

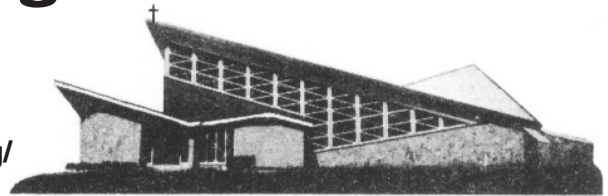
St. John the Evangelist Church

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	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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent. The First Reading, from the Book of Genesis, offers us the passage of the sin of Adam and Eve. It is not a biographical event but it rather describes the reason why there is evil and sin in the world. All of us would like to always do good, but we discover that, at times, we carry out the bad actions which we do not want to do. How come it happens? It is because all of us have sinned, and we are weak in our decisions. The root of sin is pride, to decide what is good for us regardless of God. This breaks our relationship with God and with others. It is important that we realize what makes us suffer and causes us to sin because Christ wants to heal us from that during this time of Lent. It is essential to come to terms that we need God's grace in our lives, which brings us to be at peace with others. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, presents us the teaching that through Christ's obedience we have all been saved. Adam's sin was one of pride and mistrust of God. We all know its consequences and we are aware of how harmful it is when we sin. However, there is a remedy for our sins. By humbling Himself, Christ has taken upon Himself all our sins and has crushed them on the Cross. Moreover, He does not only forgive our sins, but He recreates us, giving us the possibility to carry out good deeds. During the time of Lent, we are encouraged to live out this reality and experience it in our daily lives. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, gives us the account of the temptations of Jesus. He is brought into the desert to be tempted by the devil so that He can overcome all these temptations for us. The first temptation is the one of the bread. We are all tempted to secure our lives, to make sure that everything is under control. We want to make sure that the future is going to be fine. It is very difficult to control our future and we get anxious when we are not sure of what it will happen. Jesus calls us to trust in God because He will take care of us, and He will give us the graces that we need to carry out our lives. The second temptation is to complain. All of us have experienced difficult and painful events, which causes us to doubt of God's goodness. It brings us to complain and to grumble taking away our peace. However, Christ helps us to accept all the events all our lives with peace. The third temptation is idolization of possessions. At times, we think that the source of our lives come from different things, especially from money. We perceive that if we have money, we can do everything. However, money does not give peace and life. Christ encourages us to put our trust in God since He is the true source of our lives.

Let us open our hearts during this time of Lent so that Christ may truly transform and renew our hearts!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (March 1, 2020)

On this first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel (cf. Mt 4:1-11) recounts that Jesus, after having been baptised in the Jordan River, "was led by the Spirit into the desert, to be tempted by the devil" (v. 1). He is preparing to begin his mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven and, just as Moses and Elijah did (cf. Es 24:18; 1 King 19:8), in the Old Testament, He does so with a forty-day fast. This is the beginning of Lent.

At the end of this period of fasting, the tempter, the devil, breaks in, and three times tries to put Jesus to the test. The first temptation arises by the fact that Jesus is hungry; and so the devil suggests to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread" (v. 3). A challenge. But Jesus' answer is clear: "It is written: "One does not live on bread alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God" (4:4). He recalls Moses, when he reminded the people of the long journey they had made in

the desert, through which he learned that his life depended on the Word of God (cf. Dt 8:3).

Then the devil makes a second attempt, (cf. vv. 5-6) he gets more cunning, this time he quotes the Sacred Scripture. The strategy is clear: if you have so much confidence in the power of God, then try it, in fact Scripture itself confirms that you will be aided by angels (cf. v. 6). But even in this case Jesus does not allow himself to be confounded, because those who believe know that one does not put God to the test, instead he trusts God's goodness. Therefore, to the words of the Bible, which Satan has interpreted for his own purposes, Jesus responds with another quote: "Again it is written: "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test" (v. 7).

Finally, the third attempt (cf. 8-9) reveals the true reasoning of the devil: since the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven marks the beginning of his own defeat, the evil one would like to divert Jesus from fulfilling His mission, by presenting Him as a political Messiah. But Jesus rejects the idolatry of human power and glory and, in the end, drives out the tempter by saying to him: "Be gone, Satan! It is written: "The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve" (v. 10). And at this point, the angels approach to serve Jesus, who is faithful in handing Himself over to the Father (cf. v. 11).

This teaches us one thing: Jesus does not dialogue with the devil. Jesus responds to the devil with the Word of God, not by His own words. In temptation, we often begin to dialogue with temptation, to dialogue with the devil: "Yes, but I may do this...", then I confess, then this, that one...". Never dialogue with the devil. Jesus says only two things to the devil: he drives him away or, as in this case, responds with the Word of God. Be careful: never dialogue with temptation, never dialogue with the devil.

Even today Satan breaks into people's lives to tempt them with his tempting proposals; he mixes his voice with the many other voices that try to tame our conscience. Messages come at us from many places inviting us to "let ourselves be tempted" to experience the intoxication of the transgression. The experience of Jesus teaches us that temptation is an attempt to follow alternative paths to God's: "But, do this, there is no problem, then God forgives! But a day of joy take it..." – "But it is a sin!" – "No, it is nothing like this". This is an alternative route to God's path, and these give us the sense of being self-sufficient, of the enjoyment of life as an end to itself. But all this is illusory: we soon realize that the more we distance ourselves from God, the more defenceless and helpless we feel in the face of the great problems of existence.

May the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Him who crushed the head of the serpent, helps us in this time of Lent to be vigilant in the face of temptations, not to submit to any idol of this world, to follow Jesus in the fight against evil; and we will also succeed as Jesus.



Masses For The Week

Sat Feb 25 – 5:00pm

+Judy Tayeb & Bobby Graham

req. by Gail Stewart

Mon Feb 27 – 8:20am

+Bill Stafford

Req by Gail McMonagle & Rose & Piet Loomans

Tues Feb 28 – 8:20am

+Catherine

req. by Yesu

WEDNESDAY Mar 1 – 7:00pm

+William Fasullo

req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Thurs Mar 2 – 8:20am

+Aram & Rafad Kamal

req. by Sharon & Adrian Marioselva

Fri Mar 3 – 7:00pm

+

req. by

Sat Mar 4 – 5:00pm

+Pat Belej

req. by Jim Corrigan & Ann Belej-Corrigan

Tabernacle candle Feb 26 – Mar 4 for Gaby,
requested by Mary Yearwood

Totus Tuus is returning this Summer!

The children and youth of the parish are invited to join us for Totus Tuus this summer. Totus Tuus is an Archdiocesan program whereby seminarians and young adults travel to different parishes, spreading the Good News of our Lord through catechesis, Mass, confession, songs and games!

DAY CAMP (for Grades 1-6) - \$80/child for the week

Monday, July 10th to Friday, July 14th, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

EVENING PROGRAM (for Grades 7-12) - \$40/child for the week

Sunday, July 9th to Thursday, July 13th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

For more information about registration or volunteering to help with this program, please contact Cassandra at cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org. More information is also available at www.totustuutoronto.ca



St Patrick's Pub Night- Saturday March 18th, 2023 7:30PM Knights of Columbus Hall

The Knights of Columbus will be restarting their annual St Patrick's Pub Night on March 18th hosted by the Usual

Suspects. Doors will open by 630pm with music starting by 8pm. Tickets are \$25 including light snacks.

For those of you who didn't already receive refunds for the cancelled 2020 event and already paid, we have provided a credit and set aside a number of tickets if you're still interested in attending (Ticket donations will be greatly appreciated too to help support our community hall) Knights will be at the back of the Church after each mass on the weekends of March 3rd/4th and March 10th/11th selling tickets or you can contact Bryan.Childerhouse@rogers.com

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



Schedule of Stations of the Cross begin at 6:30pm in English and 7:30pm in Spanish

Mar 3	Pope Francis' Way of the Cross
Mar 10	Fulton Sheen's Way of the Cross
Mar 17	Way of the Cross & Easter Reflections
Mar 24	Development & Peace Way of the Cross
Mar 31	Mary's Way of the Cross

CWL Charitable Donations

Thank you to the parishioners at St. John's. With your support, your CWL donated \$3,840.00 to various local, provincial, federal and international charities. The funds you helped us raise will also enable us to donate further throughout the year. Your continued support is so very much appreciated. Thank you!

Join us and celebrate our 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner

April 28, 2023, at 6 p.m.,

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Join us and celebrate our 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner
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THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO rmmstoronto.org

This dinner is meant to raise funds necessary to continue the mission the Lord has entrusted to us.

Tickets \$150 per person

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-to-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



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.

The 2022 parish financial report will be presented at all three masses next weekend.

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