

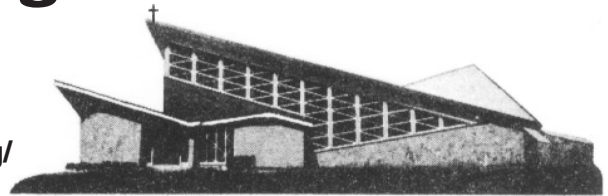
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

THIRD SUNDAY (GAUDETE) OF ADVENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday is called *Gaudete* or the Sunday of rejoicing. We can be full of joy because the Lord is very near, at the doors. The First Reading from the Book of the prophet Zephaniah, is offered to us a prophecy in which the Lord is going to console and act with mercy over Jerusalem. After the hardship of the exile and the disloyalty of the people of Israel, God promises them that He will forgive them and rebuild them, and they will experience joy and gladness. When we fall into sin, if we repent and return to the Lord, the Lord welcomes us with mercy and transforms our hearts. The Second Reading, from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, invites us to trust in the Lord so that in Him we may find true gladness and we may always live at peace. We all need to realize that when we place our hope in God, we do not worry so much, but our lives are guided by the mercy of God, which bring us to be at peace. In the Gospel, from St. Luke, we are presented with the preaching of St. John the Baptist. He calls people to prepare themselves for the coming of the Lord by doing specific works of mercy. The Lord is coming soon, and we need to open our hearts so that He can transform them. The grace of God opens our hearts so that we are not only concentrated in our own desires, but we are concerned on the needs of the others. When we do this, we are widely open to receive the salvation and new life that Jesus offers to us. Let us receive with joy and expectation the One who helps us to love others with compassion and without limit!

A very good day of being prepared to receive our Lord and to open our hearts to Him is to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation in which we get rid of our sins, and we give space to mercy of God to act in our lives. On Sunday, December 15th at 7pm we have several priests available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On Tuesday, December 17th, from 9:30am to 11:30am, 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 8pm I will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily for the Third Sunday of Advent (December 12, 2021)

The Gospel in today's Liturgy, the Third Sunday of Advent, presents us with various groups of people – the crowd, the publicans and soldiers – who, touched by John the Baptist's preaching, ask him: "What then should we do?" (Lk 3:10). What should we do? This is the question they asked. Let's reflect a little on this question.

It does not stem from a sense of duty. Rather, the heart is touched by the Lord. It is the enthusiasm for His coming that leads them to ask: what should we do? Then John says: "The Lord is near." - "What should we do?" Let's give an example: let's think of a dear one who is coming to visit us. We joyfully and even impatiently await the person. To welcome the person, we will do what needs to be done: we will clean the house, we will prepare the best dinner possible, perhaps a gift... In short, there are things we will do. It is the same with the Lord. The joy of His coming makes us ask: what should we do? But God elevates this question to a higher level: what should I do with my life? What am I called to? What will I become?

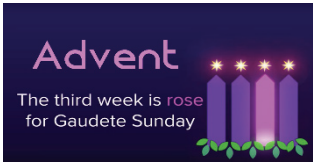
By suggesting this question, the Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us. Life is not meaningless; it is not left up to chance. No! It is a gift the Lord grants us, saying to us: discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true! Each of us – let's not forget this – has a mission to accomplish. So, let's not be afraid to ask the Lord: what should I do? Let us ask him this question repeatedly. It also recurs in the Bible: in the Acts of the Apostles, several people, hearing Peter who proclaimed Jesus' resurrection, "were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' " (2:37). Let us ask ourselves as well: what would be good for me to do for myself and for my brothers and sisters? How can I contribute to this? How can I contribute to the good of the Church, to the good of society? The Advent Season is meant for this: to stop and ask ourselves how to prepare for Christmas. We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass. But let us ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?

After the question, "what should we do?", the Gospel lists John the Baptist's responses that are different for each group. In fact, John recommends that those who have two tunics should share with those who have none; to the publicans who collect taxes, he says: "Collect no more than the amount prescribed" (Lk 3:13); to the soldiers: "Do not mistreat or extort money from anyone (cf. v. 14). He directs a specific word to each person that responds to their actual situation in life. This offers us a precious teaching: faith is incarnated in concrete life. It is not an abstract theory. Faith is not an abstract theory, a generalized theory – no! Faith touches us personally and transforms each of our lives. Let us think about the concreteness of our faith. Is my faith abstract, something abstract or concrete? Does it lead me toward serving others, helping out?

And so, in conclusion, let us ask ourselves: what should we do concretely in these days as we draw near to Christmas? How can I do my part? Let's choose something concrete, even if it is small, that is adapted to our situation in life, and let's continue doing it to prepare us for this Christmas. For example: I can call a person who is alone, visit that elderly person or that person who is ill, do something to serve a poor person, someone in need. Even still: maybe I need to ask forgiveness, grant forgiveness, clarify a situation, pay a debt. Perhaps I have neglected prayer and after so much time has elapsed, it's time to ask the Lord for forgiveness. Brothers and sisters, let's find something concrete and do it! May the Madonna help us, in whose womb God took on flesh.

Reconciliation Evening Service
Sunday December 15th 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



Third Week of Advent (December 15th to 21st) - two purple candles and one pink candle are lit.

- Sunday Isaiah 60:1-3
- Monday 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Tuesday 1 John 1:4-7
- Wednesday John 3:16-21
- Thursday Isaiah 40:1-11
- Friday John 9:1-7
- Saturday Luke 3:1-6



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



Masses For The Week

Sat Dec 14- 5:00pm

+Ted Kapuscinski
req. by Doreen & Family

Mon Dec 16 –8:20am

+Humberto Schenflede
req. by His Family

Tues Dec 17 – 8:20am

+All Souls in Purgatory
req. by Geraldine Sullivan

Wed Dec 18 – 7:00pm

+All Souls in Purgatory
req. by Joe & Joy Broderick
+Philomena Cutinho
req. by Eleuterio Fernandes
+Kathleen & Martin Tebbutt
req. by The DeFreitas Family
+Gloria Anthony & Michael DeFreitas
req. by The DeFreitas Family
+Sonja Hanley
req. by Jim Hanley & Family
Int. for Carl Hetu
req. by Karen Hnatiuk

Thur Dec 19– 8:20am

+Fr. Bill Addley
req. by Geraldine Sullivan

Fri Dec 20– 8:20am

+Stewart Hamilton
req. by Martha & Family

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

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2024
ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR
9AM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
8:20AM

SATURDAY/SUNDAY DECEMBER 28, 29, 2024
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
5PM, 9AM, 11AM
2PM SPANISH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2024
8:20AM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024
5PM VIGIL MASS
ADORATION 6PM TO 7PM

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1, 2025
SOLMENITY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
9AM, 11AM, 2PM SPANISH

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