

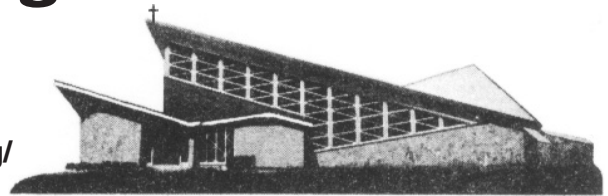
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. The First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, presents the daily living of the early Christian community. After the Resurrection of Christ, they were transformed, and they were gathering with a very joyful spirit. Four characteristics underlined the meetings of the early Church: they were listening to teaching of the apostles by which they witnessed to the events of the Death and Resurrection of Christ. They were living in unity, and they were sharing their goods. They were meeting in houses to celebrate the Eucharist and to pray together. Their gatherings were so powerful that many people, even pagans were attracted to join them, and they became believers. After the Second Vatican Council, the Church is going back to the roots of the early Church and is trying to rediscover the basic elements of the Christian community. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Peter, offers us a teaching addressed to those who have just received baptism at the Easter Vigil. St. Peter reminded them that by their baptism they have shared in the Resurrection of Christ. They had received a heavenly inheritance that cannot fade, or nothing can destroy it. Even though we go through trials or sufferings, this faith allows us to overcome them and live all these painful events at peace. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us the account of the appearance of Jesus to the apostles and St. Thomas. The apostles were very fearful, and they remained behind closed doors. The Risen Christ came amid them and showed them His hands and His feet. By doing this, He assured them that He was risen, and He took them out of their fears. St. Thomas was not present when Jesus appeared to them, and he doubted that Christ was truly risen. The following week, Christ came in again and allowed Thomas to touch his hands and his side and believe that He is truly risen. As the apostles, we are called to experience the Risen Christ in our daily lives, especially when we are fearful and struggling. Let us experience the transformative mercy of Christ that comes to transform our hardened hearts!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor
Pope Francis Homily for Easter Vigil (April 14, 2021)

The risen Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions. He patiently soothed their troubled hearts. Risen himself, he now brings about "the resurrection of the disciples". He raises their spirits and their lives are changed. Earlier, the Lord's words and his example had failed to change them. Now, at Easter, something new happens, and it happens in the light of mercy. Jesus raises them up with mercy. Having received that mercy, they become merciful in turn. It is hard to be merciful without the experience of having first received mercy.

First, they receive mercy through three gifts. First, Jesus offers them peace, then the Spirit and finally his wounds. The disciples were upset. They were locked away for fear, fear of being arrested and ending up like the Master. But they were not only huddled together in a room; they were also trapped in their own remorse. They had abandoned and denied Jesus. They felt helpless, discredited, good for nothing. Jesus arrives and says to them twice, "Peace be with you!" He does not bring a peace that removes the problems without, but one that infuses trust within. It is no outward peace, but peace of heart. He tells them "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, even so I send you" (Jn 20:21). It is as if to say, "I am sending you because I believe in you". Those disheartened disciples were put at peace with themselves. The peace of Jesus made them pass from remorse to mission. The peace of Jesus awakens mission. It entails not ease and comfort, but the challenge to break out of ourselves. The peace of Jesus frees from the self-absorption that paralyzes; it shatters the bonds that keep the heart imprisoned. The disciples realized that they had been shown mercy: they realized that God did not condemn or

demean them, but instead believed in them. God, in fact, believes in us even more than we believe in ourselves. "He loves us better than we love ourselves (cf. SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, Meditations and Devotions, III, 12, 2). As far as God is concerned, no one is useless, discredited or a castaway. Today Jesus also tells us, "Peace be with you! You are precious in my eyes. Peace be with you! You are important for me. Peace be with you! You have a mission. No one can take your place. You are irreplaceable. And I believe in you".

Second, Jesus showed mercy to his disciples by granting them the Holy Spirit. He bestowed the Spirit for the forgiveness of sins (cf. vv. 22-23). The disciples were guilty; they had run away, they had abandoned the Master. Sin brings torment; evil has its price. Our sin, as the Psalmist says (cf. 51:5), is always before us. Of ourselves, we cannot remove it. Only God takes it away, only he by his mercy can make us emerge from the depths of our misery. Like those disciples, we need to let ourselves be forgiven, to ask heartfelt pardon of the Lord. We need to open our hearts to being forgiven. Forgiveness in the Holy Spirit is the Easter gift that enables our interior resurrection. Let us ask for the grace to accept that gift, to embrace the Sacrament of forgiveness. And to understand that Confession is not about ourselves and our sins, but about God and his mercy. Let us not confess to abase ourselves, but to be raised up. We, all of us, need this badly. Like little children who, whenever they fall, need to be picked up by their fathers, we need this. We too fall frequently. And the hand of our Father is ready to set us on our feet again and to make us keep walking. That sure and trustworthy hand is Confession. Confession is the sacrament that lifts us up; it does not leave us on the ground, weeping on the hard stones where we have fallen. Confession is the Sacrament of resurrection, pure mercy. All those who hear confessions ought to convey the sweetness of mercy. This is what confessors are meant to do: to convey the sweetness of the mercy of Jesus who forgives everything. God forgives everything.

Together with the peace that rehabilitates us and the forgiveness that lifts us up, Jesus gave his disciples a third gift of mercy: he showed them his wounds. By those wounds we were healed (cf. 1 Pet 2:24; Is 53:5). But how can wounds heal us? By mercy. In those wounds, like Thomas, we can literally touch the fact that God has loved us to the end. He has made our wounds his own and borne our weaknesses in his own body. His wounds are open channels between him and us, shedding mercy upon our misery. His wounds are the pathways that God has opened up for us to enter into his tender love and actually "touch" who he is. Let us never again doubt his mercy. In adoring and kissing his wounds, we come to realize that in his tender love all our weaknesses are accepted. This happens at every Mass, where Jesus offers us his wounded and risen Body. We touch him and he touches our lives. He makes heaven come down to us. His radiant wounds dispel the darkness we carry within. Like Thomas, we discover God; we realize how close he is to us and we are moved to exclaim, "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28). Everything comes from this, from the grace of receiving mercy. This is the starting-point of our Christian journey. But if we trust in our own abilities, in the efficiency of our structures and projects, we will not go far. Only if we accept the love of God, will we be able to offer something new to the world.

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.

Seating is first come, first served.



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 6:00 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.

CWL GENERAL MEETING

All ladies of the parish are invited to attend our April general meeting in the main room of the parish centre on Thursday, April 20th at 7:30 p.m. If you require transportation, or require additional information, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.

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.



Your ShareLife gift changes lives

Our second ShareLife Collection will be on April 30. Among others, your contributions help people with disabilities and their family members. Your generous support enables our member agencies to provide them with the resources they need. Thank you very much for supporting our parish's ShareLife campaign. Thus far we have raised **\$32,951.55** toward our goal of **\$148,700**. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope,

online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.



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!



Masses For The Week

Sat Apr 15 – 5:00pm

+Tina Vurro
req. by Joe Vurro

Mon Apr 17 – 8:20am

+Humberto Schenflege
req. by His Family

Tues Apr 18 – 8:20am

+David Glen Fitzgerald
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly

Wed Apr 19 – 7:00pm

+Frank & Deidre Al-Darraj
req. by Noreen & Bobby

+Dan Nettle

req. by Pat Catterall

+Patrick Jamie Treacy Jr.

req. by The Lay Pastoral Ministry

+Louie Molano

req. by His Wife & Family

Thursday Apr 20 – 8:20am

+Deceased Mbrs of the Coryat Family
req. by Mary Yearwood

Friday Apr 21 – 8:20am

+Murial Noronha
req. by Godfrey & Jenny Cunningham

Sat Apr 22 – 5:00pm

+Andrew Marioselva
req. by Christine & Children



Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. John the Evangelist Conference

**BUNDLE WEEKEND
May 13-14, 2023**

A truck will be parked in St. John Parish parking lot over the weekend May 13/14 accepting gently used/new clothing, coats, linens, towels, bedding, textiles, drapery, shoes/boots.

We CANNOT accept furniture, appliances, mattresses, used baby equipment, furniture, books, dishes, construction material or video tapes.

Please bring your items to the truck after mass Saturday at 5pm, Sunday 9am or 11am or 2:00 pm in Spanish.

Thank you.

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