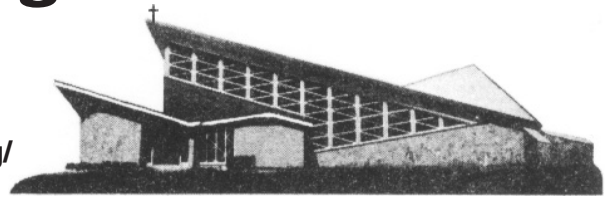


St. John the Evangelist Church

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
 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

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	Fr. Francisco Fernandez	905-668-3676
Finance Council	Paul D'Aurelio	905-665-3056

Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA	Christine Hannon	905-444-9913
Baptism	Fr. Francisco	905-668-3676
First Reconciliation & First Eucharist Preparation	Mrs. Kristine Blyth	905-668-3676
Confirmation Preparation	Mrs. Kristine Blyth	905-668-3676
Parish Home Catechism Program	Lorraine Thomas	905-409-1743

Altar Servers	Cassandra Sullivan	905-668-3676
Auxiliary Ministers of Communion	Fred Shady	905-668-1081
Choir	Eileen McGowan	905-668-0959
Feed the Hungry	Paula Campbell	905-668-2293
Home Communion	Clark Weddell	905-434-8121
Lay Pastoral Visitation	Iris McNulty	905-668-3218
Lectors	Deidre Newman	905-665-6360
Liturgy of the Word with Children (JK-Gr.2) Sun. 9:00 a.m. Mass	Phyllis Pereira	905-665-5917
Ministers of Consolation	Anne Marie Yaraskavitch	905-666-3860
Neocatechumenal Way	Gail Stewart	905-668-3676
Parish Prayer Group	Klara Bari	905-668-9579
Ushers	Sharon Weslake	905-668-4817

Catholic Women's League	Lynne Childerhouse	905-431-6582
Development & Peace (CCODP)	Estela Rios	905-430-7753
Knights of Columbus #4895	John Stafford	905-809-1731
St. Vincent de Paul Society - Help Line		905-430-6734

Catholic Cemeteries	Oshawa 905-725-3513	Ajax	905-668-8912
Catholic Family Services	1-800-241-3534	or	905-428-1984
Rose of Durham (Young Parent Support Services)			905-432-3622

St. John the Evangelist School	905-668-4011	St. Marguerite d'Youville School	905-666-9301
1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3		250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1	
St. Luke the Evangelist School	905-665-5828	All Saints Catholic Secondary School	905-666-7753
55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9		3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1	
Durham Catholic District School Board		905-576-6150	www.dcdsb.ca

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents a beautiful passage in which the Lord invites us to a plentiful banquet for all peoples. He calls us to experience an enduring happiness and a life of fulfillment and peace. If we accept this call to life, we realize that even amidst suffering and struggles we find consolation and support. Only in the Lord can we find the fulfillment of our deepest desires. The only thing that we need to do is to accept this offer that we do not deserve. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, offers us the last part of his letter. The Apostle has welcomed this invitation to Eternal Life from the Lord and consequently he can enter into any situation of his life very much at peace. All this is possible because God sustains St. Paul and enables him to remain at peace facing any situation, even hardships. The promise is given to us as well; how much we would like to remain at peace all times, but we all grumble and doubt in difficult situations. However, God's grace can make it possible for us to remain calm in any kind of struggles. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, brings us the parable of the wedding guests who are invited to a succulent banquet. This passage tells us that God has called to share in the banquet which He has prepared. This banquet is an image of the Kingdom of Heaven and Eternal Life to which we are called. It is what can really satisfy and fulfill the deepest desires of our hearts. We have been called out of the sheer gratuitous gift from God and is not a reward from anything that we have done. The Lord encourages us to answer to this call and participate in this banquet by wearing a white dress. This dress represents the transformation that God's grace carries out in our hearts and enables us to love others unconditionally. Let us answer promptly to this loving invitation from the Lord and experience fullness of life and peace!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (October 15, 2017)

The parable we have heard speaks to us of the Kingdom of God as a wedding feast (cf. Mt 22,1-14). The protagonist is the son of the king, the groom, in which it is easy to catch a glimpse of Jesus. In the parable, however, we never talk about the bride, but about the many guests, invited and expected: they are the ones who wear the bridal wear. Those guests are us, all of us, because with each of us the Lord wishes to "celebrate the wedding". Marriage ushers in the communion of all life: it is what God desires with each of us. Our relationship with him, then, cannot be only that of subjects devoted to the king, of faithful servants with the master or of diligent schoolchildren with the master, but is above all that of the beloved bride with the groom. In other words, the Lord desires us, seeks and invites us, and is not satisfied that we fulfil good duties and observe his laws, but he wants with us a true communion of life, a relationship made of dialogue, trust and forgiveness.

This is Christian life, a love story with God, where the Lord takes the initiative for free and where none of us can boast the exclusive invitation: no one is privileged over others, but each one is privileged before God. From this free, tender and privileged love, Christian life is always born and reborn. We can ask ourselves whether, at least once a day, we confess our love for Him to the Lord; if we remember, among many words, to say to him every day: "I love you Lord. You are my life." Because, if love is lost, Christian life becomes sterile, it becomes a soulless body, an impossible

morality, a set of principles and laws to make ends meet without a reason. Instead, the God of life awaits a response from life, the Lord of love waits for a response of love. Addressing a Church in the Book of Revelation, He makes a precise rebuke: "You have abandoned your first love" (2:4). Here is the danger: a routine Christian life, where we are content with "normality", without momentum, without enthusiasm, and with short memory. Instead, let us revive the memory of first love: we are the beloved, the wedding guests, and our life is a gift, because every day is the magnificent opportunity to respond to the invitation.

But the Gospel warns us: the invitation can be rejected. Many of the guests said no, because they were taken over by their own interests: "they did not care and went away, one to his farm, and another to his business", says the text (Mt 22.5). One word comes back: "his"; is the key to understanding the reason for rejection. The guests, in fact, did not think that the wedding was sad or boring, but simply "did not care": they were distracted by "their" interests, they preferred to have something rather than get involved, as love requires.

Then the Gospel asks us which side we are on: on the side of oneself or on God's side? Because God is the opposite of selfishness, of self-reference. He, the Gospel tells us, in the face of the constant rejections he receives, in the face of the refusals of his invitations, he goes on, he does not postpone the feast. He does not resign, but he continues to invite. In the face of the "no's", he does not slam the door, but includes even more people.

There is one final aspect that the Gospel emphasizes: the dress of the guests, which is indispensable. It is not enough to answer once the invitation, to say "yes" and that's it, but you have to put on the clothe, you need the habit of living love every day. Because one cannot say "Lord, Lord" without living and applying God's will (cf. Mt 7,21). We need to clothe ourselves every day with his love, to renew God's choice every day. crucified him. We too received in Baptism the white robe, the bridal garment for God. Let us ask Him, through the intercession of these holy brothers and sisters of ours, for the grace to choose and wear this dress every day and to keep it clean. How do I do it? Above all, by going to receive without fear the Lord's forgiveness: this is the decisive step to enter the wedding hall to celebrate the feast of love with Him.



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

BUNDLE WEEKEND Nov 11-12, 2023

A truck will be parked in St. John Parish parking lot over the weekend Nov 11th, 12th accepting gently used/new clothing, coats, linens, towels, bedding, textiles, drapery, shoes/boots.

We CANNOT accept furniture, appliances, mattresses, used baby equipment, 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. Assistance provided to load your donation onto the truck. Thank you!

World Mission Collection October 21/22, 2023

This worldwide collection for the missionary church assists at-need Catholic communities globally. For more information, please visit the [Society for the Propagation of the Faith](#).

Handicraft Holy Land Christians

On the weekend of Oct 21-22, we will welcome our special guest from Sebastien Cardinal's team, representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after all the masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and will have many unique hand carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase after every mass. Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. May God Bless you for your generosity, for you help and for your prayers." *Cash, debit, credit cards and cheque will be accepted.*
You can visit and support us at www.HolylandChristians.ca

FREE CATHOLIC ESTATE PLANNING WEBINAR Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Learn:
· How to avoid problems: in your Will, in the Powers of Attorney, and through proper Estate Trustee selection
· How to create your own legacy
· About our Catholic traditions around cremation, burials, and funerals
To register, email to: Development@ArchToronto.org and write "webinar Oct 28" in the title line + your name(s) in the body of the message.



Masses For The Week

Sat Oct 14 – 5:00pm
+Giacomo Bellotto
req. by Elisa Bellotto & Family

Mon Oct 16 – 8:20am
+Humberto Schenflege
req. by His Family

Tues Oct 17 – 8:20am
+Kevin Dashney
req. by Jim & Veronica Larkin

Wed Oct 18 – 7:00pm
+John Robinson
req. by Theresa Robinson
+Mark Harris
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family

In Thanksgiving for Parisioner's Prayers
req. by America Vasconez
+Gill Dunn
req. by Clark & Patricia Weddell
+Walter Ratnasingham
req. by His Family
+Betty Mendez
req. by Her Family

Thur Oct 19 – 8:20am
+Guilhermina Rocha & John Lentz
req. by Herminia Moniz

Fri Oct 20 – 8:20am
Person Intentions
req. by Nina Veltri

Tabernacle Candle for Gerard, Oct 8 - 14
Tabernacle Candle for Cynthia Gibbs Oct 15 – 21, requested by Mary Yearwood



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

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(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

Knights of Columbus Bottle Drive For Special Olympics
Oct 21/22, 2023
Bottle and cash donations are accepted this weekend after all mass outside the parish centre entrance. Donations go to Special Olympics

Nourish Caring for the Caregiver

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

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

Bible Study "When You Pray"

Monday nights Oct 30 – Dec 11
7pm to 8:30pm in the Parish Ctre

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

Tickets \$120 each

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