

# St. John the Evangelist Church

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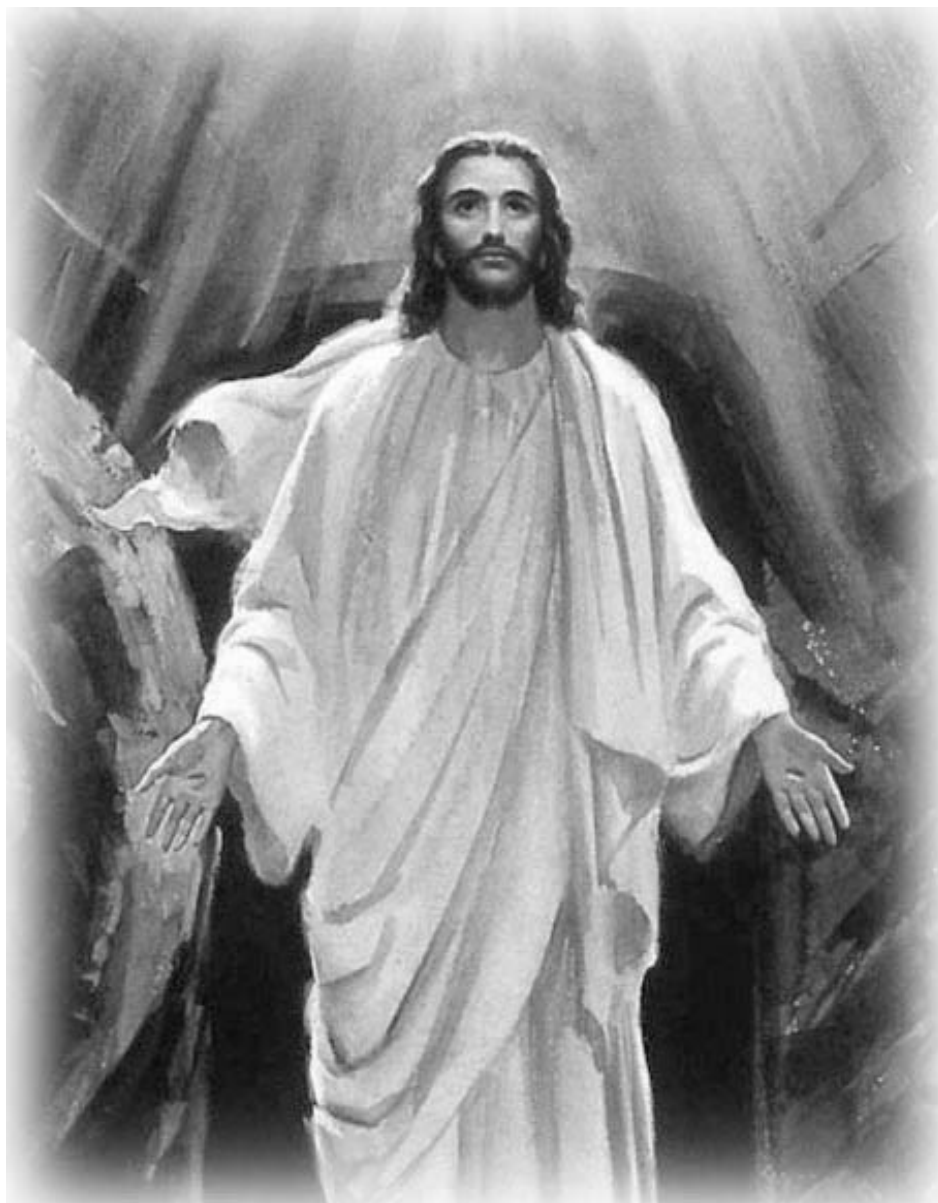
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## Pastoral Team

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



Rejoice!  
For the Lord is truly risen!

# EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate Easter Sunday. We are very joyful because we are sharing in the Resurrection of Christ in our lives. The First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, presents the announcement of Peter of the Death and Resurrection of Christ. God has anointed Christ with the mission of dying for our sins. During His public life, Christ went about preaching the Good News and healing people from their sicknesses. Peter proclaims that Christ was crucified, died, and was buried, but after three days, He was raised from the dead. The apostles are witnesses of the Resurrection, and they announced His victory over death in all parts of the world. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians, offers us a teaching from St. Paul on how we can be transformed if we share in the Resurrection of Christ. He has made us sharers of His victory over death and with His help we can set our minds in the things of Heaven. It means that from now on we can aspire to a life that is full of peace and joy and that endures no matter what. Let us place our trust in the Lord so that He may make us partakers of the risen life and already anticipate the kingdom of heaven here on earth. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, gives us the account of the empty tomb. Even though the Romans placed a heavy stone in front of the tomb and guards to keep it safe, yet Christ rose from the dead and has overcome sin, evil and death. Like the women, who were witnesses of encountering the Risen Christ, we are called to see in our lives that the stone of death in our lives has been removed, and we can be partakers of the Risen Lord. Whatever sin, suffering or trial we may be facing, with Christ we can find in Him Resurrection and victory over death. With Christ we can face any difficulty and remain standing and at peace. Let us be witnesses of the Risen Christ in our daily lives so that we can bring this amazing happiness to all those around us!

I would like to wish to all the parishioners and their families a Blessed Easter and to partake in the joy of the Resurrection!

Thanks to all the people who have helped during Holy Week, especially the staff of the parish, the ladies who have decorated the Church, our choir, cantors and musicians, our RCIA team, our social committee, our altar servers, our ushers, communion ministers, lectors and so many people who worked very hard during these days. May God bless you immensely with His peace

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Benedict's Homily for the Easter Vigil (April 11, 2010)

"After the Sabbath" (Mt 28:1), the women went to the tomb. This is how the Gospel of this holy Vigil began: with the Sabbath. It is the day of the Easter Triduum that we tend to neglect as we eagerly await the passage from Friday's cross to Easter Sunday's Alleluia. This year however, we are experiencing, more than ever, the great silence of Holy Saturday. We can imagine ourselves in the position of the women on that day. They, like us, had before their eyes the drama of suffering, of an unexpected tragedy that happened all too suddenly. They had seen death and it weighed on their hearts. Pain was mixed with fear: would they suffer the same fate as the Master? Then too

there was fear about the future and all that would need to be rebuilt. A painful memory, a hope cut short. For them, as for us, it was the darkest hour.

Yet in this situation the women did not allow themselves to be paralyzed. They did not give in to the gloom of sorrow and regret, they did not morosely close in on themselves, or flee from reality. They were doing something simple yet extraordinary: preparing at home the spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They did not stop loving; in the darkness of their hearts, they lit a flame of mercy. Our Lady spent that Saturday, the day that would be dedicated to her, in prayer and hope. She responded to sorrow with trust in the Lord. Unbeknownst to these women, they were making preparations, in the darkness of that Sabbath, for "the dawn of the first day of the week", the day that would change history. Jesus, like a seed buried in the ground, was about to make new life blossom in the world; and these women, by prayer and love, were helping to make that hope flower. How many people, in these sad days, have done and are still doing what those women did, sowing seeds of hope! With small gestures of care, affection and prayer.

At dawn the women went to the tomb. There the angel says to them: "Do not be afraid. He is not here; for he has risen" (vv. 5-6). They hear the words of life even as they stand before a tomb... And then they meet Jesus, the giver of all hope, who confirms the message and says: "Do not be afraid" (v. 10). Do not be afraid, do not yield to fear: This is the message of hope. It is addressed to us, today. These are the words that God repeats to us this very night.

Tonight we acquire a fundamental right that can never be taken away from us: the right to hope. It is a new and living hope that comes from God. It is not mere optimism; it is not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement, uttered with an empty smile. No! It is a gift from heaven, which we could not have earned on our own. Over these weeks, we have kept repeating, "All will be well", clinging to the beauty of our humanity and allowing words of encouragement to rise up from our hearts. But as the days go by and fears grow, even the boldest hope can dissipate. Jesus' hope is different. He plants in our hearts the conviction that God is able to make everything work unto good, because even from the grave he brings life.

The grave is the place where no one who enters ever leaves. But Jesus emerged for us; he rose for us, to bring life where there was death, to begin a new story in the very place where a stone had been placed. He, who rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb, can also remove the stones in our hearts. So, let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope. We can and must hope, because God is faithful. He did not abandon us; he visited us and entered into our situations of pain, anguish and death. His light dispelled the darkness of the tomb: today he wants that light to penetrate even to the darkest corners of our lives. Dear sister, dear brother, even if in your heart you have buried hope, do not give up: God is greater. Darkness and death do not have the last word. Be strong, for with God nothing is lost!

## **Goodbye to Sarah Rodrigues**

**I wish to thank Sarah for her outstanding work as Youth Minister to the parish this past year. Her wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm brought great success to Edge and LifeTeen. Thank you Sarah! God bless you! Fr. Francisco**



Please be reminded that some parishioners are sensitive to cologne and perfume. Please avoid using scented products before coming to mass. Thank you!

**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! Deadline for volunteer screening is May 15th

**Youth Minister Job Posting**

**We are hiring a youth minister to cover for Cassandra's maternity leave beginning in June 2026 for approximately 1 year. Please contact Fr. Francisco for details and a copy of the job description.**

**Ladies Golf League**

Are you interested in playing golf or learning to play golf, then consider joining our league. We play Tuesday evenings 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Deer Creek Practice and Performance Centre (formerly Salem Ridge), an executive 9-hole course. We have lots of fun and we do improve our game. If you are interested in joining us, please come to our general meeting on Tuesday, April 14th at 7:30 p.m. in room 2 of the Parish Centre for our kick-off meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.

**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*



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

**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  
Suggested Donation - 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)



**Masses For The Week**

**Sat Apr 4– 8:00pm**

**NO INTENTION**

**Mon Apr 6 – 9:00am**

**+Humberto Schenflede**  
*req. by His Wife & Family*

**Tues Apr 7 – 8:20am**

**+Everisto & Deolinda Medeiros**  
*req. by Nelly & Todd Johnson*

**Wed Apr 8 – 7pm**

**+Harris Family**  
*req. by Their Family*  
**+Carmelita Ring**  
*req. by The Rosary Apostolate*  
**+Martin Doleweerd**  
*req. by Beppie & Family*  
**+Allyson Partridge Rios**  
*req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family*

**Thur Apr 9 – 8:20am**

**+Genny Parrott**  
*req. by Maribel Lorayes*

**Fri. Apr 10 – 8:20am**

**+Edward Debosky**  
*Req. by The McMahon Family*

**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.**

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