

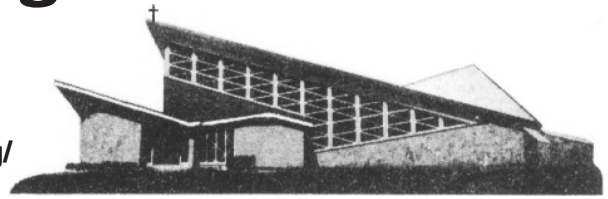
St. John the Evangelist Church

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!

This Sunday we are celebrating the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading is from the Book of Leviticus. It offers a passage in which Moses gives prescriptions to the people of Israel regarding leprosy and other skin diseases. When a person gets leprosy or any type of virulent skin disease, that one needs to be expelled from the community and must be alone. All that was done to avoid spreading the sickness. Leprosy is a symbol of what sin does in our lives. It disfigures us from within and it isolates us from each other. It is important that we recognize how any type of sin destroys us and hinders our relationship with God and with others. The Second Reading is from the First Letter of the apostle St. Paul to the Corinthians. It presents a text in which he underlines the importance of fraternal communion within the Christian community. The Christians in Colossae were divided, and factions were emerging. St. Paul uses the Eucharist as the best example of how those who receive it are united in the same Body of Christ. By communicating in the Body of Christ a strong bond of unity grew more and more in the community. A good example of unity is St. Paul who always was looking for the good of the other person. Our source of unity relies in Christ and especially comes about when we believe the same creed and we receive Christ in Holy Communion. The Gospel from St. Mark offers us a passage in which Jesus heals a leper. This leper was not allowed to go to the Temple and he lived in complete isolation. His life was unbearable. Breaking all the regulations of that time, which prohibited anybody with leprosy coming close to a person. He begs Jesus to be healed. To the surprise of everybody, Jesus touches him, which He was not supposed to do, and He completely heals Him. With this miracle, Jesus wants to show that He has come to forgive and to destroy sin and to give us new life in Him. He has taken upon Himself our sins and destroy them to instill in us new life. Let us confidently approach Him so that in Him we may find restoration and transformation!

This coming Wednesday, February 14th, we are starting the sacred season of Lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. We will have mass with imposition of ashes at 8:20am and 7pm. This is a favourable time in which God in Jesus Christ wants to show us how much He loves us by taking away the root of our

sins and giving us the possibility of acting with faith, hope and charity. Let us walk this journey of new life with the Lord towards the Resurrection!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Message for Lent
(February 1, 2024)

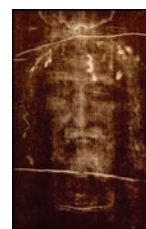
When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Ex 20:2). These are the first words of the Decalogue given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Those who heard them were quite familiar with the exodus of which God spoke: the experience of their bondage still weighed heavily

upon them. In the desert, they received the "Ten Words" as a thoroughfare to freedom. We call them "commandments", in order to emphasize the strength of the love by which God shapes his people. The call to freedom is a demanding one. It is not answered straightaway; it has to mature as part of a journey. Just as Israel in the desert still clung to Egypt – often longing for the past and grumbling against the Lord and Moses – today too, God's people can cling to an oppressive bondage that it is called to leave behind. We realize how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination. Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more – in the words of the prophet Hosea – the place of our first love (cf. Hos 2:16-17). God shapes his people. He enables us to leave our slavery behind and experience a Passover from death to life. Like a bridegroom, the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts.

The exodus from slavery to freedom is no abstract journey. If our celebration of Lent is to be concrete, the first step is to desire to open our eyes to reality. When the Lord calls out to Moses from the burning bush, he immediately shows that he is a God who sees and, above all, hears: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey" (Ex 3:7-8).

God has not grown weary of us. Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which he reminds us: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Ex 20:2). Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son. Unlike Pharaoh, God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters. The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken.

It is time to act, and in Lent, to act also means to pause. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbour are one love. Not to have other gods is to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbour. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us. Then the atrophied and isolated heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another: in place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travelers. This is God's dream, the promised land to which we journey once we have left our slavery behind.



**Tuesday February
13th 9am to 10am
Devotion to the Holy
Face of Jesus with
Adoration and
Prayers in the
Church.
All are welcome**

**ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES!
THE TIME TO REGISTER FOR
MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES
IS TODAY!**

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.



LENT BEGINS WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14th

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass with Ashes at 8:20am and
7:00pm

PENANCE IN LENT

Fridays in the Lenten Season are days of penance, when small sacrifices are encouraged. Abstaining from meat on Fridays has become a customary Lenten penance for Catholics. The Canadian Bishops have recommended that this penitential practice continue among the faithful, but also stated that other acts of penance may be substituted, such as special prayers or acts of service for others.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of obligatory fasting and abstinence from meat. "The law of fasting prescribes that only one meal be taken in a day; but it does not forbid taking some nourishment in the morning and evening" (Letters & Legislation, Archdiocese of Toronto). The law of fasting binds those from 18 to 59 years of age, while the law of abstinence from meat binds Catholics who are 14 years of age and older, but every person, regardless of age, can participate in fasting and abstaining from meat if they wish, as long as one's health will allow it.

Parents and educators are reminded of their duty to introduce children gradually to the understanding and practice of penance, including fasting and abstinence, in the life of Catholics. Adult example will be the greatest influence in this matter (Guidelines for Pastoral Liturgy, 1999-2000, CCCB).

 **Masses For The Week**

Sat Feb 10 – 5:00pm

+Elizabeth Deery

req. by Maureen Armstrong

Mon Feb 12 – 8:20am

+Mark Harris

req. by The Harris Family

Tues Feb 13 – 8:20am

+Ryan McDonald

req. by The Jerry & Chris Coughlin

Wed Feb 14 – 7:00pm

+Yesu Dass

req. by Yesu

+All Souls in Purgatory

req. by Joe & Joy Broderick

+Joel Abaloyan

req. by Emerita Vallesterio & Family

+Stan & Shirley Harris

req. by Their family

Thur Feb 15 – 8:20am

+Humberto Schenflede

req. by His Family

Fri Feb 16 – 8:20am

+Marta Vallesterio

req. by Nicholas Vallesterio & Family

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Friday, March 22, 2024, 7pm

St. John the Evangelist Church

***An original oratorio based on
the last 7 words of Christ on***

***the Cross presented on the
threshold of Holy Week. This
Lenten concert is a catechetical
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Or scan here:



SCAN ME

Totus Tuus Returns This Summer!

Mark your calendars for **July 8-12, 2024!** Totus Tuus is a fun and faith-filled summer camp for the youth of the parish run by missionaries. There is a day program for grade 1-6 and an evening program for grade 7-12. More information will be available soon.

Life Teen Trip

The teens of our parish are invited to come to the Lift Jesus Higher Youth Rally for ages 13-18 on **Saturday, March 2nd, 2024** at Metro Toronto Convention Centre. This event includes Music, Talks, Testimonies, Skits, Games, Adoration and Mass. Interested? Please contact Cassandra Sullivan at cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org or more information.

Stations of the Cross Fridays

Friday mass changes from 8:20am to 7pm beginning Friday February 16th with Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm, Mass at 7:00pm, Stations of the Cross in Spanish at 7:30pm

Feb 16 Easter Reflection

Feb 23 St Patrick's Way of the Cross

Mar 1 Development & Peace

Mar 8 Pope Francis Stations

Mar 15 Mary's Way of the Cross

Mar 22 Concert: Last 7 Words of Christ

Mar 29 (Good Friday) Youth Stations

Development and Peace Toronto and Peterborough Diocesan Councils Invite you to the Regional Launch of "Reaping Our Rights" 2024 Lent Education Campaign. This will be a hybrid meeting, virtual and in-person.

DATE: Saturday, February 24th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

IN PERSON MEETING: St. Francis of Assisi Church, 214 King Avenue East, Newcastle. Please RSVP by February 21st to torontodevp@gmail.com. Pizza will be served, specify if you prefer vegan or regular. VIRTUAL MEETING: ZOOM

Registration: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlf-](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84D4dngJwGrrD4pGN0fyz6UKCc9_814D4dngJw)

[GrrD4pGN0fyz6UKCc9_814D4dngJw](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84D4dngJwGrrD4pGN0fyz6UKCc9_814D4dngJw)

Or visit: www.devp.org/events For more information contact: Estela Rios emr0001@hotmail.com (905) 430-7753

This is a great opportunity if you want to learn more about Development and Peace/Caritas Canada.



**Warming Winter Raffle
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Raffle Ticket Details:

1 ticket \$15; 3 tickets \$30; 5 tickets \$40

Tickets available after all Masses
Feb 10th/11th

Or call Sylvie daytime Feb 1-11
905 706 5881

Draw Date: Monday February
12th at Noon

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