

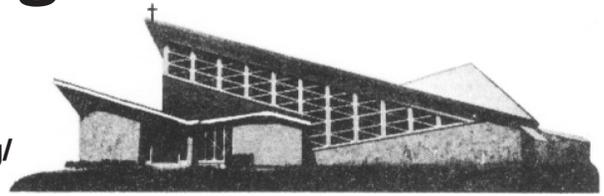
St. John the Evangelist Church

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	Saturday 7:30pm
	Sunday	9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.		EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR
SPANISH MASS —	Sunday	2:00 p.m.		On first Friday of each month
WEEKDAY MASSES —	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	8:20 a.m.		following morning mass.
	Wednesday (Rosary at 6:30 p.m.)	7:00 p.m. (OLPH Devotions)		

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		905-668-8912
Catholic Family Services	Oshawa 905-725-3513	Ajax 905-428-1984
Rose of Durham (Young Parent Support Services)	1-800-241-3534	or 905-432-3622

St. John the Evangelist School	905-668-4011	St. Marguerite d'Youville School	905-666-9301
1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3		250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1	
St. Luke the Evangelist School	905-665-5828	All Saints Catholic Secondary School	905-666-7753
55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9		3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1	
Durham Catholic District School Board		905-576-6150	www.dcdsb.ca

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent. The First Reading, from the Book of Genesis, offers us the passage of the sin of Adam and Eve. It is not a biographical event, but it rather describes the reason why there is evil and sin in the world. All of us would like to do good always, but we discover that, at times, we do evil which we do not want to do. Why does it happen? It is because all of us have sinned. The root of sin is pride, to decide what is good for us regardless of God. This breaks our relationship with God and with others. It is important that we realize what makes us suffer and causes us to sin. Christ wants to heal us from it during this time of Lent so that we can benefit from His grace. It is essential to come to terms that we need God's grace in our lives, which brings us to do good and to be at peace with others. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, presents us the teaching that through Christ's obedience we have all been saved. Adam's sin was one of pride and mistrust of God. We all know its consequences, and we are aware of how harmful it is when we sin. However, there is a remedy for our sins. By humbling Himself, Christ has taken upon Himself all our sins and has crushed them on the Cross. Moreover, He does not only forgive our sins, but He recreates us, giving us the possibility to carry out good deeds. During the time of Lent, we are encouraged to live out this reality and experience it in our daily lives. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, gives us the account of the temptations of Jesus. He is brought into the desert to be tempted by the devil so that He can overcome all these temptations for us. The first temptation is the one of the bread. We are all tempted to secure our lives, to make sure that everything is under control. We want to make sure that the future is going to be fine. It is very difficult to control our future, and we get anxious when we are not sure of what it will happen. Jesus calls us to trust in God because He will take care of us, and He will give us the graces that we need to go on with our lives. The second temptation is the of refusal of the events of our history. All of us have experienced difficult and painful events, which causes us to doubt God's goodness. It brings us to complain and to grumble taking away our peace. However, Christ helps us to accept all the events all our lives with peace. The third temptation is of the idols. At times, we think that the source of our lives come from different things, especially from money. We perceive that if we have money, we can do everything. However, money does not give peace and life. Christ encourages us to put our trust in God since He is the true source of our lives.

Let us open our hearts during this time of Lent so that Christ may truly transform and renew our hearts!

I invite everybody during the time of Lent to attend the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6:30pm in English, followed by Mass at 7pm and Stations in Spanish at 7:30pm.

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Benedict's Angelus on the First Sunday of Lent (March 13, 2011) This is the First Sunday of Lent, the liturgical Season of 40 days which constitutes a spiritual journey in the Church of preparation for Easter. Essentially it is a matter of following Jesus who

is walking with determination towards the Cross, the culmination of his mission of salvation. If we ask ourselves: "Why Lent? Why the Cross?", the answer in radical terms is this: because evil exists, indeed sin, which according to the Scriptures is the profound cause of all evil. However this affirmation is far from being taken for granted and the very word "sin" is not accepted by many because it implies a religious vision of the world and of the human being.

In fact it is true: if God is eliminated from the world's horizon, one cannot speak of sin. As when the sun is hidden, shadows disappear. Shadows only appear if the sun is out; hence the eclipse of God necessarily entails the eclipse of sin. Therefore the sense of sin — which is something different from the "sense of guilt" as psychology understands it — is acquired by rediscovering the sense of God. This is expressed by the Miserere Psalm, attributed to King David on the occasion of his double sin of adultery and homicide: "Against you", David says, addressing God, "against you only have I sinned" (Ps 51(50):6).

In the face of moral evil God's attitude is to oppose sin and to save the sinner. God does not tolerate evil because he is Love, Justice and Fidelity; and for this very reason he does not desire the death of the sinner but wants the sinner to convert and to live. To save humanity God intervenes: we see him throughout the history of the Jewish people, beginning with the liberation from Egypt. God is determined to deliver his children from slavery in order to lead them to freedom. And the most serious and profound slavery is precisely that of sin.

For this reason God sent his Son into the world: to set men and women free from the domination of Satan, "the origin and cause of every sin". God sent him in our mortal flesh so that he might become a victim of expiation, dying for us on the Cross. The Devil opposed this definitive and universal plan of salvation with all his might, as is shown in particular in the Gospel of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness which is proclaimed every year on the First Sunday of Lent. In fact, entering this liturgical season means continuously taking Christ's side against sin, facing — both as individuals and as Church — the spiritual fight against the spirit of evil each time (Ash Wednesday, Opening Prayer). Let us therefore invoke the maternal help of Mary Most Holy for the Lenten journey that has just begun, so that it may be rich in fruits of conversion. I ask for special remembrance in prayer for myself and for my co-workers in the Roman Curia, as we shall begin the week of Spiritual Exercises this evening .

BIBLE STUDY "Life Everlasting", begins Monday February 23rd at 7pm in the Parish Centre. Register at the office, \$35.00

Development and Peace-Caritas Canada

Lent Campaign 2026: "On track for Justice"

Dear parishioners, many of you are familiar with our campaigns and action as the international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. If you are new to our parish you can visit www.devp.org for more information.

On Ash Wednesday we made the Calendar available to those who attended mass that day. The calendar is a tool to pray for and learn about our brothers and sisters plight in the Global South. You can access the online version at <https://devp.org/en/campaign/on-track-for-justice/solidarity-calendar-2026/> The best place for the paper version is the front of the fridge, to remind you everyday to pray for peace. Bookmark the virtual calendar for easy access on your devices.

Respect for Life:

Bill C-218 will receive second reading this March. In keeping with Catholic teaching on the dignity of every human life, parishioners are encouraged to contact MP Ryan Turnbull and urge his support for Bill C-218, which protects those with mental illness from being offered Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD).

World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 6, 2026 @1:30pm

St. John the Evangelist Parish, Whitby

Theme: Come to the Water

Reception in the Parish Centre to follow

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.

Please identify yourself with name and address for tax receipt purposes. Thank you!

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

We are currently looking for someone to assist leading the Prayer Group. Please contact Klara 905-668-9579.



**Stations of the Cross Fridays
in Lent**

Stations of the Cross start 6:30pm in English, Followed by Mass at 7:00pm Stations of the Cross in Spanish at 7:30pm

- Feb 27 Everyone's Way of the Cross
- Mar 6 Family Centred Way of the Cross
- Mar 13 Praying the Psalms with Jesus
- Mar 20 Development & Peace
- Mar 27 Mary's Way of the Cross
- Apr 3 Good Friday presented by Youth

Prayers for the Sick in our Parish

Sylvie Forte; Andrew Dundas; Doreen Pereira ; Anna Lalla ; Jack McCabe; Ian Hamilton; Gina Mancuso; John Morris; Christiane Prior; Fritz Jansen; Jill Morris Jones



Masses For The Week

Sat Feb 23 – 5:00pm

+Pete Rose

req. by His Family

Mon Feb 24 – 8:20am

+Christopher Welch

req. by The Blyth Family

Tues Feb 17 – 8:20am

+Doug Jordens

req. by Dan & Victoria Humphries

Wed Feb 25 – 7pm

+Arnoldo D'Aurelio

req. by The D'Aurelio Family

+Vincenzo Villanti

req. by Elda & Family

Salvatore Palazzolo

req. by Angelina & Family

+Khalil Noujaim

req. by Chaoul Noujaim

Int. for Rev. Fr. Pat Currie

req. by The Conboy Family

+Matteo Garritano

req. by The Veltri Family

Thur Feb 26 – 8:20am

+Hannah Doran & Herbert Doran

req. by The Deehan Family

Fri. Feb 27 – 8:20am

+Bill Rail

req. by Theresa Foss & Family

The 2025 Financial Report will be presented on Mar 7/8 at the end of all masses.

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