

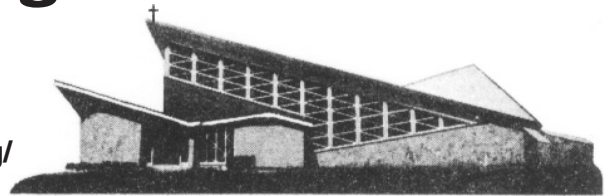
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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** — One Sunday 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>

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Sixth Sunday of Easter. The First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, presents the mission of evangelization that Philip carried out in Samaria. When there was persecution in Jerusalem, the disciples spread to different areas. Philip preached in Samaria and many people welcomed the Good News and they believed in the Lord Jesus by the signs that he was doing among the sick. Afterwards, they were confirmed in their faith by Peter and John, and they received the Holy Spirit. It is also very important for us that our faith is always renewed, and that we experience the power of the Risen Christ in our daily live more and more. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Peter, encourages the members of the community to share with others the faith and hope they have received. They are supposed to do this with gentleness with their own attitudes, especially being merciful and peaceful. We are also encouraged to realize that, if our lives have been transformed by the Risen Christ, it will have an impact for those who are around us. We can bring hope and consolation to people who at times feel discouraged. We do not need to convince them and give them very smart discourses, but by the way we live, then, people can find hope for their lives. They may think *'if God has done it for them, then He can also help me as well'*. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us a part of the farewell discourse that Jesus gave during the Last Supper. As we are approaching the feast of Pentecost, Jesus announces that He is going to send the Holy Spirit to the apostles, so that through his presence, they may always experience the action of God in their lives. The Holy Spirit is the Advocate, the One who defends us and the Spirit of Truth, the One who always interprets our lives saying that in any event that happens is for our good. When the Holy Spirit comes, the Holy Trinity will come to abide in our hearts. Then, we will find that the fruits of the Risen Christ will be fulfilled in our lives. Let us open our hearts so that the Holy Spirit may dwell in our hearts and fill them with hope, joy, and love!

I would like to wish a Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers and grandmothers of our parish. Thanks so much for everything that you continue to do, you are a visible example of unconditional love. May God continue to strengthen you and to bless you!

We also congratulate the four new priests who were ordained yesterday for the Archdiocese of Toronto. May God accompany them and make their future ministry fruitful!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Angelus (May 14, 2023)

The Gospel for today, the Sixth Sunday of Easter, speaks to us about the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus calls the Paraclete (cf. Jn 14:15-17). Paraclete is a word that comes from Greek, which means both comforter and advocate at the same time. This means that the Holy Spirit never leaves us alone, he is near to us, like a lawyer who assists the accused person, standing by his or her side. And he suggests to us how to defend ourselves from those who accuse us. Let us recall that the great accuser is always the devil, who puts sin inside of you, the desire to sin, wickedness. Let us reflect on these two aspects: his closeness to us, and his assistance against those who accuse us. His closeness : The Holy Spirit, Jesus says, "dwells with you and will be in you" (cf. v. 17). He never abandons us. The Holy Spirit wants to stay with us; he is not a passing guest who comes to pay us a courtesy visit. He is a companion for life, a stable presence. He is Spirit and desires to dwell in our spirits. He

is patient and stays with us even when we fall. He remains because he truly loves us; he does not pretend to love us, and then leaves us alone when things get difficult. No. He is loyal, he is transparent, he is authentic.

Indeed, if we find ourselves in a moment of trial, the Holy Spirit comforts us, bringing us God's pardon and strength. And when he places our errors before us and corrects us, he does so gently — there is always the timbre of tenderness and the warmth of love in his voice that speaks to the heart. Certainly, the Paraclete Spirit is demanding, because he is a true, faithful friend, who does not hide anything, who suggests what we should change and how to grow. But when he corrects us, he never humiliates us, and never instills distrust. On the contrary, he conveys the certainty that with God, we can always make it. This is his closeness. It is a beautiful certainty.

The Paraclete Spirit is the second aspect. He is our advocate and he defends us. He defends us from those who accuse us: from ourselves when we do not love and forgive ourselves, when we go so far as perhaps telling ourselves that we are failures and good for nothing; from the world who discards those who do not fit into its patterns and models; from the devil who is the "accuser" par excellence and the divider (cf. Rev 12:10), and does everything to make us feel incapable and unhappy.

In the face of all these accusing thoughts, the Holy Spirit suggests to us how to respond. How? The Paraclete, Jesus says, is the One who "reminds us of everything Jesus told us" (cf. Jn 14:26). He reminds us, therefore, of the words of the Gospel, and thus enables us to respond to the accusing devil, not with our own words, but with the Lord's own words. He reminds us, above all, that Jesus always spoke of the Father who is in heaven, he made the Father known to us, and revealed the Father's love for us, who are his children. If we call on the Spirit, we will learn to embrace and recall the most important reality of life that protects us from the accusations of evil. And what is the most important reality in life? That we are beloved children of God. We are God's beloved children: this is the most important reality, and the Spirit reminds us of this.

Brothers and sisters, let us ask ourselves today: Do we call on the Holy Spirit? Do we pray to him often? Let us not forget about the one who is close to us, or rather, is within us! Then: Do we listen to his voice, both when he encourages us and when he corrects us? Do we respond with Jesus' words to the accusations from the evil one, to the "tribunals" of life? Do we remember that we are beloved children of God? May Mary make us docile to the voice of the Holy Spirit and sensitive to his presence.



**Volunteer Appreciation Night**

**Thursday, June 4, 2026**

**at 7:00pm, Parish Centre**

Fr. Francisco would like to thank all in Ministry to join us for **wine, hors**

**d'oeuvres and friendly fellowship! You give so much of your time to service the Parish.**

**We want to thank you!**

**It's very important to RSVP to the parish office by email [vmorgan@archtoronto.org](mailto:vmorgan@archtoronto.org).**

**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**

**Lectio Divina**

**Reflection of the Sunday Gospel Readings**

**We meet on Zoom every Monday from 7pm to 8pm  
Join us! Email the office for the meeting code**



**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

**Prayer Group**

**Bi-weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 1pm  
May 13, 27, June 10, 24**

**St. Vincent de Paul are in BIG NEED OF PEANUT BUTTER, which is a main staple in most grocery deliveries.**

**FINAL REGISTRATION!**

**SENIORS' RETREAT**

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

MANRESA SPIRITUAL RETREAT CENTRE

Father Charles Pottie, SJ. Facilitator

The price includes lunch. \$55/person



**REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY**

**16<sup>th</sup>**

**MORE GOLFERS NEEDED!**

**Golf Scramble Saturday, May 23rd at South Ajax Golf Course.**

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

**We are also gratefully accepting doorprize donations**



**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!

**Contact Nancy at 289-890-7925 to let her know what food you're bringing!**

**CWL Social Sunday**

Thank you to our fellow parishioners for joining us at Social Sunday, hosted by your Catholic Women's League.

It was truly our pleasure to welcome you and spend time together in fellowship. We are grateful for your continued support of our League and our parish community.



**Masses For The Week**

**Sat May 9- 5:00pm**

**+Edward Debosky**

*req. by the McMahan Family*

**Mon May 11 - 8:20am**

**+ Maria Clara Flores**

*req. by Cathy Brown & Family*

**Tues May 12 - 8:20am**

**+Maria Costa**

*req. by Mario Costa*

**Wed May 13 - 7pm**

**+Deceased Members of Harris Family**

*req. by Their Family*

**+Aurelio Carpio Sr.**

*req. by Evangeline Davidson*

**+Anthony & +Gloria DeFreitas**

*req. by Taryn DeFreitas*

**+Rita Hadden**

*req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family*

**+Bill Rail**

*req. by Jane Rail*

**Thur May 14 - 8:20am**

**+Teresa Barros**

*req. by Dora Schenflede*

**Fri. May 15- 8:20am**

**+Evangeline Kebati**

*req. by Elizabeth Omariba*

**HAPPENING TODAY IN THE FOYER**

- SENIORS RETREAT SIGNUP
- CWL COLLECTING FOR ROSE OF DURHAM
- CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION MEMBERS COLLECTING DONATIONS TO ASSIST CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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