

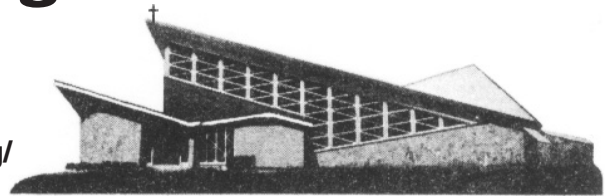
St. John the Evangelist Church

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
 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	Kristine Blyth	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	Al Taylor	905-925-5382
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

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

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the Book of Deuteronomy, we are presented with the heart of our faith. God asks the people of Israel to keep His commandments if they wish to have fulness of life. First, they are called to listen to the Lord and then to love Him with all their hearts, mind, strength, and soul. This primordial commandment applies also to us. If we desire to have endless peace, we need to be guided by the Lord in our lives and then we can answer to His mercy. The Second Reading, from the Letter to the Hebrews, shows that Jesus Christ is our High Priest who intercedes for us to save us from our sins. He has died, is risen and He lives for ever so that through His redemption, He can transform our lives. We all can go to Him and ask Him to help us in any time of need. In the Gospel, from St. Mark, we see how Christ answers to a scribe that the first commandment is to love God and to love our neighbour. Christ is the first one who has fulfilled this precept when He gave His life for us in the Cross. For us, it is difficult to keep this commandment since we are human, and we have a wounded nature. However, with Christ's grace, we can love God and our neighbor unconditionally. This is the plan that God is calling us to. Many times, we fall short, and we feel frustrated because we do not reach our goal. Now, in Christ, this happiness is attainable, and Christ wants to share it with us. Let us open our hearts so that Christ may love us unconditionally and this immense mercy may transform our hearts to love our neighbour!

During the month of November, we pray our deceased loved ones hoping that they may be with the Lord in Heaven. On November 6th, at 7pm, we will have a mass to pray for our deceased loved ones. During this month, we will have the Memorial Book in the Church, in which we can include the names of our deceased and we will pray for them at the mass on Wednesday evenings.

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily for the Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (October 31, 2021)

In today's liturgy, the Gospel presents a scribe who approaches Jesus and asks him: "Which commandment is the first of all?" (Mk 12:28). Jesus responds by citing Scripture and confirms that the first commandment is to love God; from this one then derives the second, as a natural consequence: to love one's neighbour as oneself (cf. vv. 29-31). Hearing this response, the scribe not only recognises that he is right, but in doing so, in recognising that he is right, he repeats the same words Jesus had said: "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that...to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbour as oneself is more than a whole burnt offering and sacrifices" (vv. 32-33).

But, we can ask ourselves, in giving his assent, why did that scribe feel the need to repeat Jesus' same words? This repetition seems to be more surprising if we think that this is the Gospel of Mark, who has a very concise style. So, what could this repetition mean? This repetition is a teaching for all of us who are listening. For the Word of the Lord cannot be received as any other type of news. The Word of the Lord must be repeated, made one's own,

safeguarded. The monastic tradition, of the monks, uses an audacious but very concrete term. It goes thus: the Word of God must be "ruminated". "To ruminate" the Word of God. We could say that it is so nutritious that it must be ruminated in every aspect of life: to involve, as Jesus says today, the entire heart, the entire soul, the entire mind, all of our strength (cf. v. 30). The Word of the Lord must resound, echo and re-echo within us. When there is this interior echo that repeats itself, it means that the Lord dwells in the heart. And he says to us, just as he did to that excellent scribe in the Gospel: "You are not far from the kingdom of God" (v. 34).

Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord is not so much looking for skilled Scripture commentators, as he is looking for docile hearts which, welcoming his Word, allow themselves to be changed inside. This is why it is so important to be familiar with the Gospel, to always have it at hand – even a pocket-size Gospel in our pockets, in our purses to read and reread, to be passionate about it. When we do this, Jesus, the Word of the Father, enters into our hearts, he becomes intimate with us and we bear fruit in Him. Let's take for example today's Gospel: it is not enough to read it and understand that we need to love God and our neighbour. It is necessary that this commandment, which is the "great commandment", resound in us, that it be assimilated, that it become the voice of our conscience. This way, it does not remain a dead letter, in the drawer of the heart, because the Holy Spirit makes the seed of that Word germinate in us. And the Word of God works, it is always in motion, it is alive and effective (cf. Heb 4:12). So each one of us can become a living, different and original "translation", not a repetition but a living, different and original "translation" of the one Word of love that God gives us. This is what we see in the lives of the Saints for example. None of them is the same as another, they are all different, but with the same Word of God.

Today, therefore, let us take the example of this scribe. Let us repeat Jesus' words, making them resound in us: "To love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength and my neighbour as myself". And let us ask ourselves: does this commandment truly orient my life? Does this commandment resonate in my daily life? It would be good this evening, before going to sleep, to make an examination of conscience on this Word, to see if we have loved the Lord today and if we have done a little good to those we happened to meet. May every encounter bring about a little bit of good, a little bit of love that comes from this Word. May the Virgin Mary, in whom the Word of God was made flesh, teach us to welcome the living word of the Gospel in our hearts.

San Juan Diego Spanish Mission
DINNER & DANCE GALA WITH A LATIN FLARE
Saturday, November 9, 2024
6pm to 1am – dinner at 7pm
Tosca Banquet Hall, 800 Champlain Ave, Oshawa
Tickets \$120 per person
Raffle Prizes, 50-50 Cash Only!
Tickets available at the parish office



Handicraft Holy Land Christians

On the weekend of November 16-17, we will welcome our special guest Vanessa from Sebastien Cardinal's team representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after all the masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and will have many unique hand carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase after every mass.

Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem.

May God Bless you for your generosity, for you help and for your prayers." Cash, debit, credit cards and cheques will be accepted. You can visit and support us at www.HolylandChristians.ca

Mass in Memory of Loved Ones

We Have Lost Through Death

Wednesday November 6th, 2024, 7:00 pm

The Wednesday evening mass on Nov 6th will provide an opportunity for members of our parish family to come together, in remembrance of loved ones we have lost through death. The mass will include a special acknowledgement of individuals who have been buried from our parish over the last year and a lighting of candles in memory of loved ones.

We hope that you will accept this invitation to join fellow parishioners for this special mass.

If you would like additional information, please contact the parish office at (905) 668-3676.

The Book of Life

The month of November is traditionally known as the month of the Holy Souls, having at its' beginning, the two great feasts - All Saints and All Souls. To commemorate your faithful departed family and friends, you are invited to submit a page for the "Book of Life." This page should be 8 1/2" by 11" and fit into a standard 3-ring binder. On it you may type or print the names of whomever you would like to have remembered in a special way at all our parish Masses during November. You may decorate your "Family Page" in whatever way you wish, as long as it fits the above requirements. This "Book of Life" will be left in the sanctuary during November to remind us to pray, at church and at home for our loved ones. Please note previous years of pages are included already.

Donation envelopes for All Souls are available to write out the names of those you wish to be prayed for on our Special Commemoration Mass on Wednesday November 6th at 7pm, and every Wednesday in November at 7:00pm. Please include your name and address for tax receipt purposes.



CHRISTMAS GIVING – 2024

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul will be assisting our neighbours in need at Christmas. As with previous years, gift cards will be distributed. To support this endeavour, we are requesting your support with either CASH OR CHEQUE donations. The Society provides tax receipts for cash or cheque donations. Donations of GROCERY GIFT CARDS are also gratefully accepted, however, we are not able to provide receipts for gift cards. Please use the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul envelopes which are available on the back counter in the Church. We will use your generous donations to purchase gift cards and will distribute them to our neighbours in need in early December. It would be very helpful if we received your donation by November 30th, 2024. Thank you for your generous support.



Masses For The Week

Sat Nov 2– 9am **ALL SOULS**

Sat Nov 2 5:00pm –

+Intentions for All Souls

Mon Nov 4 –8:20am

+Antonio, Rosina & Giovanni Bozzarello

req. By Natale & Anna Ciardullo

Tues Nov 5– 8:20am

+Patrick Lynch

req. by Chris Leahy

Wed Nov 6 – 7:00pm

Candlelight Memorial Mass

+All Souls in Purgatory

req. by Joe & Joy Broderick

+Albert McGuirk

req. by His Family

+Marilyn Fitzgerald

req. by Dianne & Steven Wood

+Marilyn Fitzgerald

req. by Aaron Wood

+Helene Kraayvanger

req. by Lise Bowers

+Martin Doleweerd

req. by Beppie Doleweerd

+Erlinda Teano Fermin

req. by Her Family

Thur Nov 7 – 8:20am

+Rita McAlinden

req. by Liz McKenzie

Fri Nov 8– 8:20am

+Ildefonso & Leonarda Felipe

req. by The Sharp Family



Social Sunday Sunday November 4th, hosted by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Prayer Group. Join us after the 9am & 11am masses for Coffee and sweets in the Parish Centre. The 2024-2025 Sunday Missals are available. Cost is \$5 per book.

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