

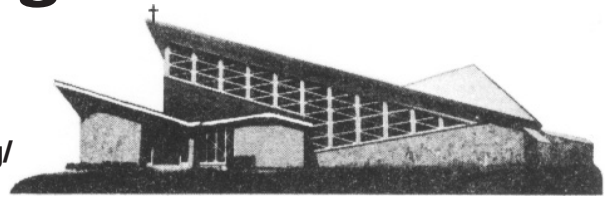
St. John the Evangelist Church

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) 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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Easter. The First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, presents the preaching of St. Peter on the day of Pentecost. Even though Christ was risen, and He had appeared to them, the apostles were frightened to witness the victory of Christ over death. It is only after they received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost that they came out into the streets and started proclaiming to everybody that Christ is risen. It was not out of their efforts, but it was a gift given to them from above. The Holy Spirit accompanied them even though they were facing many struggles. This episode should fill us with hope and strength because even though we are all weak in front of difficulties, the Holy Spirit comes to our help to sustain us and to guide us. Let us always remember that He is by our side to help us. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Peter, continues with the teaching given to those who had just been baptised at Easter. He mentions that Christ had saved them and redeemed them through the precious gift of the Blood of Christ. They were called to remember always that the salvation in which they share was a gift given to them, fruit of the Death and Resurrection of Christ. This short passage is full of hope because the fact that we are sharing in the life of the Risen Christ is an amazing gift that comes from the mercy of Christ and is not something that we have acquired through very strenuous labor. The Gospel, from St. Luke, gives us the account of the two disciples of Emmaus who encountered the Risen Christ. These disciples were very disappointed and sad, and they were going out of Jerusalem. In that very disappointing situation, Christ came and walked with them and asked them why they were so hopeless. They opened up and they mentioned that all their hope was set in Christ and now He is dead and everything is gone. Christ announced to them that He is risen according to what was foretold in the Scriptures. This was not enough, and they recognized Him in the breaking of the bread. They were now full of joy, and they came back to Jerusalem to be with the community again.. Even though it is Easter and Christ is Risen, it could be that facing difficulties and struggles, we feel sad, and we feel that Christ cannot help us. It seems that the problems are stronger than us and we feel overwhelmed. If we feel in this situation, Christ comes with mercy to show us that He is Risen and that He has overcome all our struggles and problems. We can recognize Him especially in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Let us ask the Lord to open our hearts and eyes that we can recognize in our daily lives that He is truly risen!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Leo XIV's Audience (October 8, 2025)

Today I would like to invite you to reflect on a surprising aspect of Christ's Resurrection: his humility. If we think back to the Gospel accounts, we realize that the risen Lord does nothing spectacular to impose himself on the faith of his disciples. He does not appear surrounded by hosts of angels, he does not perform spectacular feats, he does not deliver solemn speeches to reveal the secrets of the universe. On the contrary, he approaches discreetly, like any other wayfarer, like a hungry man asking to share some bread (cf. Lk 24:15, 41).

Mary Magdalene mistakes him for a gardener (cf. Jn 20:15). The disciples of Emmaus believe him to be a stranger (cf. Lk 24:18). Peter and the other fishermen think he is just a passer-by

(cf. Jn 21:4). We would have expected special effects, signs of power, overwhelming evidence. But the Lord does not seek this: he prefers the language of proximity, of normality, of sharing a meal.

Brothers and sisters, there is a valuable message in this: the Resurrection is not a theatrical coup; it is a silent transformation that fills every human gesture with meaning. The risen Jesus eats a piece of fish in front of his disciples: this is not a marginal detail, it is confirmation that our body, our history, our relationships are not a shell to be thrown away. They are destined for the fullness of life. Resurrection does not mean becoming evanescent spirits, but entering into a deeper communion with God and with our brothers and sisters, in a humanity transfigured by love.

In the Pasch of Christ, everything can become grace. Even the most ordinary things: eating, working, waiting, taking care of the house, supporting a friend. The Resurrection does not remove life from time and effort, but changes its meaning and "flavour". Every gesture performed in gratitude and communion anticipates the Kingdom of God. However, there is an obstacle that often prevents us from recognizing Christ's presence in our daily lives: the assumption that joy must be free from suffering. The disciples of Emmaus walk sadly because they hoped for a different ending, for a Messiah who did not know the cross. Although they have heard that the tomb is empty, they cannot smile. But Jesus walks alongside them and patiently helps them understand that pain is not the denial of the promise, but the way through which God has manifested the measure of his love (cf. Lk 24:13-27).

When they are finally seated at the table with him and break bread, their eyes are opened. They realize that their hearts were already burning, even though they did not know it (cf. Lk 24:28-32). This is the greatest surprise: to discover that beneath the ashes of disenchantment and weariness there is always a living ember, waiting only to be rekindled. Brothers and sisters, Christ's resurrection teaches us that no history is so marked by disappointment or sin that it cannot be visited by hope. No fall is definitive, no night is eternal, no wound is destined to remain open forever. However distant, lost or unworthy we may feel, there is no distance that can extinguish the unfailing power of God's love.

Sometimes we think that the Lord comes to visit us only in moments of contemplation or spiritual fervour, when we feel worthy, when our lives appear orderly and bright. Instead, the Risen One is close to us precisely in the darkest places: in our failures, in our frayed relationships, in the daily struggles that weigh on our shoulders, in the doubts that discourage us. Nothing that we are, no fragment of our existence, is foreign to him. Today, the risen Lord walks alongside each of us, as we travel our paths – those of work and commitment, but also those of suffering and loneliness – and with infinite delicacy asks us to let him warm our hearts. He does not impose himself loudly; he does not demand to be recognized immediately. He waits patiently for the moment when our eyes will open to see his friendly face, capable of transforming disappointment into hopeful expectation, sadness into gratitude, resignation into hope.

Prayer Group

Meet in the Parish Centre at 1pm

All are welcome!

Volunteer Gardeners are needed!

Planting, weeding, watering...

Please let us know if you can help us!



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

Through ShareLife, you helped Tara rebuild her life

Tara's childhood was anything but safe. Conflict and fear filled her days, and as she grew older, home became unbearable. She waited, hoping things would change, but she had to leave once she became a teenager. Because of your warm heart, Tara found safety at Covenant House Toronto, a Catholic Charities agency you support through ShareLife. After a short stay in the crisis shelter, she moved into the Rights of Passage (ROP) program, determined to rebuild her life.

You gave Tara the strength to take charge of her future—adding her name to waitlists for affordable housing and taking steps to stand on her own. In the meantime, she balanced multiple part-time jobs while staying in school, saving every dollar she could. With your caring support, she connected with a counsellor to begin working through the challenges that had forced her to leave home. Today, she's living independently and building the future she once thought was out of reach.

ShareLife Sunday special collections are taking place next weekend on April 26. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

CWL APRIL GENERAL MEETING

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) general meeting will take place on Thursday, April 23rd, at 7:30 p.m. in the main room of the parish centre. Not a member, you are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, or require transportation, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or lchilderhouse@hotmail.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! Deadline for volunteer screening is May 15th

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; 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, Edmund Paty, Nora Rodriguez.



Masses For The Week

Sat Apr 18– 5:00pm

+Fiorina Donatelli

req. by Fred & Jacqui Shady

Mon Apr 20 – 8:20am

+Milagros Costa

req. by Kenneth & Brinna Makalintal & Family

Tues Apr 21 – 8:20am

+Patrick Fitzpatrick

req. by Maire Fitzpatrick & Family

Wed Apr 22 – 7pm

+Andrew Marioselva

req. by Christine Marioselva

+Marshall Duncan Smith

req. by The LaBarre Family

+Jacqueline Steinwall

Thur Apr 23 – 8:20am

+Rev. Father Pat Currie

req. by The Conboy Family

Fri. Apr 24 – 8:20am

+Daniel Ryan

req. by The Ryan Family

SENIORS' RETREAT

Thursday May 21, 2026 10:00-3:00

Father Charles Pottie, SJ. Facilitator

The price includes lunch. \$55/person

See the notice on the board for details

Golf Scramble Saturday, May 23rd at

South Ajax Golf Course.

Golfers of all abilities are welcome.

Registration is now open!

Use the QR code

Lunch, door prizes and silent auction that includes a Dave Keon autographed Toronto Leafs Jersey!

We are also gratefully accepting prize donations for the prize table.



**FAMILY FUN DAY
& TASTE OF THE PARISH**

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2026

Time: 11:30am - 3:00pm

On the Parish Centre Grounds

Bring your own lawn chair!

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