

SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAMS	
2013 – 2014	
FIRST EUCHARIST “Invited to the Feast” (Grade 2)	CONFIRMATION “Anointed for Mission” (Grade 8)
Parents' Meeting Saturday, January 25 10:00 – 11:30 am (A-L) 1:00 – 2:30 pm (M-Z) in the Parish Centre (parents only)	Sessions I – IV Feb 1 & 8, Feb 22 & Mar 1 in the Parish Centre 9:00 am – 10:30 am or 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (as scheduled)



From the Pastor’s Desk

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors:

The Season of Advent is an important time of spiritual preparation as we anticipate both the celebration of our Saviour’s birthday and his glorious Second Coming at the end of the world. The familiar slogan from the Knights of Columbus, “Keep Christ in Christmas,” cautions us against becoming caught up in the consumerism which is at the core of our secular society’s preparation for Christmas. Advent invites us instead to pause amid the busyness of the holiday season to reflect on the mystery of Christ’s Incarnation, and to give thanks for all that God has given us by sending his Son into the world on a mission of love and reconciliation.

In order for Christmas to retain the significance it deserves, we should avoid two temptations: celebrating Christmas long before it actually arrives; and limiting Christmas to just one day. Before Christmas, the tone of the Advent liturgies reminds us that we are in a state of WAITING for the Lord. We would also do well to remember that the Church celebrates Christmas over an octave, or for a period of eight days, and that the Christmas season continues until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The end of the Christmas season, however, should not bring to an end our desire for reconciliation, nor should it stifle our efforts to reach out to all who are in need. The themes of peace, love and joy should resonate in our lives every day. Prompted by the living witness of Pope Francis during the Year of Faith, the community of St. John the

Evangelist initiated a project aimed at promoting acts of kindness within and beyond our parish boundaries. We know we can encounter Christ, and create an opportunity for others to meet the Lord, in simple acts of kindness carried out with great love. Such acts of kindness must continue.

For at least one person in the world, you or I might be the only bible they will ever read, the only Church they will ever enter, the only Christ they will ever know. May the light of faith continue to guide us to imitate Christ in all things during the Christmas season and throughout 2014.

Merry Christmas to all!
Fr. Damian Ali, Pastor



4th Week – Look to the Lord

Leader: The Lord is our faith and our life.
 All: May the Lord’s peace be with us all.
 Leader: And may his love shine in our hearts.
 All: Our hope is in the coming of the Lord.
 All four candles are lit. During the week, relight whenever the family gathers together.
 Leader: Let us pray that our faith may be strengthened for the coming of the Lord.
 All: Amen

Suggested Scripture Readings:

Sunday “And it came to pass.....”
 “Luke 2:1-7
 Monday: Shepherds see and share the Light

Luke 2:15-20
 Tuesday: Simeon Proclaims the Light
 Luke 2:25-32
 Wednesday: Born of Woman, to Redeem
 Matthew 1:18-25
 Thursday: The Light Shines in the Darkness
 John 1:1-13
 Friday: We Beheld His Glory
 John 1:14-18
 Saturday: The Light Has Shone in our Hearts
 2 Corinthians 4:1-6



Masses For The Week

Sat. Dec 21 – 5:00pm
+Mr. & Mrs. Rosetta & Raffaele La Torre
req. by Mr. & Mrs. A. Morra
 Tues. Dec 24 – 5pm, 8pm, 11pm
No Intentions
 Wed. Dec 25 – 9am, 11am
No Intentions
 Thur. Dec 26 – 9:00am
+Deceased Members of the Yearwood Family
req. by Mary Yearwood
 Fri. Dec 27 – 9:00am
+Eardley & Wynes Riggs-Long
req. by Denise Roga & Family
 Sat. Dec 28 - 5:00pm
+Pearl Ruttan-Morillo
req. by Her Family

LAST CHANCE FOR A TAX RECEIPT:
 THE FOLLOWING ENVELOPE NUMBERS HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED AND THEREFORE WILL NOT RECEIVE A TAX RECEIPT:
 636 – 653 – 755 – 782 – 783 – 787
 IF THIS # BELONGS TO YOU, PLEASE CONTACT VICKI ASAP. (905) 668-3676.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND
Special envelopes are available at the back of the Church for donations to offset the cost of decorating at Christmas. We appreciate your support and assistance at this time of year!



St. John the Evangelist Choir will sing Christmas Carols beginning at 10:30pm on Christmas Eve prior to the 11:00pm Mass.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Tues. Dec. 24	Vigil of Christmas 5:00 pm 8:00 pm 11:00 pm
Wed. Dec. 25	Nativity of the Lord 9:00 am 11:00 am
Thurs. Dec. 26	Feast of St. Stephen, first Martyr 9:00 am
Fri. Dec. 27	Feast of St. John (Patron Saint) 9:00am, followed by Refreshments
Tues. Dec 31	*8:20am (*does not replace obligation) 7 th Day Octave of Christmas 5:00pm
Wed. Jan. 1	Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God 9:00 am 11:00 am



Please note the Parish Office is closed at noon Tuesday, December 24th and will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd 9am.

Looking into January 2014

Wed Jan 1 Mass at 9am & 11am
Thur Jan 2 Office open 9am to 8pm
Fri Jan 3 (First Friday)
Mass at 8:20am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction
Sun Jan 5 Social Sunday after 9am & 11am Masses
Feed the Hungry will return in February
Mon Jan 6 7:30pm SVDP Meeting, PC main
Wed Jan 8 - 6pm PHCP Gr 1-8, PC all
7:30pm Pastoral Council Mtg, PC main
Fri Jan 10 -10am Mass at Fairview Lodge

Special Mass and Celebration Feast of St. John the Evangelist

Please join us on Friday December 27th for Mass at 9am celebrating the Feast of our Patron, St. John the Evangelist. Refreshments will follow in the parish centre.



Kindness Project Candle

The white candle dedicated to the Kindness Project is located at the statue of St. John the Evangelist, and has a special dedication plaque. Its intention is to be lit perpetually as a reminder of our initiative to kindness in our community. Please help us by lighting it with your prayers, and donation of \$5. Thank you.

2014 St. John Calendars & Offertory Envelopes

2014 Offertory envelopes and calendars are available this weekend until December 22nd. Due to limited space over the Christmas & New Year weekends they are only available at the parish office.

The calendars are provided with compliments of W.C. Town Funeral Chapel.

VERY IMPORTANT!

Please provide your name and address on at least the first 2 donations you make.

BEGINNING IN 2014, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT YOU DISCARD THE 2013 ENVELOPES AND BEGIN USING THE NEW ENVELOPES. PLEASE DO NOT USE OLD YEAR ENVELOPES IN THE NEW YEAR.

First Friday

St. John the Evangelist celebrates "First Friday" each month with Mass at 8:20am followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour and Benediction. Please join us on Friday January 3rd 2014.



BLAST AWAY THE JANUARY BLAHS!

Members of St John the Evangelist Council 4895 invite you to our **ITALIAN DINNER & DANCE**

Saturday, January 18, 2014

Knights of Columbus Hall
133 Brock St N Whitby ON

Cocktails: 6:00pm
-Dinner: 7:00pm
Dancing to follow
Cash Bar

Tickets - \$25 per person
(Reserved tables for groups of 8)
Proceeds to St. John's Renovation Fund!



The most important gift of Christmas did not arrive by Reindeer

Keep Christ in Christmas



Knights of Columbus