

# St. John the Evangelist Church

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, ON 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

Mrs. Vicki Morgan

Ms. Cassandra Sullivan

Lay Pastoral Asst.

Secretary

Youth Ministry

## **Support Staff**

Mr. Francisco Perez Caretaker

Mrs. Sue McGee

Mrs. Gail Stewart

Bookkeeper

Cook/Housekeeper



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

I would like to wish to all of you and your families a blessed Christmas.

The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents to us the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah among us. His birth gives light to the whole world and brings joy and peace to everybody. This child is the Son of God, born for us to save us from our sins and to give us Eternal Life. He is a Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. God has made Himself little so that He can enter into our hearts and share our human frailty and we can receive God's tender love. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to Titus, offers us the comforting exhortation that, with the coming of Christ among us, God's unfathomable love has become accessible to us. Christ has been born so that one day He may die and rise for us so that we can be saved. Through Him, we finally receive the gift of a new life. With a grateful heart, let us welcome God's gift of His immense love so that we may be completely restored. The Gospel, from St. Luke, gives us the account of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. He is born in a stable and is placed in a manger. He is born in a manger to show us that later He is going to be our food and nourishment at every Eucharist. He is wrapped in swaddling clothes to symbolize that He has been born with the intention of giving His life for us so that we may be saved. His Incarnation and birth announce already the mystery of His Death and Resurrection. He has become a Son of man, like us, to make of us sons of God. With the birth of Jesus, Heaven has come down to us so that, with Him, we can enter into Heaven. Let us welcome with humble and grateful hearts this wonderful event, Emmanuel, God with us!

I would like to thank all the parishioners for your support, friendship, and prayers. It is truly an amazing gift and a privilege to serve you and to grow with you in faith. Thanks for your cooperation and generous financial support. I am extremely grateful to all the parish staff for their faithful support and hard work. To Vicki Morgan, Gail Stewart, Kristine Blyth, Cassandra Sullivan, Francisco Perez, and Sue McGee, I am deeply grateful for their dedication and love to the parish. Thanks to Fr. Edwin Logrono for sharing his faith and gift of the priesthood with us. I want to thank all the Offertory Counters and the Finance Council for their help and support, Paul D'Aurelio, Lisa Maltby and Bob Koziol. Thanks to our screening committee, Minnie Chillingworth, Christine Marioselva and Cathy Fernandes. Thanks also to all the ladies who have decorated the Church so beautifully, Pat Milburn & Pat Garrard and many others, and to Gail Stewart for the liturgical banners, fresh flowers, and altar changes. Thanks to Stacey Leadbetter for leading us in the Bible studies so well. Thanks to Christine Hannon and all the RCIA team for their faith sharing. Thanks to Lorraine Thomas and all the PHCP team for teaching our children the faith with energy and dedication. Thanks to all the lectors, ushers, and ministers of communion, coordinated by Deidre Newman, Sharon Weslake, and Fred Shady, who have been serving constantly during this year. Thanks to Florence Venner, Lynne Childerhouse and all the ladies who have accommodated and served parishioners at funeral receptions. Thanks to Ron Locas for opening the Church every day in the morning and to Alice Deehan and Marie Fitzpatrick for taking care of the candles. Thanks to Theresa Robinson and the baptismal preparation team for providing monthly classes to help parents pass on faith to their children. Thanks to Joan Willems and her baptismal hospitality for their dedication is assisting with the baptisms during the whole year. Thanks to the Knights for their support to our parish by being always ready to help any time. Thanks to the ladies of the CWL for their dedication and love to the parish. Thanks to our prayer group lead by Klara Bari, for praising the Lord and sharing the faith regularly. Thanks to our Parish Council, Social and Fundraising Committees for their ideas and contributions, Roberta Deschenes, Premila Lobo and Ken Michalko. Thanks to our marriage preparation coordinators Lynne & Bryan Childerhouse and all the couples who have been sharing their journey. Thanks to our home communion teams lead by Clark Weddell, for the

homebound, for Claire Brown and Kathie Steffler for organizing communion and mass at Fairview and for everybody who goes to Taunton Mills as well. Thanks to our Funeral altar servers, lead by Mac Beynon, I am very grateful because you are always making yourself available. Thanks to Phyllis Pereira, Catherine Phillips, Lucia Goodwin, Maria Campisi and Roberta Betancourt for teaching the faith our younger children through the Children's Liturgy. Thanks to our St. Vincent de Paul Society, you have been very generous with your time helping so many people in need. Thanks to Development & Peace for their concern of the greater world issues. Thanks to Chris and Paul Campbell for organizing and providing food for the hungry. Thanks to the community of the Neocatechumenal Way for their dedication in sharing the faith. Thanks to the team of ladies that lead the Consolation Ministry lead by Anne Marie Yaraskavitch, to bring support to those who grieve. Thanks to the team of Rosary Apostolate who go to pray the Rosary at schools. Thanks to Robert and Maritza for always helping the migrant workers. Thanks to Eileen McGowan, Marisa Dashney, Ken Merola, Arianna Veltri, Afton Shah, Henry Remiz, Cassandra Sullivan, and the whole choir for making our liturgies and masses so engaging. Thanks for the altar servers who have been assisting so faithfully at mass. Thank you to the gardeners for making the gardens so beautiful. Thanks to Cassandra for leading the altar servers, Lifeteen, Edge and youth choir. I want to wish to all of you a blessed and hopeful new year! May the peace of Christ overflow in all your homes!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on Christmas (December 24, 2020)

Tonight, the great prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given" (Is 9:6).

To us a son is given. We often hear it said that the greatest joy in life is the birth of a child. It is something extraordinary and it changes everything. It brings an excitement that makes us think nothing of weariness, discomfort and sleepless nights, for it fills us with a great, incomparable happiness. That is what Christmas is: the birth of Jesus is the "newness" that enables us to be reborn each year and to find, in him, the strength needed to face every trial. Why? Because his birth is for us – for me, for you, for all of us, for everyone. "For" is a word that appears again and again on this holy night: "For us a child is born", Isaiah prophesied. "For us is born this day a Saviour", we repeated in the Psalm. Jesus "gave himself for us" (Tit 2:14), Saint Paul tells us, and in the Gospel the angel proclaims: "For to you is born this day a Saviour" (Lk 2:11). For me, for you.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**The Angel's Candle, symbolizing Peace.**

**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.*

**4th Week** – All four candles are lit.

**Suggested Scripture Readings:**

Sunday	Romans 5: 12-17
Monday	Mark 10: 42-45
Tuesday	1 John 4: 7-12
Wednesday	John 13: 3-17
Thursday	Revelation 22: 12-17
Friday	Isaiah 2:1-5
Saturday	Isaiah 55: 1-9



**Replace purple and pink candles with White Candles as we enter Christmas Season:**

Sunday – Christmas Eve: Luke 2:25-33  
Monday – Christmas Day: John 1: 1-18

**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!



Masses For The Week

Sat Dec 23– 5:00pm  
+John & Mary Fox  
*req. by Catherine Duncan*

Mon Dec 25 – 9am & 11am  
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Tues Dec 26 – 9am  
Personal Intention for Iris McNulty  
*req. by Elizabeth Joseph & Zenora Mahabal*

Wed Dec 27 – 7:00pm  
+Miroslav Dutczak  
*req. by The Proskos Family*  
In Thanksgiving  
*req. by Pierre & Linda Pilon*  
+Daniel Ritchie  
*req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family*  
+Joan Schranz  
*req. by Ed Schranz*  
+Yesu Dass  
*req. by Yesu*  
+Catherine  
*req. by Yesu*

Thur Dec 28 – 8:20am  
+Frank McNulty  
*req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family*

Fri Dec 29 – 8:20am  
+Mario Veltri  
*req. by Nina & Family*

Tabernacle candle for Natasha,  
*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.

**Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday Jan 3rd, 2024 at 8PM at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St North. For further information call or email Bryan Childerhouse [bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com](mailto:bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com) or call 416-508-9877**

**Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Update**

On December 12, 2023 the Archdiocese of Toronto announced the first phase of funding as part of our \$6 million commitment to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). Through the tremendous generosity of parishioners throughout the archdiocese, including our own parish, more than \$2.7 million has been directed through the IRF to organizations and projects committed to promoting healing and reconciliation for communities and families.

Recipients include Aboriginal Legal Services located in Toronto, Ontario, that will receive \$538,000 to help fund their Indigenous family dispute resolution program called Giiwedini Anang. Thank you for your continued prayers and ongoing support as we

journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of This Land. To learn more, visit [www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation](http://www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation)

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

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  
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &  
JOSEPH  
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**



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



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