

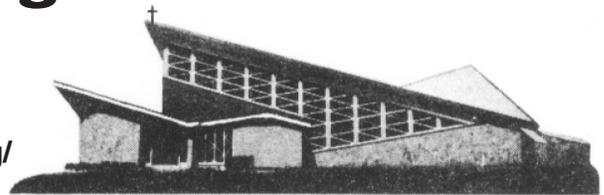
St. John the Evangelist Church

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent. The First Reading, from the Book of Genesis, offers us the passage of the call of Abraham. He is an old person who feels he is a failure because he does not have a son and a land in which to settle. God asks him to leave his land because God is going to give him a lineage and a land. He obeys and he trusts that God is going to fulfill these promises. He lives his life now as a blessing and new life. We are called like Abraham to open our horizon beyond our plans and expectations. God is going to give us something much better that we can even imagine. The Second Reading, from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy, presents us the encouraging words that he addresses to Timothy while in prison. He is young a bishop that has to face a lot of controversies. Paul asks him to rely in God and to trust in Him. It is not according to our works that we reap fruits, but it is through God's grace that we can find life and fulfillment. Let us trust in the Lord especially when we face difficulties and struggles so that we find strength and support. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, gives us the account of the Transfiguration of Jesus. He has predicted that He is going to Jerusalem to suffer, die and rise from the dead. After hearing this, His disciples are afraid, worried and scared. To give them hope and take away their fears, He transfigures Himself in front of them. He assures them that He is the Lord of life by allowing them to see His glory. Moreover, the Father gives witness that Jesus is His Son, and we should listen to Him. His disciples are called to come down from the mountain and to go up to Jerusalem. However, now they go to face trials with the experience of the glorious transfiguration and with hope. Whenever we encounter difficulties and struggles, let us always remember that there is resurrection and new life after the struggles. God walks with us and strengthens us while we struggle and brings us out victorious.

Let us fix our eyes in the One who can help us and bring us to new life so that Christ may truly transform and renew our hearts!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Benedict's Angelus on the Second Sunday of Lent (March 23, 2011)

I thank the Lord who has granted me over the past few days the experience of the Spiritual Exercises and I am also grateful to all who have been close to me in prayer. This Sunday, the Second Sunday of Lent, is called "of the Transfiguration" because the Gospel recounts this mystery of Jesus' life. After Jesus had foretold his Passion to the disciples, "he took with him Peter, James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light" (Mt 17:1-2). According to the senses the light of the sun is the brightest light known in nature but, according to the spirit, the disciples briefly glimpsed an even more intense splendour, that of the divine glory of Jesus which illumines the whole history of salvation. St Maximus Confessor says that

"[the Lord's] garments appear white, that is to say, the words of the Gospel will then be clear and distinct, with nothing concealed" (Ambiguum 10: PG 91, 1128 B).

The Gospel tells that beside the transfigured Jesus "there appeared... Moses and Elijah, talking with him" (Mt 17:3); Moses and Elijah, figure of the Law and of the Prophets. It was then that Peter, ecstatic, exclaimed "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah" (Mt 17:4). However St Augustine commented, saying that we have only one dwelling place, Christ: "he is the Word of God, the Word of God in the Law, the Word of God in the Prophets" (Sermo De Verbis Ev. 78:3: PL 38, 491).

In fact, the Father himself proclaims: "this is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Mt 17:5). The Transfiguration is not a change in Jesus but the revelation of his divinity: "the profound interpenetration of his being with God, which then becomes pure light. In his oneness with the Father, Jesus is himself 'light from light'" (Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration, Doubleday, New York, 2007, p. 310).

Peter, James and John, contemplating the divinity of the Lord, are ready to face the scandal of the Cross, as it is sung in an ancient hymn: "You were transfigured on the mountain and your disciples, insofar as they were able, contemplated your glory, in order that, on seeing you crucified, they would understand that your Passion was voluntary and proclaim to the world that you are truly the splendour of the Father" (Κοντάκιον εἰς τὴν Μεταμόρφωσιν, in: Μηναία, t. 6, Rome 1901, 341).

Dear friends, let us too share in this vision and in this supernatural gift, making room for prayer, and for listening to the Word of God. Further, especially in this Season of Lent, I urge you, as the Servant of God Paul VI wrote, "to respond to the divine precept of penitence by some voluntary act, apart from the renunciation imposed by the burdens of everyday life" (Apostolic Constitution Pænitemini, 17 February 1966, III, c: AAS 58 [1966], 182).

Let us invoke the Virgin Mary so that she may help us always to listen to and follow the Lord Jesus, even to the Passion and the Cross, in order to also participate in his glory.



Social Sunday on 8th March 2026,
following the 9:00 am and 11:00 am
Masses.

*Hosted by Development & Peace and the Home
Communion Ministry, in the Parish Center. All
are welcome!*



St. Patrick's Pub Night

Hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 4895

101 Brock St. N, Whitby

Thursday, March 14, 2026 Council 4895

Doors Open 6:30 pm, Dancing at 7:30 pm Prizes-Snacks-
Light Buffet-Cash Bar Tickets \$30.00 Per Person

Contact Chris Leahy

cdleahy@gmail.com 905-706-9520

MARCH 1, 2026

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

World Day of Prayer unites over 170 countries around the world, praying for today's issues. This year marks the 99th anniversary of the event. Each year's prayer service is written by a host country. This year's service has been written by the women of Nigeria. All are invited to attend.

Organ Fundraiser

Second Collection Feb 28/Mar 1, 2026

Extra envelopes on the back counter

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**

- 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; Shiva Dean, Blanca Arias, Frank Verwey.

LIFETEEN Thursday, March 5th at 7pm

EDGE Thursday, March 12th at 7pm

St. Joseph's Room

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



Masses For The Week

Sat Feb 28 – 5:00pm

+Daniel Kwa
req. by The Kwa Family

Mon Mar 2 – 8:20am

+Dorothy Murphy
req. by Nina Veltri & Family

Tues Mar 3 – 8:20am

+Pat Belej
req. by Ann Belej-Corrigan & Jim Corrigan

Wed Mar 4 – 7pm

+Martha Oller
req. by The Maldonado Family
+Lucy Valdez de Zlatar
req. by The Maldonado Family
+Rosita Quintero
req. by Her Family
+Mario Veltri
req. by The Veltri Family

Thur Mar 5 – 8:20am

+Genny Parrott
req. by Tom McTeague

First Friday Adoration at 9am

Fri. Mar 6 – 7:00pm

+Betty Cavers
req. by the Staff of St. John the Evangelist

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 March 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

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).

Mark your Calendar!

SENIORS' RETREAT

Thursday May 21, 2026 10:00-3:00
Father Charles Pottie, SJ. Facilitator
The price includes lunch. \$55/person
- more details to come

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