

# St. John the Evangelist Church

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## 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



**He is Risen!**  
**Alleluia, Alleluia**

# EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate Easter Sunday. Today we celebrate the most solemn day of the whole liturgical season. We commemorate that Christ has conquered Death and shares with us His Resurrection and gives us the possibility to receive new life. The First Reading, from the Book of the Acts of Apostles, presents the witness of St. Peter testifying that the One who has been put to Death is Risen and has appeared to His disciples. We are also called to be witnesses of His Resurrection in our own lives. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians, encourages us to set our hope in heavenly things. It is true that all of us encounter struggles, and it is easy to feel discouraged, but the Risen Lord comes with compassion and lifts us up so that in Him we may find a new source of strength and hope. The Gospel, from St. Luke, shows us the manifestation of the Risen Lord to the women and to His disciples. When they go to anoint His dead body on Easter morning, they find to their surprise that the tomb is empty, and an angel announces to them that the Lord is Risen. This Good News is addressed to us: the Lord is Risen; He has conquered Death and He is victorious over sin and death. Whatever takes away our peace, He has vanquished, and He wants to share with us the fruits of His Resurrection!

At this very special Solemnity, I want to thank the Parish Staff for their constant and loving service to me and to the parishioners: Vicki Morgan, Gail Stewart, Francisco Perez, Kristine Blyth, Cassandra Hamilton, Sarah Rodrigues, and Sue McGee. Thanks to all the lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, ushers, cantors, altar servers, and organists that they have been always available to make our liturgies very beautiful. Thanks to the ladies who have been decorating the Church, which looks amazing! Thanks to Jim and Krystine Blyth and to the RCIA team for their witness in teaching the faith to the candidates. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus and the CWL for their constant help to the parish. Thanks to the members of the Prayer Group for making our Church a place where we can pray and care for each other. Thanks to all of our parishioners and families for attending the masses and showing your generosity and care to me and to all of us.

Happy Easter and May the Hope of the Resurrection fill our hearts and families!

**Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor**

Pope Francis' Homily on Easter Vigil (April 16, 2022)

Many writers have evoked the beauty of starlit nights. The nights of war, however, are riven by streams of light that portend death. On this night, brothers and sisters, let us allow the women of the Gospel to lead us by the hand, so that, with them, we may glimpse the first rays of the dawn of God's life rising in the darkness of our world. As the shadows of night were dispelled before the quiet coming of the light, the women set out for the tomb, to anoint the body of Jesus. There they had a disconcerting experience. First, they discovered that the tomb was empty; then they saw two figures in dazzling garments who told them that Jesus was risen. Immediately they ran back to proclaim the news to the other disciples (cf. Lk 24:1-10). They saw, they heard, they proclaimed. With these three verbs, may we too enter into the Passover of the Lord from death to life.

The women saw. The first proclamation of the resurrection was not a statement to be unpacked, but a sign to be contemplated. In a burial

ground, near a grave, in a place where everything should be orderly and peaceful, the women "found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they went in, they did not find the body" (vv. 2-3). Easter begins by upsetting our expectations. It comes with the gift of a hope that surprises and amazes us. Yet it is not easy to welcome that gift. At times – we must admit – this hope does not find a place in our hearts. Like the women in the Gospel, we are overtaken by questions and doubts, and our first reaction before the unexpected sign is one of fear: "They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground" (v. 5).

All too often we look at life and reality with downcast eyes; we fix our gaze only on this passing day, disenchanted by the future, concerned only with ourselves and our needs, settled into the prison of our apathy, even as we keep complaining that things will never change. In this way, we halt before the tomb of resignation and fatalism, and we bury the joy of living. Yet tonight the Lord wants to give us different eyes, alive with hope that fear, pain and death will not have the last word over us. Thanks to Jesus' paschal mystery, we can make the leap from nothingness to life. "Death will no longer be able to rob our life" (K. RAHNER), for that life is now completely and eternally embraced by the boundless love of God. True, death can fill us with dread; it can paralyze us. But the Lord is risen! Let us lift up our gaze, remove the veil of sadness and sorrow from our eyes, and open our hearts to the hope that God brings!

In the second place, the women heard. After they had seen the empty tomb, the two men in dazzling garments said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen" (vv. 5-6). We do well to listen to those words and to repeat them: He is not here! Whenever we think we have understood everything there is to know about God, and can pigeonhole him in our own ideas and categories, let us repeat to ourselves: He is not here! Whenever we seek him only in times of emotion, so often passing, and moments of need, only to set him aside and forget about him in the rest of our daily life and decisions, let us repeat: He is not here! And whenever we think we can imprison him in our words, in our formulas, and in our customary ways of thinking and acting, and neglect to seek him in the darkest corners of life, where there are people who weep, who struggle, suffer and hope, let us repeat: He is not here!

Finally, the women proclaimed. What did they proclaim? The joy of the resurrection. Easter did not occur simply to console those who mourned the death of Jesus, but to open hearts to the extraordinary message of God's triumph over evil and death. The light of the resurrection was not meant to let the women bask in a transport of joy, but to generate missionary disciples who "return from the tomb" (v. 9) in order to bring to all the Gospel of the risen Christ. That is why, after seeing and hearing, the women ran to proclaim to the disciples the joy of the resurrection. They knew that the others might think they were mad; indeed, the Gospel says that the women's words "seemed to them an idle tale" (v. 11). Yet those women were not concerned for their reputation, for preserving their image; they did not contain their emotions or measure their words. They had only the fire in their hearts with which to bear the news, the proclamation: "The Lord is risen!"

## Sacrament Celebrations

First Holy Communion

Sunday May 4th 4:00pm St. Luke

Sunday May 25th 4:00pm St. John

Sunday June 1st 4:00pm St. Marguerite/PHCP

Confirmation With Bishop Nguyen

Saturday May 31st 11:00am St. Luke & All Saints

Saturday May 31st 2:00pm St. John, St  
Marguerite/PHCP

APRIL 20, 2025

The Knights of Columbus Council 4895 will be hosting the 12th Annual Ray Hayes Memorial Music Night for Natuashish, on Saturday, May 3, in the Knights Hall on 133 Brock Street. Doors open at 6:30 and music begins at 7:30. All proceeds go to Catholic Missions in Canada for the spiritual support of the Innu Mushua People of Natuashish, Labrador. Tickets are available for \$20 each, from Mark McGowan ([dr.mhairc@gmail.com](mailto:dr.mhairc@gmail.com)). There will be a bar, snacks, prizes, and wonderful local entertainment.

### 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!



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.

### SENIORS' RETREAT 55+

Thursday May 22, 2025

9:00 – 3:00pm

Father Jim Kelly, SJ. Facilitator

The price includes lunch.

\$55/person

Registration: May 3/4, May 10/11

After all Masses

Call Catherine 647-987-5902

All are welcome

### SOAP CAMPAIGN

Dear fellow parishioners, your CWL is sponsoring a collection of bars of soap. Why soap? Soledad was a mother in Peru dying of cancer. The family could not afford treatment, no money and health insurance does not exist. Her family covered her with blankets and burlap sacks to keep her warm. They bathed her and tried to keep her clean. In her name, "Soap for Mother's Day" we are collecting bars of soap for Canadian Food for Children who will ship them to help our friends in the developing world. Please bring a bar/or bars of soap on the weekend of Saturday, April 26th and Sunday, April 27th. A rough tote will be available to drop your donations into. Also, we are looking for plastic 5 gallon pails, with lids, to store the soap during shipping. Thank you for your generosity.

### SAVE THE DATE! PILGRIMAGE TO MARTYRS' SHRINE

Saturday, July 26, 2025

Transportation arranged

Details provided soon

Special invitation to families and youth



Masses For The Week

Sat Apr 19 - 8:00pm - **EASTER VIGIL MASS**

*No Intentions*

Mon. Apr 21–9:00 am

**+Patrick Fitzpatrick**

*req. by Maire Fitzpatrick & Family*

Tues Apr 22 – 8:20am

**+Andrew Marioselva**

*req. by His Family*

Wed Apr 23 – 7:00pm

**+William Pleshe**

*req. by Ken Reilly & Mary Louise LaBarre & Family*

**Int. for Fr. Terry Gallagher, SFM**

*req. by Cathy & John Fernandes*

**+Matteo Radoslovich**

*req. by The Radoslovich Family*

**+Edgar Talabis**

*req. by Lorna Talabis & Family*

**+Julia Bradley**

*req. by Aaron Wood*

Thur Apr 24 – 8:20am

**+Pietro Beltrano**

*req. by Anna & Natale Ciardullo*

Fri Apr 25 – 8:20am

**+Patrick Sullivan**

*req. by Geraldine Sullivan*

Sat. Apr 26 –5:00pm

**+Carrol Fernandes**

*req. by Eleuterio Fernandes*



### GOLFERS - SAVE THE DATE

May 31st - Lyndbrook Golf

9-Holes and a BBQ Lunch (Big)

9:30am Shotgun Start for 44 golfers

Prizes & Raffles. Details to follow.

### 2025 Triduum Celebrations

Sat. April 19

**Divine Mercy Novena 12pm**

**Easter Vigil 8pm**

**No 5pm Mass**

Mon. Apr. 21 Easter Monday

**Divine Mercy Novena 8:45am**

**Mass 9:00am**

**Office Closed**

Sun. April 20

**Divine Mercy Novena 8:45am**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**9am, 11am**

**2:00 pm Spanish**



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