

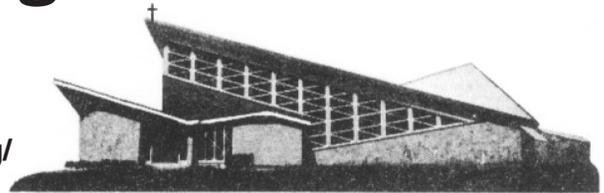
St. John the Evangelist Church

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.

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|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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.

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|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 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) 9am Mass | Catherine Phillips 647-504-3647, 11am mass | Meryl Aguiar 647-524-1519 |
| 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 |

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|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |

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|--|--------------|---|--|
| 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 |

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent. This Sunday is called Laetare, which means Sunday of rejoicing. We are reminded that we are walking towards Easter and the Resurrection. The First Reading, from the First Book of Samuel, presents the call of David to be the future king of Israel. It was expected that to be chosen one needed to be strong and have wonderful qualities. However, God did not choose the strongest and the tallest, but the youngest and the weakest, who was David. To choose somebody, God looks mainly at the heart of the person and not at the human qualities. He elected David because he was humble and obedient. Later, God gave him all the qualities necessary to be a king. In a society in which we must perform and be the best, it is consoling to realize that God calls us even though we have weaknesses and we are not perfect. If we answer His call, He gives all the graces that we need to fulfill our task. What is important is that we are humble and obedient, then God can do marvels in our lives. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, offers us a teaching on being enlightened by Christ. When we used to follow our sinful desires and pleasures, we experienced darkness and anguish. We only saw our own selves, and we could not see and love people around us. Once, God's grace has touched our hearts, He has transformed us by His Spirit. We have been enlightened and we can love other people; we live not for ourselves but at the service of others. In this time of Lent, Christ wants to enlighten us so that we may experience His mercy and being transformed so that we are able to love those around us. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us the account of the man born blind. Jesus encountered this person as He entered the temple. To manifest that He is the Lord of life, He opened the eyes of this person. He put mud and saliva in his eyes, then he went to wash in a pool and he came back seeing. It is through God's word and His Spirit that we can be enlightened. All of us have gone through difficult events that make us question God's goodness. These wounds cause us to live in fear and anguish. Through His mercy, Christ wants to heal us so that we may experience God's love. Therefore, we can live in peace and tranquility. Moreover, we feel grateful and can love those around us.

Let us open our hearts so that the Lord Jesus may enlighten us with His wonderful mercy so that we may experience fullness of peace!

This coming Tuesday, March 17th we will have Day of Confessions from 9:30am to 11:30am, 2pm to 4pm and several priests available from 7pm to 8:30pm. Come and let us experience God's mercy in our lives!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Benedict's Angelus on the Fourth Sunday of Lent (April 3, 2011) The Lenten journey that we are taking is a special time of grace during which we can experience the gift of the Lord's kindness to us. The Liturgy of this Sunday, called "Laetare", invites us to be

glad and rejoice as the Entrance Antiphon of the Eucharistic celebration proclaims: "Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts" (cf. Is 66: 10-11).

What is the profound reason for this joy? Today's Gospel in which Jesus heals a man blind from birth tells us. The question which the Lord Jesus asks the blind man is the high point of the story: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" (Jn 9:35). The man recognizes the sign worked by Jesus and he passes from the light of his eyes to the light of faith: "Lord, I believe!" (Jn 9:38).

It should be noted that as a simple and sincere person he gradually completes the journey of faith. In the beginning he thinks of Jesus as a "man" among others, then he considers him a "prophet" and finally his eyes are opened and he proclaims him "Lord". In opposition to the faith of the healed blind man is the hardening of the hearts of the Pharisees who do not want to accept the miracle because they refuse to receive Jesus as the Messiah. Instead the crowd pauses to discuss the event and continues to be distant and indifferent. Even the blind man's parents are overcome by the fear of what others might think.

And what attitude to Jesus should we adopt? Because of Adam's sin we too are born "blind" but in the baptismal font we are illumined by the grace of Christ. Sin wounded humanity and destined it to the darkness of death, but the newness of life shines out in Christ, as well as the destination to which we are called. In him, reinvigorated by the Holy Spirit, we receive the strength to defeat evil and to do good.

In fact, the Christian life is a continuous conformation to Christ, image of the new man, in order to reach full communion with God. The Lord Jesus is the "light of the world" (Jn 8:12), because in him shines "the knowledge of the glory of God" (2 Cor 4:6) that continues in the complex plot of the story to reveal the meaning of human existence.

In the rite of Baptism, the presentation of the candle lit from the large Paschal candle, a symbol of the Risen Christ, is a sign that helps us to understand what happens in the Sacrament. When our lives are enlightened by the mystery of Christ, we experience the joy of being liberated from all that threatens the full realization.

In these days which prepare us for Easter let us rekindle within us the gift received in Baptism, that flame which sometimes risks being extinguished. Let us nourish it with prayer and love for others. Let us entrust our Lenten journey to the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church so that all may encounter Christ, Saviour of the world.

Coffee With Friends
Tuesday, March 17th Parish Centre, 9:00am

An opportunity to:

- Experience fellowship • Enjoy snacks • Make acquaintances
 - Celebrate St. Patrick
- Maturing Adults Ministry Team**



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Will you respond to the Gospel?

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me." Matthew 25:35

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." – Matthew 25:40

Have you ever thought what the incredible satisfaction of serving our neighbours in need in west Whitby, brings to your life? As members of St. Vincent de Paul, we bring non-perishable food and food vouchers to members of our community in need of assistance. "Our clients are always grateful for our assistance. It's very rewarding to me personally. I know it's a hand-up and not a hand-out", said one member of our conference.

As food costs rise, it poses a significant challenge for those on fixed incomes. We, at St. John's Conference are fortunate for the generosity of our donors to support those in need in this way.

However, our membership group needs as much support, with new members. Our conference has dwindled in membership due to retirement for years of service, primarily and other commitments.

If you can offer your service and want more information, we'd love to speak with you. Please contact Vicki at the Parish Office 905-668-3676.



RESCHEDULED!

Social Sunday on 15th 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!

ShareLife

Goal \$178,500
First Collection Mar 21/22, 2026



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 20 Development & Peace

Mar 27 Mary's Way of the Cross

Apr 3 Good Friday presented by Youth

Day of Confession

Tuesday March 17, 2026

9:30am – 11:30am, 2pm – 4pm, 7pm – 8:30pm

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, Caroline Contreras, Mary Patrick Eastman, Marianna Griffiths.



Masses For The Week

Sat Mar 14 – 5:00pm

+Humberto Schenflede
req. by His Wife & Family

Mon Mar 16 – 8:20am

+Carmelita Ring
req. by St. John's Rosary Group

Tues Mar 17 – 8:20am

+Betty Cavers
req. by Mary & Paul Richmond

Wed Mar 18 – 7pm

+Rose Turner
req. by Jennifer Carew
+Shree Lele
req. by The McManus Family
+Susan & John Fitzpatrick
req. by Maire Fitzpatrick
+Walter Ratnasingham
req. by His Wife & Family
+Balendra Nagalingham
req. by Pavalam Ratnasingham

Thur Mar 19 – 8:20am

+Carmelita Ring
req. by Maire Fitzpatrick

Fri. Mar 20 – 7:00pm

+Andrew Marioselva
req. by Christine Marioselva

MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES

Monday nights, April 6, 2026 to May 11, 2026 from 7pm to 9pm. Call 668-3676 to register. Cost is \$300 per couple.

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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