

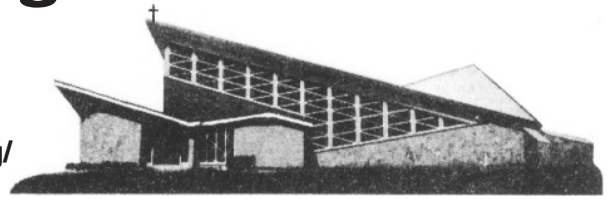
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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

1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3

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

55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9

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## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we are celebrating the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading is from the Book of the prophet Jonah. It offers the account of the preaching of Jonah to the people of Nineveh. When they listen to God's message, they repent of their deeds and God treats them with mercy. Even though they are foreigners and pagans, they welcome the message of conversion and they open their hearts to the Lord. We are also called to repent and to accept God's mercy in our lives so that our hearts may be transformed by the Lord. The Second Reading is from the First Letter of the apostle St. Paul to the Corinthians. It presents a passage in which the Apostle underlines the importance of being aware of the coming of the Kingdom of God. It is easy to be concerned with the things of this world and then we can get entangled with them and we start getting anxious. We can live fully in this world but with our minds and hearts set in the Kingdom of God. As a consequence, we can face daily events with peace being aware of God's help. Moreover, it already announces that our lives are destined to Eternal Life and not to the finitude of this passing world. The Gospel from St. Mark, offers us the call of the four first disciples of the Lord. Jesus announces that the Kingdom of God is already here and the possibility to enter into a new life comes with Him. As a response, we are called to welcome this invitation to fullness of life with the Lord. He takes the initiative and calls the first four disciples to follow Him, to remain with Him, and to be transformed by Him. All of the disciples recognize that it is life-giving to be with Him, to become like Him and they follow Him. We are invited to welcome Jesus' call in our lives and be transformed by His mercy. He offers us fullness of life and peace. Let us answer to Him with open hearts and receive so much in our daily lives!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

### Pope Francis' Homily on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 24, 2021)

On this Sunday of the Word, let us listen to Jesus as he proclaims the Kingdom of God. Let us consider what he says and to whom he says it.

What does he say? Jesus begins his preaching with these words: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mk 1:15). God is near, that is the first message. His kingdom has come down to earth. God is not, as we are often tempted to think, distant, up in heaven, detached from the human condition. No, he is in our midst. The time of his distance ended when, in Jesus, he became man. Ever since then, God has been very close to us; he will never retire from our human condition or tire of it. This closeness is the very first message of the Gospel; today's reading tells us that Jesus "was saying" (v. 15) those words: he kept repeating them. "God is near" was the leitmotif of his preaching, the heart of his message. If this was the opening theme and the refrain of all Jesus' preaching, it must necessarily be the one constant of the Christian life and message. Before all else, we must believe and proclaim that God has drawn near to us, that we have been forgiven and shown mercy. Prior to every word of ours about God, there is his word to us, his Word who continues to tell us: "Do not be afraid, I am with you. I am at your side and I will always be there".

The word of God enables us to touch this closeness, since – as the Book of Deuteronomy tells us – it is not far from us, it is near to our hearts (cf. 30:14). It is the antidote to our fear of having to face life alone. Indeed, by his word the Lord consoles us, that is, he stands "with" (con-) those who are "alone" (soli). In speaking to us, he reminds us that he has taken us to heart, that we are precious in his eyes, and that he holds us in the palm of his hand. God's word infuses this peace, but it does not leave us in peace. It is a word of consolation but also a call to conversion. "Repent", says Jesus,

immediately after proclaiming God's closeness. For, thanks to his closeness, we can no longer distance ourselves from God and from others. The time when we could live thinking only of ourselves is now over. To do so is not Christian, for those who experience God's closeness cannot ignore their neighbours or treat them with indifference. Those who hear God's word are constantly reminded that life is not about shielding ourselves from others, but about encountering them in the name of God who is near. The word sown in the soil of our hearts, leads us in turn to sow hope through closeness to others. Even as God has done with us.

Let us now consider to whom Jesus speaks. His first words are to Galilean fishermen, simple folk who lived by harsh manual labour, by day and night. They were no experts in Scripture or people of great knowledge and culture. They lived in a region made up of various peoples, ethnic groups and cults: one that could not have been further from the religious purity of Jerusalem, the heart of the country. Yet that is where Jesus began, not from the centre but from the periphery, and he did so in order to tell us too that no one is far from God's heart. Everyone can receive his word and encounter him in person. The Gospel offers a nice detail in this regard, when it tells us that Jesus' preaching came "after" that of John (Mk 1:14). That word after is decisive: it points to a difference. John received people in the desert, where only those able to leave their homes could go. Jesus, on the other hand, speaks of God in the heart of society, to everyone, wherever they find themselves. He does not speak at fixed times or places, but "walking along the shore", to fishermen who were "casting their nets" (v. 16). He speaks to people in the most ordinary times and places. Here we see the universal power of the word of God to reach everyone and every area of life.

Yet the word of God also has particular power, that is, it can touch each person directly. The disciples would never forget the words they heard that day on the shore of the lake, by their boats, in the company of their family members and fellow workers: words that marked their lives forever. Jesus said to them: "Follow me, I will make you become fishers of men" (v. 17). He did not appeal to them using lofty words and ideas, but spoke to their lives.

### **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASSES BEGIN Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 in the Parish Centre**

#### **CWL MEMBERSHIP**

**This is CWL MEMBERSHIP is this weekend. Members of the Catholic Women's League are at the back of the church after all masses to assist you in renewing your membership and would be happy to welcome new members.**

#### **DEVELOPMENT & PEACE**

##### **Thank you for standing for the land**

Thank you to all the parishioners and visitors to our church for signing the letter to Her Excellency Beatriz Valle, Ambassador for Honduras in Canada. We collected 291 signatures that are on the way to Montreal to be added to the ones signed by thousands of Canadians who [signed the letter](#) in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Honduras who are protecting their water and fighting for their rights.

The **Create Hope – Stand for the Land** campaign aims to collect **32,000 signatures by February 25, 2024**. A delegation of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada members and staff will

then meet with the Honduran ambassador to Canada to show our support and solidarity.

On behalf of all those struggling to preserve their land, their water, their culture and their lives, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada thanks you for your continued commitment and mobilization. Together, we are building a world of justice.

There is still time until February 25<sup>th</sup> to sign on-line and to post to your favourite social media. You don't need to be a Catholic to sign, D&P endorses many ecumenical causes.

- To **sign our petition** and to continue supporting our campaign, visit [devp.org/act](http://devp.org/act).

There is always time to become a member for only \$ 10.00 for life, numbers count, your voice counts

- To **become a member** and support our mission, visit [devp.org/joinus](http://devp.org/joinus).

To join our local parish group contact: Estela Rios  
[emr0001@hotmail.com](mailto:emr0001@hotmail.com)

### Feed the Hungry Casseroles

During 2023, we were able to deliver 260 casseroles to Durham Feed the Need. Thank you for supporting this Ministry!

Our next casserole weekend is February 3/4 2024. Please take a container and recipe provided. Return the frozen meal to the parish centre parking lot Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Your meal will be delivered to Durham Feed the Need for warming and serving.

### 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*
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Please call the office 905-668-3676 or email us  
[stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org) to register.

### Marriage Sunday 2024

Sunday February 11, 2024 @3pm

St. Michael's Cathedral 65 Bond St Toronto

Couples celebrating 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and over

Anniversaries may register for reserved seating. All other seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who are unable to attend the Cathedral are encouraged to watch the livestream Mass. The broadcast will begin at 2:45pm.

[www.archtoronto.org/marriage](http://www.archtoronto.org/marriage)

### Catholic Family Services of Durham

#### - Heart to Heart Gala

**Saturday, February 24, 2024**

at Deer Creek Golf & Banquet Facility

Join us for an elegant evening including 3-course dinner with wine, DJ-Dance, silent/live auction, raffles and games. The funds raised allow our highly-trained staff to provide quality counselling services to over 2300 community members each year. Tickets are just \$120 each.

To purchase tickets or to participate in the online silent auction, visit <https://trellis.org/heart-to-heart-gala-2024>

### 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](mailto:gdesc9@gmail.com)



### Masses For The Week

Sat Jan 20– 5:00pm

**+Kevin Dashney**

*req. by The Hannon Family*

Mon Jan 22 – 8:20am

**+Andrew Marioselva**

*req. by His Family*

Tues Jan 23 – 8:20am

**+Ryan McDonald**

*req. by Pat Catterall*

Wed Jan 24 – 7:00pm

**+All Souls in Purgatory**

*req. by Joe & Joy Broderick*

Thur Jan 25 – 8:20am

**+Trisha Stanish**

*req. by Kathie Steffler & Linda Calder*

Fri Jan 26 – 8:20am

**In Thanksgiving for Health & Family**

*req. by Henrietta L'Estrange*

### 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.



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