

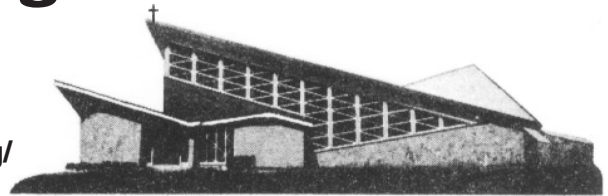
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the book of the prophet Isaiah, brings us the account of the call of the prophet Isaiah. As he was in the Temple, he saw God's glory and he was called to prophesy to the people of Israel. It is amazing to realize how eager he is to go and announce God's message to whomever he is sent. Because of our baptism, we as well have been chosen to be witnesses of God's mercy to those around us. It is the Lord who sends us and gives us the grace to proclaim Him to those with whom we meet. What a gift to share in this mission so that people may experience God's love in their lives. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, gives us the first creed of the Christian faith. He announces what he himself has received and experienced. He proclaims the heart of the Christian faith, that Christ has died and is risen for us. All of us are called to experience in our daily lives that Christ has truly died and has risen for us. If we are witnesses of Christ's immense power over death and sin, our lives are completely transformed, and we will live with much joy and peace. Moreover, we will be bringing this abundant life to those around us so that they can share in it. The Gospel, from St. Luke, gives us the account of the call of the apostle Peter to follow Christ. Peter is an expert fisherman, and he has been all night trying to catch something, but he's not successful. At this moment of failure, Christ asks him to throw the nets again and he will catch in abundance. He trusts in Christ's word, and he gets an abundant catch. From that moment on, he follows Christ trusting in His mercy and not in his good reasoning. We all need to experience that God's grace will do much more for us than our own wits alone. It is essential to have moments of human failure and weaknesses and to realize how God abundantly provides for us and helps us to carry out things beyond our human power. Let us open our hearts to the One who has called us and who will do great things for us beyond our human limitations!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Angelus for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time (February 6, 2022)

The Gospel of today's Liturgy takes us to the banks of the Sea of Galilee. The crowd is gathering around Jesus, while some disappointed fishermen, including Simon Peter, are washing their nets after a night of fishing that went badly. And so it is that Jesus climbs into Simon's boat; then he invites him to go out to sea and cast his nets again (cf. Lk 5:1-4). Let us pause on these two actions of Jesus: first he climbs into the boat and then, the second, he invites him to put out into the open water. It was a night that went badly, without fish, but Peter is trustful and sets out into open water.

First of all, Jesus gets into Simon's boat. To do what? To teach. He asks for that very boat, which is not full of fish but rather has returned to the shore empty, after a night of toil and disillusionment. It is a beautiful image for us too. Every day the boat of our life leaves the shores of our home to sail out into the sea of daily activities; every day we try to "fish from the sea", to cultivate dreams, to pursue projects, to experience love in our relationships. But often, like Peter, we experience the "night of empty nets" – the night of empty nets – the disappointment of trying so hard and not seeing the desired results: "We toiled all night and took nothing" (v. 5), says Simon. How often we too are left with a sense of defeat, while disappointment and bitterness arise in our hearts. Two very dangerous woodworms.

What does the Lord do then? He chooses to climb into our boat. From there he wants to proclaim the Gospel. It is precisely that empty boat, the symbol of our incapacity, that becomes Jesus' "cathedra", the pulpit from which he proclaims the Word. And this is what the Lord loves to do – the Lord is the Lord of surprises, of miracles in surprises: to climb into the boat of our lives when we have nothing to offer him; to enter our voids and fill them with his presence; to make use of our poverty to proclaim his wealth, our miseries to proclaim his mercy. Let us remember this: God does not want a cruise ship: a poor "ramshackle" boat is enough for him, as long as we welcome him. This yes, to welcome him; the boat doesn't matter, but that we welcome him. But, I wonder, do we let him into the boat of our lives? Do we make available to him the little we have? Sometimes we feel unworthy of Him because we are sinners. But this is an excuse that the Lord does not like, because it distances Him from us! He is the God of closeness, compassion, tenderness, and he does not seek perfectionism: he seeks our welcome. He says to you too: "Let me get into the boat of your life", "But Lord, look.." – "Like that, let me in, just as it is". Think about this.

In this way, the Lord reconstructs Peter's trust. When he climbs into the boat, after preaching, he says: "Put out a little from the land" (v. 4). It was not a good time of the day for fishing, in broad daylight, but Peter trusts in Jesus. He does not base his trust on the strategies of fishermen, which he knows well, but rather he finds it on the newness of Jesus. That wonder that moved him to do what Jesus told him. It is the same for us too: if we welcome the Lord into our boat, we can put out to sea. With Jesus, we navigate the sea of life without fear, without giving in to disappointment when we catch nothing, and without giving up and saying "there is nothing more to be done". Always, in personal life as well as in the life of the Church and society, there is something beautiful and courageous that can be done, always. We can always start again – the Lord always invites us to get back on our feet because He opens up new possibilities. So let us accept the invitation: let us chase away pessimism and mistrust, and put out to sea with Jesus! Our little empty boat, too, will witness a miraculous catch.

FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Let us pray to Mary: who like no other welcomed the Lord into the boat of her life. May she encourage us and intercede for us.

Dear Friend and Benefactor of the Seminary!

We cordially invite you to join us for the 23rd Annual Fundraising Dinner, on **Friday, May 2, 2025**.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6:00 p.m.

Dinner will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Do not wait to buy your tickets, as the space is limited, and the sale happens on a first-come, first-served basis.

We look forward to celebrating together with you the faithfulness and the goodness of the Lord in our midst.

Fr. Tomasz, Fr. Antonello, and all the Seminarians
Go to Eventbrite: [23rd Annual Fundraising Dinner Tickets, Fri, 2 May 2025 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Bible Study

**Luke: The Story of Salvation Fulfilled
By Jeff Cavins**

Monday evenings

February 24 to March 31, 2025

7pm Parish Centre Main Room

Cost \$35

Please call the office 905-668-3676 or email us stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org to register.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Preparation Classes

(Continued)

Saturday March 1st

Saturday March 29th

Please refer to the Sacrament schedule for session times



Masses For The Week

Sat Feb 8- 5:00pm

+Carole Pitcher

req. by Iris McNulty

Mon Feb 10 –8:20am

In Thanksgiving

req. by Gail Stewart

Tues Feb 11 – 8:20am

+Patrick Sullivan

req. by Geraldine Sullivan

Wed Feb 12 – 7:00pm

+Elizabeth Derry

req. by Maureen Armstrong

+Mirko Cot

req. by His Family

+Attilio Cannella

req. by Rosa & Tony Cannella

+John Viskovic

req. by Marijana Barich & Family

+Margreta Kristiansen

req. by Her Family

+Anna Hua & Deceased Members

req. by The Ho & Kwa Family

Thur Feb 13 – 8:20am

+Francis Doran & William Waugh

req. by Alice Deehan

Fri Feb 14 – 8:20am

Int. for Graham Friel

req. by Alice Deehan

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.

Altar Servers Wanted!

Children/Youth in grades 3 and up, who have received First Communion are invited to become an altar server.

Training is provided. Parents - please contact the office! 905-668-3676

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