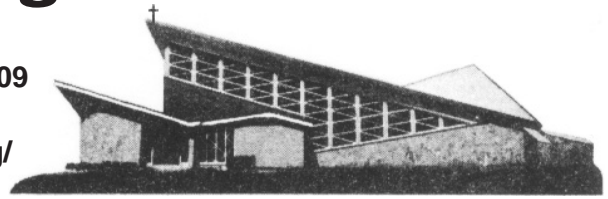


St. John the Evangelist Church

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 Finance Council	Fr. Francisco Fernandez Paul D'Aurelio	905-668-3676 905-665-3056
Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA Baptism First Reconciliation & First Eucharist Preparation Confirmation Preparation Parish Home Catechism Program	Christine Hannon Fr. Francisco Susan Douglas Susan Douglas Lorraine Thomas	905-444-9913 905-668-3676 905-668-3676 905-668-3676 905-409-1743
Altar Servers Auxiliary Ministers of Communion Choir Feed the Hungry Home Communion Lay Pastoral Visitation Lectors Liturgy of the Word with Children (JK-Gr.2) Sun. 9:00 a.m. Mass Ministers of Consolation Parish Prayer Group Ushers	Breandán Orian McCallister Fred Shady Kevin Dashney Paula Campbell Clark Weddell Iris McNulty Deidre Newman Phyllis Pereira Anne Marie Yaraskavitch Klara Bari Sharon Weslake	905-668-3676 905-668-1081 905-432-1173 905-668-2293 905-434-8121 905-668-3218 905-665-6360 905-665-5917 905-666-3860 905-668-9579 905-668-4817
Catholic Women's League Development & Peace (CCODP) Knights of Columbus #4895 St. Vincent de Paul Society - Help Line	Lynne Childerhouse Estela Rios John Stafford	905-431-6582 905-430-7753 905-809-1731 905-430-6734
Catholic Cemeteries Catholic Family Services Rose of Durham (Young Parent Support Services)	Oshawa 905-725-3513 1-800-241-3534	Ajax or 905-668-8912 905-428-1984 905-432-3622
St. John the Evangelist School 905-668-4011 1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3 St. Luke the Evangelist School 905-665-5828 55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9 Durham Catholic District School Board	St. Marguerite d'Youville School 250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1 All Saints Catholic Secondary School 3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1 905-576-6150	905-666-9301 905-666-7753 www.dcdsb.ca

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord, the manifestation of Christ to all the nations. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, offers us words of hope and encouragement.

The people of Israel have gone back to Jerusalem after a long and dreadful exile in Babylon. They still feel discouraged because the city is in ruins, and everything seems very disappointing. Facing this desolation, God promises that He will come to dwell in the city and will rebuilt it through His glory. Moreover, people from other parts of the earth will come to Jerusalem drawn by the resplendent light of the city. It is hopeful for us to realize that, when we face moments of difficulties, God comes to visit us and to walk with us so that we may experience a new life. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, gives us the teaching that God's grace has become available to all peoples. With Christ's coming in the flesh, God's promises are fulfilled, and everyone is invited to share in this manifold gift. Before the coming of Christ, only the Jewish people were aware of God's promises and action. Now, through the universal and Catholic Church, all people are encouraged to share in the gift of salvation given to us. In the figure of the Magi who come to Bethlehem, we can recognize a representation of all the races of the earth who come to pay homage to Jesus as Savior. Let us be grateful because we have been made sharers in the salvation that Christ has won for us. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, offers us the account of the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem. There are some wise men coming from Babylon who follow a star that guides them to Bethlehem. There was a prophecy in the Book of Numbers that foretold the birth of a great king through the sign of a rising star. When the wise men arrived at Bethlehem, they worship Jesus as Savior of the world. They offer him gold, incense, and myrrh. Gold to signify that He is a king, incense which means that He is God and myrrh to symbolize that He will die on the Cross. We are all called to recognize and worship Jesus as the Savior sent to our lives to give us unending life. Let us follow the star, which represent God's love for us and that leads us to encounter Jesus in the daily events of our lives!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on the Epiphany of our Lord (January 6, 2022)

The Magi travel towards Bethlehem. Their pilgrimage speaks also to us, who are called to journey towards Jesus, for he is the North Star that lights up the sky of life and guides our steps towards true joy. Yet where did the Magi's pilgrimage to encounter Jesus begin? What made these men of the East set out on their journey?

They had excellent reasons not to depart. They were wise men and astrologers, famous and wealthy. Having attained sufficient cultural, social and economic security, they could have remained content with what they already knew and possessed. Instead, they let themselves be unsettled by a question and by a sign: "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star..." (Mt 2:2). They did not allow their hearts to retreat into the caves of gloom and apathy; they longed to see the light. They were not content to plod through life, but yearned for new and greater horizons. Their eyes were not fixed here below; they were windows open to the heavens. As Benedict XVI said, the Magi were "men with a restless heart... They were filled with expectation, not satisfied with their secure income and their respectable place in society... They were seekers after God" (Homily, 6 January 2013).

Where did it originate, this spirit of healthy restlessness that led them to set out on their journey? It was born of desire. That was their

secret: the capacity to desire. Let us think about this. To desire means to fuel the fire that burns within us; it drives us to look beyond what is immediate and visible. To desire means embracing life as a mystery that surpasses us, as an ever-present cranny in the wall that beckons us to look into the distance, since life is not just our here and now, but something much greater. It is like a blank canvas that cries out for colour. A great painter, Vincent Van Gogh, once said that his need for God drove him to go outside at night to paint the stars. For that is the way God made us: brimming with desire, directed, like the Magi, towards the stars. With no exaggeration, we can say that we are what we desire. For it is our desires that habit, our gaze and drive our lives forward, beyond the barriers of enclage, beyond banal consumerism, beyond a drab and dreary faith, beyond the fear of becoming involved and serving others and the common good. In the words of Saint Augustine, "our entire life is an exercise of holy desire" (Homily on the First Letter of John, IV, 6).

Brothers and sisters, as it was for the Magi, so it is for us. The journey of life and faith demands a deep desire and inner zeal. Sometimes we live in a spirit of a "parking lot"; we stay parked, without the impulse of desire that carries us forward. We do well to ask: where are we on our journey of faith? Have we been stuck all too long, nestled inside a conventional, external and formal religiosity that no longer warms our hearts and changes our lives? Do our words and our liturgies ignite in people's hearts a desire to move towards God, or are they a "dead language" that speaks only of itself and to itself? It is sad when a community of believers loses its desire and is content with "maintenance" rather than allowing itself to be startled by Jesus and by the explosive and unsettling joy of the Gospel. It is sad when a priest has closed the door of desire, sad to fall into clerical functionalism, very sad.

The crisis of faith in our lives and in our societies also has to do with the eclipse of desire for God. It is related to a kind of slumbering of the spirit, to the habit of being content to live from day to day, without ever asking what God really wants from us. We peer over earthly maps, but forget to look up to heaven. We are sated with plenty of things, but fail to hunger for our absent desire for God. We are fixated on our own needs, on what we will eat and wear (cf. Mt 6:25), even as we let the longing for greater things evaporate. And we find ourselves living in communities that crave everything, have everything, yet all too often feel nothing but emptiness in their hearts: closed communities of individuals, bishops, priests or consecrated men and women. Indeed the lack of desire leads only to sadness and indifference, to sad communities, sad priests or bishops.

Let us look first to ourselves and ask: How is the journey of my faith going? This is a question that we can ask ourselves today, each one of us. How is the journey of my faith going? Is it parked or is it on the move? Faith, if it is to grow, has to begin ever anew. It needs to be sparked by desire, to take up the challenge of entering into a living and lively relationship with God. Does my heart still burn with desire for God? Or have I allowed force of habit and my own disappointments to extinguish that flame? Today, brothers and sisters, is the day we should ask these questions. Today is the day we should return to nurturing our desire. How do we do this? Let us go to the Magi and learn from their "school of desire". They will teach us in their school of desire. Let us look at the steps they took, and draw some lessons from them.

In the first place, they set out at the rising of the star. The Magi teach us that we need to set out anew each day, in life as in faith, for faith is not a suit of armour that encases us; instead, it is a fascinating journey, a constant and restless movement, ever in search of God, always discerning our way forward.

The Prayer Group returns on Wednesday, January 11th at 1pm in the Parish Center

Parish Home Catechism returns on Wednesday January 11th at 6:15pm.

JANUARY 8, 2023

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)



Masses For The Week

Sat Jan 7 – 5:00pm

+Robert Griffith

req. by Marianna Griffith

Mon Jan 9 – 8:20am

+

req. by

Tues Jan 10 – 8:20am

+Lloyd Washburn

req. by Denise & Shirley Washburn

Wed Jan 11 – 7:00pm

+Charles McAlinden

req. by His Family

+Rejean Porier

req. by The Berry Family

+Yanely Leal

req. by Humberto Sanchez & Familia

Thurs Jan 12 – 8:20am

+Edgar Talabis

req. by His Wife & Family

Fri Jan 13 – 8:20am

+John McLaughlin

req. by Sarah Fulton

Sat Jan 14 – 5:00pm

+Alcides Jeronimo

req. by His Family

DCDSB Kindergarten Registration Opens January 12, 2023

Begin your child's faith-filled journey at the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB)!

Your child must be turning 4 years of age by December 31, 2023 to register for Year 1/Junior Kindergarten or 5 years of age by December 31, 2023 to register for Year 2/Senior Kindergarten.

Complete your online registration by visiting dcdsb.ca/Kindergarten

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.

CWL January 2023 Meeting

Our January meeting will take place on Thursday, January 19, 2023, 7:30 p.m. in the parish centre. We hope you will join us as we distribute our charitable disbursements. You will also have the opportunity to renew your membership.

CWL Membership Campaign

On January 21 & 22, 2023 CWL members will be at the back of the church for membership renewals and for ladies who would like to join the Catholic Women's League. The cost of membership is \$40.00. This includes the League Magazine (3 times per year) and support for our league and the Toronto Diocesan, Regional, Provincial and National levels of our organization. Joining the CWL allows you to deepen your faith and get to know and develop friendships with women within our parish community. You become part of the united voice, of the largest organization of over 63,000 Catholic women, when our representatives meet with the provincial and federal governments. We hope you will renew your membership and we wish to invite all women to join us as we witness to the love of God through ministry and service. If you require additional information, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582, or email at lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.



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As of December 30, 2022

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