

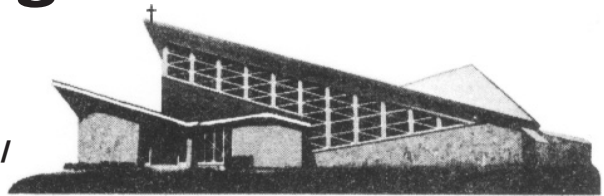
St. John the Evangelist Church

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
Eileen McGowan Music 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	Eileen McGowan	905-668-0959
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

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All Saints Catholic Secondary School

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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 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the Book of Wisdom, presents the futility and vanity of human life. Everything in life passes away, it is precarious. In front of the precariousness of life, we are called to put our trust in the Lord. He wants to give us a wisdom that brings us to look for what really lasts, what endures for ever. Let us open our hearts to the wisdom from above. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to Philemon, gives us a presentation of the beautiful advice that St. Paul shares with Onesimus regarding welcoming wholeheartedly his slave Philemon. He has run away from him but has met with Paul in jail. Now, St. Paul is asking him to forgive him and treat him like a fellow Christian. At times, we all have resentments and disagreements, but the Lord wants to help us to find reconciliation and peace. The Gospel, from St. Luke, offers us words on discipleship. We are called to follow the Lord in our daily lives. The Lord wants to be the center of our hearts so that we may receive fullness of life from Him. All of us are called to follow Him with our own situations and hardships. If we rely on the Lord, we will realize that He gives us the grace to be at peace even during struggles. Let us open our hearts and follow the Lord with all our hearts so that in Him we may find life to the fullest!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Angelus on the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (September 4, 2022)

Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem, and today's Gospel tells us that "large crowds were travelling with him" (Lk 24:25). To travel with Jesus means to follow him, to become his disciples. Yet, the Lord's message to those people was not exactly appealing; in fact, it was quite demanding: whoever does not love him more than his or her own family, whoever does not carry the cross, whoever remains attached to earthly goods, cannot be his disciple (cf. vv. 26-27.33). Why does Jesus say these things to the crowds? What do these admonitions mean? Let us try to answer these questions.

First, we see a great crowd of people following Jesus. We can imagine that many were attracted by his words, astonished at the things he did, and saw him as a source of hope for the future. What would any teacher of that time or, for that matter, what would any astute leader do, seeing that his or her words and charisma attract crowds and increase his or her popularity? The same thing happens today, at times of personal or societal crisis, when we are especially prey to feelings of anger or we fear things that threaten our future. We become more susceptible and thus, on the tide of emotion, we look to those who can shrewdly take advantage of the situation, profiting from society's fears and promising to be the "saviour" who can solve all its problems, whereas in reality they are looking for wider approval and for greater power, based on the impression they make, their ability to have things in hand.

The Gospel tells us that this is not Jesus' way. God's style is different. It is important to understand God's style, how he acts. God acts according to a style, and God's style is different from that of certain people, since he does not exploit our needs or use our vulnerability for his own aggrandizement. He does not want to seduce us with deceptive promises or to distribute cheap favours; he is not interested in huge crowds. He is not obsessed with numbers; he does not seek approval; he does not idolize personal success. On the contrary, he seems to be worried when people follow him with giddy excitement and enthusiasm. As a result,

instead of yielding to the allure of popularity – for popularity is alluring – he asks each person to discern carefully their reason for following him and the consequences that it will entail. For many in those crowds might have been following Jesus because they hoped he would be a leader who could set them free from their enemies, someone who, once in power, could share that power with them, or someone who by performing miracles could make hunger and disease disappear. We can follow the Lord for any number of reasons. Some of these, it must be acknowledged, are worldly. A perfect religious exterior can serve to hide the mere satisfaction of one's own needs, the quest of personal prestige, the desire for a certain social status or to keep things under control, the thirst for power and privilege, the desire for recognition and so on. This happens even nowadays among Christians. Yet that is not the style of Jesus. That cannot be the style of his disciples and of his Church. If anyone follows Jesus with this kind of self-interest, he or she has taken the wrong path.

The Lord demands a different attitude. To follow him does not mean to become part of a court or a triumphal procession, or even to receive a lifetime insurance policy. On the contrary, it means "carrying one's cross" (Lk 14:27): shouldering, like him, one's own burdens and those of others, making one's life a gift, not a possession, spending it in imitation of his own generous and merciful love for us. These are decisions that engage the totality of our lives. For this reason, Jesus desires that his disciples prefer nothing to this love, even their deepest affections and greatest treasures.

To do this, we need to look to him more than to ourselves, to learn how to love, and to learn this from the Crucified One. In him, we see the love that bestows itself to the very end, without measure and without limits. The measure of love is to love without measure. In the words of Pope John Paul, "we are the objects of undying love on the part of God" (Angelus, 10 September 1978). An undying love: it never sinks beneath the horizon of our lives; it shines upon us and illumines even our darkest nights. When we gaze upon the Crucified Lord, we are called to the heights of that love, to be purified of our distorted ideas of God and of our self-absorption, and to love God and others, in Church and society, including those who do not see things as we do, to love even our enemies

PARISH HOME CATECHISM PROGRAM (PHCP) 2025-26

St. John the Evangelist PHCP provides faith formation classes for elementary school children. Our mission is to assist parents in developing the Catholic Faith in their children. This is usually offered to students in non Catholic schools, however it is also offered to all elementary students to increase their faith knowledge. PHCP runs 2 Wednesday evenings per month, 6:15– 7:15 p.m., September through to May. Classes begin Wednesday, September 10, 2025 with a "meet and greet" registration/activity evening.

PHCP REGISTRATION:

Registration Night Wednesday, September 10, 2025

For your convenience, registration forms are available on the parish website, at the back of the Church or in the Parish Office. Please register in person in the parish office during regular business hours or you may place your registration package, labelled PHCP in the Sunday collection basket.

The registration fee is \$60 per child. If you are interested in registering your child for PHCP and would like more information about the program, please contact Lorraine Thomas, PHCP Coordinator, 905-409-1743 or lthomas@archtoronto.org.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAMS

2025-2026

FIRST EUCHARIST (Grade 2)

REGISTRATION and INFORMATION NIGHT in the Church (one parent only to attend)

Tuesday, September 30th at 7:00 pm

(please bring completed registration form, a \$50 fee for program expenses and a **photocopy** of your child's Baptism Certificate)

CONFIRMATION (Grade 7)

REGISTRATION and INFORMATION NIGHT in the Church (one parent & candidate to attend)

Tuesday, October 21st at 7:00 pm

(please bring completed registration form, a \$60 fee for program expenses and a **photocopy** of your child's Baptism Certificate)

It is mandatory that all children who do not attend Catholic school participate in the Parish Home Catechism Program.

St. John the Evangelist

11am mass Choir

Our 11 am Sunday mass Choir is gearing up for the new Choir Season! We welcome all new and returning singers, age 13 and up. Music reading ability is an asset, but not a requirement. All are welcome. Bring a smile, a pencil, your water bottle, and get ready to make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Practices: Tuesdays 7pm-8:30 in the Parish Centre, starting Sept 9, 2025.

Registration/Information contact: Eileen McGowan 905 442-0567 (call or text) ejpmcgowan1@rogers.com

CWL SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

League Sisters and women of the parish mark your calendar – you are invited to our wine & cheese start-up meeting, Thursday, September 18th, 7:30 p.m. in the main room of the parish centre. If you have any questions, or require transportation, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or lchilderhouse@hotmail.com

CWL WALK-A-THON

CWL members will be participating in a 5-kms walk-a-thon to raise funds for our charitable donations. We will be handing out sponsor forms the weekend of September 13 & 14. Your sponsorship of a CWL member would be most appreciated. Or, pick up a sponsorship form, solicit your sponsors and join us in the fund-raising activity. Thank you for your continued support.

Youth Ministry Begins Soon!

Youth ministry helps our young parishioners have fun, make friends and grow in their faith.

Life Teen, for grade 9-12 will take place every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 7-8:30 pm **beginning on October 2nd**.

EDGE, for grade 5-8 will take place every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 7-8:30 pm **beginning on October 9th**.

For more information about registering or volunteering for this important ministry, contact Sarah at srodrigues@archtoronto.org



Masses For The Week

Sat Sep 6– 5:00pm

+Benjamin Camara

req. by The Fitzpatrick Family

**In Thanksgiving for the 60th Wedding Anniversary of
Dick & Rita Hadden**

req. by Their Family

Mon Sept 8– 8:20am

+Deceased Members of the Yearwood Family

req. by Mary Yearwood

Tues Sept 9 – 8:20am

+Felix & Dorothy LeBlanc

req. by Their Family

Wed Sept 10 – 8:20am

+All Souls in Purgatory

req. by Broderick, Howard & Harrington Families

Intentions for the Yearwood Family

req. by Mary Yearwood

Intentions for Nieves Siles

req. by The Staff

+Fiorina Donatelli

req. by Anne & Peter Struna

+Patricia LaCroix

req. by The Sharp Family

Thur Sept 11 – 8:20am

+Mariane & John Johnson

req. by Nelly & Todd Johnson

Fri Sept 12 – 8:20am

+Maria Zak

req. by Ann Mueller & Family

R.C.I.A

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) provides instruction and spiritual formation to anyone 16 years of age and older who are not baptized, or baptized in another Christian community, who would like to become a member of the Catholic Church. Catholic adults who have not yet celebrated their First Eucharist or the Sacrament of Confirmation may also take part. RCIA Sessions take place on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9pm in the Parish Centre beginning soon. Interested participants should contact Fr. Francisco at the Parish Office as soon as possible to register: (905) 668-3676

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