

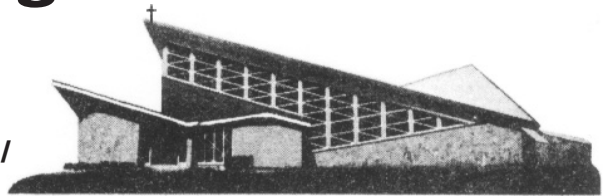
St. John the Evangelist Church

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, Ontario L1N 2S3

Rectory Office: Ph:905-668-3676

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the Book of Leviticus, offers us a passage from the law of sainthood. As God is holy, He wishes that those who share his spirit may be holy as well. God is love and it is for all people. We are called not to hold grudges and to hate anybody, rather we are to love our neighbour as ourselves. As God has loved us, we can love those around us in the same measure. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, continues to focus on the wisdom that comes from God. Individually, we have been created by God and we are temple of the Holy Spirit since God dwells in us. Therefore, we should act accordingly with love towards God and each other. Any virtuous action builds up this temple and fills us with peace and fullness of life. On the contrary, any sinful action destroys this temple and harms our spirit, causing emptiness and death. The wisdom that St. Paul announces is to realize that we belong to Christ and we find fulfillment when we follow His will and commandments. The Gospel, from Matthew, continues with the Sermon of the Mount. Now, Jesus focuses on the love of neighbour. In the Old Testament, there was the law of justice by which each person acted according to how one was treated. Thus, it was meant to avoid any vengeance towards each other. Jesus Christ proclaims a love that is unconditional, even to love those who treat us unjustly. It seems that this is something impossible to carry out since our nature is to defend ourselves when we are ill treated. Our love arrives to a limit, but not that far. God's love is unconditional and loves us no matter what we do. Christ has given His life for us even though we commit sin. We do not deserve to be loved in this way. If we recognize that God loves us in Christ even though we get angry, we are impatient and we want to get even, this transforms us and enables us to love those around us unconditionally. What a gift to be able to love like this without limit. Often we cannot endure the shortcomings of those around us and our peace is taken away. With the grace of Christ, we can receive the strength to love in this new measure. Christ has come to make possible for us this type of Love. Let us open our hearts so that Christ may bring it to fulfillment in us to fulfill for us!

On Wednesday, we are starting the season of Lent. It is a time of grace and renewal. It is not only a time of demand and sacrifice. It is a period in which we can be open to God's grace so that He may transform us. We are given the tools of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as means to get closer to God and a key that opens our hearts wide open to His renewal. Let us live with hope and devotion this wonderful season!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Homily of Pope Francis on the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

In this Sunday's Gospel (Mt 5:38-48) — one of the passages that best illustrates Christian "revolution" — Jesus shows us the way of true justice through the law of love which is greater than the law of retaliation, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". This ancient law imposed the infliction on wrongdoers of a punishment equivalent to the damage they caused: death for those who killed, amputation for those who injured, and so on. Jesus does not ask his disciples to abide evil, but asks them to react; however, not with another evil action, but with good. This is the only way to break the chain of evil: one evil leads to another which leads to another evil.... This chain of evil is broken and things truly begin to change. Evil is, in fact, a "void", a void of good. It is not possible to fill a void, except with "fullness", that is, good. Revenge never leads to conflict resolution. "You did this to me, I will do it back to you": this never resolves conflict, nor is it even Christian.

According to Jesus, the rejection of violence can also involve the sacrifice of a legitimate right. He gives a few examples of this: turn the other cheek, give up your coat or money, accept other sacrifices (v. 39-42). But such sacrifice does not mean that the demands of justice should be ignored or contradicted. No, on the contrary, Christian love, which manifests itself in a special way in mercy, is an achievement superior to justice. What Jesus wants to teach us is the clear distinction that we must make between justice and revenge. Distinguishing between justice and revenge. Revenge is never just. We are permitted to ask for justice. It is our duty to exercise justice. We are, however, not permitted to avenge ourselves or, in any way foment revenge, as it is an expression of hatred and violence.

Jesus does not wish to propose a new system of civil law, but rather the commandment to love thy neighbour, which also includes loving enemies: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you". (v. 44) And this is not easy. These words should not be seen as an approval of evil carried out by an enemy, but as an invitation to a loftier perspective, a magnanimous perspective, similar to that of the Heavenly Father, who, Jesus says, "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust". (v. 45). An enemy, in fact, is also a human being, created as such in God's image, despite the fact that in the present, that image may be tarnished by shameful behaviour.

When we speak of "enemies", we should not think about people who are different or far removed from us; let us also talk about ourselves, as we may come into conflict with our neighbour, at times with our relatives. How many hostilities exist within families — how let us think about this. Enemies are also those who speak ill of us, who defame us and do us harm. It is not easy to digest this. We are called to respond to each of them with good, which also has strategies inspired by love.

Pope Francis on Ash Wednesday

We begin the Lenten Season by receiving ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return (cf. Gen 3:19). The dust sprinkled on our heads brings us back to earth; it reminds us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We are weak, frail and mortal. Centuries and millennia pass and we come and go; before the immensity of galaxies and space, we are nothing. We are dust in the universe. Yet we are dust loved by God. It pleased the Lord to gather that dust in his hands and to breathe into it the breath of life (cf. Gen 2:7). We are thus a dust that is precious, destined for eternal life. We are the dust of the earth, upon which God has poured out his heaven, the dust that contains his dreams. We are God's hope, his treasure and his glory.

Ashes are thus a reminder of the direction of our existence: a passage from dust to life. We are dust, earth, clay, but if we allow ourselves to be shaped by the hands of God, we become something wondrous.

More often than not, though, especially at times of difficulty and loneliness, we only see our dust! But the Lord encourages us: in his eyes, our littleness is of infinite value. So let us take heart: we were born to be loved; we were born to be children of God.

Dear brothers and sisters, may we keep this in mind as we begin this Lenten season. For Lent is not a time for useless sermons, but for recognizing that our lowly ashes are loved by God. It is a time of grace, a time for letting God gaze upon us with love and in this way change our lives. We were put in this world to go from ashes to life. So let us not turn our hopes and God's dream for us into powder and ashes. Let us not grow resigned. You may ask: "How can I trust? The world is falling to pieces, fear is growing, there is so much malice all around us, society is becoming less and less Christian..." Don't you believe that God can transform our dust into glory?

Humanitarian Aid for Turkey & Syria Earthquakes

Those wishing to donate, may do so in the following ways:

Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website –

https://www.archtoronto.org/en/contact_us/donations/donate-pages/donate-to-turkiye-and-syria-relief/ or

Through the parish, making cheques payable to: St. John the Evangelist – Turkey and Syria Earthquake – Humanitarian Relief
Please continue to pray for those who have died and for those displaced because of this tragic disaster in both Turkey and Syria.

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meant to raise funds necessary to continue the mission the Lord
has entrusted to us. Tickets \$150 per person

LENT BEGINS WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22nd
ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass with Ashes at 8:20am and 7:00pm

PENANCE IN LENT

Fridays in the Lenten Season are days of penance, when small sacrifices are encouraged. Abstaining from meat on Fridays has become a customary Lenten penance for Catholics. The Canadian Bishops have recommended that this penitential practice continue among the faithful, but also stated that other acts of penance may be substituted, such as special prayers or acts of service for others.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of obligatory fasting and abstinence from meat. "The law of fasting prescribes that only one meal be taken in a day; but it does not forbid taking some nourishment in the morning and evening" (Letters & Legislation, Archdiocese of Toronto). The law of fasting binds those from 18 to 59 years of age, while the law of abstinence from meat binds Catholics who are 14 years of age and older, but every person, regardless of age, can participate in fasting and abstaining from meat if they wish, as long as one's health will allow it.

Parents and educators are reminded of their duty to introduce children gradually to the understanding and practice of penance, including fasting and abstinence, in the life of Catholics. Adult example will be the greatest influence in this matter (Guidelines for Pastoral Liturgy, 1999-2000, CCCB).

Canadian Bishops Release Pastoral Letters to Advance the Healing Journey with Indigenous Peoples of this land

On February 8, 2023, the Bishops of Canada released a series of pastoral letters to advance the journey of healing, reconciliation and hope with Indigenous Peoples of this land. Individual letters have been prepared for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. In addition, the bishops have released a letter to Catholics throughout the country.

Copies of the letters can be accessed by visiting:
www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation

Catholics throughout the archdiocese are invited to reflect, learn and join in efforts to nurture and deepen our relationship with Indigenous Peoples. We pray that the letters may serve as an additional tool to guide the journey of healing, reconciliation and hope.

Sat Feb 18 – 5:00pm

+Mary Fox

req. by Catherine Duncan

Mon Feb 20 – 8:20am

+Yesu Dass

req. by Yesu

Tues Feb 21 – 8:20am

+Samantha Goodwin

req. by Caroline Goodwin



ASH WEDNESDAY Feb 22 – 8:20am

ASH WEDNESDAY Feb 22 – 7:00pm

+Andrew Marioselva

req. by Christine & Children

+Deceased Mbrs Broderick, Howard & Harrington Families

req. by Joe & Joy

+Shirley Barrett

req. by Her Family

+Fern Purse

req. by The Sunday Coffee Group

+Calvin Capito Jr & Carlito Capito

req. by The Capito Family

Thurs Feb 23 – 8:20am

+Joel Abaloyan

req. by Nicholas & Emie Valletero

Fri Feb 24 – 8:20am

+Matteo Garritano

req. by Nina Veltri & Family



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Kindly request the following non-perishable food items:

Dried soups, cereal, jam, cookies, crackers.

Please drop off your donations in the gray bin in the foyer. Please check expiry dates. Expired food cannot be used.

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.

Youth Ministry

Totus Tuus will be returning this summer! Totus Tuus is a fun and faith-filled summer camp for the youth of the parish run by young adult missionaries. There is a day program for grades 1-6 and an evening program for grades 7-12. Mark your calendars for the following days: July 9-14, 2023. More information will be available soon.



Have a very blessed Family Day!

The Bible Study begins on Tuesday

February 21st by zoom, and not Monday

February 20th as originally planned.

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