

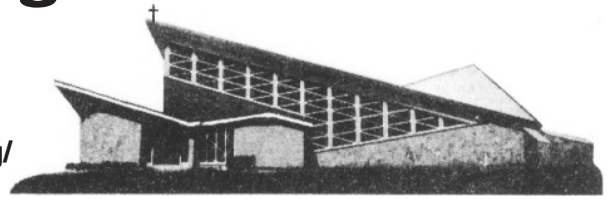
St. John the Evangelist Church

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
Mrs. Kristine Blyth Lay Pastoral Asst.
Mrs. Vicki Morgan Secretary
Ms. Cassandra Sullivan Youth Ministry
Mr. Robert Caley Choir Director

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

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All Saints Catholic Secondary School

3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1

905-576-6150

www.dcdsb.ca

905-666-9301

905-666-7753

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we are celebrating the Second Sunday of Lent. The First Reading is from the Book of Genesis. It offers the account of the sacrifice of Isaac. God has given to Abraham the son that he has been dreaming for all his life. God has fulfilled His promise. However, Abraham becomes too attached to his son Isaac and he starts to become an idol for him. To help Abraham, God asks him to sacrifice his son in Mount Moriah. Abraham's reaction is astonishing since he trusts in God believing that He who gave him a son, will deliver him somehow from death. Abraham is certain that God will provide. Seeing his faith, God does not allow Abraham to sacrifice his son and instead He provides for him a ram to be sacrificed. There are moments in our lives in which we encounter struggles and sufferings and we do not know how to face them. In those moments of discouragement, God provides for us a Savior, Jesus Christ, who helps us to overcome our fears and to find strength in our difficulties. The Second Reading is from the Letter of the apostle St. Paul to the Romans. It is a beautiful passage in which Paul speaks about the amazing gift of God's love for us. Christ has taken the initiative and has loved us regardless of our actions. It is life-giving to experience that Christ loves us unconditionally. The proof of this type of love is that He has given His life for us so that we may overcome our sins and receive new life. The Gospel from St. Mark offers us the account of the Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor. After Christ has announced to the disciples that He is going to Jerusalem to suffer and die on the Cross, they got scared and were completely hopeless. To encourage them and to rekindle their faith, Christ shows His glory to them as a preannouncement that He is going to rise from death and not remain dead. We all go through many obstacles and tribulations, and it is easy to lose heart. Christ comes with mercy to encourage us assuring us that there is life after the suffering. We just need to trust and to put our faith in Him that He will help us in any kind of situation. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Christ whenever we encounter struggles!

I would like to welcome to our parish our new Music Director, Robert Caley. May the Lord bless him and accompany him in this beautiful ministry of praising and worshipping the Lord.

Fr. Francisco Fernandez,
Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily Second Sunday of Lent (February 21, 2021)
This Second Sunday of Lent invites us to contemplate the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain, before three of his disciples (cf. Mk 9:2-10). Just before, Jesus had announced that in Jerusalem he would suffer a greatly, be rejected and put to death. We can imagine what must have happened in the heart of his friends, of those close friends, his disciples: the image of a strong and triumphant Messiah is put into crisis, their dreams are shattered, and they are beset by anguish at the thought that the Teacher in whom they had believed would be killed like the worst of wrongdoers. And in that very moment, with that anguish of soul, Jesus calls Peter, James and John and takes them up the mountain with him.

The Gospel says: He "led them up a high mountain" (v. 2). In the Bible, the mountain always has a special significance: it is the elevated place where heaven and earth touch each other, where Moses and the prophets had the extraordinary experience of encountering God. Climbing the mountain is drawing somewhat close to God. Jesus climbs up with the three disciples and they stop at the top of the mountain. Here, he is transfigured before

them. His face radiant and his garments glistening, providing a preview of the image as the Risen One, offer to those frightened men the light, the light of hope, the light to pass through the shadows: death will not be the end of everything, because it will open to the glory of the Resurrection. Thus, Jesus announces his death; he takes them up the mountain and shows them what will happen afterwards, the Resurrection.

As the Apostle Peter exclaimed (cf. v. 5), it is good to pause with the Lord on the mountain, to live this "preview" of light in the heart of Lent. It is a call to remember, especially when we pass through a difficult trial – and so many of you know what it means to pass through a difficult trial – that the Lord is Risen and does not permit darkness to have the last word. At times we go through moments of darkness in our personal, family or social life, and of fear that there is no way out. We feel frightened before great enigmas such as illness, innocent pain or the mystery of death. In the same journey of faith, we often stumble encountering the scandal of the cross and the demands of the Gospel, which calls us to spend our life in service and to lose it in love, rather than preserve it for ourselves and protect it. Thus, we need a different outlook, of a light that illuminates the mystery of life in depth and helps us to move beyond our paradigms and beyond the criteria of this world. We too are called to climb up the mountain, to contemplate the beauty of the Risen One who enkindles glimmers of light in every fragment of our life and helps us to interpret history beginning with his paschal victory.

Let us be careful, however: that feeling of Peter that "it is well that we are here" must not become spiritual laziness. We cannot remain on the mountain and enjoy the beauty of this encounter by ourselves. Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, amid our brothers and sisters and into daily life. We must beware of spiritual laziness: we are fine, with our prayers and liturgies, and this is enough for us. No! Going up the mountain does not mean forgetting reality; praying never means avoiding the difficulties of life; the light of faith is not meant to provide beautiful spiritual feelings. No, this is not Jesus' message. We are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere. Igniting little lights in people's hearts; being little lamps of the Gospel that bear a bit of love and hope: this is the mission of a Christian.

Let us pray to Mary Most Holy, that she may help us to welcome the light of Christ with wonder, to safeguard it and share it



Show your love through ShareLife

ShareLife Sunday is March 17.

Our parish goal for this year's campaign is \$141,500.

Through your kindness, over 40 Catholic organizations and social service agencies can help marginalized members of our community. No one is turned away due to inability to pay. This is all possible through your support. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Our 2023 Parish Financials will be presented by Paul D'Aurelio next weekend March 2/3, 2024 at all masses. Copies of the report will be available on the back counters after the presentation.

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday March 6, 2024 at 8PM at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St North. For further information assisting the St John's community and becoming a Knight please contact Membership Director Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877

Totus Tuus Summer Camp!

The children and youth of the parish are invited to join us for Totus Tuus, an Archdiocesan program in which missionaries travel to different parishes, spreading the Good News of our Lord through catechesis, Mass, confession, songs and games!

DAY CAMP (for students going into grade 1-6 in the fall) - \$80 for the week

Monday, July 8th to Friday, July 14th, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

EVENING PROGRAM (for students going into grade 7-12 in the fall) - \$40 for the week

Sunday, July 7th to Thursday, July 11th, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

For more information about registration or volunteering to help with this program, please contact Cassandra at cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org or visit our parish website.



Masses For The Week

Sat Feb 24 - 5:00pm

+Samantha Goodwin

req. by Gail & Leanne Stewart

Mon Feb 26 - 8:20am

+Matteo Garritano

req. by Nina Veltri & Family

Tues Feb 27 - 8:20am

+Mario Veltri

req. by Nina Veltri & Family

Wed Feb 28 - 7:00pm

+Catherine

req. by Yesu

Thur Feb 29 - 8:20am

+Ryan McDonald

req. by Annette & America

Fri Mar 1 - 7:00pm

+Emilie Gleeton Bath

req. by Pat & Vicki Morgan & Family

Tabernacle candle for Gabby, requested by Mary Feb 25 - Mar 2

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

Hard tickets available in the Parish Office

Proceeds support Parish Projects

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

Or scan here:



SCAN ME



Stations of the Cross Fridays

Stations of the Cross 6:30pm in English,

Mass at 7:00pm

Stations of the Cross in Spanish at 7:30pm

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Seniors' Retreat Coming Soon

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Lunch included

Invite a friend!

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