

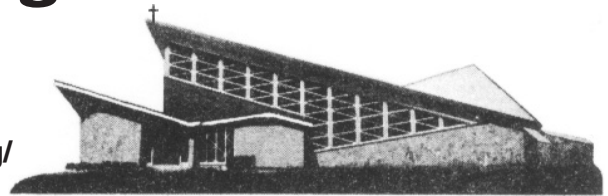
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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  
 Deacon Dan Humphries Permanent Deacon  
 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	Fr. Francisco	905-668-3676
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		905-668-8912
Catholic Family Services	Oshawa 905-725-3513	Ajax 905-428-1984
Rose of Durham (Young Parent Support Services)	1-800-241-3534	or 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>

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the Book of Wisdom, presents to us a plot against a just person who follows God's ways faithfully. This reading has been accomplished in Christ's Passion on which He was arrested and ill treated to see whether He was going to be faithful to God amid rejection and suffering or He was going to give up. Sustained by His obedience to God, Christ remained at peace, and He did not defend Himself, but He offered Himself to die for our salvation. It is an encouragement for us to realize that, by relying in God, we can be at peace even when facing all kind of struggles. The Second Reading, from the Letter to James shows how when conflicts and disputes arise, we are not leaning to Christ but rather in our own views and expectations. We need to turn to Him and ask God for His wisdom so that He may touch our hearts so that we can live at peace with others. This is the only way to achieve communion among us, when we allow Christ to be at the center of our relationships. In the Gospel, from St. Mark, Christ announces for the second time to His disciples that He will suffer and be put to death, but He will rise from death. The disciples misunderstand the message, and they start arguing who is going to take over after Christ is gone. It is a temptation that all of us have: to be the first, to be in control, to be in command. However, when we put our foot down and we are in charge, it does not mean that we are at peace. There is the risk that we expect people to be a certain way and we demand from them. The way of Christ is one of love and service. A person who "is in charge" is the one who serves the others, who looks for the good of others. Moreover, we do not expect people to be different and we do not demand anything from them. We serve them and love them, doing what is best for them. This is the path to fullness of life. We can think that that it is very hard because we are all selfish and proud. However, Christ is the first one who has served us and loved us. Transformed by God's love, we are able to serve and to love those around us. Let us be opened to God's mercy so that we can love in the same way that we have been loved by Christ!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

### Pope Francis' Homily for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (September 19, 2021)

The Gospel of today's Liturgy (Mk 9:30-37) narrates that, on the way to Jerusalem, Jesus' disciples were discussing "with one another who was the greatest" (v. 34). So, Jesus directed harsh words toward them that are still valid today: "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all" (v. 35). If you want to be first, you need to get in line, be last, and serve everyone. Through this shocking phrase, the Lord inaugurates a reversal: he overturns the criteria about what truly matters. The value of a person does not depend any more on the role they have, the work they do, the money they have in the bank. No, no, no, it does not depend on this. Greatness and success in God's eyes are measured differently: they are measured by service. Not on what someone has, but on what someone gives. Do you want to be first? Serve. This is the way.

Today, the word "service" appears a bit hackneyed, worn out by use. But it has a precise and concrete meaning in the Gospel. To serve is not a courteous expression: it means to act like Jesus, who, summing up his life in a few words, said he had come "not to be served, but to serve" (Mk 10:45). This is what the Lord said. Therefore, if we want to follow Jesus, we must follow the path he himself traced out, the path of service. Our fidelity to the Lord depends on our willingness to serve. And we know this often costs, because "it tastes like a cross". But, as our care and availability toward others grows, we become freer inside, more like Jesus. The more we serve, the more we are aware of God's presence. Above all, when we serve those who cannot give anything in return, the

poor, embracing their difficulties and needs with tender compassion: and we in turn discover God's love and embrace there.

After having spoken of the primacy of service, Jesus does something precisely to illustrate this. We have seen that Jesus' actions are stronger than the words he uses. And what is that action? He takes a child and puts him in the midst of the disciples, at the center, in the most important place (cf. v. 36). In the Gospel, the child does not symbolize innocence so much as littleness. For like children, the little ones depend on others, on adults, they need to receive. Jesus embraces those children and says that those who welcome a little one, a child, welcome him (cf. v. 37). The ones who are to be served above all are: those in need of receiving who cannot give anything in return. To serve those who need to receive and cannot give anything in return. In welcoming those on the margins, the neglected, we welcome Jesus because He is there. And in the little one, in the poor person we serve, we also receive God's tender embrace.

Dear brothers and sisters, challenged by the Gospel, let us ask ourselves: Am I, who follow Jesus, interested in the one who is neglected? Or am I rather seeking personal gratification, like the disciples that day? Do I understand life in terms of competing to make room for myself at others' expense, or do I believe that being first means serving? And, concretely: do I dedicate time to a "little one", to a person who has no means to pay me back? Am I concerned about someone who cannot give me anything in return, or only with my relatives and friends? These are the questions we need to ask ourselves.

May the Virgin Mary, the humble servant of the Lord, help us understand that to serve does not belittle us, but helps us grow. And that there is more joy in giving than in receiving.

### **CONFIRMATION (Grade 7) REGISTRATION and INFORMATION NIGHT in the Church (one parent & candidate to attend) Tuesday, October 22nd at 7:00 pm**

(please bring completed registration form, a \$60 fee for program expenses and a **photocopy** of your child's Baptism Certificate)

Life Teen for grade 9-12 will begin Thursday, October 3rd and EDGE for grade 5-8 will begin Thursday, October 10th. Please contact Cassandra ([cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org](mailto:cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org)) for more information!

### **Vegetable Fundraiser**

**Order form and payment deadline is Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup>. Please submit your order form in soon to avoid disappointment.**

**The vegetables will be available to pickup on Oct 4/5/6, 2024. Please note your preference on the form.**

A New Bible Study Begins Soon!  
Mondays Sept 30<sup>th</sup> to Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 7pm – 9pm,  
PC main

***Walking Toward Eternity, presented by Jeff Cavin***  
Please contact the parish office to register. Books \$25



**Masses For The Week**

Sat Sept 21 – 5:00pm

+Jim Beauchamp  
req. by Marie Beauchamp

Mon Sep 23 – 8:20am

+Jimmy Gormley  
req. by The Magee Family

Tues Sep 24 – 8:20am

+James Gormley  
req. by Liz McKenzie

Wed Sep 25 – 7:00pm

+William John Cook  
req. by Helen Cook & Family  
In Thanksgiving for 54<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
req. by John & Judy Morris  
+Olive Berry  
req. by The Berry Family  
+Alex Berry  
req. by The Berry Family  
+Julie Berry  
req. by The Berry Family  
+Eric Dumigan  
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family

Thur Sep 26 – 8:20am

+All Souls in Purgatory  
req. by Joe & Joy Broderick

Fri Sep 27 – 8:20am

In Thanksgiving  
req. by Mary Yearwood



San Juan Diego Spanish Mass  
Bake Sale  
September 28/29, 2024  
In the foyer after all masses

**Life Chain**

**Sunday, October 6, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m**

Corner of Cochrane & Dundas Streets

Life Chain is a prayerful and peaceful witness to the sanctity of human life and the evil of abortion. Participants pray and hold non-graphic signs with messages such as “Life, the first inalienable right” and “Abortion kills children” at hundreds of locations across North America for one hour. Please join us at our location. This is a family friendly event appropriate for people of all ages and backgrounds and a unique opportunity to provide our neighbours with a much-needed message of love, hope, and truth.

**Catholic Cemeteries and Funeral Services**

Today we welcome Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services to our parish. Catholic Cemeteries are a vital part of the Catholic Church. Operated under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Toronto, each Catholic cemetery and funeral home reflects our Catholic beliefs. To learn more, visit catholic-cemeteries.com

Nourish Caring for the Caregiver

Virtually every one of us will care for a loved one at some time in our life. Though rewarding, it's not always easy. Nourish for Caregivers is for anyone juggling the challenges of everyday life, health, career and caring for an aging parent, spouse, child or grandparent, in town or at a distance. Nourish provides caregivers a faith perspective, as well as practical and emotional support, useful tools, and share experience. Discover the blessings that come from caring for another.

Please join us Monday evenings, October 7, 21, Nov 4, 18, Dec 2, 16, 2024 in the St. Joseph's Room at 7pm – 8pm

For more information please visit

[www.NourishForCaregivers.com](http://www.NourishForCaregivers.com), or contact Robert

MacLennan, 905-668-3676 or email

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

**Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Parishes on Palliative Care**

Families, friends, parish communities and health care professionals, together, all play an important role to care for and accompany those in need of palliative care that recognizes the dignity of the human person. As such, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have developed a program called Horizons of Hope that offers a toolkit to empower and educate those interested in learning about the most recent approaches to compassionate palliative and end of life care.

The Horizons of Hope program will help parishioners, caregivers, and family members facing a terminal illness learn more about palliative care and come together in community to understand palliative care from theological, ethical, and medical perspectives. In addition to gaining new knowledge, parishes are encouraged to work together to develop a plan for building a caring parish community.

**3 Saturdays Oct 26, Nov 2, 9, 16**  
**10am – 12 noon in the Parish Center, main room**

**CWL SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

League Sisters and women of the parish – you are invited to our wine & cheese start-up meeting, Thursday, September 26th, 7:30 p.m. in the main room of the parish centre. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or [lchilderhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:lchilderhouse@hotmail.com).



**All Youth of the parish are invited to participate in**

St. John the Evangelist's

**Youth Mass @ 11:00am on**

**Sundays Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 6<sup>th</sup> &, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

Lectors: Gr.8 -12

Procession of Gifts: Gr.1 -7

Ushers: Gr 1 -12

(to greet parishioners and hand out bulletins)

Youth Choir: Gr 6 -12

**Please contact the Parish office for more information**

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