

St. John the Evangelist Church

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, ON L1N 2S3

Rectory Office: Ph: 905-668-3676

email: stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org

website: www.stjohntheevangelistwh.archtoronto.org/

Pastoral Team

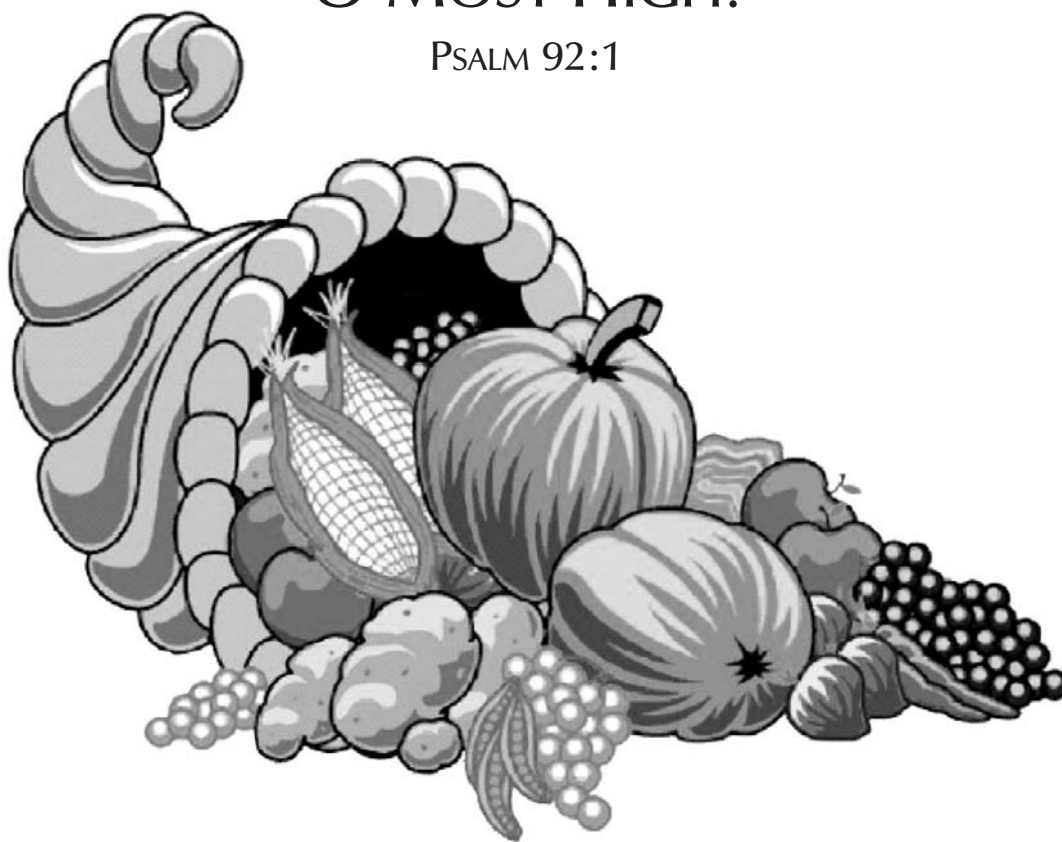
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Mrs. Kristine Blyth	Lay Pastoral Asst.
Mrs. Vicki Morgan	Secretary
Mr. Kyle Abrahamse	Youth Ministry
Eileen McGowan	Music Director

Support Staff

Mr. Francisco Perez	Caretaker
Mrs. Sue McGee	Bookkeeper
Mrs. Gail Stewart	Cook/Housekeeper

IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD,
TO SING PRAISES TO YOUR NAME,
O MOST HIGH!

PSALM 92:1



A Happy Thanksgiving
to you all!

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The First Reading, from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, presents a beautiful passage in which the Lord invites to a wonderful banquet all peoples. He calls us to experience an enduring happiness and a life of fulfillment and peace. If we accept this call to life, we realize that we will find consolation and support in any situation. Only in the Lord we can find the fulfillment of our deepest desires. The only thing that we need to do is to accept this offer that we do not deserve. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, offers us the last part of his letter. The Apostle has welcomed this invitation to new life from the Lord and consequently he is able to enter in any struggle of his life very much at peace. All this is possible because God sustains St. Paul and enables him to remain at peace facing any situation of hardship. The promise is given to us as well; how much we would like to remain at peace all times, but we all grumble and doubt in difficult situations. However, God's grace can make it possible for us to remain calm in any kind of struggles. The Gospel, from St. Matthew, brings us the parable of the wedding guests who are invited to a magnificent banquet. This passage tells us that God has called us to share in the banquet which He has prepared. This banquet is an image of the Kingdom of Heaven and Eternal Life to which we are called. It is what really can satisfy and fulfill the deepest desires of our hearts. We have been called out of the sheer gratuitous gift from God that is not a reward from anything that we have done. The Lord encourages us to answer to this call and participate in this banquet by wearing a white dress. This dress represents the transformation that God's grace carries out in our hearts and enables us to love others unconditionally if we open our hearts. Let us answer promptly to this loving invitation from the Lord and experience fullness of life and peace!

Happy Thanksgiving to you and all your families!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Benedict XVI's Homily on the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (October 9, 2011)

This Sunday's liturgy presents a parable to us that speaks of a wedding banquet to which many were invited. The First Reading, from the Book of Isaiah, prepares the ground for this theme, for it speaks about the banquet of God. It is an image — the banquet — often used in the Scriptures to indicate the joy in communion and in the abundance of the Lord's gifts, and it gives some idea of the celebration of God with humanity as Isaiah describes: "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine... well refined" (Is 25:6). The Prophet adds that God's intention is to put an end to sadness and shame; he wants all people to live happily in love of him and in mutual communion.

Therefore his plan is to eliminate death forever, to wipe away the tears from all faces, to take away once and for all the dishonourable condition of his people, as we heard (vv. 7-8). All this awakens deep gratitude and hope: "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (v. 9).

In the Gospel Jesus speaks to us of the answer that is given to the invitation of God — represented by a king — to take part in this

marriage feast (cf. Mt 22:1-14). Many guests were invited but something unexpected happens: they refuse to take part in the celebration, they have other things to do; indeed, some of them show contempt for the invitation. God is generous to us, he offers us his friendship, his gifts, his joy, but often we do not welcome his words, we show greater interest in other things and put our own material concerns, our own interests, first. The king's invitation even meets with hostile and aggressive reactions. Yet this does not impede his generosity. He is not discouraged and sends his servants out to invite many other people. The refusal of those invited first causes the invitation to be extended to everyone, even the poorest, the abandoned and disinherited. The servants gather together those they find and the wedding hall is filled: the king's goodness knows no bounds and all are given the possibility of answering his call. However, there was one condition in order to attend this wedding feast: that the wedding garment be worn. And, on entering the hall, the king notices that someone has not wished to wear it and for this reason bars him from the banquet.

I would like to reflect for a moment on this point with a question: why did this man accept the king's invitation, enter the banquet hall, find the door opened to him but not put on the wedding garment? What is this wedding garment? At the Mass of the Lord's Supper, in Coena Domini, this year I mentioned a beautiful commentary on this parable by St Gregory the Great. He explains that the guest had accepted God's invitation to take part in his banquet, that in a certain way he had faith which opened the door of the banquet hall to him, but he lacked something essential: the wedding garment, which is charity or love. And St Gregory adds: "Therefore each one of you in the Church who has faith in God has already taken part in the wedding feast, but cannot claim to wear the wedding garment unless he jealously guards the grace of love" (Homily 38, 9; PL 76, 1287). And this garment is woven symbolically on two looms of wood, one above and one below: love of God and love of neighbour (cf. *ibid.*, 10; PL 76, 1288). We are all invited to be the Lord's guests, to enter his banquet with faith, but we must put on and take care of the wedding garment: charity, to live in the profound love of God and neighbour.

Annual Pewcount is October 17/18, 24/25, 2026
There will be assigned members of the parish counting the number of parishioners attending at all masses over the next two weekends. Please excuse the slight disruption that may occur. Thank you kindly.

Bible Study
Mondays beginning Oct 19th 7pm to 8:30pm
Study Guide \$30
Genesis: From Creation to Covenant
The Beginning of God's Story—and Yours
Genesis: From Creation to Covenant is an eight-session study exploring how the first book of the Bible lays the foundation for the entire story of salvation.

Canada Needs Our Lady Rosary
Saturday, October 10, 2026
12:00 – 1:00pm
Gather in the Church parking lot and proceed to Cochrane & Dundas Sts
Bring your Rosary!

Grade 7 Confirmation

REGISTRATION and INFORMATION NIGHT in the Church (one parent & candidate to attend)

Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00 pm

(please bring completed registration form, a \$60 fee for program expenses and a **photocopy** of your child's Baptism Certificate)



Masses For The Week

Sat Oct 10 – 5:00pm

+Betty Patrick

req. by Staff of St. John the Evangelist

Mon Oct 12 – 8:20am

+Betty Browne

req. by Theresa & Tom Simmons

Int. for Pat Milburn

req. by Pat Cattherall

Tues Oct 13 - 8:20am

+Humberto Schenflede

req. by His Wife & Family

Wed Oct 14 – 7pm

+Megan Edwards Dunn

req. by The Taccogna Family

+Josephine Taylor

req. by Deidre Newman & Family

+Brandon Moore

req. by Sarah Jane Smith & Marquos Boston

+ Mary Fitzpatrick

req. by Maire Fitzpatrick & Family

Thur Oct 15 – 8:20am

+Alice Hozjan

req. by Her Family

Fri. Oct 16 – 8:20am

+Lucie Azzuolo

req. by St. Vincent de Paul Members

Sat Oct 17 – 5:00pm

+Giacomo Bellotto

req. by Elisa Bellotto & Family

San Juan Diego Spanish Mission DINNER & DANCE GALA WITH A LATIN FLARE

Saturday, November 7, 2026

6pm to 1am – dinner at 7pm

Raffle Prizes, 50-50 Cash Only!

Tosca Banquet Hall, 800 Champlain Ave, Oshawa
Tickets: \$120/pp can be purchased at the parish office from Vicki ; Social Committee Members: Nancy Mendez (289-830-7925) or Betty Santiago. An evening of fun & laughter with friends and family.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. John the Evangelist Conference

BUNDLE WEEKEND October 24/25, 2026

A truck will be parked in St. John Parish parking lot over the weekend Oct 24th/25th accepting gently used/new clothing, coats, linens, towels, bedding, textiles, drapery, shoes/boots.

We CANNOT accept furniture, appliances, mattresses, used baby equipment, books, dishes, construction material or video tapes.

Please bring your items to the truck after mass Saturday at 5pm, Sunday 9am or 11am or 2:00 pm in Spanish. Assistance provided

Aid to Women Bottle Drive

Help Mums and their Babies Choose Life!

The pro-life organization Aid to Women has been operating in the GTA for over 40 years counselling abortion-minded women to choose life their themselves and their babies. They encourage those women by pledging to support them and their babies the first two years of their child's life with everything from diapers, clothing, car seats, strollers, food and much more. Aid to Women will be conducting a Baby bottle for Life fundraising campaign at St. John the Evangelist at all the weekend Masses this weekend Oct 10/11. They will hand out empty baby bottles and asking you to take them home and fill them with coins, bills and cheques and return the filled bottles at any of the masses on any weekend no later than November 14/15th.



EDGE Grades 5-8 meet on the
2nd and 4th Thursday of the month
7-8:30 pm, St. Joseph's Room



Grade 9-12 meet on
1st and 3rd Thursday of the month
St. Joseph's Room

Please contact Kyle Abrahamse for more information!



On Thanksgiving Monday, the office is closed. Mass is at 9am. The church will close after Mass.

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