

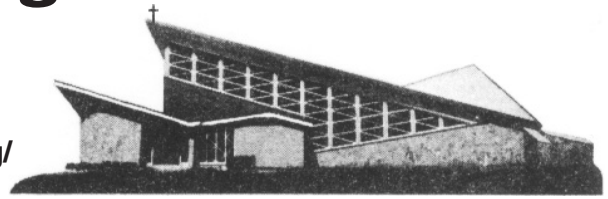
St. John the Evangelist Church

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
 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

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Message from the Pastor

The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you all!

We celebrate this Sunday, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven. After 40 days in which Christ gave proof to His disciples that He was risen, He ascends into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. It presents the account of the Ascension of Jesus. He is leaving them to go to Heaven, but He promises that the Holy Spirit will be with them to accompany them in their future mission of announcing the Good News. By ascending into Heaven, Jesus does not separate Himself from them, but He accompanies them in their preaching and helps them wherever they go. The fact that Jesus ascends into Heaven does not imply a separation from us, but rather Jesus is even more present in our hearts and has greater influence in our lives. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, gives us a very hopeful message. Through the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, God has called us to inherit Eternal Life, a fulfilled life without end. We will experience it completely when we die, but even now we can already experience God's intervention and action in our lives. When we feel frustrated or discouraged, Christ always comes to lift us up and He transforms us by His grace. We should always look up to God for help especially when we are in trouble, or we feel weighed down. The Gospel, from St. Mark, offers us the commission of Jesus to His disciples to preach the Good News throughout all the earth. Before Jesus physically leaves them and ascends into Heaven, He encourages them to continue His mission of offering salvation to all peoples. Whoever receives the Good News is filled with fullness of life, whoever rejects it remains empty. Christ ascends into Heaven preparing a place for us. As He leaves them, He blesses the disciples and accompanies them in their preaching. Christ sits at the right hand of the Father and from there He constantly intervenes in our daily lives. Moreover, He has power to overcome our fears and struggles and to give us unending life. Even if it seems that Christ is not around us, He is even closer than ever to us and He continues to encourage us in our daily struggles. Let us focus our hearts on the One who has ascended into Heaven and who comes to help us any time we need!

To experience God's love for us in a concrete way in our lives, I really encourage you 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 the Ascension of the Lord B (May 16, 2021)

The Gospel passage (Mk 16:15-20) – the conclusion of the Gospel of Mark – presents us the Risen One's final encounter with the disciples before he ascends to the right hand of the Father. Usually, as we know, farewell scenes are sad. They cause a feeling of loss, of abandonment in those who remain; instead, none of this happens to the disciples. Despite their separation from the Lord, they do not appear grief-stricken, but rather, they are joyful and ready to go out into the world as missionaries.

Why are the disciples not sad? Why should we too rejoice at seeing Jesus ascending into heaven? Because the Ascension completes Jesus' mission among us. Indeed, if it is for us that Jesus descended from heaven, it is also for us that he ascends there. After having descended into our humanity and redeeming it – God, the Son of God, descends and becomes man, takes our humanity and redeems it – he now ascends into heaven, taking our flesh with him. He is the first man who enters heaven, because Jesus is man, true man; he is God, true God; our flesh is in heaven and this gives us joy. Now at the right hand of the Father sits a human body, for the first time, the body of Jesus, and in this mystery each of us contemplates our own future destination. This is not at all an abandonment; Jesus remains forever with the disciples – with us. He remains in prayer, because he, as man, prays to the Father, and as God, man and God, shows Him his wounds, the wounds by which he has redeemed us. Jesus' prayer is there, with our flesh: he is one of us, God man, and he prays for us. This has to give us confidence, or rather joy, great joy! And the second reason for joy is Jesus' promise. He told us: "I will send you the Holy Spirit". And there, with the Holy Spirit, that commandment is made which he gives in his farewell: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel". And it will be the power of the Holy Spirit that leads us there into the world, to bring the Gospel. It is the Holy Spirit of that day, that Jesus promised, and

then nine days later he will come in the Feast of Pentecost. It is precisely the Holy Spirit who made it possible for us to be this way today. A great joy! Jesus went to heaven: the first man before the Father.

He left with his wounds, which were the price of our salvation, and he prays for us. And then he sends us the Holy spirit; he promises us the Holy Spirit, to go to evangelize. This is the reason for the joy today; this is the reason for the joy on this day of the Ascension.

Brothers and sisters, on this Feast of the Ascension, while we contemplate Heaven, where Christ has ascended and sits at the right hand of the Father, let us ask Mary, Queen of Heaven, to help us be courageous witnesses to the Risen One in the world, in the concrete situations of life.

**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.

**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**

**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.mhairc@gmail.com**

MAY 12, 2024



Masses For The Week

Sat May 11 – 5:00pm

+Maureen LaBarre

req. by *The LaBarre Family*

Mon May 13 – 8:20am

+Ryan McDonald

req. by *Mary Prieur*

Tues May 14 – 8:20am

+Mario Veltri

req. by *The Veltri Family*

Wed May 15 – 7:00pm

+All Souls in Purgatory

req. by *Joe & Joy Broderick*

+Mark Harris

req. by *The Harris Family*

+Stan Shirley Harris

req. by *The Harris Family*

+Grant Davidson

req. by *Evangeline & Amarie*

+Alejandra Adina Caday

req. by *The Hannon Family*

Intentions for Elizabeth Ryan

req. by *Christiane Prior*

Thur May 16 – 8:20am

+ Humberto Schenflede

req. by *His Family*

Fri May 17 – 8:20am

+Catherine

req. by *Yesu*

Totus Tuus Summer Camp!

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

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 volunteering, contact Sandra at cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org or visit our parish website.



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

Taste of the Parish on Saturday, 8th 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

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

This Sunday Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's Reaping our Rights campaign introduces to you the third partner featured in our 2024 campaign. We invite you to give generously to ShareLife and in this way support our work in the Global South and that of our partners.

Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world.

"Development and Peace — Caritas Canada accompanies, supports, and respects our institutional autonomy. It creates a climate of trust. I thank our sisters and brothers in Canada for their solidarity, a solidarity that generates life opportunities, that accompanies the dreams of women and men, of families, of communities and territories. Thank you!" — Eva Colque, Executive Director, Fundación NUNA, a partner in Bolivia

Help create hope and dreams for the communities we support in the Global South by giving to your ShareLife parish collection. Thank you for your solidarity!

Next week there will be more Mini-Magazines available in the foyer for you to take home and share with others.

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 non-judgmental counselling, as well as material needs to enable them to choose life for their unborn children. We have been helping women make the right decision in respect to human dignity and the gift of life since 1988.

St. John the Evangelist Day of Reflection and Spiritual Renewal

For all Parishioners 55+ Manresa Centre, Pickering 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 11-12

\$50.00 INCLUDING LUNCH AND SNACK

Payable when registering

ShareLife Collection as of May 6, 2024

\$55,402 towards our goal of \$141,500

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