

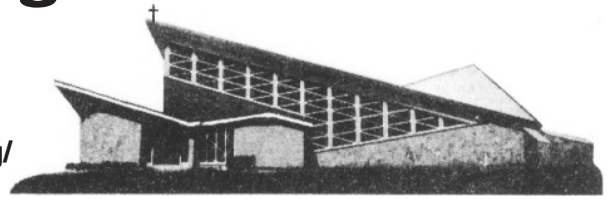
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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. 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

## **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	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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905-666-7753

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, offers us a teaching on how to act with the those around us. The people of Israel have come back to Jerusalem from the exile in Babylon. However, the attitude has not changed, and people still commit injustices and care about themselves. In front of this behavior, the prophet exhorts them that the true devotion is to do good for others, to care for those around them. The right relationship with God is recognized in our love for our neighbour. Our prayers should open our hearts to help those around us. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, presents us a message in which the apostle explains what the strength of his preaching is. He does not count on his eloquence and wisdom, but in the power of the Holy Spirit. First, St. Paul had a very strong relationship with Christ, and he has experienced God's action in his life. Based on this essential fact, he was announcing the Gospel not to persuade and convince people, but to share what he had lived. Many times, we try to understand and to comprehend the Scriptures and God's action in our lives. It is very difficult to analyze them because it goes well beyond our understanding. It is better to be open to the action of the Holy Spirit and to be amazed at the marvels that God can and want to do in our lives. We should rely more in God's grace than in our efforts and we would be surprised at God's marvellous deeds. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, continues with Jesus' teaching on the Sermon of the Mountain. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be salt of the earth and light of the world. Salt gives taste to food and preserves food from corruption. As followers of Jesus, we have been transformed by God's mercy, and our attitudes are supposed to be peaceful and gentle. We are called to give the flavour of hope and love to a world that at times is blend with discouragement and hopelessness. We are also encouraged to be light of the world. The light indicates where we are going, and it gives direction and purpose. We have been enlightened by Christ when our lives are fulfilled, and we are able to love each other. We are called to enlighten those around us by our attitudes so that they can receive the light of Christ and be transformed. Let us participate in this wonderful mission of sharing our faith with others. If we have been salted and enlightened by Christ, those around us will experience God's mercy and they in turn will be transformed!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Benedict's Angelus on the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
(February 6, 2011)

In this Sunday's Gospel the Lord Jesus tells his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world" (Mt 5:13,14). With these richly evocative images he wishes to pass on to them the meaning of their mission and their witness. Salt, in the cultures of the Middle East, calls to mind several values such as the Covenant, solidarity, life and wisdom. Light is the first work of God the Creator and is a source of life; the word of God is compared to light, as the Psalmist proclaims: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119[118]:105).

And, again in today's Liturgy, the Prophet Isaiah says: "If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday" (58:10). Wisdom sums up in itself the beneficial effects of salt and light: in fact, disciples of the Lord are called to give a new "taste" to the world and to keep it from corruption with the

wisdom of God, which shines out in its full splendour on the Face of the Son because he is "the true light that enlightens every man" (Jn 1:9).

United to him, in the darkness of indifference and selfishness, Christians can diffuse the light of God's love, true wisdom that gives meaning to human life and action. Next 11 February, the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, we shall celebrate the World Day of the Sick. It is a favourable opportunity on which to reflect, to pray and to increase the sensitivity that the ecclesial communities and civil society show to our sick brothers and sisters. In the Message for this Day, inspired by a sentence from the First Letter of Peter, "By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Pt 2:24), I invite everyone to contemplate Jesus, the Son of God, who suffered and died but is Risen. God radically opposes the overbearingness of evil. The Lord takes care of human beings in every situation, he shares in their suffering and opens their hearts to hope. I therefore urge all health-care workers to recognize in the sick person not only a body marked by frailty but first and foremost a person, to whom they should give full solidarity and offer appropriated and qualified help.



### LENT BEGINS

**ASH WEDNESDAY February 18, 2026**  
**Mass with Ashes at 8:20am and 7:00pm**

### PENANCE IN LENT

Fridays in the Lenten Season are days of penance, when small sacrifices are encouraged. Abstaining from meat on Fridays has become a customary Lenten penance for Catholics. The Canadian Bishops have recommended that this penitential practice continue among the faithful, but also stated that other acts of penance may be substituted, such as special prayers or acts of service for others.

**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of obligatory fasting and abstinence from meat.** "The law of fasting prescribes that only one meal be taken in a day; but it does not forbid taking some nourishment in the morning and evening" (Letters & Legislation, Archdiocese of Toronto). The law of fasting binds those from 18 to 59 years of age, while the law of abstinence from meat binds Catholics who are 14 years of age and older, but every person, regardless of age, can participate in fasting and abstaining from meat if they wish, as long as one's health will allow it.

Parents and educators are reminded of their duty to introduce children gradually to the understanding and practice of penance, including fasting and abstinence, in the life of Catholics. Adult example will be the greatest influence in this matter (Guidelines for Pastoral Liturgy, 1999-2000, CCCB).

**A reminder that during Fridays in Lent, Stations of the Cross begin at 6:30pm, followed by Mass at 7:00pm. Stations in Spanish are at 7:30pm. There is no morning mass on Fridays in Lent.**



### 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 15<sup>th</sup>**, following the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses.

All are welcome! Donations are gratefully accepted for the Youth Ministry.

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



### Masses For The Week

Sat Feb 7 – 5:00pm

**In Thanksgiving**

*req. by The Sharp Family*

Mon Feb 9 – 8:20am

**+Maria Costa**

*req. by Mario Costa*

Tues Feb 10 – 8:20am

**+Ronald Terrance Netto**

*req. by Tracey Dennis*

Wed Feb 11 – 7pm

**+Deceased Members of the Harris Family**

*req. by Their Family*

**+Carmelo Molica-Franco**

*req. by Eldo Villanti & Family*

**+Elizabeth Deery**

*req. by Maureen Armstrong*

**+Dr. Ivan Lee Sang**

*req. by Leonard & Dainn St. Louis*

**+Halina**

*req. by Her Family*

Thur Feb 12 – 8:20am

**+Patrick Sullivan**

*req. by Geraldine Sullivan*

Fri. Feb 13 – 8:20am

**+Irwin Coutinho**

*req. by Godfrey & Jennie Cunningham*

Egg Carton Collection

A parishioner is collecting egg cartons to be used in a Cooperative Community. Please save your egg cartons and bring them to the foyer when you come to mass. You can place them near the St. Vincent de Paul grey tote. Thank you!

### **CHANGES TO THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR THE SICK**

In order to keep up with the growing list of names for the people in need of prayers for the sick, we wish to make a few changes. We will announce in the Prayers for the sick, those names for a period of 4 weeks. After that time, their name will go onto a list of prayers in the bulletin. We will continue to pray for those people on the list. Thank you for your understanding.

### 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](mailto:stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org) to register.**



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