

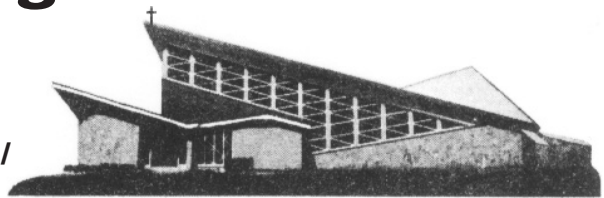
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

905-576-6150

www.dcdsb.ca

905-666-9301

905-666-7753

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

With this Sunday we are starting Ordinary Time. This liturgical period is one of encountering Jesus in our everyday lives. We accompany Jesus through His public ministry, and we realize that He is really the Savior of the world. The First Reading is from the First Book of Samuel. It offers the account of the call of Samuel. He was serving the Lord living in the Temple. He is called three times to serve the Lord as His prophet. Samuel's attitude is remarkable by which he is open and receptive to God's message. Guided by the encounter with God, he will ask God for a wise and discerning heart to guide his people. We are called to listen to God's call in the events of our daily lives by which He offers us to guide us and to walk with us. Let us be open to God's will for us that is fullness of life. The Second Reading is from the Second Letter of the apostle St. Paul to the Corinthians. It presents a passage in which he proclaims the image of the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit. He teaches that the Church is the Body of Christ in which all members are important united by Christ, the Head. Connected with this argument, he underlines how essential is our physical body in our relationship with Christ. We have been redeemed by Christ's blood and He has purchased us by giving His life. We are called to glorify God with our whole selves even with our bodies. It means that in every aspect of our lives we are called to love, to do God's will, to be holy. The Gospel from St. John, we are presented the call of the first disciples. Jesus calls people to a deep encounter with Him. He asks them to be with Him, to have their lives shape by His love and mercy. The disciples not only listened to the teachings of the Lord, but remained with Him for three years and they were transformed by Him. All of us are encouraged to have a deep relationship with Christ in which we realize how much He is active in our every day lives. We have been raised to think about the Lord and God only once a week when we go to mass. However, we are invited to realize that God is present in our lives every day and in every second of the day. It will fill us with strength and hope to realize that He is with us in anything that we do during the day. Consequently, we will experience much more peace and strength.

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 17, 2021)

The Gospel for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (cf. Jn 1:35-42) presents the meeting between Jesus and his first disciples. The scene unfolds along the River Jordan the day after Jesus' baptism. It is John the Baptist himself who points out the Messiah to the two of them with these words: "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (v. 36). And those two, trusting the Baptist's testimony, follow Jesus. He realizes this and asks: "What do you seek?", and they ask Him: "Rabbi, where are you staying?" (v. 38).

Jesus does not respond: "I live in Capernaum, or in Nazareth", but says: "Come and see" (v. 39). Not a calling card, but an invitation to an encounter. The two follow him and remain with him that afternoon. It is not difficult to imagine them seated, asking him questions and above all listening to him, feeling their hearts inflamed ever more while the Teacher speaks. They sense the beauty of the words that respond to their greatest hope. And all of a sudden they discover that, as evening was drawing around them, the light that God alone can give was exploding within their hearts. One thing catches our attention: 60 years later, or perhaps more, one of them would write in his Gospel: "it was about four in the afternoon" (cf. Jn 1:39) — he wrote the time. And this is one thing that makes us think: every authentic encounter with Jesus remains alive in memory; it is never forgotten. You forget many encounters, but a true encounter with Jesus remains forever. And many years later, those two even remembered the time. They were unable to forget this encounter that had changed their lives and was so happy and so complete. Then, when they leave from that encounter and return to their brothers, that joy, that light overflows from their hearts like a raging river. One of the two, Andrew, says to his brother, Simon — whom Jesus will call Peter when He meets him — "We have found the Messiah" (v. 41). They left sure that Jesus was the Messiah, certain.

Let us pause for a moment on this experience of the encounter with Christ who calls us to remain with him. Each one of God's calls is an initiative of his love. He is the one who always takes the initiative. He calls you. God calls to *life*, he calls to *faith*, and he calls to a *particular state* in life: "I want you here". God's first call is to *life*, through which he makes us persons; it is an individual call because God does not make things in series. Then God calls us to *faith* and to become part of his family as children of God. Lastly, God calls us to a *particular state* in life: to give of ourselves on the path of matrimony, or that of the priesthood or consecrated life. They are different ways of realizing God's design, the one he has for each of us that is always a design of love. God always calls. And the greatest joy for every believer is to respond to this call, offering one's entire being to the service of God and our brothers and sisters.

Brothers and sisters, before the Lord's call, which can reach us in a thousand ways — through others, happy or sad events — our attitude at times might be rejection. No... "I am afraid"... Rejection because it seems to be in contrast to our aspirations; and even fear because we believe it is too demanding and uncomfortable: "Oh no, I will never be able to do it, better not to, a calmer life is better... God over there, me here". But God's call is always love: we have to try to discover the love behind each call, and it should be responded to only with love. This is the language: the response to a call that comes from love is only love. At the beginning there is an encounter, or rather, there is *the encounter* with Jesus who speaks to us of his Father, he makes His love known to us. And then the desire to communicate it to the people that we love arises spontaneously in us too: "I met Love", "I met the Messiah", "I met God", "I met Jesus", "I found the meaning of my life". In a word: "I found God".

May the Virgin Mary help us make of our lives a hymn of praise to God in response to his call and in the humble and joyful fulfilment of his will. But let us remember this: there was a moment in each of our lives, in which God made himself present more strongly, with a call. Let us remember that. Let us go back to that moment so that the memory of that moment might always renew that encounter with Jesus for us.

**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**

**ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES!
MARRIAGE PREPARATION
CLASSES**

Our next Marriage Preparation Course at St. John the Evangelist will begin on Monday nights, April 8 to May 13, 2024 from 7pm to 9pm. Call 668-3676 to register. Cost is \$300 per couple.



Masses For The Week

Sat Jan 13– 5:00pm
+Grant Davidson
req. by Evangeline & Amarie

Mon Jan 15 – 8:20am
+Humberto Schenflede
req. by His Family

Tues Jan 16 – 8:20am
+Ryan Patrick McDonald
req. by Maire Fitzpatrick

Wed Jan 17 – 7:00pm
+Millicent Bower
req. by Pat & Clark Weddell
+Yesu Dass
req. by Yesu
+Marta Vallesterio
req. by Nicholas & Emerita Vallesterio & Family

Thur Jan 18 – 8:20am
+Kevin Coughlin
req. by Mary Jean

Fri Jan 19 – 8:20am
+Frank McNulty
req. by The CWL Durham Region

Knights of Columbus
INDOOR TOURNEY
Saturday, February 24, 2023
In Support of St. John the Evangelist
Reno Fund
at TEES & CUES Lower level of the
Best Western Hotel
559 Bloor St W., Oshawa
Start Time: 6:30 pm Cost: \$65 per
golfer
Light fare will be provided.
Contact Gerry or Roberta Deschênes
at 905-995-2978 or
gdesc9@gmail.com

Next CWL Meeting is Thursday, January 18th at 7:30pm Parish Centre Main room. The agenda is marked for designating the money to charities and opportunity to renew membership. Not a member? You are welcome to join us. Please contact Lynne at 905-431-6582 lchilderhouse@hotmail.com for questions or if you need a ride.

CWL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Calling all CWL members and ladies of the parish to renew or join the Catholic Women's League at St. John the Evangelist after masses on Saturday, January 20th and Sunday, January 21st. This one-stop women's organization focuses on faith, service and social justice. Become active and involved in your area of interest. Your place is among us. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.

D&P Fall Campaign Stand for the Land: Together, let's support the communities of Guapinol and San Pedro in Honduras!

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is responding to the call from our partner ERIC—Radio Progreso to raise awareness of the tragic plight of the communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector. We stand with them as they defend their right to water for survival and struggle to obtain:

- Justice
- Reparations and protection
- The cancellation of irregularly granted mining permits
- The restoration of their national park

"It is urgent to cancel all mining in this area of our park. All the damage caused to our rivers and mountains must be repaired." — Daniel Márquez, Guapinol defender and former political prisoner

Let's ask the Honduran government to better protect environmental and human rights defenders and to act for justice. Stand in solidarity. Sign the letter to the Honduran ambassador today or at devp.org/act. Please send to your networks for signing on line.

Bible Study
UNTOLD BLESSINGS
Monday evenings February 5 to March 18, 2024
7pm Parish Centre Main Room
Cost \$25
"Bishop Robert Barron paints a beautiful and mysterious image of what it takes to be a follower of Jesus Christ. He lays out three intriguing paths to holiness:

1. *Finding the center*
2. *Knowing you're a sinner*

3. Realizing your life is not about you

He also shares practical approaches to these three paths and insightful guide."

Please call the office 905-668-3676 or email us stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org to register.



Thank you from Society of St. Vincent de Paul

As we enter 2024, we reflect on the continuing generosity of all our donors in the parish and parish schools. Your generosity has enabled us to serve about 666 families and 500 children with approximately 1,332 bags of food and over \$40,000 in gift cards to our neighbours in need over the year and Christmas. With food insecurity increasing over 2023, we experienced a rise in requests for help with food by over 60% between September and December compared to the same time in 2022.

Here is a heartfelt note of thanks we received in a Christmas card from a client:

I just want to offer my most sincere thank you! Not just the phone helpline, but to the entire congregation, volunteers, Pastor and every single person who has a part in helping not just me, but my kids too! Your help has gone so far and beyond many times. There were times when I felt alone and I was reminded that time after time, the Lord is with me as is St. Vincent de Paul. God bless you all, in Jesus name, Amen.

New Members are always welcome! Please email vmorgan@archtoronto.org or call the parish office 905-668-3676

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