

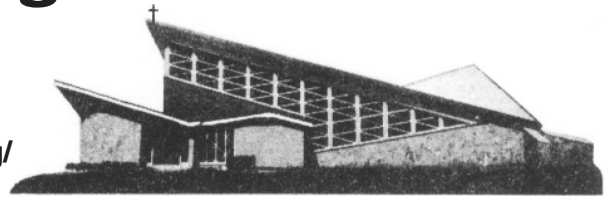
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Ezekiel, presents the episode in which God promised the prophet that He will rebuild the people of Israel who were in exile. When the Israelites were in the exile of Babylon, they experienced a period of despair, dryness and anxiety. Yet, God gave them hope assuring them that He will recreate them and that He will put His Spirit with them to make them live at peace. We also have in our everyday lives periods in which we experience anxiety, anguish and distress. It is easy to give up. Even though we face trials and difficulties and everything around us seem to discourage us, the Lord is asking us to put our trust in Him that He will help us and give us endless peace. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, offers us a teaching on the sacrament of baptism in relationship with the Death and Resurrection of Christ. The Lord wants to share with us His Spirit, which allows us to live as resurrected people. We are approaching Easter and we are going to experience soon how the Lord is going to transform us and restore our hearts. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us the account of the raising of Lazarus. Christ manifested His power over death by raising Lazarus even though he was already dead for four days. He experienced the corruption of sin and death and there was nothing else to do for him. Yet, Christ raises Him from the dead assuring us that He has power over sin and death. This Gospel is very hopeful and pre-announces to us what Christ wants do for us in Easter. Even though we may feel dead and without any hope because of our sins, Christ is stronger than death and He has overcome it through His Death and Resurrection.

Let us open our hearts so that the Lord Jesus may renew our hearts and may share His Resurrection with us!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on the Fifth Sunday of Lent (April 2, 2017)

Today's readings tell us of the God of life, who conquers death. Let us pause in particular on the last of the miraculous signs which Jesus performs before his Easter, at the sepulchre of his friend, Lazarus.

Everything appears to have ended there: the tomb is sealed by a great stone; there is only weeping and desolation there. Even Jesus is shaken by the dramatic mystery of the loss of a dear person: "He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled" (Jn 11:33). Then "Jesus wept" (v. 35) and went to the sepulchre, the Gospel says, "deeply moved again" (v. 38). This is God's heart: far from evil but close to those who are suffering. He does not make evil disappear magically, but he endures the suffering; he makes it his own and transforms it; he abides in it.

We notice, however, that amid the general despair over the death of Lazarus, Jesus does not allow himself to be transported by despair. Even while suffering himself, he asks that people believe steadfastly. He does not close himself within his weeping but, moved, he makes his way to the sepulchre. He does not allow the resigned, emotional atmosphere that surrounds him to seize him, but rather, prays with trust and says, "Father, I thank thee" (v. 41). Thus, in the mystery of suffering, before which thoughts and progress are crushed like flies against glass, Jesus offers us the example of how to conduct ourselves. He does not run away from suffering, which is part of this life, but he does not allow himself to be held captive by pessimism.

A great "encounter-clash" thus occurred at that sepulchre. On the one hand, there is the great disappointment, the precariousness of our mortal life which, pierced by anguish over death, often experiences defeat, an interior darkness which seems insurmountable. Our soul, created for life, suffers upon hearing that its thirst for eternal good is oppressed by an ancient and dark evil. On the one hand, there is this defeat of the sepulchre. But on the other, there is the hope that conquers death and evil, and which has a name: the name of hope is Jesus.

He neither brings a bit of comfort nor some remedy to prolong life, but rather, proclaims: "I am the Resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live", (v. 25). It is for this reason that he says decisively, "Take away the stone" (v. 39) and he calls to Lazarus, "Come out" (v. 43).

Dear brothers and sisters, we too are called to decide on which side to stand. One can stand on the side of the sepulchre or on the side of Jesus. There are those who allow themselves to be closed within their pain and those who open up to hope. There are those who remain trapped among the ruins of life, and those who, like you, with God's help, pick up the ruins of life and rebuild with patient hope.

In facing life's great 'whys?', we have two paths: either stay and wistfully contemplate past and present sepulchres, or allow Jesus to approach our sepulchres. Yes, because each one of us already has a small sepulchre, some area that has somewhat died within our hearts; a wound, a wrongdoing endured or inflicted, an unrelenting resentment, a regret that keeps coming back, a sin we cannot overcome. Today, let us identify these little sepulchres that we have inside, and let us invite Jesus into them. It is curious, but we often prefer to be alone in the dark caves within us rather than invite Christ inside them. We are tempted to always seek [solutions for] ourselves, brooding and sinking into anguish, licking our wounds, instead of going to him, who says, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest", (Mt 11:28). Let us not be held captive by the temptation to remain alone and discouraged, crying about what is happening to us. Let us not give in to the useless and inconclusive logic of fear, resignedly repeating that everything is going badly and nothing is as it once was. This is the sepulchral atmosphere. The Lord instead wishes to open the path of life, that of encounter with him, of trust in him, of the resurrection of the heart, the way of: "Arise, Arise, come out". This is what the Lord asks of us, and he is by our side to do so.

Thus, we hear directed to each one of us Jesus' words to Lazarus: "Come out!". Come out from the gridlock of hopeless sadness; unwrap the bandages of fear that impede the journey, the laces of the weaknesses and anxieties that constrain you; reaffirm that God unties the knots. By following Jesus, we learn not to knot our lives around problems which become tangled. There will always be problems, always, and when we solve one, another one duly arrives. We can however, find a new stability, and this stability is Jesus himself. This stability is called Jesus, who is the Resurrection and the Life. With him, joy abides in our hearts, hope is reborn, suffering is transformed into peace, fear into trust, hardship into an offering of love. And even though burdens will not disappear, there will always be his uplifting hand, his encouraging Word saying to all of us, to each of us: "Come out! Come to me!". He tells all of us: "Do not be afraid".

Archbishop Frank Leo was installed to the Archdiocese of Toronto at St. Michael's Cathedral on Saturday, March 25th.

A Regional Mass of Welcome will take place in the eastern region of the archdiocese at St. Isaac Jogues Parish, Pickering on Wednesday April 26th at 7 p.m. First come, first served.

A reception will follow the mass in the parish hall.

Please keep Archbishop Leo in your prayers as he begins his ministry as our shepherd.



Masses For The Week

Sat Mar 25 – 5:00pm

+Teresa Smid

req. by John & Helen Ecker

Mon Mar 27 – 8:20am

Intention for Melanie Giroux

req by Shirley & Denise Washburn

Tues Mar 28 – 8:20am

+Catherine

req. by Family

Wed Mar 29 – 7:00pm

+Shirley Barrett

req. by Her Family

Thurs Mar 30 – 8:20am

+Cloutilda D'Souza

req. by Michelle & Malcolm

Fri Mar 31 – 7:00pm

+Stewart Hamilton

req. by The Hamilton Family

Sat Mar 25 – 5:00pm

+George Jaciw

req. by The Hannon Family

Reconciliation Evening Service

**Sunday, March 26, 2023 at
7pm in the church
Several priests available**

2023 Holy Week Celebrations

Sat./Sun. Apr 1, 2

Palm Sunday Masses
(Saturday) 5pm,
(Sunday) 9am, 11am
(Sunday) 2:00pm
Spanish



Mon. Apr. 3
Mass 8:20am

Tues Apr. 4
Mass 8:20am
**Mass of Christ at St. Michael's
Cathedral @ 11am**

Wed Apr. 5
Mass 7pm

Thurs. Apr. 6
Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper
Bilingual 7:30pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
after Mass until 11pm



Fri. Apr. 7
**Liturgia solemne de la pasion
del Señor 12 pm**

Divine Mercy Novena @ 10am
Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
3pm
Stations of the Cross, Presented by
Youth 7pm

Sat Apr. 8
**Divine Mercy
Novena @12noon**
Easter Vigil 8pm
No 5pm Mass



Sun Apr 9
EASTER SUNDAY
9am, 11am
2:00 pm Spanish
Divine Mercy Novena
@8:45am



Mon April 10
EASTER MONDAY
Mass 9am
Divine Mercy Novena @9:30am

Save the Date - May 25, 2023

Annual 55+ Retreat
9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Manresa Retreat Centre
Cost: \$55.00 Including Lunch
Led by Father Michael Coutts, S.J.

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday April 5, 2023 at 8PM at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St North. 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@ogers.com or call 416-508-9877

Good Friday Youth Stations of the Cross

On Good Friday, the youth ministry will be leading the Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend! If any youth in grade 5-12 are interested in being readers for the Stations, please contact Cassandra at cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org. We will have a rehearsal with the readers on Saturday, April 1st at 3:00 pm in the Church.

Totus Tuus is returning this Summer!

The children and youth of the parish are invited to join us for Totus Tuus this summer. It is a fun and faith-filled program with catechesis, Mass, confession, songs and games!

DAY CAMP (for students entering grade 1-6 in September) - \$80/child for the week

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

EVENING PROGRAM (for students entering grade 7-12 in September) - \$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.totustuustoronto.ca



This weekend is ShareLife Sunday. ShareLife Sunday marks the first collection for our parish's annual campaign. In the words of Cardinal Collins: "Vulnerable members of our community are relying on you and me to ensure ongoing access to the care they so desperately need. This is why it's crucial we meet our parish campaign goal. Our goal can be met, but only if we each do our part." *Our parish goal this year is \$148,700. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.*



Stand for the Land Development & Peace

This Solidarity Sunday, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's Stand for the Land campaign invites you to give generously and thanks you warmly for your generosity.

Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world. Our solidarity rests on your generosity.

"The support we receive from Development and Peace has been very important for me. It allowed me to find myself, to live again." — Raquel Soto, participant in the documentary filmmaking school of the Asociación Campesina de Antioquia (ACA, Peasant Association of Antioquia) Such is the difference you can make by giving to your ShareLife parish collection or at devp.org/give. Thank you for helping us build a world of justice.

For more information contact: Estela Rios at emr0001@hotmail.com – 905-430-7753



Let's Social Sunday!

Feel like embracing a return to "normal"? Please join us for coffee, snacks and fellowship on Sunday, April 16th following the 9am & 11am masses. We look forward to seeing you!

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