

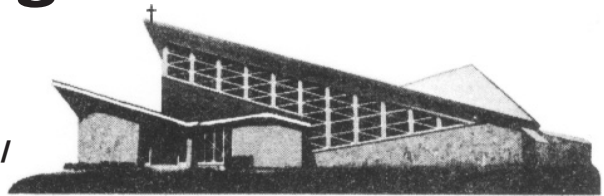
St. John the Evangelist Church

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	Oshawa 905-725-3513	Ajax	905-668-8912
Catholic Family Services	1-800-241-3534	or	905-428-1984
Rose of Durham (Young Parent Support Services)			905-432-3622

St. John the Evangelist School 905-668-4011

1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3

St. Luke the Evangelist School 905-665-5828

55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9

Durham Catholic District School Board

St. Marguerite d'Youville School

250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1

All Saints Catholic Secondary School

3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1

905-576-6150

www.dcdsb.ca

905-666-9301

905-666-7753

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. Today we celebrate this Solemnity in which we are called to be immersed in the amazing compassion of Jesus Christ. The First Reading, from the Book of the Acts of Apostles, presents the life of the first Christian communities after the Resurrection of the Lord. The personal experience of the Risen Lord in their lives made them to attract many people to believe in the Good News of Salvation. We also are called to witness to our faith by the way we live with those around us. The Second Reading, from the Book of Revelation, shows us the vision of the Risen Christ that St. John saw during his exile. Jesus Christ is presented as the One who has conquered Death and shares this victory with all the churches. It is a great hope to be certain that Christ is close to us and ever ready to help us in time of need. It is in Him that we can place our life with confidence to find strength and consolation in any kind of trouble. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us the account of the Appearance of the Risen Lord to His disciples when they were fearful and in great distress. After the tragic event of the Death of Christ, the disciples ran away, and they felt disheartened. They were hiding and their hope had vanished. In this situation, the Risen Christ manifested Himself to them by showing them His wounds and they were given hope and joy. They were transformed by the Peace of Christ, and from then on, they were powerful witnesses of His Resurrection. Even Thomas, who was slow to believe, touched the wounds of the Risen Christ and was also transformed by the Mercy of Christ. In this Divine Mercy Sunday, we are invited to touch and experience the Mercy of Christ in our own daily lives. It is in Him that we can find the source of strength, consolation and hope. Let us open our hearts to His infinite mercy!

I want to welcome our new fully-initiated Adult Catholics to our parish community: Caitlyn, Deborah, Collin, Claudia, Jessica, Athena, Nickie, Allison, Linda, Krishna, Mary, Sean, Jeff, and Cassandra. May the Lord sustain you and accompany you in this wonderful path of new life! I want to thank Jim and Kristine Blyth and the RCIA team (Mac Beynon, Kathie Steffler, Minnie Chillingworth, Christine Hannon, Mark McGowan) for their wonderful sharing and witness during the process of RCIA. I want to thank all the parishioners for attending the Easter Triduum and I want to encourage to keep attending Sunday Mass because it is going to help you greatly in your lives. Finally, I want to welcome all the new parishioners to our parish community. You are most than welcome to worship with us and we love to have you as members of our community.

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Angelus on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 24, 2022)

Today, the last day of the Octave of Easter, the Gospel recounts the first and second apparition of the Risen One to the disciples. Jesus comes at Passover, while the Apostles are shut in the Upper Room, out of fear, but since Thomas, one of the Twelve, is not present, Jesus returns eight days later (cf. Jn 20:19-29). Let's focus on the two main characters, Thomas and Jesus, looking first at the disciple, and then at the Master. There is a good dialogue between these two.

The Apostle Thomas, first of all. He represents all of us, who were not present in the Upper Room when the Lord appeared, and did not have other physical signs or apparitions from him. We too struggle at times like that disciple: how can we believe that Jesus is risen, that he accompanies us and is the Lord of our life without having seen him, without having touched him? How can one believe in this? Why does

the Lord not give us some clearer sign of his presence and love? Some sign that I can see better... Here, we too are like Thomas, with the same doubts, the same reasoning.

But we do not need to be ashamed of this. By telling us the story of Thomas, in fact, the Gospel tells us that the Lord is not looking for perfect Christians. The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians. I tell you: I am afraid when I see a Christian, some associations of Christians who believe themselves to be perfect. The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians; the Lord is not looking for Christians who never doubt and always flaunt a steadfast faith. When a Christian is like that, something isn't right. No, the adventure of faith, as for Thomas, consists of lights and shadows. Otherwise, what kind of faith would that be? It knows times of comfort, zeal and enthusiasm, but also of weariness, confusion, doubt and darkness. The Gospel shows us Thomas' "crisis" to tell us that we should not fear the crises of life and faith. Crises are not sins, they are part of the journey, we should not fear them. Many times, they make us humble because they strip us of the idea that we are fine, that we are better than others. Crises help us to recognize that we are needy: they rekindle the need for God and thus enable us to return to the Lord, to touch his wounds, to experience his love anew as if it were the first time. Dear brothers and sisters: is better to have an imperfect but humble faith that always returns to Jesus, than a strong but presumptuous faith that makes us proud and arrogant. Woe to those, woe to them!

And, faced with Thomas' absence and his journey, which is often also our own, what does Jesus do? The Gospel says twice that he "came" (vv. 19, 26). First once, then a second time, eight days later. Jesus does not give up, he does not get tired of us, he is not afraid of our crises, our weaknesses. He always comes back: when the doors are closed, he comes back; when we are doubtful, he comes back; when, like Thomas, we need to encounter him and to touch him up close, he comes back. Jesus always comes back, he always knocks on the door, and he does not come back with powerful signs that would make us feel small and inadequate, even ashamed, but with his wounds; he comes back showing us his wounds, signs of his love that has espoused our frailties.

Brothers and sisters, especially when we experience moments of weariness and crisis, the Risen Jesus wishes to return to stay with us. He only waits for us to seek him, to call on him, or even, like Thomas, to protest, bringing him our needs and our unbelief. He always comes back. Why? Because he is patient and merciful. He comes to open the upper rooms of our fears and unbelief because he always wants to give us another chance. Jesus is the Lord of "other chances": he always gives us another one, always. So let us think about the last time – let's try to remember a little – that, during a difficult moment or a period of crisis, we closed in on ourselves, barricading ourselves in our problems and shutting Jesus out of the house. And let us promise ourselves, the next time, in our fatigue, to seek Jesus, to return to him, to his forgiveness – he always forgives, always! – to return to those wounds that have healed us. In this way, we will also become capable of compassion, of approaching the wounds of others without inflexibility and without prejudice.



National March for Life
Join us on Thursday May 8, 2025
The bus will leave from Holy Family Parish
parking lot at 6:45am. \$40/person. For more information
contact: Gwen 905-259-8504.



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.

APRIL 27, 2025



Society of St. Vincent de Paul,
St. John the Evangelist Conference
BUNDLE WEEKEND May 3/4, 2025

A truck will be parked in St. John Parish parking lot over the weekend May 3rd, 4th accepting gently used/new clothing, coats, linens, towels, bedding, textiles, drapery, shoes/boots.

We CANNOT accept furniture, appliances, mattresses, used baby equipment, furniture, books, dishes, construction material or video tapes.

Please bring your items to the truck after mass Saturday at 5pm, Sunday 9am or 11am or 2:00 pm in Spanish.

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 or Call Catherine 647-987-5902

All are welcome

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

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.mhairec@gmail.com). There will be a bar, snacks, prizes, and wonderful local entertainment.

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.

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 26 - 5:00pm –

+Carrol Fernandes

req. by Eleuterio Fernandes

Mon. Apr 28 – 8:20 am

+Maria Rak

req. by Ann Mueller & Family

Tues Apr 29 – 8:20am

+Kathleen, Una & Dave Johnston

req. by The Johnston Family

Wed Apr 30 – 7:00pm

+Irma James

req. by Valerie James

+Salvatore Pallazzolo

req. by Angelina & Family

+Deceased Members of the Rocha Family

req. by Herminia Moniz

Thur May 1 – 8:20am

+Maria Teresa & John Jeronimo

req. by Nelly & Todd Johnson

Fri May 2 – 8:20am

+Danny Washburn

req. by Vicki Morgan & Family

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday May 7, 2025 at 8PM at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St North and all are welcome. For further information assisting the St John's community and becoming a Knight please contact Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877

St. John the Evangelist's Social Committee invites you to the annual Taste of the Parish on Saturday, 7th June 2025

From 11 am to 3 pm.

Join us on the Church grounds for fun, food and games for the whole family! Come and share in culinary delights from around the world.

Food contributions from your country of origin are welcome. Sign up sheets are available in the Foyer after all Masses.

BYOLC: Bring your own lawn chair



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