

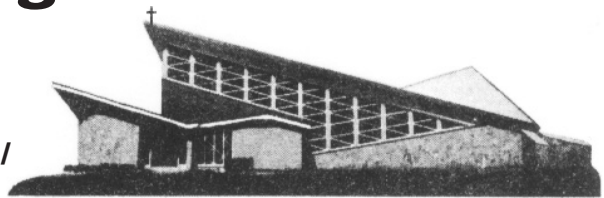
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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

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

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Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the  
Second Sunday of Advent.  
The First Reading, from the

Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents the introductory verses of the message of Consolation addressed to the people of Israel. They have been in Exile for a long time, and they feel very much discouraged and hopeless. God is aware of their struggles, and He announces to them that He will deliver them from Exile and bring them back to the Promised Land. The people of Israel are called to hope and to put their trust in this message of salvation which is announced to them. We also go through difficult times and struggles, and it seems that there is no hope for future. Yet, God encourages us to realize that He is with us and that He will help us in any difficult situation. Let us lift up our eyes to God who is always there to sustain us and to console us. The Second Reading, from the Second Letter of the apostle St. Peter, brings an exhortation to hope and to put our trust in God. The community of Rome was waiting eagerly for the coming of the Lord, but nothing was happening. They slowly started to become complacent and sluggish. St. Peter reminded them to enkindle their hope because God is preparing for them a new heaven and a new earth. If God is being patient and takes His time to act, it is because He wants people to repent. We should realize that the season of Advent prepares us to be aware that the Lord is preparing for us a new life in which we can love each other unconditionally. We are called to open our hearts to the Lord so that He may fulfill this desire to fill us with life and peace. The Gospel, from St. Mark, brings us the figure of St. John the Baptist. He is an important figure during the season of Advent because he prepares the coming of the Lord. It is so important to receive the new life that the Lord is preparing for us that God sends a messenger ahead of Him to open our hearts. The message of John the Baptist is one of repentance and hope. We need to repent because we all commit sins. If we have a desire to avoid sin, then the Lord can transform our hearts and we can act in a different way. This time of Advent assures us that the Lord is merciful and that He can renew our hearts if we open them to Him. Let us hope in the Lord as He comes to transform our hearts and to make our lives!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily for the Second Sunday of Advent B (December 6, 2020) This Sunday's Gospel passage (Mk 1:1-8) introduces the person and work of John the Baptist. He reveals to his contemporaries an itinerary of faith similar to the one that Advent proposes to us: that we prepare ourselves to

receive the Lord at Christmas. This itinerary of faith is an itinerary of conversion. What does the word 'conversion' mean? In the Bible it means, first and foremost, to change direction and orientation; and thus also to change one's way of thinking. In the moral and spiritual life, to convert means to turn oneself from evil to good, from sin to love of God. And this is what the Baptist was teaching, who in the desert of Judea was "preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (v. 4). Receiving baptism was an outward and visible sign of the conversion of those who had listened to his preaching and decided to repent. That baptism occurred with immersion in the Jordan, in water, but it proved worthless; it was a only a sign and it was worthless if there was no willingness to repent and change one's life. Conversion involves sorrow for sins committed, the desire to be free from them, the intention to exclude them from one's own life forever. To exclude sin it is also necessary to reject everything that is connected to sin; the things that are connected to sin and that need to be rejected – a worldly mentality, excessive esteem for comforts, excessive esteem for pleasure, for well-being, for wealth. The example illustrating this comes to us once again from today's Gospel in the person of John the Baptist: an austere man who renounces excess and seeks the essential. This is the first aspect of conversion: detachment from sin and worldliness: Commencing a journey of detachment from these things.

The other aspect of conversion is the aim of the journey, that is, the search for God and his kingdom. Detachment from worldly things and seeking God and his kingdom. Abandoning comforts and a worldly mentality is not an end in itself; it is not an asceticism only to do penance: a Christian is not a "fakir". It is something else. Detachment is not an end in itself, but is a means of attaining something greater, namely, the kingdom of God, communion with God, friendship with God. But this is not easy, because there are many ties that bind us closely to sin; it is not easy... Temptation always pulls down, pulls down, and thus the ties that keep us close to sin: inconstancy, discouragement, malice, unwholesome environments, bad examples. At times the yearning we feel toward the Lord is too weak and it almost seems that God is silent; his promises of consolation seem far away and unreal to us, like the image of the caring and attentive shepherd, which resounds today in the reading from Isaiah (40:1,11). And so one is tempted to say that it is impossible to truly convert. How often we have heard this discouragement! "No, I can't do it. I barely start and then I turn back". And this is bad. But it is possible. It is possible. When you have this

discouraging thought, do not remain there, because this is quicksand. It is quicksand: the quicksand of a mediocre existence. This is mediocrity. What can we do in these cases, when one would like to go but feels he or she cannot do it? First of all, remind ourselves that conversion is a grace: no one can convert by his or own strength. It is a grace that the Lord gives you, and thus we need to forcefully ask God for it. To ask God to convert us to the degree in which we open ourselves up to the beauty, the goodness, the tenderness of God. Think about God's tenderness. God is not a bad father, an unkind father, no. He is tender. He loves us so much, like the Good Shepherd, who searches for the last member of his flock. It is love, and this is conversion: a grace of God. You begin to walk, because it is he who moves you to walk, and you will see how he will arrive. Pray, walk, and you will always take a step forward.

May Mary Most Holy, whom we will celebrate the day after tomorrow as the Immaculate Conception, help us to separate ourselves more and more from sin and worldliness, in order to open ourselves to God, to his Word, to his love which restores and saves.



Dan Humphries

Our long-time parishioner Dan Humphries will be ordained as a

Permanent Deacon on May 25, 2024 at St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto. We are delighted to announce that Dan will be serving the people of our parish family at St. John the Evangelist.

Dan is a resident of Whitby. He has been a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist since 2000. He is married to Victoria, and they have two daughters: Nicole attends Laurier University, whilst Ella, an avid hockey goalie, attends high school.

Dan began actively discerning his vocation to the diaconate in 2019, and has been in formation at St Augustine's Seminary since then.

He has discerned that serving the people, as a Deacon, is the way God has chosen for him to best live out his baptismal promises. Both Victoria

and the Church have confirmed his call to serve in this very special way.

Dan is honoured to be able to serve our parish, and he asks for your prayers as he enters the final months of preparation before his Ordination.

*Advent Wreath – Second Week*

*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:

The Bethlehem Candle, symbolizing Love & Faith

### **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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week** – Two purple candles are lit.

### **Suggested Scripture Readings:**

Sunday Luke 1: 46-55  
Monday Acts 4: 5-12  
Tuesday Matthew 3: 13-17  
Wednesday Joshua 1: 1-9  
Thursday Micah: 5: 1-5  
Friday 2 Corinthians 8: 1-9  
Saturday Luke 19: 1-10

**Gift Giving to our Migrant Workers**  
Envelopes are available on the back counter, to make cash, cheque (or gift card donations) to the Migrants Workers in our parish

**area for their Christmas Your cash or cheques will be used to purchase gift cards for them. Tax receipts will be provided for cash or cheque donations only. Thank you!**



**Christmas Flower fund – envelopes are available at the back counter for your donation this Christmas**

**CWL Vendor Fair**  
Thank you to all parishioners and visitors to our vendor fail. We raised \$1,408.50 for our 2024 charitable donations to be issued in January. Valerie J was the winner of \$245.00 in our 50/50. All winners of the vendor prize table have been notified. Thank you again for your continued support.



### **Masses For The Week**

**Sat Dec 9 – 5:00pm**  
**+Jackie Kennedy**  
*req. by Carol Turner*

**Mon Dec 11 – 8:20am**  
**+Frank McNulty**  
*req. by Alice Deehan*

**Tues Dec 12 – 8:20am**  
**+Eloy Olmedo**  
*req. by America Vasconez*

**Wed Dec 13 – 7:00pm**  
**+Joan Schranz**  
*req. by Ed Schranz*  
**+All Souls in Purgatory**  
*req. by Joe & Joy Broderick*  
**+Michele LaBarre Huinink**  
*req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family*  
**+Miroslav Dutczak**  
*req. by The Kirby Family*  
**+Kathleen Tebbutt**  
*req. by The DeFreitas Family*  
**+Mark Harris**  
*req. by Shirley Harris & Family*

**Thur Dec 14 – 8:20am**  
**+Kevin Coughlin**  
*req. by Mary Jean*

**Fri Dec 15 – 8:20am**  
**+Humberto Schenflege**  
*req. by His Family*



**Children's Christmas Choir rehearsals**  
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.

### **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  
More information coming January 2024.

### **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**

### **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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