

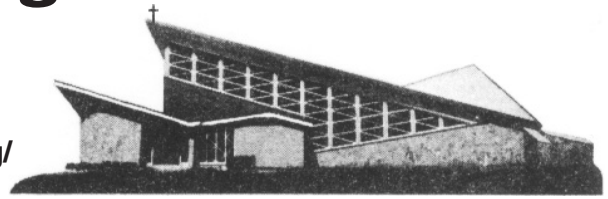
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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 Caley	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>

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Message from the Pastor

The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you all!

We celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter this Sunday. The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. It presents the beginnings of the preaching ministry of St. Paul. When he started preaching, people were not very welcoming to him since he had been persecuting the Church before. Through the intervention of Barnabas, Paul could now announce the Good News freely and people believed in the Lord. Through his preaching, the communities grew, and more and more people believed in the Lord as Messiah. However, Paul always faced opposition and he had to go somewhere else to continue with his mission of evangelization. The Second Reading is from the First Letter of St. John. It underlines that to believe in Christ as Savior implies in our lives that we love in word and in deed. John emphasizes that to live a good Christian life is essential to fulfill the commandment of love towards each other as a proof that we have fullness of life within ourselves. When we believe in Christ and we welcome His love in our lives, then we receive the Spirit to love unconditionally like Christ. This is the stature to which the Risen Christ is bringing us in our daily lives. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us the beautiful parable of Jesus as the Vine. This image shows us how much we need to be attached to Christ in our spiritual life to bear fruit. If we are not rooted in Christ, our lives withered, and we bear no fruit. Our actions are meaningless, and we feel empty. However, when we allow Christ to be at the center of our lives, we receive fullness of life from Him and our actions are life-giving. Consequently, our daily lives are very meaningful and peaceful. Let us open our hearts to Christ so that we can build our lives in Him and from Him receive fullness of life!

To receive life from Christ, I really encourage to come to the preaching of the Good News that is taking place in our Church. It is every Monday and Thursday at 7:30pm 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter B (April 18, 2021)

In the Gospel of this Fifth Sunday of Easter (Jn 15:1-8), the Lord presents himself as the true vine, and speaks of us as the branches that cannot live without being united to Him. And so He says: "I am the vine, you are the branches" (v. 5). There is no vine without branches, and vice versa. The branches are not self-sufficient, but depend totally on the vine, which is the source of their existence.

Jesus insists on the verb "to abide". He repeats it seven times in today's Gospel reading. Before leaving this world and going to the Father, Jesus wants to reassure His disciples that they can continue to be united with Him. He says, "Abide in me, and I in you" (v. 4). This abiding is not a question of abiding passively, of "slumbering" in the Lord, letting oneself be lulled by life: no, no! It is not this. The abiding in Him, the abiding in Jesus that He proposes to us is abiding actively, and also reciprocally. Why? Because the branches without the vine can do nothing, they need sap to grow and to bear fruit; but the vine, too, needs the branches, since fruit does not grow on the tree trunk. It is a reciprocal need, it is a question of a reciprocal abiding so as to bear fruit. We abide in Jesus and Jesus abides in us.

First of all, we need Him. The Lord wants to say to us that before the observance of His commandments, before the beatitudes, before works of mercy, it is necessary to be united to Him, to remain in him. We cannot be good Christians if we do not remain in Jesus. With Him, instead, we can do everything (cf. Phil 4:13). With Him we can do everything.

But even Jesus needs us, like the vine with the branches. Perhaps to say this seems audacious to us, and so we ask ourselves: in what sense does Jesus need us? He needs our witness. Like the branches the fruit we must give is the witness to our lives as Christians. After Jesus ascended to the Father, the task of the disciples - it is our task - is to continue to proclaim the Gospel in words and in deeds. And the disciples - we, Jesus' disciples - do so by bearing witness to His love: the fruit to be borne is love. Attached to Christ, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and in this way we can do good to our neighbour, we can do good to society, to the Church. The tree is known by its fruit. A truly Christian life bears witness to Christ.

And how can we succeed in doing this? Jesus says to us: "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you" (v.7). This too is bold: the certainty that what we ask for will be given to us. The fruitfulness of our life depends on prayer. We can ask to think like Him, to act like Him, to see the world and things with the eyes of Jesus. And in this way, to love our brothers and sisters, starting from the poorest and those who suffer most, like He did, and to love them with His heart and to bring to the world fruits of goodness, fruits of charity, fruits of peace.

Let us entrust ourselves to the intercession of the Virgin Mary. She always remained completely united to Jesus and bore much fruit. May she help us abide in Christ, in his love, in his word, to bear witness to the Risen Lord in the world.



Society of St.  
Vincent de Paul,  
St. John the Evangelist  
Conference

### **BUNDLE WEEKEND**

**May 4/5, 2024**

A truck will be parked in St. John Parish parking lot over the weekend May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> accepting gently used/new clothing, coats, linens, towels, bedding, textiles, drapery, shoes/boots.

We CANNOT accept furniture, appliances, mattresses, used baby equipment, furniture, books, dishes, construction material or video tapes.

**Please bring your items to the truck after mass Saturday at 5pm, Sunday 9am or 11am or 2:00 pm in Spanish.**

### **Volunteer Appreciation Night Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 7:00pm, Parish Centre**

Fr. Francisco would like to thank all in Ministry by invitation to join us for wine and cheese  
*and friendly fellowship.*

Please RSVP to the parish office by email [vmorgan@archtoronto.org](mailto:vmorgan@archtoronto.org).

APRIL 28, 2024



*A second collection will be taken up today. Thank you for generously supporting ShareLife!*

***DPCC: This Year, let's work toward Reaping Our Rights***

This year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's Create Hope: Reaping our Rights campaign calls you to stand with small-scale farmers and peasant communities who feed the world while caring for the Earth.

On this weekend you heard a short presentation of Development and Peace-Caritas Canada in support of ShareLife. It is from this collection that D&P has received the support of the faithful in the Archdiocese of Toronto for many years as well as from those who have chosen to donate directly to D&P. Your donations during emergency appeals were also part of the support of the work of D&P.

Denouncing oil pollution in Nigeria, the Reaping Our Rights campaign for 2024.

Nigeria is Africa's largest economy and biggest oil producer. Despite oil exports worth billions of dollars, millions of Nigerians remain in poverty and face food insecurity. In the south, pollution and contamination by the oil industry are causing great hardship.



Masses For The Week

**Sat Apr 27 – 5:00pm**  
**+Carne, Rosina & Salvatore Molica Lazzaro**  
*req. by Angela D'Angelo*

**Mon Apr 29 – 8:20am**  
**+Ian Nimmo**  
*req. by Kathie & Linda*

**Tues Apr 30 – 8:20am**  
**+Irma James**  
*req. by Valerie James*

**Wed May 1 – 7:00pm**  
**+Stella McCabe**  
*req. by Tom & Teresa Simmons*  
**+Norm Rich**  
*req. by Joan Rich & Family*  
**+William Cook**  
*req. by Helen Cook & Family*  
**+Frenk Smrekar**  
*req. by The Struna Family*  
**+Leao D'Souza**  
*req. by His Family*

Daughters of St. Paul Book Fair April 27/28, 2024

Pauline Parish Book Fair  
The Daughters of St. Paul will hold a Book Fair in the parish centre on April 27/28 after all masses. A selection of books for children, youth and adults including bibles, bible stories, storybooks, spirituality, prayer, faith formation, parenting and the lives of the saints. Please tour the book fair in the parish centre after mass.



**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**

**In the church, COME AND SEE!**

**Confirmation Candidates**

Evening of Reconciliation in the Church

Tuesday April 30th

*Candidates being Confirmed June 1st*

7:00pm-8:00pm

Thursday May 2nd

*Candidates being Confirmed May 26th*

7:00pm -8:00pm

**Pope's Pastoral Works**

**Second Collection May 4/5, 2024**

The Papal Charities allow the Pope to contribute to various charitable causes around the world, particularly toward aiding the victims of war, famine and natural disasters.

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

**Thursday May 9, 2024**

**A bus departs from Holy Family Parish to Ottawa at 6:45am.**

**Tickets \$35/adult**

**Call Gwen 905-259-8504**

**Thur May 2– 8:20am**  
**+ Evan Faith Skinner**  
*req. by The Skinner Family*

**Fri May 3 – 8:20am**  
**+Don Legault**  
*req. by Denise Dugan*

**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**  
**\$50.00 INCLUDING LUNCH AND SNACK**  
**Payable when registering**

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday May 1, 2023 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](mailto:bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com) or call 416-508-9877

**Knights of Columbus Council 4895**  
**11th Annual Ray Hayes Memorial Music Night for Natuashish**  
**Knights Hall, 133 Brock Street,**  
**Saturday, May 25, 2024**  
**Doors Open 6:30, Music at 7:30pm**  
**Tickets \$20.00 each**  
**All proceeds to the Innu of Natuashish, thru Catholic Missions in Canada**  
**Contact Mark McGowan**  
**at [dr.mhaire@gmail.com](mailto:dr.mhaire@gmail.com)**

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