

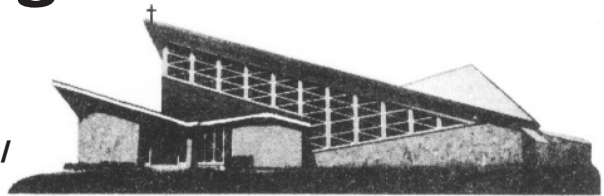
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

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St. Luke the Evangelist School 905-665-5828

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents to us the hopeful message of the coming of the Lord. The Lord will be anointed with the Holy Spirit, and will come to save and strengthen the weak and those in need. He will bring peace and mercy, even to those who find difficult to love each other. We are waiting and expecting a Savior who comes to help us and to make it possible to be with at peace, those around us. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, invites us to remain faithful and steadfast since the Lord is coming soon. At times, it is easy to get discouraged especially when we see that the same problems and our same reactions continue to happen. However, the Lord is encouraging us to trust in Him because He will certainly transform our hearts and He will give us inner peace to be able to love those around us. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, presents us the figure of St. John the Baptist. He is a very important figure of the season of Advent who helps us to get ready for the coming of the Lord. He is one who calls us to prepare the way for the Lord since the Lord comes to give us life to the fullest. It is important that we recognize that we need the Lord to save us and transform our hearts. All of us have flaws, and we commit sins; if we admit them with humility, the Lord will be able to destroy them and to give us a new heart. We are able to love and act like Christ. The Lord is the One who comes to us to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire, which means He can transform our lives so that we can carry out good actions. Let us prepare the way for the 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 Second Sunday of Advent (December 5, 2010)

The Gospel of this Second Sunday of Advent (Mt 3:1-12), presents to us the figure of St John the Baptist, who, a famous prophecy of Isaiah says (cf. 40:3), withdrew to the desert of Judaea and, with his preaching, called the people to convert so as to be ready for the coming of the Messiah, now at hand.

St Gregory the Great commented that John the Baptist "preaches upright faith and good works... so that the force of grace may penetrate, the light of the truth shine out, the paths to God be straightened and honest thoughts be born in the mind after hearing the word that guides us to goodness" (Hom. in Evangelia, XX, 3, CCL 141, 155).

The Precursor of Jesus, situated between the Old Covenant and the New, is like a star that heralds the rising of the Sun, of Christ, the One, that is, upon whom — according to another of Isaiah's prophecies — "the Spirit of the Lord shall rest... the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord" (Is 11:2).

In the Season of Advent we too are called to listen to God's voice, that cries out in the desert of the world through the Sacred Scriptures, especially when they are preached with the power of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, faith grows all the stronger the more it allows itself to be illumined by the divine word, by "whatever", as

the Apostle Paul reminds us, "was written in former days [and] written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Rom 15:4).

The model of listening is the Virgin Mary: "As we contemplate in the Mother of God a life totally shaped by the word, we realize that we too are called to enter into the mystery of faith, whereby Christ comes to dwell in our lives. Every Christian believer, St Ambrose reminds us, in some way interiorly conceives and gives birth to the word of God" (Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Verbum Domini, n. 28).

Dear friends, "Our salvation rests on a coming", as Romano Guardini wrote (La santa notte. Dall'Avvento all'Epifania, Brescia 1994, p. 13). "The Saviour came from God's freedom.... Thus the decision of faith consists... in welcoming the One who draws near" (ibid., p. 14).

"The Redeemer", he added, "comes to every human being: in his joy and his anguish, in his clear knowledge, in his perplexities and temptations, in all that constitutes his nature and his life" (ibid., p. 15).

Let us ask the Virgin Mary, in whose womb the Son of the Most High dwelled and whom we shall be celebrating next Wednesday, 8 December, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, to sustain us on this spiritual journey to welcome with faith and with love the coming of the Saviour.



GRAND IN YOUR HAND - We Have a Winner

Thank you everyone for your support of our fund raiser for our charitable donations. The winner from this past weekend is Keith M., ticket # 142. Again, thank you!



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.

2nd Week – Two purple candles are lit.

Suggested Scripture Readings:

Sunday	Dec 7: Romans 15: 4-9
Monday	Dec 8: Psalm 98: 1-4
Tuesday	Dec 9: Matthew 18: 12-14
Wednesday	Dec 10: Matthew 11: 28-30
Thursday	Dec 11: Isaiah 41: 13-20
Friday	Dec 12: Zechariah 2: 14-17
Saturday	Dec 13: Matthew 4:18-22

Prayer Group will have the last session for 2025 on Wednesday, December 10th and resume on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Prayer group meets in the Parish Centre at 1pm Wednesdays.

Reconciliation Evening Service

Tuesday, December 9th 2025 at 7pm in the church
Several priests available

Archdiocese Day of Confessions in St. John's Parish

Tuesday, December 16th 2025

9:30am – 11:30am

2:00pm – 4:00pm,

7:00pm – 8:30pm

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



Masses For The Week

Sat Dec 6 – 5:00pm

+Des Newman

req. by Pat Perkins

Mon Dec 8 – 8:20am

+Maria Costa

req. by Mario Costa

Tues Dec 9 – 8:20am

+Marcel LaBarre

req. by The LaBarre Family

Wed Dec 10 – 7:00pm

+Deceased Mbrs of the Cot Family

req. by Irena & Boris

+Don Legault

req. by Denise Dugas

+Deceased Mbrs of the Sullivan & Murphy Families

req. by Geraldine Sullivan

+Alan Richardson

req. by The Worrall Family

+Deceased Mbrs of the Yearwood Family

req. by Mary Yearwood

+Steven Ingram

req. by Catherine Ingram

+Giovannina & Antonio Merlo

req. by Elda Villanti

Thur Dec 11 – 8:20am

+Doris & John Garden & Ryan McDonald

req. by Pat McDonald

Fri Dec 12 – 8:20am

+Frank McNulty

req. by Iris & Matthias

New Assistive Hearing Devices

We have 3 new hearing impaired auditory units available to use for those who need an assistive device to hear the homily during mass. Please ask an usher or Fr. Francisco to provide you with one and give a quick demonstration. All devices must be returned after mass so everyone can utilize them.



Christmas Flower fund – envelopes are available at the back counter for your donation this Christmas

2026 Offertory envelopes are available for pickup in the foyer. Please refer to the alphabetic listing on each table, if unsure of your box number.

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