

St. John the Evangelist Church

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, ON L1N 2S3

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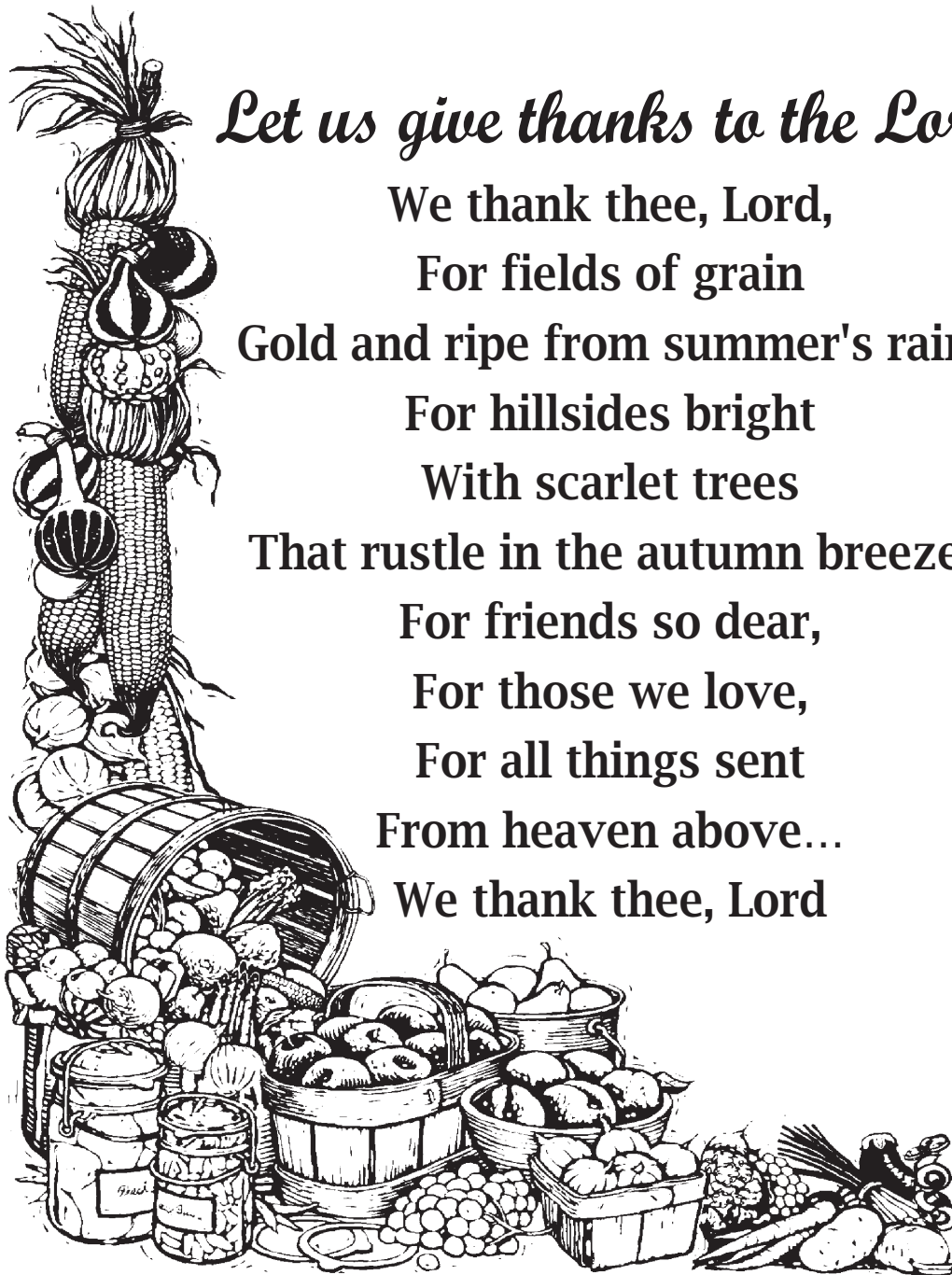
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Pastoral Team

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Rev. Francisco Fernandez Siles | Pastor |
| Mrs. Kristine Blyth | Lay Pastoral Asst. |
| Mrs. Vicki Morgan | Secretary |
| Ms. Cassandra Sullivan | Youth Ministry |

Support Staff

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Mr. Francisco Perez | Caretaker |
| Mrs. Sue McGee | Bookkeeper |
| Mrs. Gail Stewart | Cook/Housekeeper |



Let us give thanks to the Lord

We thank thee, Lord,

For fields of grain

Gold and ripe from summer's rain,

For hillsides bright

With scarlet trees

That rustle in the autumn breeze,

For friends so dear,

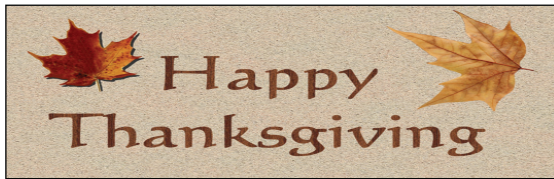
For those we love,

For all things sent

From heaven above...

We thank thee, Lord

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Message from the Pastor
Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents a poem in which Israel is portrayed as the chosen vineyard of God. He has taken care of it by digging, cleaning around, and planting a choice vine. He expected that it will produce good grapes, but it yielded wild and sour grapes. It represents God's care and mercy for Israel and for us. He has given us so many gifts, He has loved us so much, but instead of producing good fruits of holiness, we have yielded fruits of anger, impatience, jealousy, selfishness, and complaint. God wishes that with this appeal we may be grateful for his merciful love and that we can bear fruits of love in abundance. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, offers us an exhortation in which he encourages the community of Philippi to follow the path of goodness and holiness. He encourages us to trust in the Lord especially when feel worried or anxious. Then, God will fill us with an amazing peace, and we will be able to be calm no matter what painful event comes on our way. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, brings us the parable of the wicked tenants of the vineyard. Jesus Christ addresses this parable to the scribes and pharisees since God expected that they will give fruits by welcoming God's grace into their lives, yet they rejected Him and remained close to the offer of salvation. It can seem that God is admonishing us and is angry with us; however, this is a message of love by which God is asking us with compassion that we open the doors of our hearts. It is important to recognise that we do not correspond as we should to God's mercy, that we act with selfishness, anger, ungratefulness, but God does not give up on us. He repays us with mercy, and He gives us a new opportunity to receive the Kingdom of God in our lives. Let us realize that God's insistence is a great act of mercy by which he wishes that our hearts may be totally open to receive Him. Then, we will experience fullness of life and peace. Let us open the doors of our hearts to God's mercy and compassion!

I would like to wish all parishioners a Happy Thanksgiving weekend! May the Lord fill us with a deep sense of gratitude for all His blessings and for the many good gifts with which He continually bestows upon us! When are grateful, our lives are much more fulfilled!

Thanks to the parish staff and all parishioners for everything that you do for our parish so that it can be a welcoming and grateful community!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (October 18, 2017)

This Sunday's liturgy offers us the parable of the tenants to whom a landowner lends the vineyard which he has planted, and then goes away (cf. Mt 21:33-43). This is how the loyalty of these tenants is tested: the vineyard is entrusted to them, they are to tend it, make it bear fruit and deliver its harvest to the owner. When the time

comes to harvest the grapes, the landlord sends his servants to pick the fruit. However, the vineyard tenants assume a possessive attitude. They do not consider themselves to be simple supervisors, but rather landowners, and they refuse to hand over the harvest. They mistreat the servants, to the point of killing them. The landowner is patient with them. He sends more servants, larger in number than the previous ones, but the result is the same. In the end, he patiently decides to send his own Son. But those tenants, prisoners to their own possessive behaviour, also kill the Son, reasoning that, in this way, they would have the inheritance.

This narrative allegorically illustrates the reproaches of the prophets in the story of Israel. It is a history that belongs to us. It is about the Covenant which God wished to establish with mankind and in which he also called us to participate. Like any other love story, this story of the Covenant has its positive moments too, but it is also marked by betrayal and rejection. In order to make us understand how God the Father responds to the rejection of his love and his proposal of an alliance, the Gospel passage puts a question on the lips of the owner of the vineyard: "When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" (v. 40). This question emphasizes that God's disappointment at the wicked behaviour of mankind is not the last word! This is the great novelty of Christianity: a God who, even though disappointed by our mistakes and our sins, does not fail to keep his Word, does not give up and, most of all, does not seek vengeance!

My brothers and sisters, God does not avenge himself. God loves, he does not avenge himself. He waits for us to forgive us, to embrace us. Through the "rejected stones" — and Christ is the first stone that the builders rejected — through situations of weakness and sin, God continues to circulate "the new wine" of his vineyard, namely mercy. This is the new wine of the Lord's vineyard: mercy. There is only one obstacle to the tenacious and tender will of God: our arrogance and our conceit which, at times also becomes violence! Faced with these attitudes where no fruit is produced, the Word of God retains all its power to reprimand and reproach: "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it" (v. 43).

The urgency of replying with good fruits to the call of the Lord, who asks us to become his vineyard, helps us understand what is new and original about the Christian faith. It is not so much the sum of precepts and moral norms but rather, it is first and foremost a proposal of love which God makes through Jesus and continues to make with mankind. It is an invitation to enter into this love story, by becoming a lively and open vine, rich in fruits and hope for everyone. A closed vineyard can become wild and produce wild grapes. We are called to leave this vineyard to put ourselves at the service of our brothers and sisters who are not with us, in order to shake each other and encourage each other, to remind ourselves that we must be the Lord's vineyard in every environment, even the more distant and challenging ones.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us invoke the intercession of the Most Holy Mary, so that she may help us to be everywhere, in particular in the peripheries of society, the vineyard that the Lord planted for the good of all and to bring the new wine of the Lord's mercy.

*The Parish Office is closed on Thanksgiving Monday,
Mass is at 9am.*

OCTOBER 8, 2023

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.

Meetings continue two Mondays per month - Oct 16, 30, Nov 13, 27, Dec 11

For more information please visit www.NourishForCaregivers.com, or contact Robert MacLennan, 905-668-3676 or email stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org

Public Recitation of the Rosary

noon to 1pm on Saturday, October 14th

Our nation is in great need of public prayer, repentance and conversion. We ask God to save Canada through the Rosary of His most Holy Mother. **Please join the Public Square Rosary Crusade at the corner of Cochrane and Dundas Streets.**

CONFIRMATION (GRADE 7)

Registration and Information night
(one parent and candidate to attend)

Tuesday, November 7 at 7:00pm in the Church
(please bring completed registration form, a \$40 fee for program expenses and a photocopy of your child's Baptism Certificate)

Any students not in Catholic School must attend Parish Home Catechism in order to make their sacraments.

Please call the office for more information



Oktoberfest

Dinner & Dance

Saturday October 21, 2023
Knights Hall 133 Brock St N, Whitby
Doors open at 6:30pm
Sausages On Bun - Cash Bar

Dancing to the music of

Die üblichen Verdächtigen

(The Usual Suspects)

Tickets \$25.00 each

(Reserved table with group purchase of 6 or more tickets)

Contact Chris Leahy
905-706-0720 or cdleahy@gmail.com

Parish Directory

New appointment sessions are available for Tues Oct 10th, Wed Oct 11, Mon Oct 16 from 2:30pm to 8:30pm. Please schedule your appointment today if you have not already done so.

Bible Study "When You Pray"

Monday nights Oct 30 – Dec 11

7pm to 8:30pm in the Parish Centre

Prayer is important but we still find it challenging. Perhaps it's hard to find time, or you're unsure what to do when you pray. Or maybe you feel discouraged by your weaknesses and your inability to overcome them.

If you have any of these feelings, you are not alone.

Join us for a bible study focussed on prayer.

Authored and presented by Dr. Edward Sri

Registration is required - \$35 per person

San Juan Diego Latin Dinner and Dance

Eat, Dance and be Merry!!!

- dust off those dancing shoes!!

San Juan Diego Parish Mission invites you to the annual Gala Dinner Dance with a Latin Flair!

Date: Saturday Nov. 4, 2023

Location: La Tosca Banquet Hall

- 800 Champlain Ave. Oshawa

Time: 6pm - 1am (dinner 7pm)

DJ (new), Raffle prizes, 50/50



Masses For The Week

Sat Oct 7 – 5:00pm

40th Wedding Anniversary for Chris & Barb Prior
req. by Christiane Prior

Mon Oct 9 – 9:00am

+Yesu Dass
req. by Yesu

Tues Oct 10 – 8:20am

+Kevin Dashney
req. by The Fitzpatrick Family

Wed Oct 11 – 7:00pm

+Rita Attai
req. by Susan Best & Family
+Agnes Schroer
req. by The LaBarre Family
+Austin Schranz
req. by Ed Schranz
+James Martin
req. by Maureen White
+Deceased members of the Olmedo Family
req. by America Vasconez
In Thanksgiving Manel Molligoda, 70th Birthday
req. by Her Family

Thur Oct 12 – 8:20am

+Kevin Dashney
req. by Gail McMonagle

Fri Oct 13 – 8:20am

+Frances & Herbert Doran
req. by Alice Deehan

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