

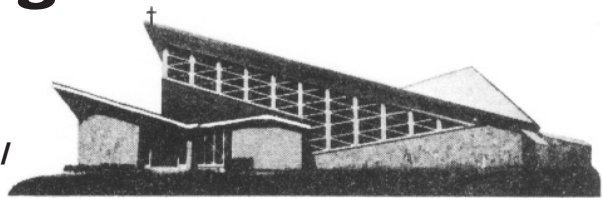
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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  
Rev. Edwin Logroño In Residence  
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 Sudays 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

1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3

**St. Luke the Evangelist School** 905-665-5828

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# OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Ezekiel, presents a beautiful passage in which God is portrayed as the Good Shepherd who takes care of His people. At that time, Israel was on the exile of Babylon, and they were suffering greatly because of their rebelliousness. However, God promises to look after them, to heal them and to bring them back to their own land. Jesus Christ is the One who has brought to fulfillment this prophecy. He is the Good Shepherd who has come to give His life for us so that we may live to the fullest. Let us find hope in the fact that we have someone who cares so much for us. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, proclaims the essential fact that in Christ Risen we share in the hope of the Resurrection. All of us experience the power of sin, sickness, and problems. However, through His Death and Resurrection, Christ has shown that He is stronger than sin and death. He has defeated death through His Resurrection and He makes us sharers in living a new life. What normally takes away our peace, now with God's grace we can overcome. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, brings us the parable which portrays the last judgement. There are those who have served and loved their brothers and sisters in a practical way. Whereas there are those who have not even recognized the needs of those around them. This parable helps us to see that the most important aspect of our lives is the love we show to those around us. To love, first we need to receive love from Christ. It is essential to be aware of how much Christ has loved us. With this in mind, our eyes are open to recognize the needs of those around us and with the strength of Christ, we can love them as we have been loved. This is what fulfills our life and gives real meaning to every moment of our existence. On the contrary, when we are caught up in our pride in our own needs, then we cannot love others, we remain empty. Let us ask the Lord that in this feast of Christ the King we can recognize that He is the One who reigns by loving unconditionally and that He may bring us to love others in the same way!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily for the Solemnity of Christ the King  
(November 22, 2020)

We have just heard the page of Matthew's Gospel that comes immediately before the account of Christ's Passion. Before pouring out his love for us on the cross, Jesus shares his final wishes. He tells us that the good we do to one of our least brothers and sisters – whether hungry or thirsty, a stranger, in need, sick or in prison – we do to him (cf. Mt 25:37-40). In this way, the Lord gives us his "gift list" for the eternal wedding feast he will share with us in heaven. Those gifts are the works of mercy that make our life eternal. Each of us can ask: Do I put these works into practice? Do I do anything for someone in need? Or do I do good only for my loved ones and my friends? Do I help someone who cannot give anything back to me? Am I the friend of a poor person? And there are many other similar questions we can ask ourselves. "There I am", Jesus says to you, "I am waiting for you there, where you least think and perhaps may not even want to look: there, in the poor". I am there, where the dominant thought, according to which life is going well if it goes well for me, does not find interesting. I am there. Jesus also says these words to you, young people, as you strive to realize your dreams in life.

I am there. Jesus spoke these words centuries ago, to a young soldier. He was eighteen years old and not yet baptized. One day he saw a poor man who was begging people for help but received none, since "everyone walked by". That young man, "seeing that others were not moved to compassion, understood that the poor person was there for him. However, he had nothing with him, only his uniform. He cut his cloak in two and gave half to the poor person and was met with mocking laughter from some of the bystanders. The following night he had a dream: he saw Jesus, wearing the half of the cloak he had wrapped around the poor person, and he heard him say: 'Martin, you covered me with this cloak'" (cf. Sulpicius Severus, Vita Martini, III). Saint Martin was that young man. He had that dream because, without knowing it, he had acted like the righteous in today's Gospel.

## Archbishop's Consultation

A letter from Archbishop Francis Leo was inserted in last week's bulletin. Extra copies are available at the back counter of the church. Please go online to respond to his request for the top three things you believe should be addressed in this year's Pastoral Plan. Please complete the short survey before December.

<http://www.archtoronto.org/consultation>



## **The Advent Season begins next week**

The Catholic Church Liturgical Year starts with the 1st Sunday of Advent on December 3, 2023  
Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Latin "adventus" (Preparation)  
Marks the four Sundays before Christmas

## Advent Wreaths

Part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas. Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (John 3:19-21).

- The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life.
- The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the everlasting life found in Christ.
- The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time.

The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday which is called Gaudete Sunday. It is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas.

- Only one purple candle is lit during the first week, two in the second week, three (incl. the pink one) in the third week, and all four during the fourth week of Advent. The gradually increasing light symbolizes the approach of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

· A fifth candle (white) can be added in the middle of the wreath for Christmas Eve and Day (or replace all four purple and pink candles with white ones) symbolizing the arrival of Christ, the light of the world. Light the white candle(s) until The Baptism of the Lord.



Families are encouraged to observe Advent by gathering around a wreath for brief Advent prayers and readings lighting the appropriate number of candles for each week.

Traditions assign specific symbolism to each

of the candles:

- 1) The Prophet's Candle, symbolizing Hope
- 2) The Bethlehem Candle, symbolizing Love & Faith
- 3) The Shepherd's Candle, symbolizing Joy
- 4) The Angel's Candle, symbolizing Peace.

#### CONFIRMATION RITE OF ENROLMENT

Saturday Dec 2nd 5:00pm Mass

Sunday Dec 3rd 9:00am or 11:00am

Please bring Rite of Enrolment Card received at registration.



Masses For The Week

Sat Nov 25– 5:00pm

+Cloutilda D'Souza  
*req. by Melissa Yip*

Mon Nov 27 – 8:20am

+John & Doris Garden  
*req. by Pat McDonald*

Tues Nov 28 – 8:20am

+Kevin Coughlin  
*req. by Mary Jean*

Wed Nov 29 – 7:00pm

Intentions for All Souls

+Belarmino Moniz

*req. by His Family*

+Marie Choueiry

*req. by Her Family*

+Veronica Agnes Siqueira

*req. by The Coleman Family*

+Noel Vaz

*req. by Nina Veltri & Family*

+Kathleen Tebbutt

*req. by The DeFreitas Family*

Thur Nov 30 – 8:20am

+Giovanni & Rosina Ciardullo  
*req. by Anna & Natale Ciardullo*

Fri Dec 1 – 8:20am

+Cloutilda D'Souza  
*req. by Michelle Yip & Family*

First Friday Adoration 9am – 10am  
and 7pm – 8pm with opportunity for confession



Children's Christmas Choir rehearsals

Sat Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2:30-4pm – PC Rm 2

#### Carol Evening, Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> December

immediately following the 5 pm Mass. We will be joined by La Jeunesse Youth Orchestra and All Saints School Choir. All are welcome to join us. Hot Chocolate, Mulled Cider and Cookies will be served in the foyer after Caroling.

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday Dec 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 we will be at the back of the Church after all masses the weekend of Dec 2/3 and at Social Sunday in the Parish Centre or contact Membership Director Bryan Childerhouse

[bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com](mailto:bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com) or call 416-508-9877

#### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 2, 2023,

8am – 10:30am

Knights' Hall – 133 Brock St. N

\$6 per person, or \$20 per family

Come and enjoy a hot breakfast before the Santa Claus Parade!

#### Reconciliation Evening Service

Sunday December 17, 2023 at 7pm in the church

*Several priests available*

Archdiocese Day of Confessions in St. John's Parish

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

9:30am – 11:30am

2:00pm – 4:00pm, 7:00pm – 8:00pm

New 2024 Offertory envelopes are available in the foyer for pickup. If you had a box in 2023, the same number is for 2024. New boxes MUST BE SIGNED OUT WITH YOUR BOX NUMBER, NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER ON THE LINED PAD PROVIDED.



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