

St. John the Evangelist Church

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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



*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

I want to wish you a happy new year to all of you! May the Lord give you a year filled with peace and of the mercy of the Lord! The First Reading, from the prophet Isaiah, presents to us a beautiful image of how the Lord will come to dwell and to fill with life the city of Jerusalem. We are called to receive in our hearts the Lord who comes to fill us with hope, peace, and consolation for the upcoming year. The Second Reading, from the Letter to the Ephesians, gives us the assurance that God's love has been revealed to all nations and peoples of the earth. It is very comforting to realize that God's plan is that everybody experiences His mercy and love. God always wants to share His life with us to fulfill our deepest desires. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, presents us with the manifestation of the Lord to the Magi. They come from the Far East to pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews. However, they are astonished to realize that the King of Kings is born in a stable, humble, and weak, born to give His life for our sins. They recognize Him as the Savior of the World, and they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold symbolizes that He is a King who has come to serve us and to share His life for us. Frankincense means that He is God, He is the One who fills us with Eternal Life. Myrrh means that He is going to die in the Cross to save us. Let us acknowledge in our lives the Savior who has come to share with us His divine life so that our lives may be fulfilled!

Have a blessed New Year in the Lord!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Audience for Epiphany of the Lord (January 6, 2024)

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, that is, His manifestation to all peoples in the person of the Magi (cf. Mt 2:1-12). They are wise seekers who, after wondering about the apparition of a star, set out on a journey and arrive in Bethlehem. And there, they find Jesus, "with Mary His mother", they bow down and they offer "gold, frankincense and myrrh" (c. 11).

Wise men who recognize the presence of God in a simple Child: not in a prince or a nobleman, but in the child of poor people, and they prostrate themselves before Him, adoring Him. The star led them there, before a Child; and they, in His small innocent eyes, perceive the light of the Creator of the universe, to whose pursuit they have dedicated their existence.

It is the decisive experience for them, and important for us too: indeed, in the Child Jesus, we see God made man. And so let us look at Him, let us wonder at His humility. Contemplating Jesus, staying before Him, adoring Him in the Eucharist: it is not wasting time, but giving meaning to time. To worship is not to waste time, but to give meaning to time. This is important, I repeat: to worship is not to waste time, but to give meaning to time; it is rediscovering the course of life in the simplicity of a silence that nourishes the heart.

And let us also find the time to watch children, like the Magi watch Jesus: the little ones who also speak to us of Jesus, with their trust, their immediacy, their wonder, their healthy

curiosity, their ability to cry and laugh spontaneously, to dream. God is made like this: a Child, trusting, simple, a lover of life (cf. Wis 11:26), with our children; patiently, as grandparents know how to do! If we stay before the child Jesus and in the company of children, we will learn to be amazed and we will start out simpler and better, like the Magi. And we will know how to have new outlooks, creative outlooks on the problems of the world.

Let us ask ourselves, then: in these days, have we stopped to adore, have we made a little space for Jesus in silence, praying before the crib? Have we dedicated time to the children, to speaking and playing with them? And finally, are we able to see the problems of the world through the eyes of children?

May Mary, Mother of God and ours, increase our love for the Child Jesus and for all children,

Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025

Archbishop Francis Leo has chosen St. Gregory the Great Parish Oshawa, to serve as the pilgrimage church in the Eastern Region for the Jubilee Year 2025.

In honour of St. Gregory's being chosen,

Bishop Vincent Nguyen

will be celebrating Mass on

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 @7pm.

Anyone wishing to have a Confession, please arrive on or before 5:30pm.

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD





Social Sunday Sunday January 12th. Join us after the 9am & 11am masses for Coffee and sweets in the Parish Centre

**ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES!
MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES**

Our next Marriage Preparation Course at St. John the Evangelist will begin on Monday nights, April 7, 2025 to May 12, 2025 from 7pm to 9pm. Call 668-3676 to register. Cost is \$300 per couple.



Masses For The Week

Sat Jan 4- 5:00pm

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

Mon Jan 6 –8:20am

+Humberto Schenflede
req. by His Wife & Family

Tues Jan 7 – 8:20am

+Maria Doris Borg
req. by The McHugh Family

Wed Jan 8 – 7:00pm

+All Souls in Purgatory
req. by Joe & Joy Broderick
+Stan, Shirley & Mark Harris
req. by Their Family
+Betty van Hezewyk
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family
+Theodore Patrick McAteer
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family
+Frank McNulty
req. by Ed Schranz
+Sarah Beaudoin
req. by Shirley & Denise Washburn

Thur Jan 9– 8:20am

+Alan Todd Marchand
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family

Fri Jan 10 – 8:20am

+Edgar Talabis
req. by Lorna & Family

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday Jan 8th, 2025 at 8PM at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St North. For further information call or email Bryan Childerhouse

bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877

CWL 2025 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Calling all CWL members and ladies of the parish to renew or join the Catholic Women's League at St. John the Evangelist after masses on Saturday, January 18th and Sunday, January 19th. This one-stop women's organization focuses on faith, service and social justice. Become active and involved in your area of interest. Your place is among us. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.

FIRST COMMUNION



PARENTS MEETING

Tuesday January 21st, 2025 7:00pm
in the Church

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Preparation Classes

Saturday January 25th
Saturday March 1st
Saturday March 29th

Please refer to the Sacrament schedule for session times

The Jubilee Prayer 2025

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen

Franciscus

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