

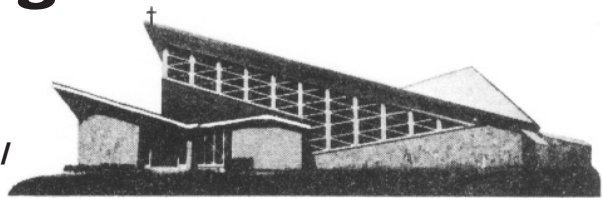
St. John the Evangelist Church

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
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

55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9

Durham Catholic District School Board

St. Marguerite d'Youville School

250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1

All Saints Catholic Secondary School

3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1

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905-666-7753

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we start a new liturgical year with the season of Advent. It is a time that helps us to wait in hope for the coming of the Lord. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents a passage in which the people of Israel are in the exile of Babylon, and they ask God to rescue them. They are aware that they are suffering and experiencing the consequences of their rebelliousness. They beg God to come and free them from their sins. At times, we go through periods in life when we feel dry or our hearts are hardened, yet the Lord wishes that we ask Him for help. His help means renewal and transformation. Let us not be discouraged because the Lord is always ready to come to help us no matter what we have done in the past. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, brings a part of the opening lines of the letter. St. Paul reminds the Christian Community of Corinth that they have been chosen to experience God's grace in their lives. He has poured out on them many gifts and they have seen God's action in their lives. They are encouraged to remain faithful until the end expecting the coming of the Lord. They can do that because of God's faithfulness and also being aware of God's constant generosity. We need to be grateful for so many good deeds that the Lord has acted on us. We are called to persevere and to be fruitful until the end. When we encountered struggles and hardships, it is difficult to remain hopeful. We are tempted to get discouraged and lose heart. However, the Lord assures us that we can trust in Him and that He is faithful. He will always help us, and He will give us all the graces that need to face events to come. The Gospel, from St. Mark, brings us a passage in which the Lord encourages us to wait in joyful hope for His coming. During the time of Advent, we wait for the Lord to come at the end of our lives, at Christmas and every day of our lives. We do not know when the moment is that we are called into God's presence. We do not need to be scared or afraid, but we need to have a strong relationship with God so that when that happens, we welcome Him with open hearts. We need to prepare for the coming of the Lord at Christmas when He comes to share our weaknesses. The Lord also comes constantly to our lives in daily events. This attitude of being awake and ready helps us to realize that the Lord comes always to give us so much. We need to be always open to receive so much and we cannot let this moment pass by. Advent is a time that calls us to be aware of how much we need God to fill our lives. Then, our hearts will be wide open to receive even more than we expect. To sleep means to be discouraged and wait. Nothing is new in our lives. Let us ask the Lord to enkindle our hearts and be always expectant for the coming of the Lord who always comes to renew us!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily for the First Sunday of Advent B (December 3, 2017) Today we begin the journey of Advent, which will culminate in Christmas. Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return. He will return to us in the celebration of Christmas, when we will remember his historic coming in the humility of the human condition; but he enters our heart each time we are willing to receive him; and he will come again at the end of time to "judge the living and the dead". Therefore, we must always be vigilant and await the Lord with the hope of encountering him. Today's liturgy

introduces us precisely to this evocative theme of vigilance and waiting.

In the Gospel (cf. Mk 13:33-37) Jesus exhorts us to take heed and watch, so as to be ready to welcome him at the moment of his return. He tells us: "Take heed, watch ... for you do not know when the time will come.... Watch therefore ... lest he come suddenly and find you asleep" (vv. 33-37).

The person who takes heed is the one who, amid the worldly din, does not let himself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality, but lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost for others. With this manner we become aware of the tears and the needs of neighbours and we can also understand their human and spiritual strengths and qualities. The heedful person then also turns toward the world, seeking to counter the indifference and cruelty in it, and taking delight in its beautiful treasures which also exist and are to be safeguarded. It is a matter of having an understanding gaze so as to recognize both the misery and poverty of individuals and of society, and to recognize the richness hidden in little everyday things, precisely there where the Lord has placed us.

The watchful person is the one who accepts the invitation to keep watch, that is, not to let himself be overpowered by the listlessness of discouragement, by the lack of hope, by disappointment; and at the same time it wards off the allure of the many vanities with which the world is brimming and for which, now and then, time and personal and familial peace is sacrificed. It is the painful experience of the people of Israel, recounted by the Prophet Isaiah: God seemed to have let his people err from his ways (cf. 63:17), but this was a result of the unfaithfulness of the people themselves (cf. 64:4b). We too often find ourselves in this situation of unfaithfulness to the call of the Lord: He shows us the good path, the way of faith, the way of love, but we seek our happiness elsewhere.

Being attentive and watchful are prerequisites so as not to continue to "err from the Lord's ways", lost in our sins and in our unfaithfulness; being attentive and being watchful are the conditions that allow God to permeate our existence, in order to restore meaning and value to it with his presence full of goodness and tenderness. May Mary Most Holy, role model for awaiting God and icon of watchfulness, lead us to her son Jesus, rekindling our love for him.

Advent Wreath Suggested Daily Readings

Leader: The Lord is our faith and our life.

All: May the Lord's peace be with us all.

Leader: And may his love shine in our hearts.

All: Our hope is in the coming of the Lord.

Light the candle(s). During the week, re-light the candle(s) whenever the family gathers together.

Scripture Reading

Leader: Let us pray that our faith may be strengthened for the coming of the Lord.

All: Amen

1st Week – One purple candle is lit.

Suggested Scripture Readings:

Sunday Isaiah 64: 1-9
Monday Romans 8: 18-25
Tuesday Romans 3: 19-26
Wednesday Exodus 12: 21-27
Thursday John 1: 1-9
Friday Isaiah 11: 1-9
Saturday John 18: 33-38



Masses For The Week

Sat Dec 2 – 5:00pm

+Michael Fernandes
req. by the Fernandes Family

Mon Dec 4 – 8:20am

+Judy Tayeb & Bobby Graham
req. by Gail Stewart

Tues Dec 5 – 8:20am

+Ron McAteer
req. by The Rich Family

Wed Dec 6 – 7:00pm

+Debbie Beegan
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family
+Frank McNulty
req. by The Newman Family
+Kathleen Tebbutt
req. by The DeFreitas Family
+Mark Harris
req. by Shirley Harris & Family
+Ralph McCloskey
req. by His Family

Thur Dec 7 – 8:20am

+Marcel LaBarre
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family

Fri Dec 8 – 8:20am

+Frank McNulty
req. by Valerie James



Children's Christmas Choir rehearsals
Dec 9th, Dec 16th, Dec 23rd
2:30-4pm – PC Rm 2

Carol Evening, Saturday, 16th 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.

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.

FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT INFORMATION MEETING TUESDAY JANUARY 23RD 2024

7:00pm-8:00pm

In the Church. Parent only meeting.
First Eucharist workbooks and Rite of Enrolment card
will be distributed.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Classes begin Saturday February 3rd 2024

Parish Centre

Parents will be contacted in January with more information.

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

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 or call 416-508-9877

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY & SUNDAY DECEMBER 23, 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5PM, 9AM 11AM, 2PM SPANISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

****6PM & 9PM****

MONDAY DECEMBER 25, 2023

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9AM, 11AM, 2PM SPANISH

TUESDAY DECEMBER 26, 2023

ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

9:00AM

OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY

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