

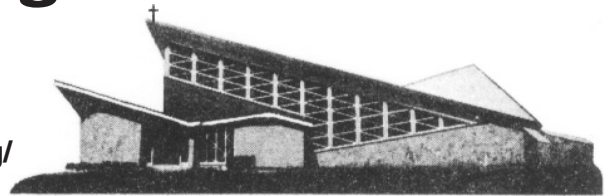
# St. John the Evangelist Church

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>

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven. The First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, presents the account of the Ascension of Jesus. For 40 days, Jesus has been giving proof to the apostles that He has risen from the dead. He is leaving them to go to Heaven, but He promises that the Holy Spirit will be with them to accompany them in their mission. By ascending into Heaven, Jesus does not separate Himself from them, but He accompanies the disciples in their preaching and sustains them wherever they go. The fact that Jesus ascends to the Lord does not imply a separation from us, but rather Jesus has the power to help us even more since He is with us spiritually and has greater incidence in our lives. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, encourages to live our daily lives focusing on heavenly realities. Christ has ascended into Heaven so that we can experience hope and consolation in our lives. In front of struggles and hardships, it is normal that we worry and feel anxious. The Lord encourages us to look up to be aware that the Lord calls us to a heavenly life. It means that when we are facing hardships, instead of feeling down, the Lord helps us to go through them at peace. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, offers us the final discourse of Jesus on the Mount of Beatitudes. Through His Ascension and Resurrection, Christ has received the power over sin and death. He ascends to the Father to make manifest that He has conquered death and that He opens for us the way to the Father. He does not leave us forever, but He remains with us every day of our lives. It is essential to consider that Christ intervenes constantly in our daily lives and that He can do great marvels for us. Whatever we do or carry out does not depend only in our efforts, but the Lord accompanies us and gives us the graces that we do more than we can even imagine. Let us lift our hearts to the Lord so that we can realize that the Lord calls us to life a heavenly reality in our daily lives!

**Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor**

### **Pope Benedict XVI' Angelus (May 12, 2012)**

Forty days after the Resurrection — according to the Book of the Acts of the Apostles — Jesus ascended into Heaven, that is he returned to the Father, by whom he had been sent into the world. In many countries this mystery is celebrated not on Thursday but today, the following Sunday. The Ascension of the Lord marks the fulfillment of salvation that started with the Incarnation. After he had instructed his disciples for the last time, Jesus was taken up into Heaven (cf. Mk 16:19). He, however, “was not separated from our condition” (cf. Preface); indeed, in his humanity, he took man with him into the intimacy of the Father and thus revealed the final destination of our earthly pilgrimage. As he descended from Heaven for us, and for us suffered and died on the Cross, so for us he rose and ascended to God, who, therefore, is no longer far away.

St Leo the Great explains that with this mystery “not only is the immortality of the soul proclaimed, but also that of the body. Today in fact, not only are we confirmed as possessors of paradise, but in Christ have also penetrated the heights of Heaven” (De Ascensione Domini, Tractatus 73, 2.4: CCL 138 A, 451.453). This is why the disciples, when they saw the Master rise from the ground and ascend upwards, they were not disheartened, as one might expect, instead, they were overcome with joy and felt compelled to proclaim Christ’s victory over death (cf. Mk 16:20). And the Risen Lord worked in each of them, bestowing on each his own charism. St Paul writes further: “He gave gifts to men ... and his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers ... for building up of the body of Christ ... to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph 4:8, 11-13).

Dear friends, the Ascension tells us that in Christ our humanity is brought to the heights of God; thus, every time we pray, earth is united to Heaven. And like incense, burning, its scent is carried on high, hence, when we raise our prayer to the Lord with confidence in Christ, it travels across Heaven and reaches God himself and is heard and answered by Him. In the well-known work by St John of the Cross, The Ascent of Mount Carmel, we read that “in order to obtain the fulfilment of the petitions which we have in our hearts, there is no better way than to direct the energy of our prayer to the thing that most pleases God. For then not only will He give that which we ask of Him, which is salvation, but also that which He sees to be fitting and good for us, although we pray not for it” (Book III, ch. 44, n. 2).

Finally let us beseech the Virgin Mary, that she may help us to contemplate the heavenly goods, which the Lord promises us, and to become ever more credible witnesses of his Resurrection, of true Life.



**Happy Victoria Day! The Parish Office is closed on Monday May 18<sup>th</sup>. The mass is at 9am.**

### **Durham Regional Police Service Presentation**

With on-line scams, frauds and identity theft a growing concern, the parish is hosting a presentation by the Durham Regional Police Service. Topics will include: On-line safety (including advice for parents of young children), identity theft, community safety, elder abuse and intimate partner violence. Please join us and stay informed.

Date: Monday, June 8  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Place: Parish Centre

MAY 17, 2026

### Pope's Pastoral Works

The Papal Charities allow the Pope to contribute to various charitable causes around the world, particularly toward aiding the victims of war, famine and natural disasters.

A second collection will be taken up after Holy Communion this weekend. Thank you for your support.

### Choir Concert Thank you!!!

Dear fellow parishioners, we want to extend our appreciation for your support of the Concert that featured "La Jeunesse Orchestra" that took place in our church on April 11.

The musicians were very appreciative of the warm welcome and applause, as well as the great sound in our building. The funds will help us to support needs of the Music Ministry so that we can continue enhancing our liturgies, providing a prayerful sound for the glory of Our Lord.



### 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!

### 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

### 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 27, June 10, 24

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



### 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!



### Masses For The Week

Sat May 16- 5:00pm

+Deceased Members of the Rodricks & Andrade Families  
*req. by Their Family*

Mon May 18 - 9:00am VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY

+ Margaret Moore  
*req. by The Deehan Family*

Tues May 19 - 8:20am

+Agnes Green  
*req. by The Green Family*

Wed May 20 - 7pm

+Tom Gaboury  
*req. by Geraldine & Family*  
+Jacqueline Steinwall  
*req. by Her Family*  
+Anke Taylor  
*req. by Mary Louise LaBarre & Ken Reilly & Family*

Int. for Terence D'Cruze

*req. by His Family*

+Deceased Members of the McKenna & Campbell Families  
*req. by Karen & Will Burke & Family*  
+Antoinette Nagalingam  
*req. by Pavalam Ratnasingham*  
+Ranee Simon  
*req. by Pavalam Ratnasingham*

Thur May 21 - 8:20am

+Michael DeFreitas  
*req. by Taryn DeFreitas*

Fri. May 23- 8:20am

+Andrew Marioselva  
*req. by Christine Marioselva*

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