

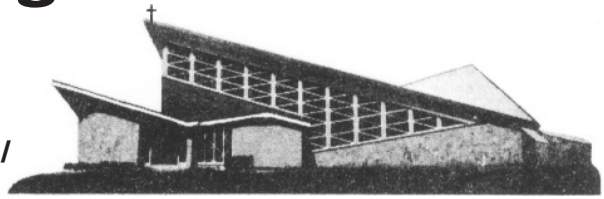
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. The First Reading, from the Book of the Acts of Apostles, presents the account of the Ascension of Christ into Heaven. The Lord has gone up to Heaven to prepare a place for us. We can live our daily lives knowing that our final goal is to participate fully in the Kingdom of Heaven. At every mass and in our daily lives, we can also experience a foretaste of how beautiful Heaven will be like. This should give us hope in our difficulties knowing that Christ always gives us new hope. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, gives us a very hopeful message. Through the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, God has called us to inherit Eternal Life. We will experience it to the fullest when we will die, but we already can experience God's intervention in our lives. When we feel distressed or discouraged, Christ always comes to lift us up and He renews us daily by His grace. We should always look up to God for help especially when we are in trouble. The Gospel, from St. Luke, gives us another version of the account of the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven. The disciples are not going to be left alone in their mission, the Holy Spirit is going to be with them, and Christ is going to accompany them in their preaching. When Christ ascends into Heaven, we have the feeling that He has distanced Himself from us, He is gone. However, Christ goes into Heaven to show us that He is more powerful than any of our problems and that He is even closer to us to help us. When Christ goes to the Father, He sits at the right hand of the Father to show that He has power over death, evil, and sin. We are invited to realize that He accompanies us in every single struggle of our lives sustaining us with the hope of His presence. He is even closer to us, and He can do much more for us. Let us put our hope in the Lord who has ascended into Heaven to be our Savior and strong support!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Regina Caeli on the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (May 29, 2022)

Today in Italy and in many countries the Ascension of the Lord, that is, his return to the Father, is celebrated. In the Liturgy, the Gospel according to Luke narrates the

final apparition of the Risen Christ to the disciples (cf. 24:46-53). The earthly life of Jesus culminates precisely with the Ascension, which we also profess in the Creed: "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father". What does this event mean? How should we interpret it? To answer this question, let us focus on two actions that Jesus performs before ascending into Heaven: first, he announces the gift of the Spirit – he announces the gift of the Spirit – and then he blesses the disciples. He announces the gift of the Spirit, and he blesses.

First of all, Jesus says to his friends: "I send the promise of my Father upon you" (v. 49). He is talking about the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, he who will accompany them, guide them, support them in their mission, defend them in spiritual battles. And so, we understand something important: Jesus is not abandoning the disciples. He ascends to Heaven, but he does not leave them alone. Rather, precisely by ascending towards the Father, he ensures the effusion of the Holy Spirit, of his Spirit. On another occasion he had said: "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counsellor – that is, the Spirit – will not come to you" (Jn 16:7). In this too, we see

Jesus' love for us: his is a presence that does not want to limit our freedom. On the contrary, he leaves space to us, because true love always generates a closeness that does not stifle, is not possessive, is close but not possessive; on the contrary, true love which makes us protagonists. And in this way, Christ reassures, "I will go to the Father, and you will be clothed with power from on high: I will send you my Spirit and with his strength, you will continue my work in the world!" (cf. Lk 24:49). And so, ascending to Heaven, instead of remaining beside a few people with his body, Jesus becomes close to all with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus present in us, beyond the barriers of time and space, to make us his witnesses in the world.

Straight afterwards – it is the second action – Christ raises his hands and blesses the apostles (cf. v. 50). It is a priestly gesture. God, since the times of Aaron, had entrusted to priests the task of blessing the people (cf. Nm 6:36). The Gospel wants to tell us that Jesus is the great priest of our life. Jesus ascends to the Father to intercede on our behalf, to present our humanity to him. Thus, before the eyes of the Father, with the humanity of Jesus, there are and always will be our

lives, our hopes, our wounds. So, as he makes his "exodus" to Heaven, Christ "makes way" for us, he goes to prepare a place for us and, from this time forth, he intercedes for us, so that we may always be accompanied and blessed by the Father.

Brothers and sisters, let us think today of the gift of the Spirit we have received from Jesus to be witnesses of the Gospel. Let us ask ourselves if we really are; and also, if we are capable of loving others, leaving them free and making room for them. And then: do we know how to make ourselves intercessors for others, that is, do we know how to pray for them and bless their lives? Or do we serve others for our own interests? Let us learn this: intercessory prayer, interceding for the hopes and sufferings of the world, interceding for peace. And let us bless with our eyes and our words those we meet every day!

Now let us pray to Our Lady, blessed among women, who, filled with the Holy Spirit, always prays and intercedes for us.

FREE CATHOLIC ESTATE PLANNING WEBINAR

Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Learn:

- **How to avoid problems: in your Will, in the Powers of Attorney, and through proper Estate Trustee selection**
- **How to create your own legacy**
- **About our Catholic traditions around cremation, burials and funerals**

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1. **scan the QR code**
2. **follow this QR link: qrco.de/WebJune7**
3. **send an email to: Development@ArchToronto.org and write "Estate Planning - June 7" in the title line + your name(s) in the body of the message.**



WebJune7

JUNE 1, 2025

**PILGRIMAGE TO MARTYRS'
SHRINE**

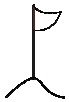
Date: Saturday, July 26th
Departs St. John's at 8:30am returns
at 6:30pm
Cost: \$45.00
For further details call: 905-668-3218



**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!**



**St. John Parish Golf
Update**

**Saturday, June 21st 10am
Shotgun start
Lyndbrook Golf Course
5055 Baldwin St. N, Whitby
Registration: QR Code
Registration and all the
details**



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supporters like you.

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Goal: \$174,000

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
aguirmeryl184@gmail.com

**CHALICE SPONSORSHIP
WEEKEND**

JUNE 14/15, 2025

A member from Chalice will speak at
all masses. Child Sponsorship
enables parishioners to help families
struggling with poverty through an
organization which is faithful to the
Church and obedient to her bishops.
Your sponsorship of \$42 per month
gives a child a future of completing
their education and providing them
with necessities such as nutrition,
healthcare etc.



Masses For The Week

Sat May 31- 5:00pm

+Agnes Desveaux

req. By Jacquie & Fred Shady

Mon. Jun 2 – 8:20 am

+Michael Lawson

req. by His Family

Tues Jun 3 – 8:20am

+Steve Ingram

req. by Catherine Ingram

Wed Jun 4 – 7:00pm

+Stan, Shirley & Mark Harris

req. by Their Family

+Paul Soman

req. by Sylvie Forte & Ken Michalko

+Mukasa Naah

req. by Boniface Tuurosong & Family

+Nicky Edge

req. by Trenton Legion of Mary

+Paddy Boytan

req. by Gerard & Brenda Fay

+Rita Ann Shepherd

req. by Tom & Teresa Simmons

Thur Jun 5 – 8:20am

+Deceased Mbrs of the Graham Family

req. by Gail Stewart

Fri Jun 6 – 8:20am

+Humberto Schenflede

req. by His Wife & Family



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**

Sacrament Celebrations

First Holy Communion

**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**

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