

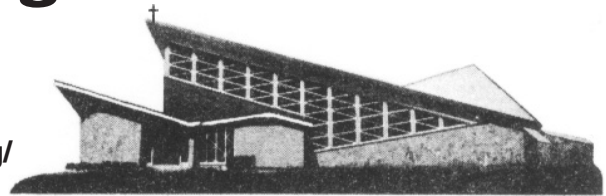
St. John the Evangelist Church

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. Neocatechumenal Way
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)

Saturday 7:00pm

EUCHARISTIC 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	Estela & Bill Rios	905-668-3676
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

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All Saints Catholic Secondary School

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905-666-9301

905-666-7753

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. After the time of Christmas, we are now in Ordinary Time in which we focus in the Gospel of Matthew. The First Reading, from the book of the prophet Isaiah, offers us a part of the Second Song of the Servant of the Lord. The coming of the future Messiah is announced in the figure of a meek and humble servant who comes to establish justice and to be a light for the nations. This prophecy has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ who has offered us salvation through His Death and Resurrection with a merciful attitude. It is very important that we open our hearts to the saving and merciful power of the Lord Jesus in our lives. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, gives us the introduction of this letter. Paul gives some instructions to the community of Corinth, which is passing through a time of conflict and disunity. He invites them to receive the grace and peace that God the Father and Jesus Christ want to give them. Throughout this letter, if people follow all the teachings, they will be filled with God's grace, which will bring about with peace and unity. We are all called to receive God's grace so that we can be inundated with His peace. This peace of Christ will bring us to be a united community caring for each other and walking towards Eternal Life with a common purpose. The Gospel, from St. John, presents to us the episode in which St. John the Baptist gives witness to Christ as the awaited Messiah. He is the Lamb of God, the sacrificial Lamb who with a humble attitude has come to give His life to forgive our sins. He is the One who has been sent with the power to expiate and forgive all our sins. Moreover, He also gives the Holy Spirit who makes us sharers and coheirs of God's life in our daily lives. Let us recognize and open our hearts to the Savior who has been sent to us to forgive our sins and to fill us with life!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis's Homily for Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (January 19, 2014)

This passage from the Gospel is beautiful. John was baptizing; and Jesus, who had been baptized prior to this — some days before — was coming towards him and came before John. And John felt the power of the Holy Spirit within him to bear witness to Jesus. Looking at him, and looking at the people around Him, he said: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". And he bore witness to Jesus: this is Jesus, this is the One who has come to save us; this is the One who will give us the power of hope.

Jesus is called the Lamb: He is the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Someone might think: but how can a lamb, which is so weak, a weak little lamb, how can it take away so many sins, so much wickedness? With Love. With his meekness. Jesus never ceased being a lamb: meek, good, full of love, close to the little ones, close to the poor. He was there, among the people, healing everyone, teaching, praying. Jesus, so weak, like a lamb. However, he had the strength to take all our sins upon himself, all of them. "But, Father, you don't know my life: I have a sin that..., I can't

even carry it with a truck...". Many times, when we examine our conscience, we find some there that are truly bad! But he carries them. He came for this: to forgive, to make peace in the world, but first in the heart. Perhaps each one of us feels troubled in his heart, perhaps he experiences darkness in his heart, perhaps he feels a little sad over a fault.... He has come to take away all of this, He gives us peace, he forgives everything. "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away sin": he takes away sin, it's root and all! This is salvation Jesus brings about by his love and his meekness. And in listening to what John the Baptist says, who bears witness to Jesus as the Saviour, our confidence in Jesus should grow. Many times we trust a doctor: it is good, because the doctor is there to cure us; we trust in a person: brothers and sisters can help us. It is good to have this human trust among ourselves. But we forget about trust in the Lord: this is the key to success in life. Trust in the Lord, let us trust in the Lord! "Lord, look at my life: I'm in the dark, I have this struggle, I have this sin..."; everything we have: "Look at this: I trust in you!". And this is a risk we must take: to trust in Him, and He never disappoints. Never, never! Listen carefully, young people, who are just beginning life now: Jesus never disappoints. Never. This is the testimony of John: Jesus, the good One, the meek One, will end as a lamb, who is slain. Without crying out. He came to save us, to take away sin. Mine, yours and that of the whole world: all of it, all of it.

And now I invite you to do something: let us close our eyes, let us imagine the scene on the banks of the river, John as he is baptizing and Jesus who is approaching. And let us listen to John's voice: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". Let us watch Jesus and in silence, each one of us, say something to Jesus from his heart. In silence. (Pause for silence).

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENT MEETING

Tuesday February 3rd, 2026 at 7pm

Rite of Enrolment Cards will be distributed at this time.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION Session #2 January 2026 Please see your Sacrament schedule for your child's date.

Prayer Group meets every Wednesday at 1pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.



Coffee With Friends

Tuesday, December 16th

Parish Centre, 9:30

An opportunity to:

- Experience fellowship
- Win prizes
- Visit with friends
- Make new acquaintances

Come celebrate with us!

Maturing Adults Ministry Tea

CWL 2026 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Calling all CWL members and ladies of the parish to renew or join the Catholic Women's League at St. John the Evangelist after masses on Saturday, January 24th and Sunday, January 25th. This one-stop women's organization focuses on faith, service and social justice. Become active and involved in your area of interest. Your place is among us. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.

CWL GENERAL MEETING

CWL members and ladies of the parish, mark your calendars Thursday, January 22nd at 7:30pm in the main room of the parish centre for our January General Meeting. On the agenda is disburising our funds to our charities and the opportunity to renew your CWL membership. Not a member? You are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, or require transportation, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at lchilderhouse@hotmail.com



Masses For The Week

Sat Jan 17 – 5:00pm

+All Souls in Purgatory
req. by Frank Kwa

Mon Jan 19 – 8:20am

+Carmine Mazzulla
req. by The Brydon Family

Tues Jan 20 – 8:20am

+Mate Granich
req. by the Brydon Family

Wed Jan 21 – 7pm

+Giacomo Bellotto
req. by Elisa Bellotto
+Doug Murcott
req. by The Reilly & Fitzgerald Families
+Andrew Marioselva
req. by Christine Marioselva
+Martin Minten
req. by The Brydon Family
+Bill Rail
req. by Rosanne Elliott
+Doug Jordens
req. by Dan & Victoria Humphries

Thur Jan 22 – 8:20am

+Leona Vallance
req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family

Fri Jan 23 – 8:20am

+Hayes McDermott
req. by John Blekaitis



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

We are sending you this note to **thank you very much** for your gracious donations to support the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Program for 2025. We were able to help 149 registrants. We provided food vouchers of \$80.00 for each registrant/family comprised of 260 adults and 20 seniors, providing gift vouchers of \$75.00 for 181 registered children.

As reflected in Howard Thurman's s inspiring words below, you have graciously contributed to "The Work of Christmas" by donating so generously.

"The Work of Christmas"

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Thank you so much.

May God bless you with continued faith, hope and charity which leads to much joy in 2026.

EDGE – Thursday, January 22, 2026,
St. Joseph's Room, 7pm
LifeTeen – Thursday, February 5, 2026,
St. Joseph's Room, 7pm

ATTENTION ENGAGED COUPLES! MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES

Our next Marriage Preparation Course at St. John the Evangelist will begin on Monday nights, April 6, 2026 to May 11, 2026 from 7pm to 9pm. Call 668-3676 to register. Cost is \$300 per couple.

Your 2025 Tax Receipts will be mailed out in the coming weeks.

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