

St. John the Evangelist Church

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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

*Christ
is
Risen!*



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate Easter Sunday. We are very joyful because we are sharing in the Resurrection of Christ. The First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, presents the announcement of Peter of the Death and Resurrection of Christ. God has anointed Christ with the mission of dying for our sins. During His public life, Christ went about preaching the Good News and healing people from their sicknesses. Peter proclaims that Christ was crucified, died, and was buried, but after three days, He was raised from the dead. The apostles are witnesses of the Resurrection and they announced His victory over death in all parts of the world. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians, offers us a teaching from St. Paul on how we can live our lives if we share in the Resurrection of Christ. He has made us sharers of His victory over death and with His help we can set our minds on the things of heaven. It means that from now on we can aspire to a life that is full of peace and joy and that any suffering does not take away our peace. Let us place our trust in the Lord so that He may make us partakers of the risen life and anticipate the kingdom of heaven here on earth. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, gives us the account of the empty tomb. Even though the Romans placed a heavy stone in front of the tomb and guards to keep it safe, yet Christ rose from the dead and has overcome sin, evil and death. Like the women, who were witnesses of encountering the Risen Christ, we are called to see in our lives that the stone of death in our lives has been removed and we can be partakers of the Risen Lord. Whatever sin, suffering or trial we may be facing, with Christ we can find in Him Resurrection and victory over death. With Christ we can face any difficulty and remain standing and at peace. Let us be witnesses of the Risen Christ in our daily lives so that we can bring this amazing happiness to all those around us!

I would like to wish to all the parishioners and their families a Blessed Easter and to partake in the joy of the Resurrection!

My thanks to all the people who have helped during Holy Week preparations, especially the staff of the parish, the ladies who decorated the Church, our choir and musicians, our RCIA team, our social committee, our altar servers, our ushers, communion ministers, lectors and so many people who worked very hard during these days. May God bless you immensely with His peace!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis Homily for Easter Vigil (April 11, 2010)

“After the Sabbath” (Mt 28:1), the women went to the tomb. This is how the Gospel of this holy Vigil began: with the Sabbath. It is the day of the Easter Triduum that we tend to neglect as we eagerly await the passage from Friday’s cross to Easter Sunday’s Alleluia. This year however, we are experiencing, more than ever, the great silence of Holy Saturday. We can imagine ourselves in the position of the women on that day. They, like us, had before their eyes the drama of suffering, of an unexpected tragedy that happened all too suddenly. They had seen death and it weighed on their hearts. Pain was mixed with fear: would they suffer the same fate as the Master? Then too

there was fear about the future and all that would need to be rebuilt. A painful memory, a hope cut short. For them, as for us, it was the darkest hour.

Yet in this situation the women did not allow themselves to be paralyzed. They did not give in to the gloom of sorrow and regret, they did not morosely close in on themselves, or flee from reality. They were doing something simple yet extraordinary: preparing at home the spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They did not stop loving; in the darkness of their hearts, they lit a flame of mercy. Our Lady spent that Saturday, the day that would be dedicated to her, in prayer and hope. She responded to sorrow with trust in the Lord. Unbeknownst to these women, they were making preparations, in the darkness of that Sabbath, for “the dawn of the first day of the week”, the day that would change history. Jesus, like a seed buried in the ground, was about to make new life blossom in the world; and these women, by prayer and love, were helping to make that hope flower. How many people, in these sad days, have done and are still doing what those women did, sowing seeds of hope! With small gestures of care, affection and prayer.

At dawn the women went to the tomb. There the angel says to them: “Do not be afraid. He is not here; for he has risen” (vv. 5-6). They hear the words of life even as they stand before a tomb... And then they meet Jesus, the giver of all hope, who confirms the message and says: “Do not be afraid” (v. 10). Do not be afraid, do not yield to fear: This is the message of hope. It is addressed to us, today. These are the words that God repeats to us this very night.

Tonight, we acquire a fundamental right that can never be taken away from us: the right to hope. It is a new and living hope that comes from God. It is not mere optimism; it is not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement, uttered with an empty smile. No! It is a gift from heaven, which we could not have earned on our own. Over these weeks, we have kept repeating, “All will be well”, clinging to the beauty of our humanity and allowing words of encouragement to rise up from our hearts. But as the days go by and fears grow, even the boldest hope can dissipate. Jesus’ hope is different. He plants in our hearts the conviction that God is able to make everything work unto good, because even from the grave he brings life.

The grave is the place where no one who enters ever leaves. But Jesus emerged for us; he rose for us, to bring life where there was death, to begin a new story in the very place where a stone had been placed. He, who rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb, can also remove the stones in our hearts. So, let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope. We can and must hope, because God is faithful. He did not abandon us; he visited us and entered into our situations of pain, anguish and death. His light dispelled the darkness of the tomb: today he wants that light to penetrate even to the darkest corners of our lives. Dear sister, dear brother, even if in your heart you have buried hope, do not give up: God is greater. Darkness and death do not have the last word. Be strong, for with God nothing is lost!

Welcoming Celebrations for Archbishop Francis Leo
A regional Mass of Welcome will take place in each region of the archdiocese, providing an opportunity for the faithful to come together to welcome Archbishop Leo to the archdiocese.

Eastern Region – Wednesday, April 26, 2023 - St. Isaac Jogues Parish, 1148 Finch Ave., Pickering – 7 p.m.
First come first served seating.

St. John's Ladies Golf League

Are you interested in playing golf or learning to play golf, then you might want to consider joining our league. We play Tuesday evenings 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Salem Ridge Academy, an executive 9-hole course. We have lots of fun and we do improve our game. If you are interested in joining us, please come to our meeting on Tuesday, April 18th at 7:30 p.m. in room 2 of the Parish Centre for our kick-off meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.

St. Vincent de Paul Update

We've been busy serving our community in need. In 2022 we delivered food and vouchers to 1487 individuals. Our Christmas Drive supported 118 families and 30 seniors.

In a comparison between January to March 2022 and January to March 2023 we have seen an increase of 18% in need, supporting recent studies of the impact of grocery inflation.

We wouldn't have been able to support these efforts without your generosity of financial and food donations! On behalf of the SVDP and the recipients receiving support, we thank you! We are proud of the St. John the Evangelist Parish ongoing support, to continue with the support of our Neighbours in Need.

God Bless you!

Manresa Day of Reflection and Spiritual Renewal for 55+ on Thursday, May 25th

Facilitator: Father Michael Coutts, S.J.

Theme: The Exodus and I. Purification, Illumination, Union.

The Exodus Experience formed the Israelites into what 1Peter 2 calls "A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart." God did that over a period of 40 years. It seems God has done the same for us during the short Covid span. God did this through a process of purification, illumination, union. please read Exodus, Chapters 1-5.

Cost. \$55.00 per person, including lunch

We will hold registration on two weekends - April 29/30 and May 6/7 after all Masses, or by calling parish office or Catherine Ingram (905 665-0933)
Payment upon registration.



Show your love by giving to ShareLife Jesus' love for us invites us to give to others, especially those most in need. ShareLife agencies continue to support the most vulnerable in our community through services that are only possible through your kind and generous donations. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

A blessed Easter to you all!

Collection to date: \$21,846.55

Parish Goal: \$148,700



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!

Sat Apr 8 – 5:00pm NO INTENTION

Mon Apr 10 – 9:00am
Intention for Sylvie Forté
req. by St. John Staff

Tues Apr 11 – 8:20am +

Wed Apr 12 – 7:00pm
+Broderick, Howard & Harrington Families
req. by Joe & Joy
+Veronica Bernadette
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family
+Dan Nettle
req. by Gail McMonagle
+Patrick Jamie Treacy Jr
req. by St. John the Evangelist Parishioners

Thursday Apr 13 – 8:20am
+Patrick Treacy Jr
req. by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Friday Apr 14 – 8:20am
+Maria Helen Silveira
req. By the Silveira Family

Sat Apr 15 – 5:00pm
+Tina Vurro
req. by Joe Vurro

The Divine Mercy Novena will follow after each mass

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