

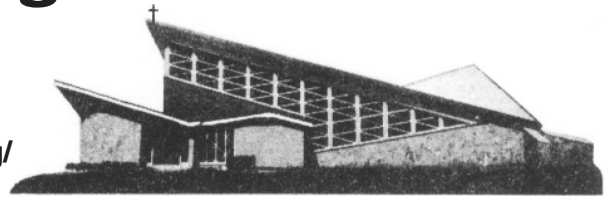
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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  
 Mrs. Cassandra Hamilton 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 Hamilton	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>

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Message from the Pastor

The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you all!

We celebrate this Sunday the Sixth Sunday of Easter. The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. It presents St. Peter's explanation concerning his visit to Cornelius. He was a Roman citizen and consequently he could not share in God's salvation, which they thought was only reserved to the people of Israel. However, God wanted that Cornelius and many other people with him could share also in God's salvation. After they received the Holy Spirit, St. Peter argues that salvation is open to everybody as long as they believe in Christ as Savior. This is very important because since, that moment, the Church was open to all nations and the Good News could spread everywhere. The Second Reading is from the First Letter of St. John. It shows an essential aspect of our faith. It defines that the main attribute of God is love. He has loved us first and the proof of this is that He has sent Christ to die as an expiation for our sins. If we are transformed by this undeserving love, then we can love those around us in the same way that we have been loved first. This is the beauty of our faith, that we are given the capacity to love beyond our ability, even those that for us is very hard to do. The Gospel, from St. John, continues the parable of Jesus as the true Vine. We are called to remain in Him, that is, to acknowledge constantly that Christ loves us unconditionally. When we are shaped and transformed by this love, then we can love in the same measure that Christ has loved us. We all are aware that are our love is limited and it can only go until a certain point; however, Christ offers us the great opportunity to love completely. When we allow Christ to love through us in this way, our lives are completely fulfilled, and we are extremely happy. It takes time to love in this way, but it is essential that we are aware more and more of how much Christ loves us. Let us open our hearts to the immense love of Christ for us so that we may be able to love completely those around us!

To experience God's love for us in a concrete way in our lives, 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 Sixth Sunday of Easter B (May 9, 2021)

In this Sunday's Gospel passage (Jn 15:9-17) after having compared Himself to the vine and us to the branches, Jesus, explains what fruit is borne by those who remain united to Him: this fruit is love. He again repeats the key-verb: abide. He invites us to abide in his love so that his joy may be in us and our joy may be full (vv. 9-11). To abide in Jesus' love.

Let us ask ourselves: what this love is in which Jesus tells us to abide to have his joy? What is this love? It is the love that originates in the Father, because "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8). This love of God, of the Father, flows like a river in his Son Jesus and through Him comes to us, his creatures. Indeed,

he says: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you" (Jn 15:9). The love Jesus gives us is the same with which the Father loves Him: pure love, unconditional, freely given love. It cannot be bought, it is free. By giving it to us, Jesus treats us like friends – with this love –, making us know the Father, and he involves us in his same mission for the life of the world.

And then, we can ask ourselves the question, how do we abide in this love? Jesus says: "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love" (v. 10). Jesus summarized his commandments in a single one, this: "that you love one another as I have loved you" (v. 12). To love as Jesus means to offer yourself in service, at the service of your brothers and sisters, as he did in washing the feet of the disciples. It also means going outside of ourselves, detaching ourselves from our own human certainties, from earthly comforts, in order to open ourselves up to others, especially those in greater need. It means making ourselves available, as we are and with what we have. This means to love not in word but in deeds.

To love like Christ means saying 'no' to other 'loves' that the world offers us: love of money – those who love money do not love as Jesus loves -, love of success, vanity, [love] of power.... These deceptive paths of "love" distance us from the Lord's love and lead us to become more and more selfish, narcissistic, overbearing. And being overbearing leads to a degeneration of

love, to the abuse others, to making our loved ones suffer. I am thinking of the unhealthy love that turns into violence – and how many women are victims of violence these days. This is not love. To love as the Lord loves us means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be, gratuitously. Ultimately, Jesus asks us to abide in his love, to dwell in his love, not in our ideas, not in our own self-worship. Those who dwell in self-worship live in the mirror: always looking at themselves. Those who overcome the ambition to control and manage others. Not controlling, serving them. Opening our heart to others, this is love, giving ourselves to others.

Dear brothers and sisters, where does this abiding in the Lord's love lead? Where does it lead us? Jesus told us: "That my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (v. 11). And the Lord wants the joy he possesses, because he is in complete communion with the Father, to be in us insofar as we are united to Him. The joy of knowing we are loved by God despite our infidelities enables us to face the trials of life confidently, makes us live through crises so as to emerge from them better. Our being true witnesses consists in living this joy, because joy is the distinctive sign of a true Christian. True Christians are not sad; they always have that joy inside, even in difficult moments.

### **Catholic Education Week – May 5, 2024 "We Are Called To Love"**

During Catholic Education Week (May 5 – 10, 2024), we give thanks for the gift of publicly funded Catholic Education in our province. Catholic schools foster supportive communities where children can experience the joy of God's love and understand the Christian mission in the world. Together, our parishes, educators and families sow and nurture the seeds of faith with the next generation of Catholics, encouraging them to live lives of holiness and Christian witness as one body in Christ. To indicate your support of Catholic education and sign-up for email updates, visit:

[www.togetherinfaith.ca](http://www.togetherinfaith.ca).

*Thank you to:  
All Saints CSS,  
St. John the Evangelist CS,  
St. Marguerite d'Youville CS,  
St. Luke the Evangelist CS*

MAY 5, 2024

**CONFIRMATION PRACTICE  
THURSDAY MAY 23RD IN THE  
CHURCH  
CANDIDATES BEING CONFIRMED  
JUNE 1ST 6:30PM – 7:00PM  
CANDIDATES BEING CONFIRMED  
MAY 26TH 7:15PM-7:45PM**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yha-VrzqUHU>

Thank you for your generous support of ShareLife. D&P and the rest of the ShareLife network can continue their work thanks to you.



**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!**



St. John the Evangelist's  
Social Committee invites  
you to

**Taste of the Parish on  
Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
From 11 am to 3 pm.**

Join us on the Church grounds for fun,  
food and games for the whole family!

Come and share in culinary delights  
from around the world.

Food contributions from your country  
of origin are welcome. Sign up sheets  
are available in the Foyer after all  
Masses.

BYOLC: Bring your own lawn chair

**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.



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.**

DPCC: This Year, let's work toward  
Reaping Our Rights # 2

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  
Training next-generation farmers in  
Indonesia

In rural Indonesia, young people are  
abandoning agriculture to work in  
cities. Over time, this could threaten  
food sovereignty.

Our partner PAYOPAYO empowers  
village communities to work together  
to find solutions to common challenges  
related to agriculture, food, energy,  
natural resource management and the  
engagement of youths, especially  
women.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbm8IiAldn8>

Meet our solidarity visitor Karno  
Batiran, the executive director of  
PAYOPAYO

**Thank  
You**

**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 & cheese**

*and friendly fellowship.*

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

**ShareLife**

Goal \$141,700

**Collection to date: \$52,597**

*Thank you for generously giving  
to ShareLife*

**Aid to Women**

**Baby Bottle Campaign**

Baby bottles will be available for  
pickup on Mother's Day weekend  
May 11/12 in the foyer. We ask  
that you deposit coins over the  
weeks and return the bottles on  
Father's Day weekend of June  
15/16. A Tax receipt is provided if  
you include your complete name  
and address when you return the  
bottle.

Aid to Women is a Christian,  
volunteer-based, charity, offering  
pro-life options and practical  
support to pregnant women in  
crisis. We provide information  
about the reality of what an  
abortion is and the effects it can  
have on women, confidential and  
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them to choose life for their  
unborn children. We have been  
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