

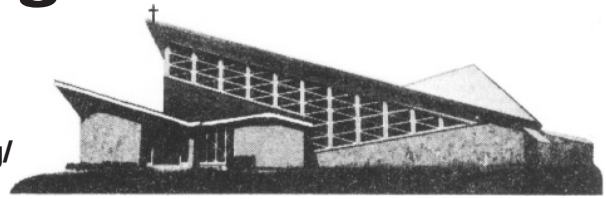
St. John the Evangelist Church

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 Sundays 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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we are celebrating the First Sunday of Lent. Last Wednesday we started with Ash Wednesday the journey of 40 days of Lent towards Easter. It is a season to reflect and to interiorize, with God's help, to grasp what is taking away our peace so that God can transform us with His Spirit. The First Reading is from the Book of Genesis. It offers a passage in which God establishes a covenant with Noah and his family. After the destruction provoked by the deluge, God promises Noah that He will not harm the earth anymore. The deluge is an image of God destroying sin and its consequences, and the possibility of a new beginning with God. The rainbow stands for the faithfulness of God who assures us that everything that He allows is for our good. Let us always turn our gaze to God to find refuge in God's faithful love. The Second Reading is from the First Letter of the apostle, St. Peter. It presents a text in which he explains the purpose of Christ's death and resurrection. He announces that Christ has died on the Cross by taking upon Himself our sins and destroying them on the wood of the Cross. However, that was not the end of the story, He rose from death, and He has shared with us the effects of the Resurrection. This is in a nutshell what we are going to live in the following weeks. First, we are going to recognize our sins, then we are going to give them to Christ, He is going to destroy them and through His Resurrection, He is going to offer us new life. What a beautiful path is in front of us of passing from death to life! Let us allow the Lord to walk with us in this beautiful journey of faith. The Gospel from St. Mark offers us the account of the Temptation of Christ in the desert. Christ goes to the desert to be tempted by Satan as we all are. During this time of Lent, we are called to be aware of our daily temptations and to realize that in Christ we can overcome them. Let us rely in God so that in Him we can be victorious and, even if at times we fall, let us allow Him to raise us up so that we continue the journey towards Easter!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily First Sunday of Lent (February 21, 2021) Last Wednesday, with the penitential rite of the ashes, we began our Lenten journey. Today, the first Sunday of this liturgical season, the Word of God shows us the path to living fruitfully the forty days that lead to the annual celebration of Easter. It is the way Jesus trod, which the

Gospel, with Mark's essential style, summarises by saying that before He began His preaching, He withdrew into the desert for forty days, where He was tempted by Satan (see 1:12-15). The Evangelist emphasises that "the Spirit - the Holy Spirit - immediately drove Him out into the wilderness" (v. 12). The Holy Spirit descended upon Him immediately after the baptism He received from John in the River Jordan; the same Spirit now impels Him to go into the desert, to face the Tempter, to combat the devil. Jesus' entire existence is placed under the sign of the Spirit of God, who animates, inspires and guides Him.

But let us think of the desert. Let us pause for a moment on this natural and symbolic environment, so important in the Bible. The desert is the place where God speaks to the heart of the human person, and where prayer is the answer, that is, the desert of solitude, the heart detached from other things, and which only in that solitude opens itself to the Word of God. But it is also the place of trial and temptation, where the Tempter, taking advantage of human frailty and needs, insinuates his lying voice, as an alternative to God's, an alternative voice that makes you see another road, another road of deception. The Tempter seduces. Indeed, during the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert, the "duel" between Jesus and the devil begins, which will end with the Passion and the Cross. Christ's entire ministry is a struggle against the Evil One in its many manifestations: healing from illnesses, exorcising the possessed, forgiving sins. It is a struggle. After the first phase in which Jesus demonstrates that He speaks and acts with the power of God, it seems that the devil has the upper hand, when the Son of God is rejected, abandoned and finally captured and condemned to death. It looks like the winner is the devil. In reality, death was the last "desert" to cross in order to finally defeat Satan and free us all from his power. And in this way Jesus won in the desert of death, so as to win in the Resurrection.

Every year, at the beginning of Lent, this Gospel of the temptations of Jesus in the desert reminds us that the life of the Christian, in the footsteps of the Lord, is a battle against the spirit of evil. It shows us that Jesus willingly faced the Tempter, and defeated him; and at the same time it reminds us that the devil is granted the possibility of acting on us too, with his temptations. We must be aware of the presence of this astute enemy, who seeks our eternal condemnation, our failure, and prepare to defend ourselves against him and to combat him. The grace of God assures us, with faith, prayer and penance, of our victory over the enemy. But I would

like to underline one thing: in the temptations, Jesus never enters into dialogue with the devil, never. In his life Jesus never had a dialogue with the devil, never. Either He banishes him from the possessed or He condemns him, or He shows his malice, but never a dialogue. And in the desert it seems that there is a dialogue because the devil makes three proposals and Jesus responds. But Jesus does not respond with his words. He answers with the Word of God, with three passages of Scripture. And this is what all of us must do too. When the seducer approaches, he begins to seduce us: "But think of this, do that...", the temptation is to dialogue with him, as Eve did. Eve said: "But we can't, because ...", and entered into dialogue. And if we enter into dialogue with the devil we will be defeated. Keep this in your head and in your heart: you can never enter into dialogue with the devil, no dialogue is possible. Only the Word of God.

During the Season of Lent, the Holy Spirit drives us too, like Jesus, into the desert. It is not, as we have seen, a physical place, but rather an existential dimension in which we can be silent and listen to the word of God, "so that a true conversion might be effected in us" (Collect, First Sunday of Lent B). Do not be afraid of the desert, seek out more moments of prayer, of silence, to enter into ourselves. Do not be afraid. We are called to walk in God's footsteps, renewing our Baptismal promises: renouncing Satan, and all his works and all his seductions. The enemy is crouching there, beware. But never dialogue with him. Let us entrust ourselves to the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary.



Masses For The Week

Sat Feb 17 – 5:00pm

+Ryan McDonald

req. by Pat Catterall

Mon Feb 19 – 9:00am

+Mary Fox

req. by Catherine

Tues Feb 20 – 8:20am

+Pete Rose

req. by Alice Deehan & Family

Wed Feb 21 – 7:00pm

+Colm Kelly

req. by Brid Rooney

+Bernie Giroux

+Khalil Noujaim

req. by His Family

+Ted Kapuscinski

req. by Doreen & Family

Thur Feb 22 – 8:20am

+Andrew Marioselva
req. by His Family

Fri Feb 23 – 7:00pm

+All Souls in Purgatory
req. by Joe & Joy Broderick

Warming Winter Raffle Winners

After 2 weeks of raffle selling, Prize Draws for The Warming Winter Raffle were made by Fr. Francisco on February 12th. On behalf of the Fundraising Committee, I relay our thanks for the broad participation and fun that Raffle selling brought. **Thank you** for the financial contribution to our Parish of \$3,815. By all these means, it is a Warmed Winter at SJE!

Listed below are the randomly drawn prize recipients:

Maison Blanc Certificate:

Stacey Leadbetter

KB Cooking Class Vouchers (2 pairs):

Christina Widner; & Fr. Jorge Avila

Marito High Tea Vouchers (2 pairs):

Steven Johnston; & Sylvie Forte

Dr. A. D'Aurelio Cash Gift:

Bryan Childerhouse

Landmark Movie Passes (5 pairs):

Maureen Halpin; Antonio Connell; Vidhi

Parikh; Jeremy Ahangana; & Maynard

Wiersma.

Please join us in congratulating our eleven prize recipients.

-Fundraising Committee

DAY OF REFLECTION

Monday, February 26, 2024:

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre,

2325 Liverpool Rd., Pickering

Topic: "To forgive is Divine."

"Father forgive them for they know not what they do" Luke 22:43

Psalms 51: Have mercy on me O God, according to your steadfast love.

Facilitator: Fr. Michael Coutts, S.J.

A suggested offering of \$65 per person.

Includes break, lunch and mass along with the program.

REGISTER: <http://manresa-canada.ca>

CONTACT: registration@manresa.ca

905-839-2864

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 musical presentation of Christ's suffering and His tremendous love for us.

Join us for a very special *Operatic Music Gala "CROSS OF CHRIST"* performed by four top vocalists composed and performed by Romulo Delgado, one of Canada's top tenors.

Tickets \$75/pp

Proceeds support Parish Projects

<https://mission.archtoronto.org/Event/TheCrossOfChrist-StJohntheEvangelistParish/#/>

Or scan here:



SCAN ME

FREE CATHOLIC ESTATE
PLANNING WEBINAR Saturday,
February 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Learn:

- How to avoid problems: in your Will, in the Powers of Attorney, and through proper Estate Trustee selection

- How to create your own legacy

- About our Catholic traditions around cremation, burials and funerals

REGISTER:

<https://QRCO.de/> WebFeb24 3. send an email to:

Development@ArchToronto.org and write "webinar February 24" in the title line & your name(s) in the body of the message.

Scan the QR code from the poster in the foyer.

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 for 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 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

On Family Day Monday February 19th, the office is closed, Mass is at 9am



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