

# Living the Gospel

**ShareLife Sunday Collection: March 16/17**

Your gift brings hope to those served by 40  
Catholic agencies in our community and beyond!  
Please give at our parish or [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate)

**ShareLife**

## *St. John the Evangelist Church*

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, ON L1N 2S3

Rectory Office: Ph: 905-668-3676

email: [sje.whitby@sympatico.ca](mailto:sje.whitby@sympatico.ca)

website: [www.stjohntheevangelistwh.archtoronto.org/](http://www.stjohntheevangelistwh.archtoronto.org/)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we are celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Lent, which is also called Laetare or Sunday of joy. We are approaching Easter, and it already brings us to hope and to rejoice because Christ's victory over sin is going to happen very soon. The First Reading is from the Second Book of Chronicles. It offers the account of the disobedience of God's people to His commandments and their consequent Exile to Babylon. Once in Exile, they repented and turned to the Lord with an open heart. God forgave their sin and brought them back to Jerusalem by means of King Cyrus. Even though we are stubborn and keep falling into sin, God's mercy is stronger than our sins and He can renew us and transform us. It is essential to focus on God's mercy rather than in our sins. The Second Reading is from the Letter of the apostle St. Paul to the Ephesians. It is a beautiful passage in which St. Paul praises Christ's redemptive mercy for us. Even though we are sinners, Christ has freely redeemed us and has made us sharers of His Resurrection. It is not the consequence and fruit of our good deeds, but it is sheer compassionate mercy. Let us approach with confidence the throne of His mercy so that we can experience the power of His grace in our lives. The Gospel from St. John offers us part of the conversation of Jesus with Nicodemus. He wants to understand what Christ's mission really is. Christ says to Nicodemus that He has come to be elevated on the Cross so that all of us may receive Eternal Life. He is doing this out of the immense love that He has for us. Christ has come as the Good News of Salvation for us, the One who destroys our sins and gives us to share into Eternal Life. Let us allow Christ's mercy to touch our hearts and transform us!

As a preparation for Easter, I encourage everybody to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation in which we are going to experience Christ's life-giving mercy. We will have the Day of Confessions on Tuesday, March 12th from 9:30am to 11:30am, 2pm to 4pm and 6:30pm to 7:30pm. We will have several priests available on Sunday, March 17th at 7pm for our Evening of Reconciliation.

I encourage everybody to assist at our Symphony "the Cross of Christ" on Friday, March 22nd at 7pm. It will be a beautiful experience of how much Christ loves us and we will be at the same time helping our parish.

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 13, 2018)

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, called "laetare", that is, "rejoice", because this is the opening antiphon of the Eucharistic liturgy that invites us to joy: "Rejoice, Jerusalem" — thus, it is a call to joy — "Be joyful, all who were in mourning". This is how the Mass begins. What is the reason for this joy? The reason is God's great love for mankind, as today's Gospel passage tells us: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). These words, spoken by Jesus during the encounter with

Nicodemus, summarize a theme that lies at the centre of the Christian message: even when the situation seems desperate, God intervenes, offering man salvation and joy. Indeed, God does not remain apart from us, but enters the history of mankind; he "meddles" in our life; he enters, in order to animate it with his grace and save it.

We are called to listen to this message, rejecting the temptation to value our own self-confidence, to think we can do without God, to claim absolute freedom from him and from his Words. When we find the courage to recognize ourselves for what we are — this takes courage! — we realize we are people called to take our weaknesses and our limitations into account. So it may happen that we are gripped by anguish, by anxiety about the future, by fear of illness and death. This explains why many people, searching for a way out, sometimes take dangerous shortcuts such as, for example, the path of drugs or that of superstition or of disastrous magic rituals. It is good to know our limitations and our weaknesses; we must be aware of them, however, not in order to despair, but to offer them to the Lord. And he helps us on the path of healing; he takes us by the hand, and never abandons us, never! God is with us and for this reason I "rejoice"; we "rejoice" today: "Rejoice, Jerusalem", [the antiphon] says, because God is with us. And we have the true and great hope in God the Father rich in mercy, who gave us his Son to save us, and this is our joy. We also have many sorrows, but, when we are true Christians, there is the hope that is a small joy which grows and gives us certainty. We must not become disheartened when we see our limitations, our sins, our weakness: God is near; Jesus is on the Cross to heal us. This is God's love. To look at the Cross and tell ourselves within: "God loves me". It is true, there are these limitations, these weaknesses, these sins, but he is greater than the limitations and the weaknesses and the sins. Do not forget this: God is greater than our weaknesses, than our infidelities, than our sins. And let us take the Lord by the hand; let us look to the Crucifix and go forward.

May Mary, Mother of Mercy, place in our hearts the certainty that we are loved by God. May she be close to us in the moments in which we feel alone, when we are tempted to surrender to life's difficulties. May she convey to us the sentiments of her Son Jesus, so that our Lenten journey may become an experience of forgiveness, of welcome and of charity.

### ***Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary Dinner***

April 19, 2024, at 6 p.m.,

Paramount EventSpace

222 Rowntree Dairy Road, Vaughan

Join us for the Annual Gala Dinner REDEMPTORIS

MATER MISSIONARY SEMINARY OF THE

ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO [rmmstoronto.org](http://rmmstoronto.org) This

dinner is meant to raise funds necessary to continue the mission the Lord has entrusted to us.

Tickets \$150 per person



Inspired by God's love: Support ShareLife's mission  
Today, as we contemplate God's boundless generosity, may we, too, be moved by this same spirit of generosity. May this inspire all of us to be kind, compassionate, and move us to share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need.  
Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

***Next weekend is ShareLife Sunday March 16/17, 2024  
Our Parish Goal is \$141,500.***

MARCH 10, 2024



## Masses For The Week

Sat Mar 9 – 5:00pm

+Vittorio Medici

*req. by Maddalena Favit*

Mon Mar 11 – 8:20am

+Margaret & John McAteer

*req. by Maire Fitzpatrick & Family*

Tues Mar 12 – 8:20am

+Cynthia Gibbs

*req. by Giselle Donaldson & Family*

Wed Mar 13 – 7:00pm

+All Souls in Purgatory

*req. by Joe & Joy Broderick*

+Mark Harris

*req. by His Family*

+Shirley Harris

*req. by Her Family*

+Bridget & +Charles Carolan

*req. by Their Family*

+Rita Attai

*req. by Her Family*

+Debbie Beegan

*req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family*

+Phyllis Margaret Fitz-Charles

*req. by Tracey Dennis & Family*

Thur Mar 14 – 8:20am

+Humberto Schenflede

*req. by His Family*

Fri Mar 15 – 7:00pm

+Kathleen Tebbutt & +Martin Tebbutt

*req. by Taryn DeFreitas*

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

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

Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org) or visit our parish website.



## 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 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!

### 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/#/>



Knights of Columbus Council 4895

St. Patrick's Pub Night

Knights WCC Hall, 133 Brock St. N., Whitby

Saturday March 16,

Doors open 6:30 pm, Dancing 7:30 PM

Live Band - Prizes-Snacks

Light Buffet- Cash Bar.

Tickets - \$30/pp - on sale after masses this weekend

Contact Gerry at 905 995 2978 or Email: [gdesc9@gmail.com](mailto:gdesc9@gmail.com)



### Lenten Day of Confession

Tuesday March 12, 2024

9:30am – 11:30am

2:00pm – 4:00pm

6:30pm – 7:30pm

### Reconciliation Evening Service

Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 7pm in the church

Several priests available

\*\*\*\*\*



**COLLABORATIVE LAW PRACTICE**  
Resolving Disputes Respectfully.

**J. Thomas Hamer**  
Barrister and Solicitor  
COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW  
Wills • Powers of Attorney  
Estate Administration  
www.collaborativepracticetoronto.com  
jthamer@ehpnf.com  
105 Consumers Dr., Ste. 524  
905-665-0221

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**  
FUNERAL SERVICES

In keeping with your Catholic faith  
www.catholic-cemeteries.com  
Resurrection Cemetery 905-668-8912

Funeral Director – Michael Lodge  
**W.C. Town Funeral Chapel**  
110 Dundas St. E., Whitby 905-668-3410

  
**Shopping Locally Saves Gas**

**TEAM FENNESSEY**  
The team you will recommend!  
**TOBY FENNESSEY**  
Broker | Residential/Investment Properties

Chris Leahy  
**DURHAM SECURITY**  
905-556-1801

**THE LIVING BENEFITS GROUP**  
life • disability • critical illness  
long term care • health • dental • RRSPs  
**JIM CORRIGAN**  
310 Byron St. S. 905.430.7921

St. John's parishioner since 1988  
Direct: 905-622-3667 | toby@teamfennessey.com  
www.teamfennessey.com | teamfennessey  
Royal Heritage Realty Ltd., Brokerage

Turn your home into a Smart Home!  
\$50 donated to St. John's for every new contract.  
chris@durhamsecurity.ca

**vandermeer nursery**  
Durham's destination garden centre since 1961. Open year-round!  
vandermeer nursery.com

**COLIN L. OLDMAN** B.Com. LL.B.  
555 KINGSTON RD W, 2ND FLOOR AJAX 905-683-2741  
**LAWSON CLARK & OLDMAN** Est. 1955  
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION - BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, NOTARIES

**Stafford Monuments Limited**  
Granite & Bronze Family & Civic Memorials  
Inscriptions & Cemetery Restoration  
318 Dundas St. E. 905-668-3552  
~ 6 Generations of Service, Quality & Trust ~

**ONTARIO DUCT CLEANING**  
Do it for your home  
do it for the health of your family.  
For a FREE No Obligation phone estimate, call:  
905-433-5000

**ROYAL LEPAGE**  
FRANK REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE  
**Mary-Louise LaBarre**  
Sales Representative / Parishioner  
Cel 905.718.6367  
Bus 905.666.1333  
1.866.273.1333  
mlabarre@sympatico.ca

**BARNES MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME**  
Family owned and operated since 1863  
905.655.3662  
5295 Thickson Rd. N., Whitby  
(1 minute North of Taunton on Thickson)

**Abigail Vales**  
Product Advisor  
1025 Dundas St W  
416-432-2632  
abigail.vales@whitbytoyota.com

**ROUSSEAU'S**  
Fine Furniture & Interior Design Since 1929  
216 Mary St. E.  
905.668.3483  
www.rousseaus.ca

**WHITBY TOYOTA**

**Optical Group Inc.**  
Dr. Constance Odiase, O.D.  
One Stop Shop  
Complete Family Eye Care  
Glasses • Sunglasses  
Contact Lenses  
107 Kent St, Whitby  
905-665-0522  
www.opticalgroup.ca

**THE PERFECT SPOT TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS!**  
  
TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE PLEASE CALL  
1-800-268-2637

**Remember...**  
Let our advertisers know you saw their ad here.

For all your mortgage needs!

**Caroline Anderson**  
Mortgage Agent  
905.767.2748

**MORTGAGE INTELLIGENCE**  
Brokerage #10428  
caroline.anderson@migroup.ca

**RIGHT AT HOME**  
**EDITH LOSADA**  
Realtor®/Parishioner  
Service in Spanish & English  
C: 289-939-3600  
B: 905-665-2500  
EdithLosadaRealty@gmail.com

**NOFRILLS**  
920 Dundas Street West, Whitby

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW DENTIST?**  
**Coryma Dental**  
HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL | CALL NOW!  
905-430-9623  
www.corymadental.com  
220 Dundas St. West, Whitby

**DR. J. D'SOUZA**  
FAMILY DENTIST  
New Patients Welcome  
185 Brock St. N. (at Mary)  
905-430-0118

**Deidre Anne Newman**  
B.Sc., LL.B.  
Barrister & Solicitor  
Family, Criminal, Wills  
Parishioner  
2A-119 Consumers Drive  
Whitby, Ontario L1N 1C4  
T: 905-665-6360  
dnewman@danewmanlaw.com

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE WANTED**  
Liturgical Publications, your weekly bulletin printer has an opening for a **full time Sales Representative**.  
Base Salary • Commission • Car Allowance • Travel Expenses  
If you have a drive to succeed and are self-motivated, email your resume to salesrep@parishbulletins.com

**WCC Hall Rentals**  
133 Brock St. N.  
rentals@whitbycolumbusclub.ca  
www.whitbycolumbusclub.ca  
905-668-6412