

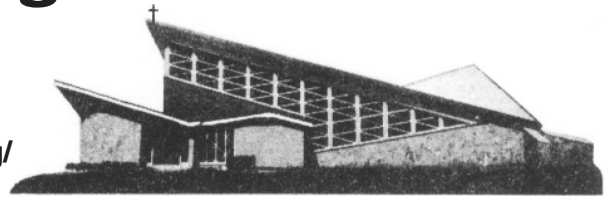
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The First Reading, from the book of the prophet Isaiah, offers us a hopeful message of consolation. Even though the people of Israel are in exile because they have been unfaithful and have abandoned the Lord, He will come to their rescue, and they will be able to experience the merciful power of God in their lives. There are times in which we feel discouraged and hopeless, but the Lord is faithful and always comes to support us. The Second Reading, from the letter of St. Paul to Titus, gives us the assurance that God has saved us through the Death and Resurrection of Christ. In baptism, when we are immersed and come out of the water, it represents the Death and Resurrection of Christ. The fruit of our baptism is that He has given us the Holy Spirit so that we can carry out works of holiness. God wants to share His own divine life with us even though we do not merit it and we have not gain it with our own efforts. It is out of his sheer gratuity that He wants us to become more like Him. The Gospel, from St. Luke, gives us the account of the Baptism of Jesus. Jesus Christ has come to baptize us with fire. It means that when He is immersed in the waters, it signifies His Death on the Cross, by which he takes upon Himself all our sins and destroys them. When He comes out of the water, it symbolizes His Resurrection by which He gives us new life through the Spirit. Let us reflect, ponder and be grateful for the great many gifts that God has given us in our baptism. God wants to stir them up in our everyday lives so that it can have an impact in our own situations.

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Angelus for Baptism of the Lord (January 9, 2022)

The Gospel of today's Liturgy shows us the scene with which Jesus' public life begins: he, who is the Son of God and the Messiah, goes to the banks of the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. After about thirty years of hidden life, Jesus does not present himself with a miracle, or by rising to the podium to teach. He lines up with the people who were going to receive baptism from John. Today's liturgical hymn says that the people went to be baptized with a bare soul and bare feet, humbly. This is a beautiful attitude, with a bare soul and bare feet. And Jesus shares the plight of us sinners, he comes down towards us; he descends into the river, and at the same time into the wounded history of humanity, he immerses himself in our waters to heal them, and he immerses himself with us, in our midst. He does not rise up above us, but rather comes down towards us with a bare soul, with bare feet, like the people. He does not come by himself, nor does he come with a select, privileged group. No: he comes with the people. He belongs to the people and he comes with them to be baptized, with these humble people.

Let us reflect on an important point: at the moment in which Jesus receives Baptism, the text says that he "was praying" (Lk 3:21). It is good for us to contemplate this: Jesus prays. But why? He, the Lord, the Son of God, prays like us? Yes, Jesus – the Gospels repeat this many times – spends a lot of time in prayer: at the beginning of every day, often at night, before making important decisions... His prayer is a dialogue, a relationship with the Father. Thus, in today's Gospel, we can see the "two moments" in the life of Jesus: on the one hand, he descends towards us into the waters of the Jordan; on the other, he raises his eyes and his heart, praying to the Father.

It is a tremendous lesson for us: we are all immersed in the problems of life and in many complicated situations, called upon to face difficult moments and choices that get us down. But, if we do not want to be crushed, we need to raise everything upwards. And this is exactly what prayer does. It is not an escape route; prayer is not a magic ritual or a repetition of memorized jingles. No. Prayer is the way we allow God to act in us, to understand what he wants to communicate to us even in the most difficult situations, prayer is having the strength to go forward. Many people feel they can't go on, and pray: "Lord, give me the strength to continue". We too, very often, have done this. Prayer helps us because it unites us to God, it opens us up to encountering him. Yes, prayer is the key that opens our heart to the Lord. It is dialoguing with God, it is listening to his Word, it is worshipping: remaining in silence, entrusting to him what we are experiencing. And at times it is also crying out with him like Job, other times it is venting with Him. Crying out like Job; He is the father, He understands well. He never gets angry with us. And Jesus prays.

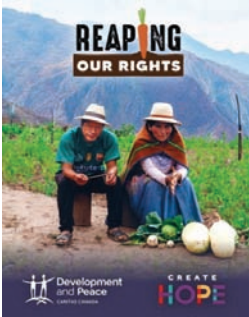
Prayer – to use a beautiful image from today's Gospel – "opens the heavens" (cf. v. 21). Prayer opens the heavens: it gives life oxygen, a breath of fresh air amidst life's troubles and allows us to see things from a broader perspective. Above all, it enables us to have the same experience of Jesus by the Jordan River: it makes us feel like beloved children of the Father. When we pray, the Father says to us too, as he does to Jesus in the Gospel: "You are my beloved child" (cf. v. 22). Being God's children began on the day of our Baptism, which immersed us in Christ and, as members of the people of God, we became beloved children of the Father. Let us not forget the date of our Baptism! If I were to ask each one of you now: what is the date of your Baptism? Perhaps some of you don't remember. This is a beautiful thing: remembering the date of your baptism, because it is our rebirth, the moment in which we became children of God with Jesus! And when you return home – if you don't know – ask your mother, your aunt, your grandmother or your grandfather: "When was I baptized?", and remember that date so as to celebrate it, to thank the Lord. And today, at this moment, let us ask ourselves: how is my prayer going? Do I pray out of habit, do I pray unwillingly, just reciting formulas, or is my prayer an encounter with God? I, a sinner, always with the people of God, never isolated? Do I cultivate intimacy with God, dialogue with Him, listen to his Word? Among the many things we do each day, let us not neglect prayer: let us dedicate time to it, let us use short invocations to be repeated often, let us read the Gospel every day. The prayer that opens the heavens.

And now, let us turn to Our Lady, the prayerful Virgin, who made her life into a hymn in praise of God.



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.



Development and Peace / Caritas Canada Reaping Our Rights Action Campaign
 Development and Peace — Caritas Canada, the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, is a democratic movement for global solidarity rooted in Catholic Social

Teaching.

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada addresses the root causes of poverty, oppression and inequality by working with partners in the Global South and by mobilizing Canadians in the common struggle for justice and dignity. We champion women and social movements as key agents of lasting change.

As we continue our fall 2024 Action Campaign **Create Hope: Reaping our Rights**, we will encounter peasant and rural communities who care for the Earth and feed the world. In solidarity with them, we will call on Canada to adopt **mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation**, so that no Canadian company can trample on their rights. The next weekend the minimagazines will be available in the foyer and on the weekend of January 25-26 we will complete the action signing cards and petitions to the Canadian Government.

To better understand our work, watch the short documentary at <https://t.ly/jDczl> or visit devp.org.

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.

 Masses For The Week

Sat Jan 11- 5:00pm

+Richard Rodricks
req. by His Family

Mon Jan 13 –8:20am

+Doris & John Garden
req. by Pat McDonald

Tues Jan 14 – 8:20am

+Christina McHugh
req. by Noreen & Bobby

Wed Jan 15 – 7:00pm

+Eric Silius
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family
+Antonietta Busuttill
req. by Ed Schranz
+Vincent McDonald
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family
+Georgi Hosking
req. by The Turner Family
+Nolito Reyes
req. by Carmen Mohamed & Family

Thur Jan 16– 8:20am

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

Fri Jan 17 – 8:20am

+Paul Parkinson
req. by Tom & Teresa Simmons

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



All youth of the parish are invited to participate in the next Youth Mass at 11:00 am on February 9th. Lectors: Gr. 7-12, Procession of Gifts: Gr. 1-7,

Ushers: Gr. 1-12 Youth choir (Grade 5-12) will start practicing for this Mass on January 11th. Please contact the parish office for more information.

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