

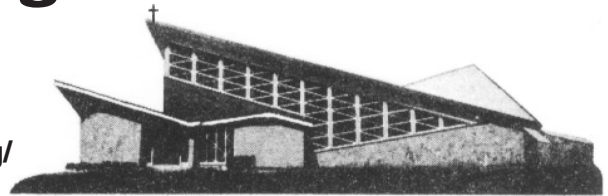
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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	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

<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>

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. Today, we start the season of Advent. It is a period of 4 weeks in which we prepare for the coming of the Lord at the end of time and at Christmas. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah, we are presented with a prophecy in which the coming of the Righteous One is announced, the Messiah who is to come to bring peace and justice to the earth. This prophecy has been fulfilled with the coming of Christ. During this time, we await that the Lord comes to our hearts to save us from sin and to establish his kingdom in us. The Second Reading, from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, encourages us to remain steadfast in the Lord so that our love may increase as we open our hearts for the coming of the Lord. With the arrival of the Lord in our hearts, our hearts are stretched and more open to love others without limit. In the Gospel, from St. Luke, we are encouraged to focus on the Lord during our struggles and difficulties. It is easy to be overwhelmed and anxious in front of all the struggles that we undergo. However, the Lord invites us not to lose heart but to be alert by relying in the Lord so that in Him we may find strength and hope to live the difficult moments at peace. Let us open our hearts during this time of Advent and lift our hearts so that we may experience with hope and peace the coming of the Lord in our lives!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

## Pope Francis' Homily for the First Sunday of Advent (November 28, 2021)

The Gospel of today's liturgy, the First Sunday of Advent, speaks to us about the Lord's coming at the end of time. Jesus announces bleak and distressing events, but precisely at this point He invites us not to be afraid. Why? Because everything will be okay? No, but because He will come. Jesus will return as He promised. This is what he says: "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand" (Lk 21:28). It is nice to hear this encouraging Word: stand up straight and raise our heads because right during those moments when everything seems to be coming to an end, the Lord comes to save us. We await Him with joy, even in the midst of tribulations, during life's crises and the dramatic events of history. We await Him.

But how do we raise our heads and not become absorbed with difficulties, suffering and defeat? Jesus points the way with a strong reminder: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy... Be vigilant at all times and pray" (Lk 21:34, 36).

"Be vigilant": Vigilance: Let us focus on this important aspect of the Christian life. From the words of Christ, we see that vigilance is tied to alertness: be alert, do not get distracted, that is, stay awake! Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become "sleepy Christians" – and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness - Christians without spiritual fervor, without intensity in prayer, without enthusiasm for mission, without passion for the Gospel; Christians who always look inwards, incapable of looking to the horizon. And this leads to "dozing off": to move things along by inertia, to fall into apathy, indifferent to everything except what is comfortable for us. This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.



**SOCIAL SUNDAY DECEMBER 1, 2024**  
Hosted by Knights of Columbus  
Parish Centre after 9am & 11am masses

2025 Offertory envelopes will be available in the foyer for pickup. Please refer to your current envelope number to locate your 2025.



## The Advent Season begins next week

The Catholic Church Liturgical Year starts with the 1st Sunday of Advent on December 1, 2024. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Latin "adventus" (Preparation) Marks the four Sundays before Christmas.

## Advent Wreaths

Part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas. Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (John 3:19-21).

· The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life.

· The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the everlasting life found in Christ.

· The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent.

The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time.

The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday which is called Gaudete Sunday. It is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas.

· Only one purple candle is lit during the first week, two in the second week, three (incl. the pink one) in the third week, and all four during the fourth week of Advent.

The gradually increasing light symbolizes the approach of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

· A fifth candle (white) can be added in the middle of the wreath for Christmas.

Eve and Day (or replace all four purple and pink candles with white ones) symbolizing the arrival of Christ, the light of the world. Light the white candle(s) until The Baptism of the Lord.



Families are encouraged to observe Advent by gathering around a wreath for brief Advent prayers and readings lighting the appropriate number of candles for each week.

Traditions assign specific symbolism to each of the candles:

- 1) The Prophet's Candle, symbolizing Hope
- 2) The Bethlehem Candle, symbolizing Love & Faith
- 3) The Shepherd's Candle, symbolizing Joy
- 4) The Angel's Candle, symbolizing Peace.

## Suggested Daily Readings

Leader: The Lord is our faith and our life.

All: May the Lord's peace be with us all.

Leader: And may his love shine in our hearts.

All: Our hope is in the coming of the Lord.

Light the candle(s). During the week, re-light the candle(s) whenever the family gathers together.

## Scripture Reading

Leader: Let us pray that our faith may be strengthened for the coming of the Lord.

All: Amen

# DECEMBER 1, 2024



*First Week of Advent (December 1 to 7) - One purple candle is lit.*

Sunday Romans 13:11-14  
Monday 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Tuesday Mark 13:33-37  
Wednesday John 1:1-5  
Thursday John 1:6-9  
Friday Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Saturday Isaiah 6



Are you in grade 10, 11, or 12? Are you in need of volunteer hours? Do you like donuts and hot chocolate? We are looking for young volunteers to help with the Confirmation preparation program.

The commitment is three Saturdays: Jan 25th, March 1st and March 29th for approximately 2 hours. You will be teamed up with an team leader (catechist) to help inspire our candidates through games, discussion and prayer. If you are interested, please contact Kristine at kblyth@archtoronto.org

*"Keep Christ in Christmas"  
Car Magnets*

Available Nov 30/Dec 1 after all Masses in the foyer. Magnets are \$4.00

## Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast at the Knight's Hall, 133 Brock Street N. in conjunction with the Whitby Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, December 7th from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Breakfast includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, and coffee/tea/juice. Cost is \$6.00 per person or \$20.00 per family. Tickets available at the door.

## Reconciliation Evening Service

Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 7pm in the church  
*Several priests available*

Archdiocese Day of Confessions in St. John's Parish  
Tuesday, December 17, 2024  
9:30am – 11:30am  
2:00pm – 4:00pm, 7:00pm – 8:00pm



Masses For The Week

Sat Nov 30 - 5:00pm – All Souls in Purgatory  
*req. by Joe & Joy Broderick*

Mon Dec 2 –8:20am

+Patrick Sullivan  
*req. by His Wife & Family*

Tues Dec 3 – 8:20am

+Helene Kraayvanger  
*req. by Pat Michieli*

Wed Dec 4 – 7:00pm

+All Souls in Purgatory  
*req. by Joe & Joy Broderick*  
+Marilyn Fitzgerald  
*req. by Agathe Descartes*  
+John Lentz  
*req. by Herminia Moniz*  
+Belarmino Moniz  
*req. by Herminia Moniz*  
+Mariano Rocha  
*req. by Herminia Moniz*  
+All Souls in Purgatory  
*req. by Aidee Martinez*

Thur Dec 5– 8:20am

+Deceased Members of the Sullivan Family  
*req. by Geraldine Sullivan*

Fri Dec 6– 8:20am

+Don Legault  
*req. by Denise Dugas*

*O Come, all ye faithful!*  
St. John the Evangelist Carol Evening

*Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> Dec,  
immediately following the 5 pm Mass*

*We welcome the students of All Saints High School, who will sing at the 5 pm Mass, and lead us in Carol singing.*



Hot Chocolate, Mulled Cider and Cookies will be served in the Parish Center after Caroling.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024  
VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
5PM, 8PM, 11PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024  
NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
9AM, 11AM, 2PM SPANISH




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