

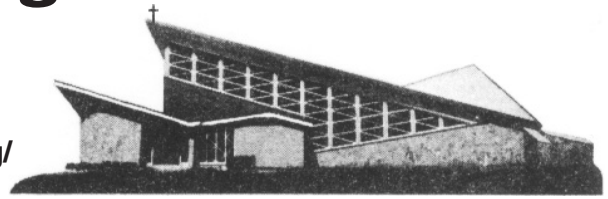
# St. John the Evangelist Church

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, Ontario L1N 2S3

Rectory Office: Ph:905-668-3676

email: [stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org)

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

<b>St. John the Evangelist School</b>	905-668-4011	<b>St. Marguerite d'Youville School</b>	905-666-9301
1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3		250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1	
<b>St. Luke the Evangelist School</b>	905-665-5828	<b>All Saints Catholic Secondary School</b>	905-666-7753
55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9		3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1	
<b>Durham Catholic District School Board</b>		905-576-6150	<a href="http://www.dcdsb.ca">www.dcdsb.ca</a>

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Message from the Pastor

The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you all!

We celebrate this Sunday the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday. This solemnity was established by St. John Paul II on 2000 at the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska. This feast invites us to be conscious and aware of the immense love of God for us. The mercy and compassion of Christ is beyond limits and it is stronger than death itself. The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. It presents the characteristics of the early Church community. One of the fruits of Christ's Resurrection is that there is unity and love. Each of the members of the community seeks the good of the other, tries to help any person any need. How beautiful is it to have this transformation as well in our parish community. When we receive the Spirit of the Risen Christ, it will take us out of our selfishness to love those around us. This is the way that we can be witnesses of the Resurrection of Christ amid other people. The Second Reading is from the First Letter of St. John. It points out that when we are transformed by the Resurrection of Christ, we can love those around us unconditionally. This is a very tangible fruit that Christ is indeed risen for us. On average, we all experience that our love for others is limited, we can love until a certain point. It is easy at some point to judge, to get impatient and to be selfish. This makes us sad because we would like to love others, but we can notice that we cannot do it on our own. Now, with Christ it's possible to love others completely. This is our happiness and fulfillment. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us the account of the appearance of Jesus to the apostles and St. Thomas. After Christ's death, the apostles were very fearful, and they remained behind closed doors. The Risen Christ came amongst them and showed them His hands and His feet. By doing this, He assured them that He is risen, and He gave them immense peace. St. Thomas was not present when Jesus appeared to them, and he did not believe that Christ was truly risen. The following week, Christ appeared again to them and allowed Thomas to see his wounded hands and his side, and he believed that He is truly risen. As the apostles, we are called to experience the Risen Christ in our daily lives. Let us experience the transformative mercy of Christ that comes to transform our hearts!

In order to have a concrete and tangible experience of the Risen Christ in our lives, I really encourage you to come to the

preaching of the Good News that will take place in our Church. It will start on Monday, April 15th at 7:30 pm and will be every Monday and Thursday at the same time at the Church. You do not need to register to come, just attend and experience the joy of the Resurrection in your lives!

May God continue to fill you with hope and peace during the Easter Season!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

### Pope Francis Homily for Divine Mercy Sunday (April 11, 2021)

The risen Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions. He patiently soothed their troubled hearts. Risen himself, he now brings about "the resurrection of the disciples". He raises their spirits and their lives are changed. Earlier, the Lord's words and his example had failed to change them. Now, at Easter, something new happens, and it happens in the light of mercy. Jesus raises them up with mercy. Having received that mercy, they become merciful in turn. It is hard to be merciful without the experience of having first received mercy.

First, they receive mercy through three gifts. First, Jesus offers them peace, then the Spirit and finally his wounds. The disciples were upset. They were locked away for fear, fear of being arrested and ending up like the Master. But they were not only huddled together in a room; they were also trapped in their own remorse. They had abandoned and denied Jesus. They felt helpless, discredited, good for nothing. Jesus arrives and says to them twice, "Peace be with you!" He does not bring a peace that removes the problems without, but one that infuses trust within. It is no outward peace, but peace of heart. He tells them "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, even so I send you" (Jn 20:21). It is as if to say, "I am sending you because I believe in you". Those disheartened disciples were put at peace with themselves. The peace of Jesus made them pass from remorse to mission. The peace of Jesus awakens mission. It entails not ease and comfort, but the challenge to break out of ourselves. The peace of Jesus frees from the self-absorption that paralyzes; it shatters the bonds that keep the heart imprisoned. The disciples realized that they had been shown mercy: they realized that God did not condemn or demean them, but instead believed in them. God, in fact, believes in us even more than we believe in

ourselves. "He loves us better than we love ourselves (cf. SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, Meditations and Devotions, III, 12, 2).

Second, Jesus showed mercy to his disciples by granting them the Holy Spirit. He bestowed the Spirit for the forgiveness of sins (cf. vv. 22-23). The disciples were guilty; they had run away, they had abandoned the Master. Sin brings torment; evil has its price. Our sin, as the Psalmist says (cf. 51:5), is always before us. Of ourselves, we cannot remove it. Only God takes it away, only he by his mercy can make us emerge from the depths of our misery. Like those disciples, we need to let ourselves be forgiven, to ask heartfelt pardon of the Lord. We need to open our hearts to being forgiven. Forgiveness in the Holy Spirit is the Easter gift that enables our interior resurrection. Let us ask for the grace to accept that gift, to embrace the Sacrament of forgiveness. And to understand that Confession is not about ourselves and our sins, but about God and his mercy. Let us not confess to abase ourselves, but to be raised up. We, all of us, need this badly. Like little children who, whenever they fall, need to be picked up by their fathers, we need this. We too fall frequently. And the hand of our Father is ready to set us on our feet again and to make us keep walking. That sure and trustworthy hand is Confession.

Together with the peace that rehabilitates us and the forgiveness that lifts us up, Jesus gave his disciples a third gift of mercy: he showed them his wounds. By those wounds we were healed (cf. 1 Pet 2:24; Is 53:5). But how can wounds heal us? By mercy. In those wounds, like Thomas, we can literally touch the fact that God has loved us to the end. He has made our wounds his own and borne our weaknesses in his own body. His wounds are open channels between him and us, shedding mercy upon our misery. His wounds are the pathways that God has opened up for us to enter into his tender love and actually "touch" who he is. Let us never again doubt his mercy.

### **Banns for Ordination**

**Daniel Humphries is to be ordained to the Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Toronto on May 25, 2024 at St. Michael's Cathedral.**

**Please remember him in your prayers.**

**Canon Law obliges Catholics to reveal any impediment to sacred orders to the bishop or pastor.**

APRIL 7, 2024



**Word of Good News  
For Youth & Adults**  
Come and discover the love  
that God has for you!  
Starting April 15, 2024  
Mondays & Thursdays  
7:30pm  
St. John the Evangelist  
Parish  
**COME AND SEE!**

CWL Members and Ladies of the  
Parish

Our next CWL general meeting is  
scheduled for Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>,  
2024, at 7:30 p.m. in the main room  
of the Parish Centre. If you require  
more information, please contact  
Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-  
6582 or  
lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.

**An Invitation for Men Only**  
Saturday, April 20 9:00am to 1:00pm  
at Holy Family Parish  
91 Ribblesdale Dr

The St Joseph as a model for modern  
men retreat begins with Mass; continues  
with coffee and muffins, a presentation  
by Fr Laszlo, reflection, and discussion;  
and ends with a poor man's lunch.

Registration at Welcome desk  
recommended. Free will offering.  
Contact John Hugel at  
johnhugel@gmail.com, or Mike Hyland  
at mikejshyland@gmail.com for further  
information.

**Totus Tuus Summer Camp!**  
**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  
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 7<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, July  
11th, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The deadline to register for the  
camp is June 14th, 2024. The  
deadline to apply to volunteer is  
May 31st, 2024. For more  
information about registration or  
volunteeringssandra at  
cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org  
or visit our parish website.

Redemptoris Mater Missionary  
Seminary Dinner

April 19, 2024, @ 6:00pm  
222 Rowntree Dairy Road, Vaughan  
Join us for the Annual Gala Dinner.  
This dinner is meant to raise funds  
necessary to continue the mission the  
Lord has entrusted to us.  
Tickets \$150 per person

St. John's Ladies Golf League  
Meeting Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30  
p.m. in room 2 of the Parish Centre for  
our kick-off meeting. If you have any  
questions, please do not hesitate to  
contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-  
431-6582  
or lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.



**Masses For The Week**

Sat Apr 6 – 5:00pm  
+Ivanka Grgic  
*req. by Paul & Geni D'Aurelio*

Mon Apr 8 – 8:20am  
+Luc Charles Matteau  
*req. by St. John's School Staff*

Tues Apr 9 – 8:20am  
+Francisco Macedo  
*req. by Kathy Webb*

Wed Apr 10 – 7:00pm  
+Mark Harris  
*req. by The Harris Family*  
+Stan & Shirley Harris  
*req. by The Harris Family*  
+Martin Doleweerd  
*req. by His Wife & Family*  
+Deceased Members of the Cot Family  
*req. by Irena Stebih*  
In Thanksgiving  
*req. by The D'Cruze Family*

Thur Apr 11– 8:20am  
+ Anna de Capite  
*req. by Paul & Geni D'Aurelio*

Fri Apr 12 – 8:20am  
+Francesco Veltri  
*req. by Nina & Family*

Consecration to the Blessed  
Virgin Mary  
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024  
At 9am in the Church.  
Archbishop Leo has requested  
that the Diocese hold a special  
prayer of Consecration to the  
Blessed Virgin Mary on Monday,  
April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Annunciation of the  
Lord. This will take place after  
the morning mass.  
*All are welcome*

St. John the Evangelist  
Day of Reflection and Spiritual  
Renewal  
For all Parishioners 55+  
Manresa Centre, Pickering, Ontario  
Thursday, May 23, 2024  
From 9:30 am to 3:00 PM  
Father James V Kelly S.J.  
Manresa Retreat Spiritual Centre  
Our Facilitator  
His talk, in two parts  
THE POWER OF PENTECOST  
REGISTRATION TAKES PLACE  
AFTER ALL MASSES May 4-5, 11-12  
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