

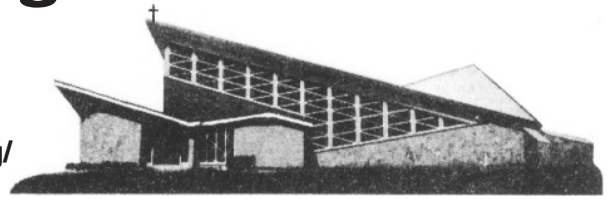
St. John the Evangelist Church

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	Robert Calet	905-252-3962
Feed the Hungry	Paula Campbell	905-668-2293
Home Communion	Clark Weddell	905-434-8121
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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we are celebrating the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The First Reading is from the book of the prophet Jeremiah. It offers a passage on the consolation that God addresses to His people Israel. Even though all through their history, Israel has been unfaithful in keeping the commandments, God wants to establish a new covenant with them. In this new covenant, God will give them a new heart that will be faithful to the Lord and will be able to keep His commandments. When God has reestablished His covenant, He does not give them a new opportunity, but He completely renews them so that they now can keep the commandments. This is also what God wants to do for us during this time of Lent. He wants to take away from us the heart of stone and give us a heart of flesh. The Second Reading is from the Letter to the Hebrews. It is a beautiful passage in which the author emphasizes Christ as the obedient servant who has offered His life for our salvation. When we are faced with difficulties and struggles, it is very easy to grumble and to get discouraged. We all fall short when we encounter trials; however, Christ has remained steadfast when He faced the passion. He has become for us the source of our salvation. It is in Him that we can find strength and support in our time of difficulty. We are encouraged to rely in Him to find peace and strength. The Gospel from St. John offers us part of a dialogue of Jesus with some Greeks who came to visit Him. He encouraged them to believe that He is the Messiah who has been sent to give His life so that we may receive salvation. Christ already foretells that He is going to give His life through His Passion and Death on the Cross. This event is also a glorification because it will mean the salvation of all humanity. Moreover, He will not remain in death, but He will rise from death showing us that we can participate in His victory over sin and death through a new life. Let us desire that Christ will transform us through His life-giving Spirit!

As a preparation for Easter, I encourage everyone to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation in which we will experience Christ's life-giving mercy. We will have several priests available today, March 17th at 7pm for our Evening of Reconciliation in the church.

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.

Holy Week is coming soon. Palm Sunday is March 23/24 with masses on Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 9am, 11am and 2pm in Spanish. Holy Thursday, March 28, we will have bilingual mass in English and Spanish at 7:30pm followed by Adoration until 11pm. On Good Friday, March 29, we will have the Lord's Passion at 12pm in Spanish, at 3pm in English and Stations of the Cross at 7pm. Saturday, March 30, we will have the Easter Vigil at 8pm, there will be no mass at 5pm. March 31, Easter Sunday we will have mass at 9am and 11am and 2pm in Spanish.

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily Fifth Sunday of Lent (March 21, 2021)

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the liturgy proclaims the Gospel in which Saint John refers to an episode that occurred in the final days of Christ's life, shortly before the Passion (cf. Jn 12:20-33). While Jesus was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, several Greeks, curious because of what he had been doing, express the wish to see him. They approach the apostle Philip and say to him:

"We wish to see Jesus" (v. 21). "We wish to see Jesus". Let us remember this: "We wish to see Jesus". Philip tells Andrew and then together they report it to the Teacher. In the request of those Greeks we can glimpse the request that many men and women, of every place and every time, pose to the Church and also to each one of us: "We wish to see Jesus".

And how does Jesus respond to that request? In a way that makes us think. He says: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.... Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (vv. 23-24). These words do not seem to respond to the request those Greeks made. In reality, they surpass it. In fact, Jesus reveals that for every man and woman who wants to find him, He is the hidden seed ready to die in order to bear much fruit. As if to say: if you wish to know me, if you wish to understand me, look at the grain of wheat that dies in soil, that is, look at the cross.

The sign of the Cross comes to mind, which over the centuries has become the symbol par excellence of Christians. Even today, those who wish to "see Jesus", perhaps coming from countries and cultures where Christianity is not well-known, what do they see first? What is the most common sign they encounter? The Crucifix, the Cross. In churches, in the homes of Christians, even worn on their persons. The important thing is that the sign be consistent with the Gospel: the cross cannot but express love, service, unreserved self-giving: only in this way is it truly the "tree of life", of overabundant life.

Today too, many people, often without saying so, implicitly would like to "see Jesus", to meet him, to know him. This is how we understand the great responsibility we Christians and of our communities have. We too must respond with the witness of a life that is given in service, a life that takes upon itself the style of God – closeness, compassion and tenderness – and is given in service. It means sowing seeds of love, not with fleeting words but through concrete, simple and courageous examples, not with theoretical condemnations, but with gestures of love. Then the Lord, with his grace, makes us bear fruit, even when the soil is dry due to misunderstandings, difficulty or persecution, or claims of legalism or clerical moralism. This is barren soil. Precisely then, in trials and in solitude, while the seed is dying, that is the moment in which life blossoms, to bear ripe fruit in due time. It is in this intertwining of death and life that we can experience the joy and true fruitfulness of love, which always, I repeat, is given in God's style: closeness, compassion, tenderness.

May the Virgin Mary help us to follow Jesus, to walk, strong and joyful, on the path of service, so that the love of Christ may shine in our every attitude and become more and more the style of our daily life.

Reconciliation Evening Service
Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 7pm in the church
Several priests available

SL ShareLife

Today is ShareLife Sunday!
Our Parish Goal is \$141,500

Everyday, young people in our community need a helping hand due to homelessness, trafficking, or violence. ShareLife agencies ensure the safety of youth fleeing violent homes and provide them a supportive place to stay. This is all made possible thanks to amazing people like you who choose to support ShareLife.

We thank you for your kindness and generosity.

**FIRST EUCHARIST
PREPARATION/PRACTICE**

Saturday April 6th
One Parent and child to attend

11am – 12:00pm
Children celebrating on
April 28th or May 5th

1:00pm – 2:00pm
Children celebrating on
April 14th or April 21st

2024 Holy Week Celebrations

Sat./Sun. Mar 23/24

**Palm Sunday Masses (Saturday) 5pm,
(Sunday) 9am, 11am
(Sunday) 2:00pm Spanish**

Mon. Mar 25
Mass 8:20am

Tues. Mar 26
Mass 8:20am

Wed. Mar 27
Mass 7pm

Thurs. Mar 28
Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper
Bilingual 7:30pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
after Mass until 11pm

Fri. Mar 29
Divine Mercy Novena begins at 10am
Liturgia solemne de la pasión del
Señor 12 pm
Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
3pm
Stations of the Cross, Presented by
Youth 7pm

Sat. Mar 30
Divine Mercy Novena 12pm
Easter Vigil 8pm
No 5pm Mass

Sun. Mar 31
Divine Mercy Novena 8:45am
EASTER SUNDAY
9am, 11am
2:00 pm Spanish

Mon Apr 1
Divine Mercy Novena 8:45am
EASTER MONDAY
Mass 9am

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Seniors' Retreat Coming Soon
Thursday, May 23, 2024
Lunch included Invite a friend!

**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
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the mission the Lord has entrusted to
us.
Tickets \$150 per person



Masses For The Week

Sat Mar 16– 5:00pm
+Dominic Bonello
req. by Rita & Saviour Bonello

Mon Mar 18 – 8:20am
+Kathleen, Dave & Una Johnston
req. by Their Family

Tues Mar 19 – 8:20am
+Cynthia Gibbs
req. by Mary Yearwood

Wed Mar 20 – 7:00pm
+Ralph McCloskey
req. by His Family
+Yesu Dass
req. by Yesu
Int for the Bonello Family
req. by Rita & Saviour Bonello
+Ana Francisca Rubio de Martinez
req. by The Rincon Family
+Laura Gabriela Massa
req. by Herminia Moniz & Family

Thur Mar 21 – 8:20am
+Susan & John Fitzpatrick
req. by Maire Fitzpatrick & Family

Fri Mar 22 – 8:20am
+Andrew Marioselva
req. by His Family

**Catholic Cemeteries
– Winter Wreaths**
Resurrection Cemetery will be
removing all winter wreaths from
the graves/lots on April 2, 2024. If
you wish to reuse your wreath for
next season, please remove it
prior to April 2nd. **Wreaths not
removed will be disposed of.**

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.

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.

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