

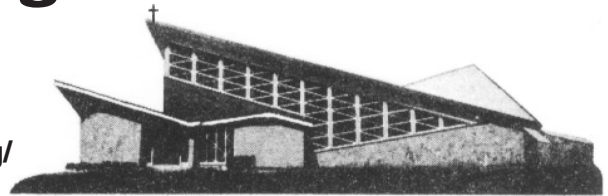
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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 IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

From this Sunday until Ash Wednesday, we are in *Ordinary Time* on the liturgical calendar. It is a period on which we can experience the public life of Christ in our daily lives. This Sunday, we celebrate the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the book of the prophet Isaiah, brings us a message of hope and restoration. Even though the people of Israel have been in exile and the city has been destroyed, a promise of new life is given to them. It is very easy to feel discouraged and to give up, but God always comes to give us courage and hope. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, gives us the image of the Christian community as the Body of Christ in which each person puts their gifts at the service of each other. It is important to realize that we are not individuals leaving our faith apart from each other; moreover, our faith is shared and grows when we share it others. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us the account of the Wedding at Cana. Jesus and the Virgin Mary are invited to a wedding feast. She realizes that they have no wine, and Jesus transforms the water into wine. What does this sign mean for our own personal life? Wine represents the happiness and the joy that Christ gives to us. Some of us, experience that, at times, we lack wine, which means that we lack joy, hope, peace, and courage in our lives. The water represents the law, which was incapable of transforming our hearts. It only made clear our limits, our incapacity to be transformed. Christ has transformed our water, our limits, into wine, a new life filled with joy, peace and all the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Let us offer to the Lord all of our limits and incapacities so that He can transform them into a new life filled with peace, joy and complete happiness!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Angelus for Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 16, 2022)

The Gospel of today's liturgy recounts the episode of the wedding at Cana, where, to the couple's delight, Jesus transformed water into wine. This is the way the account ends: "This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him" (Jn 2:11). We notice that the evangelist John does not speak of a miracle, that is, of a powerful and extraordinary deed that provokes wonder. He writes that a sign took place at Cana, a sign that sparked the faith of his disciples. We can, then, ask ourselves: What is a "sign" according to the Gospel?

It is a sign that gives a clue that reveals God's love, that does not call attention to the power of the action, but to the love that caused it. It teaches us something about God's love that is always near, tender and compassionate. Jesus' first sign took place when a couple faced a difficulty on the most important day of their lives. Right in the middle of the feast, an essential element for a feast, the wine, is missing and their joy risked being snuffed out due to the criticism and dissatisfaction of the guests. Imagine how a wedding feast could go ahead only with water. How terrible! What a bad impression the couple would make.

It is Our Lady who became aware of the problem and discretely brought it to Jesus' attention. And he intervened without fanfare, almost without making it obvious. Everything took place reservedly,

everything took place "behind the scenes" – Jesus told the servants to fill the jars with water, then it became wine. This is how God acts, near to us and discretely. Jesus' disciples understood this: they saw that, thanks to him, the wedding banquet became even more beautiful. And they saw the way Jesus acted as well – the way he served hiddenly (this is Jesus – he helps us, he serves us hiddenly) in that moment so much so that it was the groom who was complimented for the good wine. Nobody was aware of it, only the servants. This is how the seed of faith began to develop within them – that is, they believed that God, God's love, was present in Jesus.

How beautiful it is to think that the first sign Jesus accomplished was not an extraordinary healing or something prodigious in the temple of Jerusalem, but an action that responded to a simple and concrete need of common people, a domestic gesture. Let us put it this way – a miracle done on tip toes, discretely, silently. Jesus is ready to help us, to lift us up. And then, if we are attentive to these "signs", we will be conquered by his love and we will become his disciples.

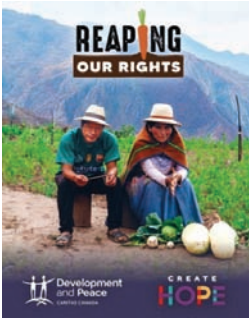
But there is another distinctive characteristic about the sign at Cana. Generally, the wine provided at the end of the feast was not as good – this is still done today. At that point, people don't distinguish as well if it is good wine or wine that's been diluted a little. Jesus, instead, acts in such a way that the feast ends with better wine. Symbolically, this tells us that God wants what is better for us, he wants us to be happy. He does not set limits and he does not ask us for incentives. There is no place for ulterior motives or demands placed on the couple. No, the joy Jesus brought to their hearts was complete and disinterested joy, a joy that was not diluted, no!

So, I want to suggest an exercise to you that would be very good for us. Today, let us try to rummage through our memories, looking for the signs the Lord has accomplished in my life. Let each of us say: in my life, what are the signs the Lord has accomplished? What are the hints of his presence, the signs he has done to show that he loves us? Let us think about that difficult moment in which God allowed me to experience his love... And let us ask ourselves: what are the discrete and loving signs through which he has allowed me to feel his tenderness? When have I felt the Lord nearer to me? When have I felt his tenderness and his compassion more? Every one of us has these moments in our personal history. Let us go in search of these signs, let us remember them. How have I discovered his nearness and how did it fill my heart with great joy? Let us relive the moments in which we have experienced his presence and Mary's intercession. May she, the Mother who is always attentive as at Cana, help us treasure the signs of God's presence in our lives.

### 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](http://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.



Sat Jan 18- 5:00pm

**+Henry Arts**  
*req. by Rochelle Guimond*

Mon Jan 20 –8:20am

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

Tues Jan 21 – 8:20am

**+Helene Kraayvanger**  
*req. by Iris McNulty*

Wed Jan 22 – 7:00pm

**+Andrew Marioselva**  
*req. by His Family*  
**+Rodolfo Javier Jr**  
*req. by His Family*  
 Int. for **Jack & Roseanne Elliott**  
*req. by Jane Rail*  
**+Lois Balkissoon**  
*req. by John & Cathy Fernandes*

Thur Jan 23– 8:20am

**+Maria Doris Borg**  
*req. by the Heaney Family*

Fri Jan 24 – 8:20am

**+Ildefonso Felipe**  
*req. by the Sharp Family*

**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 [ichilderhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:ichilderhouse@hotmail.com).

**Prayer Group**

Join us each Wednesday at 1pm

Parish Centre Main

Call Klara for information 905-668-9579

ALL ARE WELCOME!



**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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