

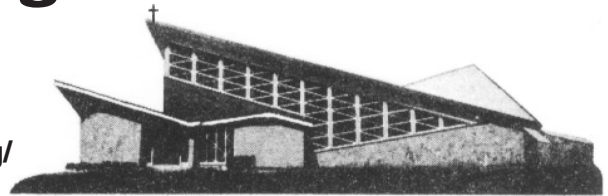
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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>

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Baruch, we are presented with a prophecy in which the rebuilding of Jerusalem is foretold. The people of Israel are suffering in the exile of Babylon. It is proclaimed to them that they will come back to Jerusalem and rebuild it, and they will be full of joy. Every time that we sin, we stray far from God and are dry and fruitless, but God reaches out to us to offer us life through his faithful mercy. The Second Reading, from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, invites us to rely in God to receive the grace to grow in holiness and to be open to God's mercy in our lives. If we pray constantly, we will respond better to God's faithful compassion, and our lives will be fruitful and peaceful. In the Gospel, from St. Luke, we are presented with the figure of St. John the Baptist. He calls people to repentance and to return to the Lord. During this time of Advent, we are called to come back to the Lord with all our hearts. It is certain that God offers us salvation and peace, but we need to be ready and open to receive his abundant mercy in our lives. Repentance means to realize that we need God in our lives to have peace, consolation and fullness of life. When we are aware of God's mercy and we are open to receive it, we are transformed by it and our lives are fruitful with love, patience, and gratefulness. Let us open our hearts so that the Lord may transform them with his life-giving mercy!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

### **Pope Francis' Homily for the Second Sunday of Advent (December 9, 2018)**

Last Sunday, the liturgy invited us to experience the Season of Advent and of anticipation of the Lord with an attitude of vigilance and also of prayer: "be mindful" and "pray". Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, we are shown how to give substance to this anticipation: by undertaking a journey of conversion, how to make this anticipation concrete. As a guide on this journey, the Gospel presents the figure of John the Baptist who "went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Lk 3:3). To describe the Baptist's mission, the Evangelist Luke refers to the ancient prophecy of Isaiah which says: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be brought low" (vv. 4-5).

To prepare the way of the Lord's coming, it is necessary to take note of the requirements of conversion to which the Baptist invites us. What are these requirements for conversion? First of all we are called to fill the 'valleys' caused by coldness and indifference, opening ourselves to others with the same sentiments as Jesus, that is, with affection and fraternal attention which takes on the needs of our neighbours. To fill the valleys caused by coldness. One cannot have a relationship of love, charity and fraternity with one's neighbours if there are 'gaps' just as one cannot travel a road with many potholes. This requires a change of attitude. And all this should also be done with special attention to the neediest. Then there is the need to curtail the indifference caused by pride and arrogance. How many people, perhaps without realizing it, are proud, are indifferent,

lack that kindly relationship. It is necessary to overcome this by making concrete gestures of reconciliation with our brothers and sisters, asking for forgiveness for our faults. It is not easy to reconcile with another. One always thinks: "who will take the first step?". The Lord helps us in this if we are of good will. Indeed, conversion is complete if it leads us to humbly recognize our errors, our infidelity and failings.

The believer is someone who, by being close to his brothers and sisters, like John the Baptist, opens pathways in the desert, that is, he indicates perspectives of hope, even in those existential contexts that are arduous, marked by failure and defeat. We cannot give up in the face of negative situations of closure and rejection: we must not allow ourselves to succumb to the mentality of the world, because the centre of our life is Jesus and his word of light, love and solace. It is He! The Baptist invited the people of his time to conversion, with force, with vigour and with firmness. Nevertheless, he knew how to listen, he knew how to perform gestures of tenderness, gestures of forgiveness toward the multitude of men and women who went to him to confess their sins and to be baptized with the baptism of repentance.

The witness of John the Baptist helps us to go forward in our witness of life. The purity of his proclamation, his courage in proclaiming the truth were able to reawaken the expectation and hope in the Messiah that had long been dormant. Today too, Jesus' disciples are called to be his humble but courageous witnesses in order to rekindle hope, to make it understood that, despite everything, the Kingdom of God continues to be built day by day with the power of the Holy Spirit. Let each of us ask ourselves: how can I change something in my attitude, in order to prepare the way of the Lord?

May the Virgin Mary help us prepare the way of the Lord day by day, beginning with ourselves; and to scatter around us with steadfast patience, seeds of peace, justice and fraternity



Second Week of Advent (December 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>) - two purple candles are lit.

Sunday Romans 15:4-13

Monday Psalms 43:3-6

Tuesday Psalms 27:1-4

Wednesday Psalms 119:105-106

Thursday John 12:35-36

Friday Ephesians 5:6-14

Saturday 1 Peter 2:5-9

### **CWL Mass & General Meeting**

All are invited to attend a mass to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe at 7:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 12th**. Afterwards, all ladies of the parish are welcome to attend our CWL December general meeting. If you have any questions, or require transportation, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or [lchilderhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:lchilderhouse@hotmail.com).

### **Grand in Your Hand – We have a Winner!**

Your CWL would like to thank all 100 parishioners who supported this fundraising activity. The winning ticket was drawn at Social Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. mass this past Sunday. \$1,000.00 was won by ticket number 144 – Gisele H. and \$1,000.00 will be used for our charitable disbursements issued in January. Thank you again.




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

**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 Dec 7 - 5:00pm –**  
**+Ralph McCloskey & Deceased Brothers**  
*req. by Their Family*

**Mon Dec 9 –8:20am**  
**+Frank McNulty**  
*req. by Iris & Mathias McNulty*

**Tues Dec 10 – 8:20am**  
**+All Souls in Purgatory**  
*req. by Joe & Joy*

**Wed Dec 11 – 7:00pm**  
**+Stan & Shirley Harris**  
*req. by Their Family*  
**+Dr. George Maugeri**  
*req. by Dan & Camilla Mulvihill*  
**+Cathy Vallely**  
*req. by The Goodwin Family*  
**+Carrol Fernandes**  
*req. by Philomena Cutinho*  
**+Ronald Francis Botell**  
*req. by The TCDSB Autism Team*

**Thur Dec 12– 8:20am**  
**+Mark Harris**  
*req. by Their Family*

**Fri Dec 13– 8:20am**  
**+Deceased Members of the Mitchell Family**  
*req. by Geraldine Sullivan*

2025 Offertory envelopes are available for pickup in the foyer. Please refer to the alphabetic listing on each table, if unsure of your box number.

**Gift Giving to our Migrant Workers**

Envelopes are available on the back counter, to make cash, cheque (or gift card donations) to the Migrants Workers in our parish area for their Christmas. Your cash or cheques will be used to purchase gift cards for them. Tax receipts will be provided for cash or cheque donations only. Thank you!



*Christmas Flower fund – envelopes are available at the back counter for your donation this Christmas*

*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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