

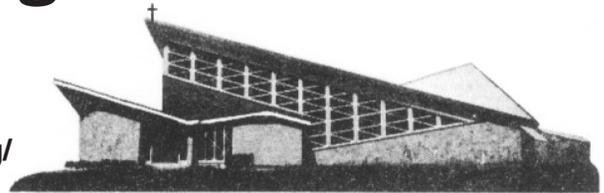
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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.

<b>SUNDAY LITURGY</b> —	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Neocatechumenal Way	Saturday 7:30pm
	Sunday	9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.		<b>EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR</b>
<b>SPANISH MASS</b> —	Sunday	2:00 p.m.		On first Friday of each month
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b> —	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) 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

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

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

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!



Today we celebrate Palm Sunday. This day marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most important week of the whole year. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents the third canticle of the Suffering Servant of the Lord. In it is prefigured a servant who is persecuted and amid the distress, he trusts in the Lord without defending himself. This text has been fulfilled in Christ. During His Passion, Christ was buffeted, insulted, scorned, and scourged; yet, He did not retaliate, He did not grumble. He trusted in the Lord that He will save Him and protect Him. God took care of Christ and raised Him from the dead. Christ offered Himself as a meek lamb ready to be slaughtered. In this sacrifice, we have found peace and salvation for our souls. Even when we go through difficult times, we can trust and put our confidence in the Lord so that He may help us to go through times knowing that the Lord will make us go through them unharmed. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, offers us an early hymn of the kenosis of Christ. He has humbled Himself for us to the lowest point possible. The first sin was one of pride and Christ has destroyed this sin by humbling Himself for us. He has gone to the abyss of sin and evil so that He can destroy sin and give us new life. He can give us a new spirit so that with Him our wounded hearts may be transformed. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, gives us the account of the Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem and the whole Passion of Christ. He enters the Holy City as the promised Messiah riding on a donkey. He entered Jerusalem as a meek and peaceful King ready to give His life for us. The fact that He is mounted on a donkey represents that Christ wants to enter our hearts and take away our sins and give us new life. Christ did not shout and impose Himself, but He offers to us salvation and redemption through His incredible mercy. Let us wave the palms of branches recognizing that He is the Savior who enters our hearts to pass us from Death to Life!

Let us live the Holy Triduum from Holy Thursday through Good Friday and resurrect with Christ at Easter!

**Holy Thursday will be at 7:30pm followed by Adoration until 11pm.**

**Good Friday at noon in Spanish and 3pm in English with stations by the youth of our parish at 7pm.**

**Easter Vigil at 8pm and Easter Sunday at 9am and 11am in English and 2pm in Spanish. It is very important to live the full Triduum so that we may rise with Christ.**

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Benedict's Audience for Easter Triduum (March 31, 2010)

"The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my Body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me". In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me" (1 Cor 11: 23-25). These words clearly express Christ's intention: under the species of the bread and the wine, he makes himself really present with his Body given and his Blood poured out as a sacrifice of the New Covenant. At the same time, he constitutes the Apostles and their successors ministers of this Sacrament, which he entrusts to his Church as a supreme proof of his love.

We also commemorate with an evocative rite the gesture of Jesus who washes the Apostles' feet (Jn 13: 1-25). For the Evangelist this act comes to portray the whole of Jesus' life and reveals his love to the end, an infinite love that is capable of preparing man for communion with God and of setting him free. At the end of the Holy Thursday Liturgy the Church puts the Blessed Sacrament in a specially prepared place that represents Jesus' loneliness and mortal anguish in Gethsemane. Before the Eucharist, the faithful contemplate Jesus in the hour of his solitude and pray that all the loneliness in the world may cease. This liturgical itinerary is likewise an invitation to seek the intimate encounter with the Lord in prayer, to recognize Jesus among those who are lonely, to watch with him and to proclaim him with the light of one's own life.

On Good Friday we shall commemorate the Passion and death of the Lord. Jesus wanted to give his life as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of humanity's sins, choosing to this end the most brutal and humiliating death: crucifixion.

Holy Saturday is marked by a profound silence. The Churches are bare and no special Liturgies are planned. In this time of waiting and hope, believers are invited to prayer, reflection and conversion, also by means of the sacrament of Reconciliation, in order to take part, intimately renewed, in the celebration of Easter.

In the night of Holy Saturday, during the solemn Easter Vigil, "mother of all vigils", this silence will be broken by the singing of the Alleluia which announces Christ's Resurrection and proclaims the victory of light over darkness, of life over death. The Church will rejoice in the encounter with her Lord, entering Easter Day which the Lord will inaugurate by rising from the dead.

### **ATTENTION: NEW TEACHER APPLICANTS**

**Important Information for Pastoral References  
If you are a teacher, or currently studying to be a teacher in our Catholic schools, part of the application process includes a Pastoral Letter of Reference from a priest. It is the policy to be an attending member of the parish and volunteer in a children's ministry.**

**<https://bit.ly/PracticingCath>**

**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, Steve McCall*

**2026 Holy Week Triduum Celebrations**



**Thurs. Apr 2**  
**Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
**Biligual 7:30pm**  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11pm



**Fri. Apr. 3**  
**Liturgia solemne de la pasion del Señor 12 pm**  
Divine Mercy Novena @ 10am

**Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 3pm**

Stations of the Cross, Presented by Youth 7pm



**Sat Apr. 4**  
Divine Mercy Novena @12noon  
**Easter Vigil 8pm**  
**No 5pm Mass**  
**NO CONFESSIONS TODAY**



**Sun Apr 5**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
Masses 9am, 11am  
Divine Mercy Novena 8:45am  
**2:00 pm Espanol**

**Mon Apr 6**  
**Easter Monday**  
9am  
Divine Mercy 9:30am

**SAVE THE DATES**

**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



Golf Scramble  
Saturday, May 23rd at S. Ajax Golf Course.  
Golfers of all abilities are welcome.

At this time, if there are any parishioners that could possibly donate prizes to our apres golf Silent Auction, please contact Patrick Costello 905 626-6738.

Any new items and/or gift cards/certificates would be greatly appreciated.

**FAMILY MUSICAL EVENT**

What moves your feet? What brings back memories??  
Presenting : Songs from Hit Movies!!  
le/Mission Impossible and The Tango

The La Jeunesse Youth Orchestra will be here on Saturday April 18, 2026 at 1:30pm

Please arrive early to be seated  
Adults: \$25 Youth:(13-18yrs): \$10  
Children:(6-12yrs): Free

Tickets available in the Church Foyer after masses (excluding Easter) and online via e-transfer to [SJETickets2026@gmail.com](mailto:SJETickets2026@gmail.com)

**Totus Tuus Returns this Summer!**

Mark your calendars for **July 5-10, 2025!** Totus Tuus is a fun & faith-filled Summer camp for the youth of the parish run by missionaries. There is a day camp for children entering grade 1-6 in the fall and an evening program for youth entering grade 7-12 in the fall. Registration deadline is June 15th!

Bill C-218 is scheduled for the **second hour of debate** in the House of Commons on Monday, April 13th. The Private Member's bill introduced by Tamara Jansen, requests that individuals with the single diagnosis of mental illness be excluded from MAID. Please lend your support of this bill by contacting Member of Parliament Ryan Turnbull, or your respective MP.

Phone contact: 905-665-8182  
Email: [Ryan.Turnbull@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Ryan.Turnbull@parl.gc.ca)



Masses For The Week

**Sat Mar 28 – 5:00pm**  
**+Vincenzo Villanti**  
*req. by Elda & Family*

**Mon Mar 30 – 8:20am**  
**+Marie Bradford**  
*req. by Bernadette McKay & Family*

**Tues Mar 31 – 8:20am**  
**+Sadie Carmichael**  
*req. by The Deehan Family*

**Wed Apr 1 – 7pm**  
**+Domenic & Maria Borg**  
*req. by Rita & Saviour Borg*  
**+Deceased Mbrs Bonello Family**  
*req. by Rita & Saviour Bonello*  
**+Elvira Tan**  
*req. by Angeli Rojo*  
**+Cheryl McLennan**  
*req. by Luciana Jovano Vic*  
**+Allyson Partridge Rios**  
*req. by Sabine & Tony Cahill*  
**+Felicisima de Grano de Asis**  
*req. by Leila & Sammy Samson*

**Thur Apr 2 – 7:30pm**  
**NO INTENTIONS**

**Fri. April 3 – 12pm SPANISH**  
**Fri. Apr 3 – 3:00pm ENGLISH**  
**NO INTENTIONS**

**Sat Apr 4 – 8:00pm Vigil**  
**NO INTENTIONS**

**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 April 1, 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](mailto:bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com) or call 416-508-9877

Flower Envelopes can be found on the back counter. Donations to offset the costs are greatly appreciated. Please identify yourself for tax receipt purposes.

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