

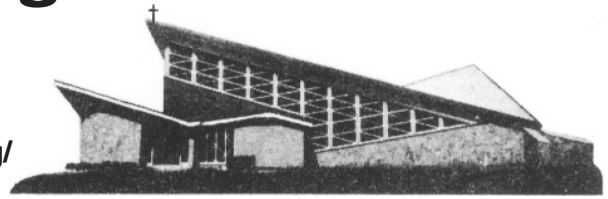
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent. The First Reading, from the book Deuteronomy, presents the first creed of the people of Israel. Whenever the people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord, they need to remember that the Lord has rescued them from the slavery of Egypt and He has brought them to the promised land. They are encouraged to always be aware of this essential fact and be grateful for the great deeds that the Lord has done for them. We also are called to be grateful for the wonders that the Lord has done in our lives despite our sins. This time of Lent is a favorable time to be conscious of God's mercy and to be open to the great deeds that He will accomplish in our lives. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, offers us a reflection on how important is to believe in Christ in our daily lives. During this time of Lent, we are called to experience the power of the Death and Resurrection of Christ. This gift of His mercy is going to transform us and offers us the possibility of living a new life. The Gospel, from St. Luke, presents the Temptations of Christ in the Desert. Christ went to the wilderness to be tested to overcome all our temptations. It is in Him that we can come out victorious in our daily struggles. The first temptation is the one in which we wish to have securities. We all want to be in control, and it is hard to see that life is precarious and unpredictable. Christ invites us to trust in Him and find peace in Him. The second temptation is attachment to possessions and to money. We think that if we have money then we can be assured that our lives are fine, but Christ is the One who constantly offers and gives us life. The third temptation has to do with the sufferings and events of our lives that we find hard to accept. Facing struggles, it's easy to complain and to get discouraged, but Christ helps us to accept our painful events and be at peace no matter what. Let us open our hearts to the Lord so that He may transform us during this Lenten season!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Angelus for the First Sunday of Lent (March 6, 2022)

The Gospel of the Liturgy today, first Sunday of Lent, takes us into the desert, where Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit, for forty days, to be tempted by the devil (cf. Lk 4:1-13). Jesus too was tempted by the devil, and He accompanies us, every one of us, in our temptations. The desert symbolizes the fight against the seductions of evil, to learn to choose true freedom. Indeed, Jesus lives the experience of the desert just before beginning his public mission. It is precisely through this spiritual combat that he decisively affirms what type of Messiah he intends to be. Not this type of Messiah, but that one: I would say that this is indeed the declaration of Jesus' messianic identity, the messianic way of Jesus. "I am the Messiah, but on this path". Let us then look closely at the temptations he is battling.

Twice the devil addresses him, saying: "If you are the Son of God..." (vv. 3, 9). He is thus proposing to him to exploit his position: first to satisfy the material needs he feels, hunger (cf. v. 3), then to increase his power (cf. vv. 6-7); and, finally, to have a prodigious sign from God (cf. vv. 9-11). Three temptations. It is as if he were saying, "If you are Son of God, take advantage of it!". How often this happens to us: "But if you are in that position, take advantage of it! Don't lose the opportunity, the chance", that is, "think of your benefit". It is a seductive proposal, but it leads you to the enslavement of the heart: it makes us obsessed with the desire to have, it reduces everything to the possession of things, power, fame. This is the core of the temptations. It is the "poison of the passions" in which evil is rooted. Look within ourselves, and we will find that our temptations always have this mindset, this way of acting.

But Jesus opposes the attractions of evil in a winning way. How does he do this? By responding to temptations with the Word of God, which says not to take advantage, not to use God, others and things for oneself, not to take advantage of one's own position to obtain privileges. Because true happiness and true freedom are not found in possessing, but in sharing; not in taking advantage of others, but in loving them; not in the obsession of power, but in the joy of service.

Brothers and sisters, these temptations also accompany us on the journey of life. We must be vigilant – do not be afraid, it happens to everyone – and be vigilant, because they often present themselves under an apparent form of good. In fact, the devil, who is cunning, always uses deception. He wanted Jesus to believe that his proposals were useful to prove that he was really the Son of God. And he does so with us too: he often arrives "with sweet eyes", "with an angelic face"; he even knows how to disguise himself with sacred, apparently religious motives!

And I would like to emphasize something. Jesus does not converse with the devil: he never conversed with the devil. Either he banished him, when he healed the possessed, or in this case, when he has to respond, he does so with the Word of God, never with his own word. Brothers and sisters, never enter into dialogue with the devil: he is more cunning than we are. Never! Cling to the Word of God like Jesus, and at most answer always with the Word of God. And on this path, we will never go wrong.

The devil does this with us: he often comes "with gentle eyes", "with an angelic face"; he even knows how to disguise himself with sacred, apparently religious motives! If we give in to his flattery, we end up justifying our falsehood by disguising it with good intentions. For instance, how often have we heard "I have done strange things, but I have helped the poor"; "I have taken advantage of my role – as a politician, a governor, a priest, a bishop – but also for good"; "I have given in to my instincts, but in the end, I did no harm to anyone", these justifications, and so on, one after the other. Please: no compromises with evil! No dialogue with the devil! We must not enter into dialogue with temptation, we must not fall into that slumber of the conscience that makes us say: "But after all, it's not serious, everyone does it"! Let us look at Jesus, who does not seek accommodation, does not make agreements with evil. He opposes the devil with the Word of God, who is stronger than the devil, and thus overcomes temptation.

May this time of Lent also be a time of the desert for us. Let us take time for silence and prayer – just a little, it will do us good – in these spaces let us stop and look at what is stirring in our hearts, our inner truth, that which we know cannot be justified. Let us find inner clarity, placing ourselves before the Word of God in prayer, so that a positive fight against the evil that enslaves us, a fight for freedom, may take place within us.

We are currently looking for a Youth Minister to cover for a maternity leave beginning in April.

Please contact the parish office for a position description. Applications are being accepted until March 15, 2025.

Go to www.archtoronto.org/en/contact-us/employment-opportunities/

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.

MARCH 9, 2025



Your love is a guiding light during Lent

Maria, a 64-year-old newcomer to Canada, arrived seeking a fresh start but found herself struggling to find both stable employment and affordable housing. Through your support of ShareLife, she received personalized guidance at Catholic Crosscultural Services that helped her secure both a job and a home. She found stability and peace of mind, giving her the strength to embrace her new life. Now, she's a guiding light for seniors, helping others access the support that changed her life. This Lent, you can walk the same path as a testament to resilience and the transformative power of community.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

Dear Friend and Benefactor of the Seminary!

The Redemptoris Mater 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](#)

Prayer Group

This is an invitation to come and watch part 1 of Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ"

On Wed March 12th starting at 1pm.

It will be held in the Parish Centre for 4 sessions and will be part of St John's Prayer Group, all are welcome, light refreshments will be provided.

Hope to see you there!



Masses For The Week

Sat Mar 8- 5:00pm

+Michael Yaskovitch
req. by Barb Marx

Mon. Mar 10 –8:20 am

+Edward Debosky
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family

Tues Mar 11– 8:20am

In Thanksgiving
req. by Irena Stebih

Wed Mar 12 – 7:00pm

+Deborah Beegan
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family
+Mirko & Lado Cot
req. by Irena & Boris
+Phyllis Margaret Fitz-Charles Netto
req. by Tracey Dennis
+Catherine Van Leeuwen
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family
+Rosa Linda Quillop
req. by Irene & Jack & Family
+Deceased Members of the Ho & Kwa Families
req. by Francis Kwa

Thur Mar 13 – 8:20am

+Sr. Agnes Gallant
req. by Anne Marie & Don Yaraskavitch

Stations of the Cross begin at 6:30pm

Fri Mar 14 – 7:00pm

+Shay Clarke
req. by The Maher Family



St. Patrick's Pub Night

Hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 4895
101 Brock St. N, Whitby

Friday, March 14, 2025 Council 4895 Doors Open 6:30 pm, Dancing at 7:30 pm Prizes-Snacks-Light Buffet-Cash Bar Tickets \$30.00 Per Person



Stations of the Cross Fridays

Stations of the Cross start 6:30pm in English,
Followed by Mass at 7:00pm
Stations of the Cross in Spanish at 7:30pm

Mar 14 For the Sick or Suffering
Mar 21 Development & Peace
Mar 28 For the Elderly
Apr 4 Easter Reflections
Apr 11 Mary's Way of the Cross
Apr 18 (Good Friday) Youth Stations Presentation

Mark your Calendar!

SENIORS' RETREAT

Thursday May 22, 2025 10:00-3:00

Father Jim Kelly, SJ. Facilitator

The price includes lunch.

\$55/person - more details to come



SPRING INTO EASTER

St. John the Evangelist Floral Fundraiser

* 10 Different Spring Plants (incl. Easter Lilies) from Vandermeer Nursery
* Undecided? You can purchase a giftcard and it still benefits our parish and there's no expiry
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* Pick-ups at the Parish Centre on April 12/13, 2025

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