

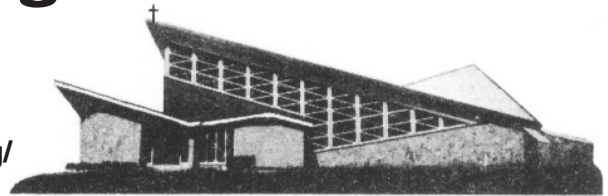
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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>

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The First Reading, from the book of the prophet Isaiah, gives us a hopeful message telling us that God is about to renew and to give new hope to His people Israel. Even though the people of Israel were discouraged, God calls them to trust in Him, He will certainly bring about a renewal in their lives. We are also called to put our trust in the Lord since He is going to transform us and renew us. Let us lift our eyes to the Lord and rely in Him so that we can find peace and consolation in Him. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, offers us how St. Paul looks with hope towards the future resurrection. Whatever he has done during his ministry, has always been with hope and going forward. We are all called to look with hope at the future, knowing that what God has in store for us is new life. It is easy to look back and to get discouraged in our lives, but God will help us to focus on the amazing gifts that the Lord is about to give us. Easter is approaching and the Lord wants that we wait with expectancy at the transformation that the Lord is going to do in our lives. The Gospel, from St. John, presents the episode of Jesus with the adulterous woman. This lady is caught committing a sin and the Pharisees want to condemn her, but Christ advocates for her and she is forgiven all her sins. In front of our sins, Christ is always ready to forgive us if we recognize what we have done and repent. It is amazing to have somebody who forgives us all the time and who restores our lives. Sometimes we feel ashamed of what we have done but let us not be afraid of coming to Jesus and receive his unconditional love!

I want to take this opportunity to thank Cassandra Hamilton for all the wonderful things that she has done for the youth and children of our parish. We wish to her a safe pregnancy and delivery of her baby. We will pray for her and miss her, until her return. Please join me in welcoming Sarah Rodrigues to our parish as Youth Minister. Sarah has great enthusiasm and energy who will fit in well with our youth and Parish Team. Welcome Sarah!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

### Pope Francis' Angelus for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (March 20, 2022)

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the liturgy presents us the episode of the adulterous woman (cf. Jn 8:1-11). In it, there are two contrasting attitudes: that of the scribes and the Pharisees on the one hand, and that of Jesus on the other. The former want to condemn the woman because they feel they are the guardians of the Law and of its faithful implementation. Jesus, on the other hand, wants to save her because he personifies God's mercy which redeems by forgiving and renews by reconciling.

Let us thus look at the event. While Jesus is teaching in the Temple, the scribes and the Pharisees bring him a woman who has been caught in adultery. They place her in the middle and ask Jesus if they should stone her as the Law of Moses prescribes. The Evangelist explains that they asked the question in order "to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him" (v. 6). One might think that this was their purpose: behold the iniquity of these people — a 'no' to the stoning would have been a pretext to accuse Jesus of disobeying the Law; a 'yes' instead, to report him to the Roman Authority which had reserved such sentences to itself and did not permit lynching by the people. And Jesus must respond.

Jesus' interrogators are confined to narrow legalism and want to oblige the Son of God to conform to their perspective of judgment and condemnation. However, he did not come into the world to judge and condemn, but rather to save and offer people a new life. And how does Jesus react to this test? First of all, he remains silent

for some time and then he bends down to write on the ground with his finger, almost as if to remind them that the only Legislator and Judge is God who had inscribed the Law on stone. And then he says: "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her" (v. 7). In this way, Jesus appeals to the conscience of those men: they felt they were the 'champions of justice', but he reminds them of their own condition as sinners, due to which they cannot claim the right to life or death over one of their fellow human beings. At that point, one after the other, beginning with the eldest — that is, those who were more fully aware of their own failings — they all went away, and desisted from stoning the woman. This episode also invites each of us to be aware that we are sinners, and to let fall from our hands the stones of denigration, of condemnation, of gossip, which at times we would like to cast at others. When we speak ill of others, we are throwing stones, we are like these people.

And in the end only Jesus and the woman are left there in the middle: "misery with mercy", as Saint Augustine says (In Joh 33:5). Jesus is the only one without fault, the only one who could throw a stone at her, but he does not do so, because God "does not want the death of the wicked but that the wicked convert and live" (cf. Ez 33:11). And Jesus sends the woman on her way with these wonderful words: "Go and do not sin again" (Jn 8:11). And thus Jesus opens a new path to her, created by mercy, a path that requires her commitment not to sin again. It is an invitation that applies to each one of us. When Jesus forgives us, he always opens a new path on which to go forward. In this Lenten Season, we are called to recognize ourselves as sinners and to ask God for forgiveness. And, in its turn, while forgiveness reconciles us and gives us peace, it lets us start again, renewed. Every true conversion is oriented toward a new future, a new life, a beautiful life, a life free from sin, a generous life. Let us not be afraid to ask Jesus for forgiveness because he opens the door to this new life for us. May the Virgin Mary help us to bear witness to all of the merciful love of God, who through Jesus, forgives us and renders our lives new, by always offering us new possibilities.

**FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT DAY**  
**Saturday, April 12, 2025 in the Church**  
**St. Luke/PHCP/Other 11am – 12pm**  
**St. John/St. Marguerite 1pm – 2pm**

### **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!



### **A signature to Turn Debt into Hope**

Dear Parishioners,

Starting this weekend, we will have available the petition for this year's campaign in which we aim to collect more signatures than ever before. We would join the petitions of thousands all over the world as part of the Jubilee 2025 that asks us to pardon debts. The *Turn Debt into Hope* campaign petition that calls for an end to unjust debt. With inequalities widening as rich countries continue

enriching themselves by exploiting the resources of the poorest countries, we respond to Pope Francis's call: "In the spirit of this Jubilee Year, I urge the international community to work towards forgiving foreign debt in recognition of the ecological debt existing between the North and the South of this world. This is an appeal for solidarity, but above all for justice." (Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2025) Help us reach the Canadian goal of 100,000 signatures, which will feed into the global goal of 10 million signatures. You can read the petition [https://devp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Petition\\_Debt\\_Jubilee\\_2025.pdf](https://devp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Petition_Debt_Jubilee_2025.pdf). The text of the petition is part of the brochure that was distributed last week. Thank you for your support. [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org)

**St. John's Ladies Golf League**

Are you interested in playing golf or learning to play golf, then consider joining our league. We play Tuesday evenings 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Deer Creek Practice and Performance Centre (formerly Salem Ridge), an executive 9-hole course. We have lots of fun and we do improve our game. If you are interested in joining us, please come to our general meeting on **Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in room 2 of the Parish Centre for our kick-off meeting.** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or [lchilderhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:lchilderhouse@hotmail.com).



**National March for Life**  
Join us on Thursday May 2025  
The bus will leave from Holy Family Parish parking lot at 6:45am. \$40/person. For more information contact: Gwen 905-259-8504.

**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



**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

Apr 11 Mary's Way of the Cross  
Apr 18 (Good Friday) Youth Stations Presentation

**Masses For The Week**

Sat Apr 5 - 5:00pm  
**+Leo Wong**  
*req. by Society of St Vincent de Paul, St John Conference*

Mon. Apr 7 - 8:20 am  
**+Visithor**  
*req. by Mari Nero*

Tues Apr 8 - 8:20am  
**+Humberto Scheneflede**  
*req. by His Wife & Family*

Wed Apr 9 - 7:00pm  
**+Stan, Shirley & Mark Harris**  
*req. by Their Family*  
**+Theresa Denemoustier**  
*req. by Dorothy, Don & Shawn Berry*  
**+Antonia & Francesco Veltri**  
*req. by Nina Veltri*  
**Int for Sheila Lang**  
*req. by Her Mom*  
**+Martin Doleweerd**  
*req. by His Wife & Family*

Thur Apr 10 - 8:20am  
**+Clorinda & Clemente Garritano**  
*req. by Nina Veltri*

Stations of the Cross begin at 6:30pm  
Fri Apr 11 - 7:00pm  
**+Emmanuel Zahra**  
*req. by Rita & Saviour Bonello*



**GOLFERS - SAVE THE DATE**  
**May 31st - Lyndebrook Golf**  
9-Holes and a BBQ Lunch (Big)  
9:30am Shotgun Start for 44 golfers  
Prizes & Raffles. Details to follow.

**2025 Holy Week Celebrations**

Sat./Sun. April 12/13  
**Palm Sunday Masses (Saturday) 5pm,**  
**(Sunday) 9am, 11am**  
**(Sunday) 2:00pm Spanish**

**Mon. April 14**  
Mass 8:20am  
**Tues. April 15**  
Mass 8:20am  
**Wed. April 16**  
Mass 7pm

**Thurs. April 17**  
**Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper Bilingual 7:30pm**  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11pm

**Fri. April 18**  
**Divine Mercy Novena begins at 10am**  
**Liturgia solemne de la pasion del Señor 12 pm**  
**Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 3pm**  
Stations of the Cross, Presented by Youth 7pm

**Sat. April 19**  
**Divine Mercy Novena 12pm**  
**Easter Vigil 8pm**  
**No 5pm Mass**

**Sun. April 20**  
**Divine Mercy Novena 8:45am**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
9am, 11am  
**2:00 pm Spanish**

**Mon Apr 21**  
**Divine Mercy Novena 8:45am**  
**EASTER MONDAY**  
**Mass 9am**

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