

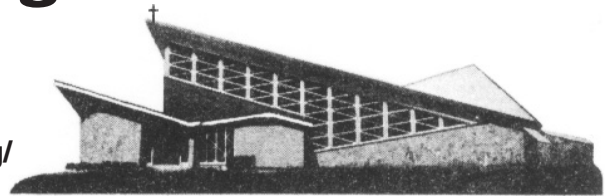
St. John the Evangelist Church

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 |

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|--|---------------------|------|--------------|
| 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 |

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|--|--------------|---|--|
| 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 |

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Third Sunday of Lent. The First Reading, from the book of Exodus, presents God's manifestation to Moses at the burning bush. God is concerned with the oppression of the Israelites in Egypt, and He is going to free them from slavery. God chooses Moses to be the instrument of God's liberating act. God is the One who acts powerfully in people's lives. The slavery in Egypt is an image of our slavery to sin. All throughout our lives, especially during this time of Lent, God wants to free us from our sins. Moreover, He wants to transform our hearts so that we may receive a new life filled with His grace. He is the only One who can overcome our sins. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, offers us how St. Paul uses the example of the journey of the people of Israel through the desert so that the community of believers learn from that experience. During the pilgrimage through the wilderness, the people complain against God, and they doubted Him even though they had experienced His marvels. We, as with the Corinthians, are called to follow God's plan of salvation with an open and grateful heart. God wants what is good for us. The Gospel, from St. Luke, presents the teaching of Jesus on the need for repentance. When He is asked about why calamities happened at that time, Jesus answers that it is not because they needed to be punished, but it is a call for us to repent and to turn back to God. When calamities and war around us happen, it is a call for us to take seriously our lives and to open our heart trusting in the Lord. We do not do it out of fear, but we see how weak we are and how we need to put our security and trust in God. Jesus offers us also an image of God's patience with us. Even though our hearts are at times hardened and we do not produce fruits of mercy and love, God gives us always an opportunity to repent and accept His grace so that our hearts may produce fruits of love in our lives. Let us open our hearts to God's tender

mercy so that we can love as He has loved us!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Angelus for the Third Sunday of Lent (March 13, 2022) We are at the heart of our Lenten journey, and today the Gospel begins by presenting Jesus who comments on some news of the day. While people still remember the eighteen who died when a tower collapsed on them, they tell Him about some Galileans whom Pilot had killed (cf. Lk 13:1). And there is a question that seems to accompany these tragic affairs: who is to blame for these terrible events? Perhaps those people were guiltier than others and God punished them? These are questions that also come up today. When bad news weighs on us and we feel powerless before evil, we often ask ourselves: is it perhaps a punishment from God? Did He bring about a war or a pandemic to punish us for our sins? And why does the Lord not intervene?

We must be careful: when evil oppresses us, we risk losing our clarity and, to find an easy answer to what we are unable to explain, we end up putting the blame on God. And so often the very bad habit of using profanities comes from this. How often we attribute to Him our woes and misfortunes in the world, to Him who instead leaves us always free and hence never intervenes imposing, but only proposing; He who never uses violence and instead suffers for us and with us! Indeed, Jesus refuses and contests strongly the idea of blaming God for our evils: those persons

who were killed by Pilate and those who died when the tower collapsed on them were not any more at fault than others, and they were not victims of a ruthless and vindictive God, which does not exist! Evil can never come from God because "He does not deal with us according to our sins" (Ps 103:10), but according to His mercy. This is God's style. He cannot treat us otherwise. He always treats us with mercy.

Rather than blaming God, Jesus says we need to look inside ourselves: it is sin that produces death; our selfishness can tear apart relationships; our wrong and violent choices can unleash evil. At this point the Lord offers the true solution, and that is conversion: He says, "unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Lk 13:5). It is an urgent call, especially during this time of Lent. Let us welcome it with an open heart. Let us turn from evil, let us renounce the sin that seduces us, let us be open to the logic

of the Gospel because where love and fraternity reign, evil has no more power!

But Jesus knows that conversion is not easy, and he wants to help us here, given that so many times we repeat the same mistakes and the same sins. We can become discouraged, and sometimes our commitment to do good can seem useless in a world where evil seems to rule. So, after his appeal, He encourages us with a parable that tells of the patience God has for us. We must keep in mind God's patience that He has for us. He offers the consoling image of fig tree that does not bear fruit during the accorded season, but it is not cut down. He gives it more time, another possibility. I like thinking that a nice name for God could be "the God of another possibility": God always gives us another opportunity, always, always. That is what His mercy is like. This is how the Lord works with us. He does not cut us out of his love. He does not lose heart or tire of offering us again His trust with tenderness. Brothers and sisters, God believes in us! God trusts us and accompanies us with patience, the patience of God with us. He does not get discouraged, but always instils hope in us. God is Father and looks after you like a father. As the best of fathers, He does not look at the achievements you have not yet reached, but the fruits you can still bear. He does not keep track of your shortcomings but encourages your potential. He does not dwell on your past, but confidently bets on your future. This is because God is close to us. Let us not forget that the style of God is closeness, He is close with mercy and tenderness. In this way God accompanies us: with closeness, mercy, and tenderness.

So let us ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to fill us with hope and courage, and kindle in us the desire for conversion.

Day & Evening of Confession

**This year, we are holding
Confessions all on one day. No
Sunday evening Reconciliation
Service!**

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

9:30am – 11:30am, 2:00pm – 4pm

– Fr. Francisco

**7pm – 8:30pm – Fr. Henk van
Meijel, Fr. Jim Kelly, Fr. David
Twaddle, Fr. Keith Wallace,
Fr. Francisco Fernandez Siles**

**Development and Peace
2025, a Jubilee year**

What is a Jubilee? Celebrated every 25 years in the Catholic Church, a Jubilee is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation in which people are invited to come back into right relationships with God, with one another and with all Creation. The tradition is inspired by the biblical year of jubilee, a time when debts were cancelled, slaves were set free and the land was allowed to rest (Lev. 25, Deut. 15).

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

This weekend you received the Mini-magazine and the Solidarity Calendar so that you can learn more about this campaign. You can also watch this short video from CAFOD (Caritas UK): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iP8oMZQuE> for a snapshot of the global campaign. As always, thank you for your support.

**BEECH STREET THEATRE AND
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL
4895 PRESENT A DINNER
THEATRE COMEDY:
THE MASK OF THE GOLDEN GAELS
Saturday, April 12, 2025**

Location: Whitby Columbus Club,
133 Brock St. N

Price: \$65 pp, includes dinner
(choose between Pork, Chicken or
Vegetarian dish)

Seating at 5:30pm, Dinner at 6:00pm
Show at 7:30pm

For Tickets, contact Gerry
905—995-2976 or email
gdesc9@gmail.com

**CWL MARCH GENERAL MEETING
- LENTEN SOUP SUPPER**

All ladies of the parish are invited to join us at our March 27, 2025 general meeting which takes place at 6:30 p.m. in the main room of the parish centre. This meeting will be a pot-luck soup supper. Please bring your food contribution and your place setting. No desserts as it is a Lenten supper. If you have any questions or require transportation, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at

905.431.6582 or
lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.



**Thank you for heeding the Lord's call to
feed the hungry**

For many children, the snacks and meals they receive in school may be the only nutritious food they eat all day. Studies show that children can't learn and thrive when they are hungry. Thanks to you, \$750,000 in Food Security Grants are making a difference across our community. Students receive the nourishment they deserve, and parents are supported in the process.

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.

Tickets \$150 each.

Go to Redemptoris Mater Seminary
Website: <https://rmmstoronto.org>
Click on Fundraiser Dinner 2025



Masses For The Week

Sat Mar 22 - 5:00pm
+Andrew Marioselva
req. by His Family

Mon. Mar 24 –8:20 am
+Catherine Cleary
req. by Catherine Ingram

Tues Mar 25 – 8:20am
+Ed Debosky
req. by Lucy Conway & Family

Wed Mar 26 – 7:00pm
+Maria Zak
req. by Ann Mueller & Family
+Leonida Rondilla
req. By The Sharp Family
+Theresa Deneurmoustier

req. by Don & Dorothy & Shawn Berry
Int. for Sheila Lang
req. by Her Mom
+Brian Foley
req. by Maria & Pablo Enrique
+Ed Debosky
req. by Doreen Kapuscinski

Thur Mar 27 – 8:20am
+Frank Butcher
req. by Arnold & Anne & Don & Anne-Marie
Yaraskavitch

Stations of the Cross begin at 6:30pm
Fri Mar 21 – 7:00pm
+Rosa Linda Quillop
req. by Irene & Jack & Family



**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 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**

* Deadline to order April 3/25
* Pick-ups at the Parish Centre on
April 12/13, 2025

**Totus Tuus Returns this
Summer!**

Mark your calendars for **July 6-11, 2025!** Totus Tuus is a fun & faith-filled Summer camp for the youth of the parish run by missionaries. There is a day camp for children entering grade 1-6 in the fall and an evening program for youth entering grade 7-12 in the fall. More information will be available soon!

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