness incarnate needs to be cuddled. Infinite love has a miniscule heart that beats softly. The eternal Word is an "infant", a speechless child. The Bread of life needs to be nourished. The Creator of the world has no home. Today, all is turned upside down: God comes into the world in littleness. His grandeur appears in littleness.

DECEMBER 25, 2022

SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM

2022-2023

**FIRST EUCHARIST
(Grade 2)**

PARENTS' MEETING in the Church (parents only)
Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

****NEW DATES FOR RITE OF ENROLMENT****

at the Church (children & families)
Saturday, January 28 at 5:00 pm OR
Sunday, January 29 at 9:00 am OR 11:00am

**CONFIRMATION
(Grade 7)**

Sessions 1 – 5

February 4, 11, 25 and March 4 in the Parish Centre
(date for Session 5 to be determined)
9:00 am – 10:30 am or 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (as scheduled)

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.



Masses For The Week

Sat Dec 24 – 5:00pm, 8pm, 11pm
NO INTENTIONS

Mon Dec 26 – 9am

+
req. by

Tues Dec 27 – 8:20am

In Thanksgiving
req. by Agathe Descartes

Wed Dec 28 – 7:00pm

+Shirley Barrett
req. by Noel & Suzanne & Family

Thurs Dec 29 – 8:20am

+Catherine Chinnappa
req. by Yesu Naveen

Fri Dec 30 – 8:20am

+Bonnie Kay Latour
req. by Margaret Lance

Sat Dec 31 – 5:00pm

NO INTENTIONS

Tabernacle Candle Dec 25 – 31, 2022
Intention for Natasha,
requested by Mary Yearwood

ShareLife Collection Update, Goal \$137,000
Collection to date: \$141,188
**THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO GAVE
GENEROUSLY!**

Octave of Christmas Mass Schedule

Mon. Dec. 26 St. Stephen, First Martyr
9:00am

Tue. Dec. 27 St John the Evangelist, Patron Saint
8:20 am

Wed. Dec 28 The Holy Innocents
7:00pm

Thu. Dec 29 Fifth Day in Octave
8:20am

Fri. Dec 30 The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8:20am

Sat. Dec 31 Seventh Day Octave of the Lord
5:00pm

Sun. Jan. 1 Solemnity, Mary, Mother of God
9:00 am
11:00 am
2:00pm Spanish



**Christmas Flower fund – envelopes are
available at the back counter for your
donation this Christmas**

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday January 4 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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