

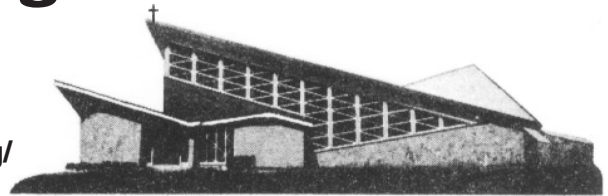
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the book of the prophet Jeremiah, presents to us the outcome of the person who trusts in God. With beautiful imagery, he shows that the person who relies in God is like a tree besides flowing waters which always give fruit. However, a person who does not trusts in God is like a dry shrub in the desert, which gives no fruit at all. We are all encouraged to put our whole being in God's hands realizing that God takes care of us and provides for all our spiritual and physical needs. If we rely in Him and receive strength from Him, we are going to experience an immense peace in all circumstances. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, tells us how important the historical event of the Resurrection of Christ is for all of us. If we believe in the Resurrection of Christ and we experience its effect in our lives, there is hope to find peace in any kind of struggle and suffering. Moreover, there is assurance of receiving forgiveness of our sins and the transformation of our hearts. The Resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of our faith and the event that sustains all our hopes and expectations. The Gospel, from St. Luke, gives us the smaller version of the Beatitudes. Luke presents to us four beatitudes and he pairs them with four curses. The road to a blessed life is promised by the Lord to us if we are opened to His graces. Whenever we are poor or weak, we are looking for meaning in our life, we are sad or struggling, and we feel rejected; then the Lord can transform those situations into moments in which we can experience abundant life. On the other hand, when we rely in our strength and plans solely, we feel empty. Let us allow the Lord to guide our lives so that we can find happiness and fullness of life!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

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

At the centre of the Gospel of today's Liturgy are the Beatitudes (cf. Lk 6:20-23). It is interesting to note that Jesus, despite being surrounded by a great crowd, proclaims them by addressing them to "his disciples" (v. 20). He speaks to the disciples. Indeed, the Beatitudes define the identity of the disciple of Jesus. They may sound strange, almost incomprehensible to those who are not disciples; whereas, if we ask ourselves what a disciple of Jesus is like, the answer is precisely the Beatitudes. "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God" (v. 20). Blessed are you poor. Jesus says two things to his people: that they are blessed and they are poor; indeed, that they are blessed because they are poor.

In what sense? In the sense that disciples Jesus do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on. These are gifts of life. They are content to share even the goods they possess, because they live according to the logic of God. And what is the logic of God? Gratuitousness. The disciple has learned to live in gratuitousness. This poverty is also an attitude towards the meaning of life, because Jesus' disciples do not think about possessing it, about already knowing everything, but rather they know they must learn every day. And this is poverty: the awareness of having to learn every day. The disciple of Jesus, since he or she has this attitude, is a humble, open person, far from prejudice and inflexibility.

There was a good example in last Sunday's Gospel reading: Simon Peter, an expert fisherman, accepts Jesus' invitation to cast his nets at an unusual hour, and then, full of wonder at the miraculous catch, leaves the boat and all his goods to follow the Lord. Peter shows himself to be docile by leaving everything, and in this way, he becomes a disciple. Instead, those who are too attached to their

own ideas and their own securities, find it difficult to truly follow Jesus. They follow him a little, only in those things in which "I agree with him and he agrees with me", but then, as far as the rest is concerned, it goes no further. And this is not a disciple. Perhaps they listen to him, but they do not follow him. And so, they fall into sadness. They become sad because the accounts do not add up, because reality escapes their mentality and they find they are dissatisfied. Disciples, on the other hand, know how to question themselves, how to humbly seek God every day, and this allows them to delve into reality, grasping its richness and complexity.

In other words, the disciple accepts the paradox of the Beatitudes: they declare that those who are poor, who lack many goods and recognize this, are blessed, that is, happy. Humanly speaking, we are inclined to think in another way: happy are those who are rich, with many goods, who receive plaudits and are the envy of many, who have all the certainties. But this is a worldly mindset, it is not the way of thinking of the Beatitudes! Jesus, on the contrary, declares worldly success to be a failure, since it is based on a selfishness that inflates and then leaves the heart empty. Faced with the paradox of the Beatitudes, disciples allow themselves to be challenged, aware that it is not God who must enter into our logic, but we into his. This requires a journey, sometimes wearisome, but always accompanied by joy. Because the disciple of Jesus is joyful, with the joy that comes from Jesus. Because, let us remember, the first word Jesus says is: blessed, beati, which gives us the name of the Beatitudes. This is the synonym of being disciples of Jesus. The Lord, by freeing us from the slavery of self-centredness, breaks our locks, dissolves our hardness, and opens up to us true happiness, which is often found where we do not expect it to be. It is he who guides our life, not us, with our preconceptions and our demands. Disciples, in the end, are those who let themselves be led by Jesus, who open their heart to Jesus, who listen to him and follow his path.

We might then ask ourselves: do I – each one of us – have the disciple's readiness? Or do I behave with the rigidity of one who believes him- or herself to be right, who feels decent, who feels they have already arrived? Do I allow myself to be "inwardly unhinged" by the paradox of the Beatitudes, or do I stay within the confines of my own ideas? And then, with the logic of the Beatitudes, setting aside the hardships and difficulties, do I feel the joy of following Jesus? This is the decisive trait of the disciple: the joy of the heart. Let's not forget – the joy of the heart. This is the touchstone for knowing if a person is a disciple: does he or she have joy in the heart? Do I have joy in my heart? This is the point. May Our Lady, first disciple of the Lord, help us live as open and joyful disciples.

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](#)

St. John the Evangelist 2024 Tax Receipt Thank You Letter

Our profound apologies regarding the Spanish letter attached to your tax receipt. Please see the letter here:

Contributions made to St. John the Evangelist Parish, to ShareLife (except online donations and contributions made directly to the Archdiocese), as well as donations to The Shepherds' Trust, and other Diocesan collections are included in your 2024 income tax receipt.

Thank you for your generosity. Your contribution is important. Your offering helps us continue to serve our parish community, especially people in need of spiritual support, including Ministry of Consolation, Fairview Lodge, Taunton Mills, Wednesday Prayer Group etc.

For those using our Pre-Authorized Giving Program (PAG), your participation helps to protect the parish from times of reduced offertory, such as heavy snow days, or when parishioners are vacationing. Along with Sunday Offertory, support to the Renovation fund assists us to quickly handle repairs. The steady flow of PAG income helps us to budget and give us a stable base from which we can prepare and plan. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and commitment.

Thank you for recognizing the need to support your parish and for reflecting on how you can best help to build Christ's kingdom. We look forward to seeing you at Mass!

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.

Development and Peace-Caritas Canada

Lent Campaign Preview

DPCC will launch the new Lent Campaign "Turn Debt into Hope" in conjunction with Caritas Internationalis as a global campaign.

This year, under the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," Pope Francis invites Catholics to renew their hope and adopt a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone." Find out how Development and Peace — Caritas Canada will be living the Jubilee at www.devp.org/lent

RESERVE THESE DATES!

Saturday, March 1st, 1:30 pm on Zoom National Launch Webinar to register visit the Events page <https://devp.org/en/evenements/>

Saturday, March 8th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Durham Region Campaign Launch at St. John the Evangelist Parish Centre. More information to follow.

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 15- 5:00pm

Int. for Maire Fitzpatrick

req. by The Fitzpatrick Family

Mon Feb 17 –9:00 am

+Brenda Jean MacDonald

req. by Deidre Newman

Tues Feb 18 – 8:20am

+Mary Fox

req. by Catherine & Family

Wed Feb 19 – 7:00pm

+John Viscovic

req. by Mirjana Barich & Family

+Francesca Nazzulla

req. by The Brydon Family

+Martin Minten

req. by The Brydon Family

+Idalina Leitao

req. by The Leitao & Viranil Families

+All Souls in Purgatory

req. by Joe & Joy Broderick

Int. for Joe Broderick & Joy Harrington

req. by Sue Harrington

Thur Feb 20 – 8:20am

+Michael Burke

req. by The Deehan Family

Fri Feb 21 – 8:20am

+Bridget & Charlie Carolan

req. by Pauline & Richard Fitzpatrick

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.



On Family Day Monday February 17th, the office is closed, Mass is at 9am. Have a very happy Family Day!

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