

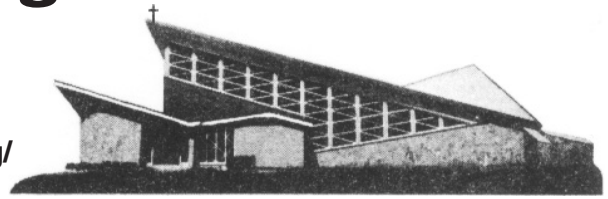
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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<br>Finance Council   | Fr. Francisco Fernandez<br>Paul D'Aurelio   | 905-668-3676<br>905-665-3056   |
| Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA<br>Baptism<br>First Reconciliation & First Eucharist Preparation<br>Confirmation Preparation<br>Parish Home Catechism Program   | Christine Hannon<br>Fr. Francisco<br>Susan Douglas<br>Susan Douglas<br>Lorraine Thomas  | 905-444-9913<br>905-668-3676<br>905-668-3676<br>905-668-3676<br>905-409-1743   |
| Altar Servers<br>Auxiliary Ministers of Communion<br>Choir<br>Feed the Hungry<br>Home Communion<br>Lay Pastoral Visitation<br>Lectors<br>Liturgy of the Word with Children (JK-Gr.2) Sun. 9:00 a.m. Mass<br>Ministers of Consolation<br>Parish Prayer Group<br>Ushers | Breandán Orian McCallister<br>Fred Shady<br>Kevin Dashney<br>Paula Campbell<br>Clark Weddell<br>Iris McNulty<br>Deidre Newman<br>Phyllis Pereira<br>Anne Marie Yaraskavitch<br>Klara Bari<br>Sharon Weslake | 905-668-3676<br>905-668-1081<br>905-432-1173<br>905-668-2293<br>905-434-8121<br>905-668-3218<br>905-665-6360<br>905-665-5917<br>905-666-3860<br>905-668-9579<br>905-668-4817 |
| Catholic Women's League<br>Development & Peace (CCODP)<br>Knights of Columbus #4895<br>St. Vincent de Paul Society - Help Line  | Lynne Childerhouse<br>Estela Rios<br>John Stafford  | 905-431-6582<br>905-430-7753<br>905-809-1731<br>905-430-6734   |
| Catholic Cemeteries<br>Catholic Family Services<br>Rose of Durham (Young Parent Support Services)   | Oshawa 905-725-3513<br>1-800-241-3534   | Ajax<br>or<br>905-668-8912<br>905-428-1984<br>905-432-3622   |
| <b>St. John the Evangelist School</b> 905-668-4011<br>1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3<br><b>St. Luke the Evangelist School</b> 905-665-5828<br>55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9<br><b>Durham Catholic District School Board</b>                                  | <b>St. Marguerite d'Youville School</b><br>250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1<br><b>All Saints Catholic Secondary School</b><br>3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1<br>905-576-6150                            | 905-666-9301<br>905-666-7753<br>www.dcdsb.ca   |

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents the election of Eliakim as master of the household instead of Shebna. The Lord gave him authority to rule over the house of Jerusalem and to look after the good of the people. He has been chosen because He will provide for the interests of his people rather than his own. This prophecy was fulfilled in St. Peter when Christ put him as the one who will rule the Church serving God's people. All of us have positions and roles that are fruitful when we carry them out for the sake of others. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to Romans, offers us a beautiful hymn that praises the providential plan of God for our lives. It is amazing and wonderful to recognize that the events of our every day lives are guided by the loving hand of God. Most of the times, we think that we must be the ones that provide and worry for the needs of our lives. It is true that we need to do everything that we can to benefit our lives. However, God who loves us so much, provides and gives us what we need beyond our imagination and expectations. Whatever happens in our lives is not out of chance and coincidence, but it is fruit of the providential love of God for us. It encourages us to entrust our lives to God knowing that He will give us what we need to be fulfilled and at peace. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, brings us the episode in which St. Peter confesses that Jesus is the promised Messiah and Savior who everybody was expecting. At that time, many people have ideas and concepts about Jesus. He asks his disciples to express who Jesus is for them. Peter, moved by the Holy Spirit, declares that Jesus is the Son of the living God. Because of this profession of faith, His name from now will be Peter and he is entrusted with the role of being in charge of the Church. Since then, every pope in the Church has been in authority and serving the people of God. The role of the Church is bringing people to Christ so that they can experience His saving power. Therefore, the Church is being governed by Christ and the Holy Spirit and she has been built since then in solid foundation. St. Peter and any future pope has the role of bringing unity to the whole Church by serving God's people and bringing them to Christ. All of us are called to deepen our faith and experience in our lives the marvels that Christ does for us. Let us ask the Lord to give us a strong faith in which we can recognize the amazing love of God everyday of our lives!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

### Pope Francis' Homily for the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (August 23, 2020)

This Sunday's Gospel reading (see Mt 16:13-20) presents the moment in which Peter professes his faith in Jesus as Messiah and Son of God. The Apostle's confession is provoked by Jesus Himself, who wishes to lead His disciples to take the decisive step in their relationship with Him. Indeed, the entirety of Jesus's journey with those who follow Him, especially with the Twelve, is one of educating their faith. First of all, He asks: "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" (v. 13). The Apostles liked talking about people, as we all do. We like to gossip. Speaking of others is not so demanding, this is why we like it; even "flaying" others. In this case the perspective of faith rather than gossip is already required, and so He asks, "What do the people say I am?". And the disciples seem to compete in reporting the different opinions, which perhaps, to a large extent, they themselves shared. They too shared them. In essence, Jesus of Nazareth was considered to be a prophet (v. 14).

With the second question, Jesus touches them to the core: "But what about you? ... Who do you say I am?" (v. 15). At this point, we seem to perceive a moment of silence, as each one of those present is called to put themselves on the line, manifesting the

reason why they follow Jesus; therefore, a certain hesitation is more than legitimate. Even if I were to ask you now, "For you, who is Jesus?", there would be a little hesitation. Simon takes them off the hook by declaring forthrightly, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (v. 16). This answer, so complete and enlightening, does not come from an impulse of his own, however generous - Peter was generous - but rather is the fruit of a particular grace of the heavenly Father. Indeed, Jesus Himself says, "This was not revealed to you by flesh and blood" - that is, by culture, what you have studied, no this has not revealed it to you. It was revealed to you "by my Father in heaven" (v. 17). To confess Jesus is a grace of the Father. To say that Jesus is the Son of the living God, who is the Redeemer, is a grace that we must ask for: "Father, give me the grace of confessing Jesus". At the same time, the Lord acknowledges Simon's prompt response to the inspiration of grace and therefore adds, in a solemn tone, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it". (v. 18). With this affirmation, Jesus makes Simon aware of the meaning of the new name He has given him, "Peter": the faith he has just shown is the unshakeable "rock" on which the Son of God wishes to build His Church, that is, community. And the Church goes forward always on the basis of Peter's faith, that faith that Jesus recognises [in Peter] and which makes him the head of the Church.

Today, we hear Jesus's question directed to each one of us: "And you, who do you say I am?". To each one of us. And every one of us must give not a theoretical answer, but one that involves faith, that is, life, because faith is life! "For me you are ..." and then to confess Jesus. An answer that demands that we too, like the first disciples, inwardly listen to the voice of the Father and its consonance with what the Church, gathered around Peter, continues to proclaim. It is a matter of understanding who Christ is for us: if He is the centre of our life, if He is the goal of our commitment in the Church, our commitment in society. Who is Jesus Christ for me? Who is Jesus Christ for you, for you, for you ...? An answer that we should give every day.

But beware: it is indispensable and praiseworthy that the pastoral care of our communities be open to many forms of poverty and crises, which are everywhere. Charity is always the high road of the journey of faith, of the perfection of faith. But it is necessary that works of solidarity, the works of charity that we carry out, not divert us from contact with the Lord Jesus. Christian charity is not simple philanthropy but, on the one hand, it is looking at others through the eyes of Jesus Himself and, on the other hand, seeing Jesus in the face of the poor. This is the true path of Christian charity, with Jesus at the centre, always.

May Mary Most Holy, blessed because she believed, be our guide and model on the path of faith in Christ, and make us aware that trust in Him gives full meaning to our charity and to all our existence.

### Nourish

#### Caring for the Caregiver

Virtually every one of us will care for a loved one at some time in our life. Though rewarding, it's not always easy. Nourish for Caregivers is for anyone juggling the challenges of everyday life, health, career and caring for an aging parent, spouse, child or grandparent, in town or at a distance. Nourish provides caregivers a faith perspective, as well as practical and emotional support, useful tools, and share experience. Discover the blessings that come from caring for another.

Please join us for a meeting Monday, October 2, 2023 in the St. Joseph's Room at 7:30pm

For more information please visit [www.NourishForCaregivers.com](http://www.NourishForCaregivers.com), or contact Robert MacLennan, 905-668-3676 or email [stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org)

AUGUST 27, 2023

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday Sept 6, 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@rogers.com](mailto:bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com) or call 416-508-9877

#### CWL GENERAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for our start-up meeting, Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 p.m. in the main room of the parish centre. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or [lchilderhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:lchilderhouse@hotmail.com).

**Feast Day St. Michael & Conferral of the Pallium upon the Most Rev. Francis Leo**  
**Friday, September 29, 2023 @5:30pm**  
**St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica 65 Bond St**

The Archdiocese of Toronto celebrates the feast day of our archdiocesan patron, St. Michael, on Friday September 29, 2023. All are welcome to join in a special celebration on that day at 5:30pm. Archbishop Francis Leo will celebrate Mass, with music from the world-renowned St. Michael's Choir School. As part of the celebration, the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, the Most Rev. Ivan Jurkovic will confer the pallium on our archbishop, a symbol of his role as Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto and shepherd to the faithful.

Following Mass, will be an informal reception with light refreshments in the St. Michael's Cathedral atrium and courtyard. Seating will be first come, first served. All are welcome to join in this celebration for our archdiocese and archbishop!

#### R.C.I.A.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) provides instruction and spiritual formation to anyone 16 years of age and older who are not baptized, or baptized in another Christian community, who would like to become a member of the Catholic Church. Catholic adults who have not yet celebrated their First Eucharist or the Sacrament of Confirmation may also take part. RCIA Sessions take place on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9pm in the Parish Centre beginning soon. Interested participants should contact Fr. Francisco at the Parish Office as soon as possible to register: (905) 668-3676.



Masses For The Week

Sat Aug 26 – 5:00pm

**+Manuel Silveira**  
*req. by The Silveira Family*

Mon Aug 28 – 8:20am

**+Catherine**  
*req. by Yesu*

Tues Aug 29 – 8:20am

**+Mario Veltri**  
*req. by Nina & Family*

Wed Aug 30 – 7:00pm

**+Mario Drago**  
*req. by Maria LaMonaca*  
**+Peter Fuoco**  
*req. by Carmela & Domenic Fuoco*  
**+Jeyarani Johnpillai**  
*req. by Belshia*

Thur Aug 31 – 8:20am

**+Elisira & Gino Testa**  
*req. by Nina & Family*

Friday Sept 1 – 8:20am

**+Kevin Coughlin**  
*req. by His Family*

#### **Parish Home Catechism Program**

A learning partnership between parents and catechists to teach children about the help them grow in their Catholic faith. Children need to know about their faith and live it to receive the sacraments. Traditionally, the program is for children in public and private schools, however our program is for any child grades 1-8. The program runs from September to early May on Wednesday evenings 6:15pm – 7:15pm, taught by a wonderful group of catechists.

Registration \$60 per child. Please see Lorraine in the foyer after mass to register. A copy of the child's baptism certificate is required for NEW registrants.

#### **SEASON OF CREATION**

**Season of Creation 2023 - September 1st to October 4th**  
*"Let Justice and Peace Flow" Amos 5:24*

The prophet Amos cries out, "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24), and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. Our prayers must call for justice not only for human beings, but for all creation. In covenant with peace, we are called to repent of our ecological sins and to change our attitudes and actions. In the 2021 joint statement of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury and Pope Francis we read: "Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children."

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/mess-ages/pont-messages/2021/documents/20210901-messaggio-protezionedelcreato.html>

Let us join in prayer with all the ends of the earth and inform ourselves on how we can become agents for change.

<https://seasonofcreation.org>

Estela Rios, Development and Peace/Caritas Canada parish representative

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