

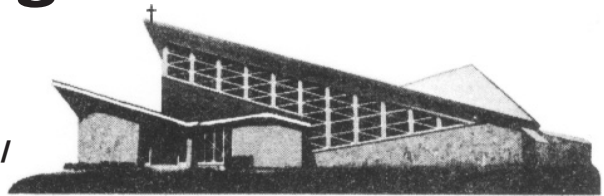
# St. John the Evangelist Church

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, Ontario L1N 2S3

Rectory Office: Ph:905-668-3676

email: [stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org)

website: [www.stjohntheevangelistwh.archtoronto.org/](http://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

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**Durham Catholic District School Board**

**St. Marguerite d'Youville School**

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**All Saints Catholic Secondary School**

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905-666-7753

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. We start a new liturgical year, and we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents to us the consoling words of Isaiah inviting people to find God's peace by going up to the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. We are all called to find the Lord through the sacraments and the word of God. We need to be guided; to find strength in front of our struggles and we certainly need the hope that comes from the Lord. In Him we will find true peace and a lasting fulfillment. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, encourages the community to be ready for the coming of the Lord. It is a time of expectation since the Lord always comes to renew us and to offer us new life. It is easy to get complacent and to go on with the flow, but the Lord calls us to rekindle our hope and trust in the Lord. He is coming soon, and He wants to help us and to give us a life full of joy, peace, and happiness. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, gives us a teaching on the coming of the Lord. During Advent, we prepare ourselves and get ready for the Second Coming of the Lord. The Lord will come at the end of time to save us. He comes as well at the end of our lives. However, every day the Lord comes to our lives through the events that He allows and His word. The Lord invites us to have a welcoming heart to His coming, certain that He comes to fulfill our lives with peace, joy, and hope. Let us open our hearts for the joyful coming of the Lord of life!

Advent has a twofold nature: it prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming among us, and it is also a time when we look forward to his second coming at the end of the ages. Advent is a season of joyful expectation!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

Pope Benedict XVI's Angelus on the First Sunday of Advent (November 28, 2010)

Today, the first Sunday of Advent, the Church begins a new Liturgical Year, a new journey of faith that on the one hand commemorates the event of Jesus Christ and, on the other, opens to its ultimate fulfillment. It is precisely in this double perspective that she lives the Season of Advent, looking both to the first coming of the Son of God, when he was born of the

Virgin Mary, and to his glorious return, when he will come "to judge the living and the dead", as we say in the Creed. I would now like to focus briefly on this evocative theme of "waiting", for it touches upon a profoundly human aspect in which the faith becomes, so to speak, completely one with our flesh and our heart.

Expectation or waiting is a dimension that flows through our whole personal, family and social existence. Expectation is present in thousands of situations, from the smallest and most banal to the most important that involve us completely and in our depths. Among these, let us think of waiting for a child, on the part of a husband and wife; of waiting for a relative or friend who is coming from far away to visit us; let us think, for a young person, of waiting to know his results in a crucially important examination or of the outcome of a job interview; in emotional relationships, of waiting to meet the beloved, of waiting for the answer to a letter, or for the acceptance of forgiveness.... One could say that man is alive as long as he waits, as long as hope is alive in his heart. And from his expectations man recognizes himself: our moral and spiritual "stature" can be measured by what we wait for, by what we hope for.

Every one of us, therefore, especially in this Season which prepares us for Christmas, can ask himself: What am I waiting for? What, at this moment of my life, does my heart long for? And this same question can be posed at the level of the family, of the community, of the nation. What are we waiting for together? What unites our aspirations, what brings them together? In the time before Jesus' birth the expectation of the Messiah was very strong in Israel – that is, the expectation of an Anointed one, a descendent of King David, who would at last set the people free from every form of moral and political slavery and find the Kingdom of God. But no one would ever have imagined that the Messiah could be born of a humble girl like Mary, the betrothed of a righteous man, Joseph. Nor would she have ever thought of it, and yet in her heart the expectation of the Savior was so great, her faith and hope were so ardent, that he was able to find in her a worthy mother. Moreover, God himself had prepared her before time. There is a mysterious correspondence between the waiting of God and that of Mary, the creature "full of grace", totally transparent to the loving plan of the Most High. Let us learn from her, the Woman of Advent, how to live our daily actions with a new spirit,

with the feeling of profound expectation that only the coming of God can fulfil



## Advent Wreaths

Part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas. Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate

the truth and love of God (John 3:19-21).

- The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life.
- The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the everlasting life found in Christ.
- The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent.

The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time.

The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday which is called Gaudete Sunday. It is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas.

- Only one purple candle is lit during the first week, two in the second week, three (incl. the pink one) in the third week, and all four during the fourth week of Advent. The gradually increasing light symbolizes the approach of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

- A fifth candle (white) can be added in the middle of the wreath for Christmas Eve and Day (or replace all four purple and pink candles with white ones) symbolizing the arrival of Christ, the light of the world. Light the white candle(s) until The Baptism of the Lord.



Families are encouraged to observe Advent by gathering around a wreath for brief Advent prayers and readings lighting the appropriate

number of candles for each week.

Traditions assign specific symbolism to each of the candles:

- 1) The Prophet's Candle, symbolizing Hope
- 2) The Bethlehem Candle, symbolizing Love & Faith
- 3) The Shepherd's Candle, symbolizing Joy
- 4) The Angel's Candle, symbolizing Peace.

### Suggested Daily Readings

Leader: The Lord is our faith and our life.  
All: May the Lord's peace be with us all.  
Leader: And may his love shine in our hearts.  
All: Our hope is in the coming of the Lord.

Light the candle(s). During the week, re-light the candle(s) whenever the family gathers together.

Leader: Let us pray that our faith may be strengthened for the coming of the Lord.  
All: Amen

**1<sup>st</sup> Week** – One purple candle is lit.

### Suggested Scripture Readings:

Sunday	Nov 30: Isaiah 2: 1-5
Monday	Dec 1: Isaiah 4: 2-6
Tuesday	Dec 2: Isaiah 11: 1-10
Wednesday	Dec 3: Psalm 23: 1-6
Thursday	Dec 4: Matthew 7: 24-27
Friday	Dec 5: Matthew 9: 27-31
Saturday	Dec 6: Psalm 147: 1-6

### CONFIRMATION

### RITE OF ENROLMENT

Sat Dec 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm Sun Dec 7<sup>th</sup>  
@ 9:00am, 11:00am

### Development and Peace-Caritas Canada Turn Debt into Hope- 2025 Jubilee Campaign

Dear Parishioners, thank you to all of you who had a chance to sign the petition during Lent. We are wrapping up for the end of this effort that will conclude on the Feast of Epiphany 2026. The work continues because **dozens of countries are in debt crisis**. And over **3.4 billion people** live in countries that spend more on debt repayment than on health, education or climate change adaptation.

Did you know that in sub-Saharan Africa, women spend 40 billion hours a year just fetching water? Building the infrastructure to pipe water to their homes would cost \$11 billion. That sounds like a lot, but it's less than what the world's billionaires add to their net worth every other day! And if the billionaires won't part with that money, it would take only a 25-day debt repayment leave for the world's poorest countries to save that sum! Imagine what the women could achieve if they didn't have to carry water for miles? This is the heavy burden borne by children, women and men in unjustly indebted countries. They are deprived of essential services like water supply, hospitals and education, because their governments have to repay

debts that the people had no say in borrowing. Their hardship continues even after their countries' initial loans are repaid, sometimes many times over, because of the high interest rates that only make the rich richer.

This is why we are calling on creditors and political leaders to cancel or reduce the debts of impoverished countries. Tell them to put people and planet before profit by signing the petition next Sunday or online at [devp.org/debt](http://devp.org/debt). As Pope Francis said, "This is a matter of justice." Invite others to sign, there is still time.

In solidarity, your parish D&P members

### Reconciliation Evening Service

Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 2025 at  
7pm in the church  
*Several priests available*

### Archdiocese Day of Confessions in St. John's Parish

Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 2025  
9:30am – 11:30am  
2:00pm – 4:00pm,  
7:00pm – 8:30pm

### Catholic Women's League MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD!

Please lend your support to Bill C-218 by signing a letter at the back of the church. The bill seeks protection for those experiencing mental illness, from being offered MAID. The letters will be collected and presented in Parliament on Dec. 5th.



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday DEC 6th 8AM-11:00PM

Knights Hall – 133 Brock St N.  
\$8 per person or \$25 per family  
Come and enjoy a hot breakfast  
before the Santa Claus parade!  
(pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs  
and beverages)



### Masses For The Week

Sat Nov 29– 5:00pm

+Francis & Benny Rodrigues  
*req. by Hyacinth, Cavin, Cydell &  
Herschelle Luis*

Mon Dec 1 – 8:20am

In Thanksgiving  
*req. by the Sharp Family*

Tues Dec 2 – 8:20am

+Humberto Schenflede  
*req. by His Wife & Family*

Wed Dec 3 – 7:00pm

+Stan, Shirley & Mark Harris  
*req. by The Harris Family*

+Sr. Eugenia Pantallersco  
*req. by Ed Schranz*

+The Mitchell & Devlin Family Members  
*req. by Geraldine Sullivan*

+Ethel Dojcek

*req. by Friends & Family*

+Ivan Lee Sang

*req. by Nancy Ruetz Longauer*

Int. for the Yearwood Family  
*req. by Mary Yearwood*

Thur Dec 4 – 8:20am

In Thanksgiving for 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding  
Anniversary  
*req. by Francis & Lynette Miranda*

Fri Dec 5 – 8:20am

+Deborah Beegan

*req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly  
& Family*



### VANDERMEER CHRISTMAS FLORAL FUNDRAISER

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### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024  
VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
5PM, 8PM (WITH CHOIR), 10PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025  
NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
9AM, 11AM, 2PM SPANISH



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