

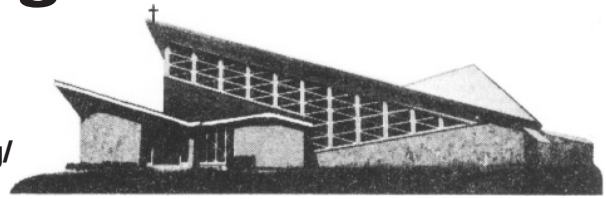
St. John the Evangelist Church

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. Sarah Rodrigues 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	Fr. Francisco	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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Sixth Sunday of Easter. The First Reading, from the Book of the Acts of Apostles, presents how Paul and Barnabas went to Antioch with instructions on how to welcome the Gentiles in the Christian faith. According to those of Jewish origin, the Gentiles had to be circumcised, and they need to follow the precepts of the Mosaic Law. However, the Apostles confirmed that, if they were open to God's word and if they received the Holy Spirit, they were ready to be welcomed into the community with no further burden on them. It is important that we focus on God's grace and take more consideration to how many good things the Holy Spirit can do for us rather than in the good works that we can accomplish with our own efforts. The grace of God needs our cooperation, but our good works are a fruit of this life-giving grace in us. The Second Reading, from the Book of Revelation, continues with the description of the New Jerusalem. It is radiant and glorious and with twelve gates with twelve foundations. The glory of this city comes from the Lamb who has been slain. We need to be conscious that, at every Eucharist, we have a foretaste of this New Jerusalem. At every mass, we experience the glory of the Lord, and we participate of His glorious life. How much more we are going to experience in Heaven! The Gospel, from St. John, gives us part of the discourse of Jesus during the Last Supper. He tells his disciples how important is to open our hearts and to keep His word so that God may dwell in our hearts, and therefore we can be transformed by His presence. The Holy Spirit is the one who opens our hearts to God's word and gives us the possibility to receive a new heart of flesh. When God comes to dwell into our hearts and transforms us by His grace, we experience a peace that nothing and nobody can take away from us. This peace is one that only Christ can give and is a fruit of the Resurrection. Let us open our hearts to this fulness of life that endures no matter what!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Regina Caeli on Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 22, 2022)

In the Gospel of today's Liturgy, bidding his disciples goodbye during the Last Supper, Jesus says almost as a sort of testament: "Peace I leave with you". And he adds immediately, "My peace I give to you" (Jn 14:27). Let us reflect on these short phrases.

First of all, peace I leave with you. Jesus bids farewell with words expressing affection and serenity. But he does so in a moment that is anything but serene. Judas has left to betray him, Peter is about to deny him, and almost everyone else to abandon him. The Lord knows this, and yet, he does not rebuke, he does not use severe words, he does not give harsh speeches. Rather than demonstrate agitation, he remains kind till the end. There is a proverb that says you die the way you have lived. In effect, the last hours of Jesus' life are like the essence of his entire life. He feels fear and pain but does not give way to resentment or protesting. He does not allow himself to become bitter, he does not vent, he is not impatient. He is at peace, a peace that comes from his meek heart accustomed to trust. This is the source of the peace Jesus gives us. For no one can leave others peace if they do not have it within themselves. No one can give peace unless that person is at peace.

Peace I leave with you: Jesus demonstrates that meekness is possible. He incarnated it specifically in the most difficult moment, and he wants us to behave that way too, since we too are heirs of his peace. He wants us to be meek, open, available to listen, capable of defusing tensions and weaving harmony. This is witnessing to Jesus and is worth more than a thousand words and many sermons. The witness of peace. As disciples of Jesus, let us ask ourselves if we behave like this where we live – do we ease tensions, and defuse conflicts? Are we too at odds with someone,

always ready to react, explode, or do we know how to respond non-violently, do we know how to respond with peaceful actions? How do I react? Everyone can ask themselves this.

Certainly, this meekness is not easy. How difficult it is, at every level, to defuse conflicts! Jesus' second phrase comes to our aid here: my peace I give to you. Jesus knows that on our own we are not able to cultivate peace, that we need help, that we need a gift. Peace, which is our obligation, is first of all a gift of God. In fact, Jesus says: "My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you" (v. 27). What is this peace that the world does not know, and the Lord gives us? This peace is the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit of Jesus. It is the presence of God in us, it is God's "power of peace". It is He, the Holy Spirit, who disarms the heart and fills it with serenity. It is He, the Holy Spirit, who loosens rigidity and extinguishes the temptations to attack others. It is He, the Holy Spirit, who reminds us that there are brothers and sisters beside us, not obstacles or adversaries. It is He, the Holy Spirit, who gives us the strength to forgive, to begin again, to set out anew because we cannot do this with our own strength. And it is with Him, with the Holy Spirit, that we become men and women of peace.

Dear brothers and sisters, no sin, no failure, no grudge should discourage us from insistently asking for this gift from the Holy Spirit who gives us peace. The more we feel our hearts are agitated, the more we sense we are nervous, impatient, angry inside, the more we need to ask the Lord for the Spirit of peace. Let us learn to say every day: "Lord, give me your peace, give me your Holy Spirit". This is a beautiful prayer. Shall we say it together? "Lord, give me your peace, give me your Holy Spirit". I didn't hear it well. One more time: "Lord, give me your peace, give me your Holy Spirit". And let us also ask this for those who live next to us, for those we meet each day, and for the leaders of nations.

May Our Lady help us welcome the Holy Spirit so we can be peacemakers.

PILGRIMAGE TO MARTYRS' SHRINE

Date: Saturday, July 26th

Departs St. John's at 8:30am returns at 6:30pm

Cost: \$45.00

For further details call: 905-668-3218



St. John the Evangelist's Social Committee invites you to the Annual Taste of the Parish on Saturday, June 7th 2025 from 11am to 3pm. 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.

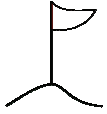
BYOLC – Bring your own lawn chair!

**Thank
You**

**Volunteer Appreciation Night
Thursday, June 12, 2025
at 7:00pm, Parish Centre**

Fr. Francisco would like to thank all in Ministry by invitation to join us for **wine & charcuterie and friendly fellowship!**

**Please RSVP to the parish office by email
vmorgan@archtoronto.org.**



St. John Parish Golf Update

Saturday, June 21st 10am Shotgun start
Lyndebrook Golf Course
5055 Baldwin St. N, Whitby

Registration after all masses to begin on May 25/26

QR Code Registration and all the details

Note: 50% of spots already booked!



PRAYER FOR PEACE SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

All are invited to the 10th Anniversary of the Prayer for Peace Multifaith Service on Saturday, June 14, 2025, 2:00pm to 3:00 pm at St. John the Evangelist Church. There will be a reception to follow from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in the Parish Centre.

For information on the Prayer for Peace 2025 please contact Deidre Newman

dnewman@danewmanlaw.com

Youth (7-17 years of age) are invited to create Art with the theme: "What is Peace?"

The Art submissions are to be 8.5 x 11 in. or 8.5 x 14 in., with a title, first name of the youth and age. The Art submissions in original form are to be delivered to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Parish Office between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm by June 6, 2025. Selected Art Submissions will be displayed on June 14, 2025 at the Prayer for Peace. Original Art will be returned to the Youth after the Prayer for Peace. We encourage all Youth of the Parish to participate. For information on the Art event please contact Meryl Aguiar aguairmeryl184@gmail.com

Sacrament Celebrations

First Holy Communion

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**

Totus Tuus Summer Camp!

DAY CAMP

(students going into grade 1-6 in the fall)

- Monday July 7th to Friday July 11th 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

EVENING PROGRAM

(students going into grade 7-12 in the fall)

- Sunday July 6th to Thursday July 10th 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The deadline to apply to volunteer is May 31st. The deadline to register for the camp is June 16th. For more information, contact sjewhitbyyouth@gmail.com or the parish office.



Masses For The Week

Sat May 24 - 5:00pm

+Greg Steffler

req. by Kathie Steffler

Mon. May 26 – 8:20 am

+Louise Dunn

req. by Florence & Liam Venner

Tues May 27 – 8:20am

+Sheila Dunn

req. by Pat McDonald

Wed May 28 – 7:00pm

+All Souls in Purgatory

req. by The McCloskey Family

+Salvatore Palazzolo

req. by Angelina & Family

+Mukasa Naah

req. by Boniface Tuurosong & Family

+Luciana D'Costa

req. by The D'Costa Family

+Joseph Deery

req. by Maureen Armstrong

+Paul McMullen

req. by Joanne & Dave Ellis

Thur May 29 – 8:20am

+Ronald Netto

req. by His Family

Fri May 23 – 8:20am

+Maria Zak

req. by Ann Mueller & Family



**Development
and Peace
CARITAS CANADA**

Dear Parishioners of St. John the Evangelist and San Juan Diego Mission:

Thank you!!! You gave us 393 signatures to add to the count of the Turn Debt into Hope Campaign in Canada. Your support has brought the count to 21,559 signatures already received, 36% of the goal as of last Tuesday.

You can still support us online at

<https://devp.org/en/campaign/turn-debt-into-hope/act-debt-2025/>, inviting friends and families to join in this very important movement to bring justice to those who are experiencing the burden of impossible to pay international debt.

There is still time, follow the progress of this campaign as we bring this message to the G7 Meeting in Kananaskis, AB in June.

This is not the end though, the campaign will continue until the Feast of Epiphany in 2026, closing of the Jubilee Year. Members of many religions are joining us in this effort. Check:

<https://devp.org/en/campaign/turn-debt-into-hope/act-debt-2025/> or <https://www.caritas.org/turn-debt-into-hope/> for more information.

Let's urge decision-makers to prioritise people and planet over mere profit.

If you have any questions or wish to have a page of your own to collect signatures, contact Estela at emr0001@hotmail.com

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