

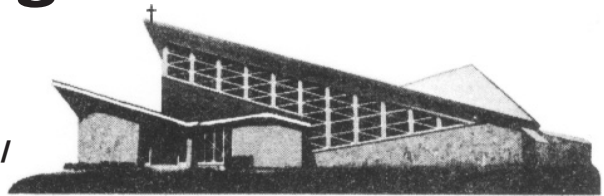
St. John the Evangelist Church

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 7:30pm

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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Zephaniah, offers us practical advice on how to find consolation and peace in the Lord. While the people of Israel are suffering because of their stubbornness and their idolatry, the prophet encourages them to be humble and to seek the Lord. If they do this, they will find peace and strength in any situation. Humility is a virtue which is essential, and it is the cornerstone of the spiritual life. To be humble means to be aware that we need God in our daily lives. If we realize that we are weak and we take refuge in the Lord, then we find strength and peace in Him. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, presents us a passage in which he emphasizes that those who have been called to take part in the community are not super intelligent and strong people, but as weak as anybody else. Our society considers that it is important to be fitted, to be strong and capable. However, all of us have weaknesses and strengths. It is essential to recognize and to accept our own weaknesses. This is the basis of humility. If we are aware that we are weak, then we recognize that we need God, then we can rely in Him and find peace. If we come to terms with our weaknesses, then we can accept the mistakes and shortcomings of other people as well. God has called us even though we are weak to manifest His power and glory. Many times, we try to appear strong, and we hide our weaknesses; however, we can appear weak as we are, knowing that God will help us and strengthen us. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, gives us the wonderful teaching of the Beatitudes. There are eight ways that brings us to fulfillment and happiness. God desires and wishes that we may have a life fulfilled. Jesus Christ has come to offer us this life to the fullest. It is not us who have to achieve it and gain this happiness through our attitudes, but it is a gift that Jesus offers to us. The eight beatitudes is a summary or an icon of the person who is open to God's grace and allows us to be transformed by Christ. They are an image of who Christ is and He wants to share the same attitudes with us. If we open ourselves to Him, slowly we will be people that mirror the Beatitudes. Christ wants to share His life with us and make us completely happy!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Benedict's Angelus on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 30, 2011)

On this Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Gospel presents the first great discourse that the Lord addresses to the people on the gentle hills encircling the Sea of Galilee. "Seeing the crowds," St Matthew writes, "he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them" (Mt 5:1-2).

Jesus, the new Moses, "takes his seat on the cathedra of the mountain" (Jesus of Nazareth, Doubleday, New York 2007, p. 65)

and proclaims "blessed" the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the merciful, those who hunger for righteousness, the pure in heart, the persecuted (cf. Mt 5:3-10). It is not a new ideology, but a teaching that comes from on high and touches the human condition, the condition that the Lord, in becoming flesh, wished to assume in order to save it.

Therefore "the Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the entire world, the entire present and future, and yet it demands discipleship and can be understood and lived out only by following Jesus and accompanying him on his journey" (Jesus of Nazareth, p. 69).

The Beatitudes are a new programme of life, to free oneself from the false values of the world and to open oneself to the true goods, present and future. Indeed, when God comforts, he satisfies the hunger for righteousness, he wipes away the tears of those who mourn, which means that, as well as compensating each one in a practical way, he opens the Kingdom of Heaven. "The Beatitudes are the transposition of the Cross and Resurrection into discipleship" (ibid., p. 74). They mirror the life of the Son of God who let himself even be persecuted and despised until he was condemned to death so that salvation might be given to men and women.

An ancient hermit says: "The Beatitudes are gifts of God and we must say a great 'thank you' to him for them and for the rewards that derive from them, namely the Kingdom of God in the century to come and consolation here; the fullness of every good and mercy on God's part ... once we have become images of Christ on earth" (Peter of Damascus, In Filocalia, Vol. 3, Turin 1985, p. 79).

The Gospel of the Beatitudes is commented on with the actual history of the Church, the history of Christian holiness, because, as St Paul writes, "God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are" (1 Cor 1:27-28).

For this reason the Church has no fear of poverty, contempt or persecution in a society which is often attracted by material well-being and worldly power. St Augustine reminds us that "it serves nothing to suffer these evils, but rather to bear them in the Name of Jesus, not only with a serene soul but also with joy" (cf. De sermone Domini in monte, I, 5,13: ccl 35, 13).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us invoke the Virgin Mary, the Blessed par excellence, asking her for the strength to seek the Lord (cf. Zeph 2:3) and to follow him always, with joy, on the path of the Beatitudes.



Social Sunday

Sunday, February 15, 2026
In the Parish Center.

Our Youth Ministry (Edge & Lifeteen) invites all Parishioners to celebrate **Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday, on Sunday Feb 15th**, following the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses.

All are welcome!

Knights of Columbus News

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. The next open meeting is Wednesday February 4, 2026 at 8PM at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St North and all are welcome. For further information assisting the St John's community and becoming a Knight please contact Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877

CWL 2026 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – There's still time!
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 this weekend. 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.

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



Masses For The Week

Sat Jan 31 – 5:00pm

+Bill Rail

req. by June Noonan

Mon Feb 2 – 8:20am

+Irma James

req. by Valerie James

Tues Feb 3 – 8:20am

+Ronald Terrance Netto

req. by Tracey Dennis

Wed Feb 4 – 7pm

+Allan L'Estrange

req. by Godfrey Cunningham

+Ambrosio Makalintal

req. by Kenneth & Brinna Makalintal

+Martha Oller

req. by The Maldonado Family

+Lucy Valdez de Zlata

req. by The Maldonado Family

Thur Feb 5 – 8:20am

+Humberto Schenflede

req. by His Wife & Family

Fri. Feb 6 – 8:20am

+Maryanne Pinto

req. by Godfrey & Jennie Cunningham

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENT MEETING

Tuesday February 3rd, 2026 at 7pm
Rite of Enrolment Cards will be distributed at this time.

Special Collections:

Youth Ministry and Organ Fundraiser

In order to set aside money needed to fundraise for Our Youth Ministry and the Organ Fundraising, there will be two special collections in the coming months.

Youth Ministry – Edge, LifeTEEN, Totus Tuus

This is a great way for our youth to grow in their faith.
Presentation & talk Feb 7/8, Collection February 14/15

Organ Fundraiser

Special Collection Bolstered by Donor Matching!
For Church Organ Refurbishment

Our organ is now obsolete despite repairs over recent years, and failing.

As previously announced, we will take up a special collection for the organ. All donations will be matched by an anonymous group of parishioners, therefore doubled.

Envelopes will be available at the back of the church and in the Parish Bulletins for February 21/22 and February 28/March 01.

For both collections, please identify yourself with name and address for tax receipt purposes.

Thank you!

**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.

Upcoming Bible Study

Life Everlasting

By Dr. Edward Sri

**Monday evenings February 23 to March 23, 2026
7pm Parish Centre Main Room**

Cost \$35

**Please call the office 905-668-3676 or email us
stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org to register.**

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