

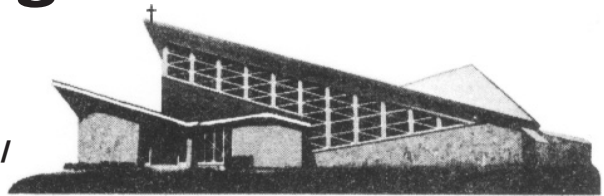
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

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 Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. The First Reading, from the Book of Numbers, presents the episode in which the people of Israel complained during their journey through the desert. Consequently, they are bitten by small serpents. They repent and ask God to save them. Whoever looks at a bronze serpent will be healed. We are called to look with faith at Jesus Crucified so that in Him we find salvation and forgiveness. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, gives us a beautiful hymn in which shows how Christ has humbled Himself, has shared our weakness and has died for us. In His Death, we may find strength and support. He has risen from Death, and He is able to save those who approach Him with faith. The Gospel, from St. John, offers us part of the conversion of Jesus with Nicodemus. God has offered a sign for our salvation. Christ elevated on the Cross is a sign of the immense love of God for us and of the victory of Christ over our sins. We should look everyday at the Cross of Christ to experience God's mercy for us!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14, 2022) The cross is a gibbet of death. Yet today we celebrate the exaltation of the cross of Christ, for on its wood Jesus took upon himself all our sin and the evil of our world, and vanquished them by his love. That is why we celebrate today's Feast. The word of God that we have just heard tells us how, by contrasting serpents that bite with a serpent that saves. Let us reflect on these two images.

First, serpents that bite. These serpents attacked the people who had fallen once more into the sin of speaking against God. Such speaking against God was more than simply grumbling and complaining; on a deeper level, it was a sign that in their hearts the Israelites had lost their trust in him and his promises. As God's people were making their way through the desert towards the promised land, they grew weary and could no longer endure the journey (cf. Num 21:4). They grew discouraged; they lost hope, and, at a certain point, they even seemed to forget the Lord's promise. They lacked even the strength to believe that the Lord himself was guiding them towards a land of plenty.

It is no coincidence that, once the people no longer trusted in God, they were bitten by deadly serpents. We are reminded of the first serpent mentioned in the Bible, in the Book of Genesis: the tempter, who poisoned the hearts of Adam and Eve and made them doubt God. The devil, in the form of a serpent, tricked them and sowed seeds of distrust in them, convincing them that God is not good, and is even envious of their freedom and happiness. Now, in the desert, serpents reappear, this time as "fiery serpents" (v. 6). In other words, original sin returns: the Israelites doubt God; they do not trust him; they complain and they rebel against the one who gave them life, and so they meet their death. That is where distrustful hearts end up!

Dear brothers and sisters, this first part of the narrative asks us to examine closely those moments in our own personal and community lives when our trust in the Lord and one another has failed. How often have we grown dry, disheartened and impatient in our own personal deserts, and lost sight of our journey's goal! Here too, in this vast country, there is a desert. For all its great natural beauty, it can also remind us of the weariness and aridity that we at times bear in our hearts. Moments of fatigue and trial, when we no

longer have the strength to look up towards God. Situations in our lives when, as individuals, as Church and as a society, we can be bitten by the serpent of distrust, poisoned by disillusionment and despair, pessimism and resignation, and caught up only with ourselves, lacking all enthusiasm.

And so we come to the second image: the serpent that saves. As the people are dying from the fiery serpents, God hears Moses' prayer of intercession and tells him: "Make a fiery serpent and put it on a pole. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live" (Num 21:8). And indeed, "if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived" (v. 9). Yet, we might ask: Why did God not simply destroy those poisonous serpents instead of giving these detailed instructions to Moses? God's way of acting reveals to us his way of dealing with evil, sin and distrust on the part of humanity. Then, as now, in the great spiritual battle that continues throughout history, God does not destroy the vile and worthless things that men and women choose to pursue. Poisonous serpents do not disappear; they are always there, lying in wait, ever ready to bite. What has changed then, what does God do?

Jesus tells us in the Gospel: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (Jn 3:14-15). This is the decisive shift: the serpent that saves has now come among us. Jesus, lifted up on the pole of the cross, does not allow the poisonous serpents that attack us to cause our death. Confronting our misery, God gives us a new horizon: if we keep our gaze fixed on Jesus, the sting of evil can no longer prevail over us, for on the cross he took upon himself the venom of sin and death, and crushed their destructive power. That was the Father's response to the spread of evil in the world: he gave us Jesus, who drew near to us in a way we could never have imagined. "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin" (2 Cor 5:21). Such is the infinite grandeur of divine mercy: Jesus "became sin" for our sake. Jesus, we could say, on the cross "became a serpent", so that by gazing upon him we might resist the poisonous bites of the evil serpents that assail us.

Brothers and sisters, this is the path, the path to our salvation, our rebirth and our resurrection: to behold the crucified Jesus. From the heights of the cross, we can view our life and the history of our peoples in a new way. For from the cross of Christ we learn love, not hatred; compassion, not indifference; forgiveness, not vengeance. The outstretched arms of Jesus are the embrace of tender love with which God wishes to embrace us. They show us the fraternal love that we are called to have for one another and for everyone. They show us the way, the Christian way. It is not the way of imposition and force, of power and status; it never brandishes the cross of Christ against our brothers and sisters for whom he gave his life! Jesus' way, the way of salvation is different: it is the way of a humble gratuitous and universal love, with no "ifs", "ands" or "buts".

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



Life Chain is a peaceful public witness to the sanctity of human life and the evil of abortion.

Christians pray for its end and hold signs bearing truths such as "Abortion Kills Children" and "Abortion Hurts Women" at hundreds of locations across Canada. Please set aside just one hour on Sunday October 5th at 3pm to gather together at HWY 2 and Cochrane. Everyone is welcome, regardless of age, background, or experience. This is a special opportunity to provide our neighbours with a much-needed message of love, hope, and mercy. Remember how Our Lord asked His apostles: "Could you not watch one hour with me?" (Mk 14:37)

YOUTH MINISTRY



LIFETEEN on Thurs, Oct 2, 2025 @ 7 pm
Grade 9-12

1st and 3rd Thursday of the month
7-8:30 pm

St. Joseph's Room

Lifeteen helps teenagers form a deeper relationship with Christ through engaging activities and talks.

It is a place where teens can make new friends, find support, ask questions about their faith and have fun!

Most importantly though, Lifeteen is about leading youth closer to Christ.



EDGE on Thurs, Oct 9, 2025 @ 7 pm
Grade 5-8

2nd and 4th Thursday of the month
7-8:30 pm

St. Joseph's Room

Edge gives youth an opportunity to gather together, have fun, and learn more about the Catholic faith.

Most importantly though, Edge is about leading youth closer to Christ.

Please contact Sarah Rodrigues for more information!
srodrigues@archtoronto.org

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.

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



Masses For The Week

Sat Sep 13– 5:00pm

+Salvatore, Rosina & Carmelo Molica Lazzaro

req. by Angela D'Angelo & Family

Mon Sept 15– 8:20am

+Des Newman

req. By Mary Prieur

Tues Sept 16 – 8:20am

+Walter Belej

req. by Ann Belej-Corrigan & Jim Corrigan

Wed Sept 17 – 7:00pm

+Jacqueline Giroux

req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family

+All Souls in Purgatory

req. by the Broderick, Howard, & Harrington Families

+Maryanne Helen

req. by Belshia

+Deceased Members of the Coryat Family

req. by Mary Yearwood

+Natividad Dumo

req. by Carmen Mohamed

Thur Sept 18 – 8:20am

+Maria Costa

req. by Mario Costa

Fri Sept 12 – 8:20am

+Leonarda & Idlefonso Felipe

req. by The Sharp Family

The Prayer Group resume meeting on Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome

Ministry Fair

Share your gifts and talents with our parish and extended community! We have some amazing opportunities for you to consider! **Join us in the Parish Center for our Ministry Fair on Saturday & Sunday September 20,21, 2025 following the 5pm, 9am & 11am Masses.** Enjoy a coffee and treat and visit our various ministry tables to learn more!

Nourish Caring for the Caregiver

Virtually every one of us will care for a loved one at some time in our life. Though rewarding, it's not always easy. Nourish for Caregivers is for anyone juggling the challenges of everyday life, health, career and caring for an aging parent, spouse, child or grandparent, in town or at a distance. Nourish provides caregivers a faith perspective, as well as practical and emotional support, useful tools, and share experience. Discover the blessings that come from caring for another.

Please join us beginning Monday, October 6th in the St. Joseph's Room at 7pm – 8pm

For more information please visit

www.NourishForCaregivers.com, or contact Robert MacLennan, 905-668-3676 or email

stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org

J. Thomas Hamer
Barrister and Solicitor
WILLS
POWERS of ATTORNEY
ADMINISTRATION of ESTATES
Ecclesone, Hamer, Poisson,
Neuwald & Freeman
330 Byron St. S.
jthamer@ehpnf.com
416-365-7135
www.ehpnf.com

**BARNES MEMORIAL
FUNERAL HOME**
Family owned and operated since 1863
905.655.3662
5295 Thickson Rd. N., Whitby
(1 minute North of Taunton on Thickson)



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
FUNERAL SERVICES
In keeping with your Catholic faith
www.catholic-cemeteries.com
Resurrection Cemetery **905-668-8912**



**TEAM
FENNESSEY**
The team you will recommend!
TOBY FENNESSEY
Broker | Residential/Investment Properties

St. John's parishioner since 1988
Direct: 905-622-3667 | toby@teamfennessey.com
www.teamfennessey.com | [teamfennessey](https://www.facebook.com/teamfennessey)
Royal Heritage Realty Ltd., Brokerage

Funeral Director – Michael Lodge
W.C. Town Funeral Chapel
110 Dundas St. E., Whitby **905-668-3410**



Chris Leahy
**DURHAM
SECURITY**
905-556-1801

Turn your home into a Smart Home!
\$50 donated to St. John's for every new contract.
chris@durhamsecurity.ca

**THE LIVING
BENEFITS GROUP**
life • disability • critical illness
long term care • health • dental • RRSPs
JIM CORRIGAN
310 Byron St. S. **905.430.7921**

Optical Group Inc.
Dr. Constance Odiase, O.D.
One Stop Shop
Complete Family Eye Care
Glasses • Sunglasses
Contact Lenses
107 Kent St, Whitby
905-665-0522
www.opticalgroup.ca



Stafford Monuments Limited
Granite & Bronze Family & Civic Memorials
Inscriptions & Cemetery Restoration
318 Dundas St. E. **905-668-3552**
~ 6 Generations of Service, Quality & Trust ~



ONTARIO DUCT CLEANING
Do it for your home
do it for the health of
your family.
For a FREE No Obligation
phone estimate, call:
905-433-5000

For all your mortgage needs!



**Caroline
Anderson**
Mortgage Agent
905.767.2748

MORTGAGE INTELLIGENCE
Brokerage #10428
caroline.anderson@migroup.ca



**Shopping
Locally
Saves Gas**

DR. J. D'SOUZA
FAMILY DENTIST
New Patients Welcome
185 Brock St. N. (at Mary)
905-430-0118



EDITH LOSADA
Realtor®/Parishioner
Service in Spanish & English
SU AMIGA EN REAL ESTATE
C: **289-939-3600**
B: **905-665-2500**
EdithLosada10@gmail.com



ROYAL LEPAGE
FRANK REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE
Mary-Louise LaBarre
Sales Representative / Parishioner
Cel **905.718.6367**
Bus **905.666.1333**
1.866.273.1333
mlabarre@sympatico.ca



BE THE GOOD

Inquire about financial assistance
at stmichaelscollegeschool.com



SMCS
ST. MICHAEL'S
COLLEGE SCHOOL



920 Dundas Street West, Whitby

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW DENTIST?



HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL | CALL NOW!
905-430-9623
www.corymadental.com
220 Dundas St. West, Whitby

Remember...

Let our advertisers know
you saw their ad here.



WCC Hall Rentals
133 Brock St. N.
rentals@whitbycolumbusclub.ca
www.whitbycolumbusclub.ca
905-668-6412

Deidre Anne Newman
B.Sc., LL.B.
Barrister & Solicitor
Family, Criminal, Wills
Parishioner
2A-119 Consumers Drive
Whitby, Ontario L1N 1C4
T: **905-665-6360**
dnewman@danewmanlaw.com

**THE PERFECT SPOT
TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS!**



TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE PLEASE CALL
1-800-268-2637