

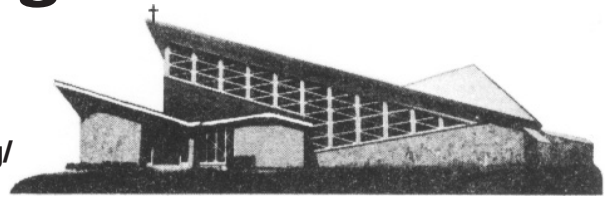
# St. John the Evangelist Church

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, Ontario L1N 2S3

Rectory Office: Ph:905-668-3676

email: [stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org)

website: [www.stjohntheevangelistwh.archtoronto.org/](http://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
<b>St. John the Evangelist School</b> 905-668-4011 1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3 <b>St. Luke the Evangelist School</b> 905-665-5828 55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9 <b>Durham Catholic District School Board</b>	<b>St. Marguerite d'Youville School</b> 250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1 <b>All Saints Catholic Secondary School</b> 3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1 905-576-6150	905-666-9301 905-666-7753 <a href="http://www.dcdsb.ca">www.dcdsb.ca</a>

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

### Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven. The First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, presents the account of the Ascension of Jesus. For 40 days, Jesus has been giving proof to the apostles that He has risen from the dead. He is leaving them to go to Heaven, but He promises that the Holy Spirit will be with them to accompany them in their mission. By ascending into Heaven, Jesus does not separate Himself from them, but He accompanies the disciples in their preaching and sustains them wherever they go. The fact that Jesus ascends to the Lord does not imply a separation from us, but rather Jesus has the power to help us even more since He is with us spiritually and has greater incidence in our lives. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, encourages us to live our daily lives focusing on heavenly realities. Christ has ascended into Heaven so that we can experience hope and consolation in our lives. In front of struggles and hardships, it is normal that we worry, and we do not lift our thoughts to the Lord. The Lord encourages us to look up to be aware that the Lord calls us to a heavenly life. It means that when we are facing hardships, they do not weigh us down, but the Lord helps us to go through them at peace. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, offers us the final discourse of Jesus on the Mount of Beatitudes. Through His Ascension and Resurrection, Christ has received the power over sin and death. He ascends to the Father to make manifest that He has conquered death and that He opens for us the way to the Father. He does not leave us forever, but He remains with us every day of our lives. It is essential to consider that Christ intervenes constantly in our daily lives and that He can do great marvels for us. Whatever we do or carry out does not depend only in our efforts, but the Lord accompanies us and gives us the graces that we need to do more than we can even imagine. Let us lift our hearts to the Lord so that we can realize that the Lord calls us to life a heavenly reality in our daily lives!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

### Pope Francis Homily for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (June 1, 2014)

The Acts of the Apostles recounts this episode, the final separation of the Lord Jesus from his disciples and from this world (cf. Acts 1:2-9). The Gospel of Matthew, however, reports Jesus' mandate to his disciples: the invitation to go out, to set out in order to proclaim to all nations his message of salvation (cf. Mt 28:16-20). "To go" or, better, "depart" becomes the key word of today's feast: Jesus departs to the Father and commands his disciples to depart for the world.

Jesus departs, he ascends to Heaven, that is, he returns to the Father from whom he had been sent to the world. He finished his work, thus, he returns to the Father. But this does not mean a separation, for he remains forever with us, in a new way. By his ascension, the Risen Lord draws the gaze of the Apostles — and our gaze — to the heights of Heaven to show us that the end of our journey is the Father. He himself said that he would go to prepare a place for us in

Heaven. Yet, Jesus remains present and active in the affairs of human history through the power and the gifts of his Spirit; he is beside each of us: even if we do not see him with our eyes, He is there! He accompanies us, he guides us, he takes us by the hand and he lifts us up when we fall down. The risen Jesus is close to persecuted and discriminated Christians; he is close to every man and woman who suffers. He is close to us all; he is here, too, with us in the square; the Lord is with us! Do you believe this? Then let's say it together: the Lord is with us!

When Jesus returns to Heaven, he brings the Father a gift. What is the gift? His wounds. His body is very beautiful, no bruises, no cuts from the scourging, but he retains his wounds. When he returns to the Father he shows him the wounds and says: "behold Father, this is the price of the pardon you have granted". When the Father beholds the wounds of Jesus he forgives us forever, not because we are good, but because Jesus paid for us. Beholding the wounds of Jesus, the Father becomes most merciful. This is the great work of Jesus today in Heaven: showing the Father the price of forgiveness, his wounds. This is the beauty that urges us not to be afraid to ask forgiveness; the Father always pardons, because he sees the wounds of Jesus, he sees our sin and he forgives it.

But Jesus is present also through the Church, which He sent to extend his mission. Jesus' last message to his disciples is the mandate to depart: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19). It is a clear mandate, not just an option! The Christian community is a community "going forth", "in departure". More so: the Church was born "going forth". And you will say to me: what about cloistered communities? Yes, these too, for they are always "going forth" through prayer, with the heart open to the world, to the horizons of God. And the elderly, the sick? They, too, through prayer and union with the wounds of Jesus.

To his missionary disciples Jesus says: "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (v. 20). Alone, without Jesus, we can do nothing! In Apostolic work our own strengths, our resources, our structures do not suffice, even if they are necessary. Without the presence of the Lord and the power of his Spirit our work, though it may be well organized, winds up being ineffective. And thus, we go to tell the nations who Jesus is.

And together with Jesus Mary our Mother accompanies us. She is already in the house of the Father, she is the Queen of Heaven and this is how we invoke her during this time; as Jesus is with us, so too she walks with us; she is the Mother of our hope.



St. John the Evangelist's  
Social Committee invites you to  
**Family and Food Fun Day!**  
**Saturday, June 10th, 2023**

**From 11:30-3:00 p.m.**

Join us on the church grounds for tons of fun and games for the whole family! Come and share in culinary delights from around the world.

BYOLC: Bring your own lawn chair!

**Join us at Totus Tuus Summer Camp!**

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

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

EVENING PROGRAM (for students entering grade 7-12 in September) - \$40/child for the week

Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

**The deadline to register for the camp is June 30th, 2023.** Parishioners are invited to volunteer! We need student volunteers (age 13-18) and adult volunteers (18+) to help the children and youth stay safe, have fun and grow in their faith.

**The deadline to apply to volunteer is June 1st, 2023.**

For more information about volunteering or to register, please email Cassandra at [cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org](mailto:cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org) or contact the parish office.

**Volunteer Appreciation Night  
Thursday, June 1, 2023  
at 7:00pm, Parish Centre  
IT'S BACK!**

Fr. Francisco would like to thank all in Ministry by invitation to join us for hors d'oeuvres, wine and friendly fellowship.

Please RSVP to the parish office by email or phone call [stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org) or 905-668-3676

**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 1 Peter 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**

Registration May 6/7 after all Masses, or by calling parish office or Catherine Ingram (905 665-0933) Payment upon registration.

ARE YOU THE ENVELOPE OWNER?  
PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF  
YOUR ENVELOPE NUMBER IS:  
36 188 691  
PLEASE CALL 905-668-3676 ASAP.



**ShareLife and World Communications Day**

*On this World Communications Day, your support of ShareLife is improving the lives of Deaf people in our community.*

More than 60% of families with a Deaf child do not know or use a signing language. Silent Voice, a ShareLife agency, is able to provide an array of accessible programs and services, responding to the needs of Deaf adults, youth, children, infants, and their families in American Sign Language (ASL). This is because of you. The help and support you give brings hope and changes many lives. Thank you for your generosity.

Thus far we have raised **[insert total raised]** 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](http://sharelife.org/donate).



Masses For The Week

Sat May 20 – 5:00pm

+Broderick, Howard & Harrington Families  
*req. by Joe & Joy*

**\*\* Time Change\*\* Mon May 22 – 9:00am Victoria Day Holiday**

+Andrew Marioselva  
*req. by Christine & Children*

Tues May 23 – 8:20am

+Greg Steffler  
*req. by Kathie Steffler*

Wed May 24 – 7:00pm

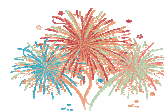
+Stewart Hamilton  
*req. by The Hamilton Family*  
+Harrington, Broderick & McLellan Families  
*req. by Joe & Joy*  
+Patrick Treacy Jr.  
*req. by His Family*  
+Patrick Fitzpatrick  
*req. by The Murray Family*  
+Patrick Fitzpatrick  
*req. by Ellen & John McGarvey*

Thur May 25 – 8:20am

+Clorilinda Garritano  
*req. by Nina & Family*

Friday May 26 – 8:20am

+Mario Veltri  
*req. by Nina & Family*



*Have a wonderful Victoria Day  
Weekend  
The office is closed Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup>*

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