

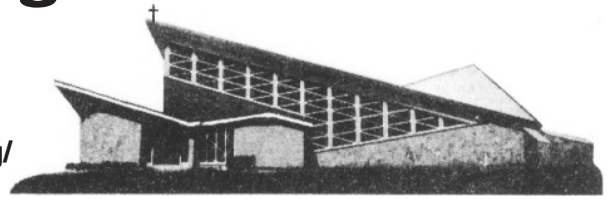
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

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St. Luke the Evangelist School 905-665-5828

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St. Marguerite d'Youville School

250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1

All Saints Catholic Secondary School

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905-666-9301

905-666-7753



Message from the Pastor Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday is called Gaudete, which means rejoice. The coming of the Lord at Christmas is near, and we are called to rejoice. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents encouraging words to the people of Israel as they come back to Jerusalem after being exiled for a long period of time. The city is in ruins and the people are still discouraged. The prophet exhorts them to trust in the Lord, who is going not only to rebuild their city, but much more than that, He is going to transform their hearts. We are called as well to wait for the Lord even in difficult situations. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of the apostle St. Paul to the Thessalonians, offers us the last part of his letter. He encourages them to rejoice at all times, even amidst suffering and trials. They can only do that if they are aware of God's presence in their daily lives. That's why they are called to persevere in prayer, which helps them to be aware that God is always guiding their lives. God is faithful and He will always provide for all their needs. In our every day lives we also face challenges and difficulties. If we face them with our own strength, we cannot make it. We are called to put our trust in the Lord and realize that the Lord will help us to go through anything. He will fill us with hope and peace. The Gospel, from St. John, shows the witness of St. John the Baptist. He was baptizing at the river Jordan and many people were coming to him. The priests and authorities of the Jewish people approached him to ask him with which authority he baptizes people. He has been sent to prepare the way for the Lord. His baptism is one of penance and repentance, which allows the hearts to be opened to the coming of the Lord. The Messiah is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Christ is the One who transforms our hearts and fills us with the Holy Spirit so that we can love as He has loved us. Let us open our hearts widely so that the Lord may fill us with abundant life!

In order to prepare our hearts well for the coming of the Lord, we are encouraged to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On Sunday, December 17th at 7pm we will have several priests available for confessions. On Tuesday, December 19th, we will have the Day of Confessions from 9:30am to 11:30am, 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 8pm. Come and experience the mercy of God!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant,
and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily for the Third Sunday of Advent B (December 6, 2020)

he invitation to joy is characteristic of the season of Advent: the expectation of Jesus' birth that we experience is joyful, somewhat like when we await the visit of a person we love a great deal, for example, a friend whom we have not seen for a long time, a relative.... We are in joyful anticipation. And this dimension of joy emerges particularly today, the Third Sunday, which opens with Saint Paul's exhortation: "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Entrance Antiphon; cf. Phil 4:4, 5). "Rejoice!" Christian joy. And what is the reason for this joy? That "the Lord is at hand" (v. 5). The closer the Lord is to us, the more joy we feel; the farther away he is, the more sadness we feel. This is a rule for Christians. Once a philosopher said something more or less like this: "I do not understand how one can believe today, because those who say they believe have a face from a funeral wake. They do not bear witness of the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ". Many Christians have that face, yes, a face from a funeral wake, a face of sadness.... But Christ is risen! Christ loves you! And you have no joy? Let us think a bit about this and let us ask: "Do I have joy because the Lord is close to me, because the Lord loves me, because the Lord has redeemed me?"

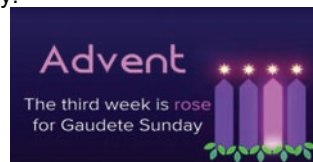
The Gospel according to John today presents us the biblical character who – excluding Our Lady and Saint Joseph – first and most fully experienced the expectation of the Messiah and the joy of seeing him arrive: naturally, we are speaking of John the Baptist (cf. Jn 1:6-8, 19-28).

The Evangelist introduces him in a solemn way: "There was a man sent from God.... He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light" (vv. 6-7). The Baptist is the first witness of Jesus, with the word and with the gift of his life. All the Gospels agree in showing that he fulfilled his mission by indicating Jesus as the Christ, the One sent by God, promised by the Prophets. John was a leader of his time. His renown had spread throughout Judea and beyond, to Galilee. But he did not surrender even for an instant to the temptation to draw attention to himself: he always oriented himself toward the One who was to come. He used to say: "he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie" (v. 27). Always indicating the Lord. Like Our Lady: always indicating the Lord: "Do whatever he tells you". The Lord

is always at the centre. The Saints around him, indicating the Lord. And one who does not indicate the Lord is not holy! This is the first condition of Christian joy: to decentralize from oneself and place Jesus at the centre. This is not alienation, because Jesus is effectively the centre; he is the light that gives full meaning to the life of every man and woman who comes into this world. It is the same dynamism of love, which leads me to come out of myself not to lose myself but to find myself again, while I give myself, while I seek the good of others.

John the Baptist undertook a long journey to come to bear witness to Jesus. The journey of joy is not a walk in the park. It takes work to always be joyful. John left everything, in his youth, to put God in first place, to listen to His Word with all his heart and all his strength. John withdrew into the desert, stripping himself of all things superfluous, in order to be freer to follow the wind of the Holy Spirit. Of course, some of his personality traits are unique, unrepeatable; they cannot be recommended for everyone. But his witness is paradigmatic for whoever wishes to seek the meaning of his or her life and find true joy. In particular, the Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they are able to do so only by detaching from themselves and from worldliness, by not attracting people to themselves but directing them toward Jesus.

This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith. And in dark moments, that inner joy, of knowing that the Lord is with me, that the Lord is with us, that the Lord is Risen. The Lord! The Lord! The Lord! This is the centre of our life, and this is the centre of our joy.



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

3rd Week – Two purple candles and one pink candle are lit.

Suggested Scripture Readings:

Sunday	Hebrews 13: 20-21
Monday	Isaiah 40: 1-11
Tuesday	Corinthians 4: 1-6
Wednesday	John 3: 16-21
Thursday	Psalms 67
Friday	Matthew 2: 13-23
Saturday	1 Chronicles 29: 10-18



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.

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 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



Masses For The Week

Sat Dec – 5:00pm
+Ralph McCloskey
req. by His Family

Mon Dec 18– 8:20am
+Frank McNulty
req. by Elizabeth Joseph & Zenora Mahabal

Tues Dec 19 – 8:20am
+Frank McNulty
req. by Patrick & Barb Treacy

Wed Dec 20 – 7:00pm
+Stewart Hamilton
req. by The Hamilton Family
+Mark Harris
req. by Shirley Harris & Family
+Miroslav Dutczak
req. by Margaret Paterson
+Brian Kelly
req. by The McCloskey Family
+Frank McNulty
req. by Joan Rich
+Graciela Reano
req. by America Vasconez

Thur Dec 21 – 8:20am
Intention for Mathias McNulty
req. by Elizabeth Joseph & Zenora Mahabal

Fri Dec 22 – 8:20am
+Andrew Marioselva
req. by Christine & Children

Tabernacle candle for Judy, req. by Mary

ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES!
MARRIAGE PREPARATION
CLASSES

Our next Marriage Preparation Course at St. John the Evangelist will be held in April/May 2024. Call 668-3676 to register.

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

SAT/ SUN DEC 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

SAT/ SUN DEC 30/31, 2023
VIGIL OF THE HOLY FAMILY
5PM, 9AM, 11AM & 2PM SPANISH

SUNDAY DECEMBER 31, 2023
VIGIL OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
5PM WITH ADORATION UNTIL 7PM

MONDAY JANUARY 1, 2024
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
9AM, 11AM, 2PM SPANISH

OFFICE OPENS TUESDAY JAN 2, 2024

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