

**SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAMS**

2016

<b>FIRST EUCHARIST</b> "Invited to the Feast" (Grade 2)	<b>CONFIRMATION</b> "Anointed for Mission" (Grade 7)
<b>PARENTS' MEETING in the Church (parents only)</b> Saturday, January 16, 2016, 10:00 – 11:30 am	<b>REGISTRATION at the Church (parents &amp; children)</b> Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 pm (please bring a \$35 fee for program expenses and a <b>photocopy</b> of your child's Baptism Certificate)
<b>It is mandatory that all children who do not attend Catholic school participate in the Parish Home Catechism Program for <u>TWO</u> years prior to receiving each sacrament.</b>	

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

The past year certainly had its share of blessings and challenges. The long-awaited new heating and air conditioning system was completed, and an electrically powered door for the physically challenged was installed at the east entrance of the church facing the rectory garages.

In the spring of 2015, St. John the Evangelist Parish joined Wave 3 of the Archdiocese of Toronto Family of Faith Campaign. Due to the strong leadership of our Campaign Director, Matt Wood, the hard work of the Campaign Secretary, Margaret Lance (who continually went well above and beyond the call of duty), the dedication of the Parish Committee, and the generosity of the community, we achieved 160% of our parish goal. Even with this new financial commitment,

St. John's Parish still managed to exceed our ShareLife goal once again. I am truly overwhelmed by the generosity of this community. We are now looking toward the sponsorship and resettlement of a refugee family in 2016.

Our parish continues to run smoothly largely because of the efforts of our tremendous staff: Vicki Morgan (Parish Secretary), Susan Douglas (Lay Pastoral Assistant), Troy Sabat (Parish Caretaker), Gail Stewart (Rectory Cook & Housekeeper), Cathy Dykeman (Parish Home Catechism Coordinator) and Sue McGee (Parish Book Keeper). Colleen Roga and Adam Hamilton also joined the parish team this year as part-time evening receptionists. I really could not manage without them. I am also grateful to Deacon Anthony Stone for his pastoral presence and valued ministry, and to Fr. John Yake, Fr. Gilles Mongeau, Fr. John Boos, the Manresa Jesuits and other

visiting clergy who provide their own unique perspective on the Word of God.

The parish simply could not function without all those who serve in our various parish ministries: members of the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, musicians, cantors, choir members, the liturgical décor team, those who take Communion to private homes and nursing homes, those who assist with funeral receptions, the catechists and everyone else involved in sacramental preparation for children and adults and the "gardening angels." A very special word of thanks is extended to Deidre Newman and her team for a hugely successful St. Michael's Choir School Christmas concert at the end of November.

Words of gratitude go out to the Knights of Columbus for their charitable projects, honour guards and financial assistance. Thanks to the Catholic Women's League for inviting speakers to address current issues. Thanks to Feed the Hungry for their quiet but steady outreach and to Development & Peace for their promotion of climate change awareness. I also acknowledge the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society who continually take the time to support needy families in our community and provide extra support at Christmas.

A sincere expression of gratitude goes out to all who have contributed their time and talent in any way to support the needs of the parish over the past year. Thanks also to all who have been so kind and generous with your gifts and hospitality to me over the holidays. May God bless you abundantly during the Christmas Season and throughout the New Year! **Fr. Damian**

**Octave of Christmas Mass Schedule**

Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph	
Sat Dec 26	5 pm,
Sun Dec 27	9 am 11 am
Thu. Dec 31	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Octave of Christmas 5:00 pm
i. Jan. 1	Solemnity, Mary, Holy Mother of God 9:00 am 11:00 am <b>Incense</b>

*2016 Offertory Envelopes are available for pickup. Please drop by the parish office during business hours.*

**Parish Office Hours during the Christmas Season**

*The Parish office will be closed Dec 28<sup>th</sup> to Jan 1, 2016. The office will reopen at 9am January 4, 2016*

**Toronto Airport Chaplaincy Christmas Mass Schedule**

Traveling over the holidays? Here is the schedule of Masses at Toronto's Airport Chaplaincy:

**December 31, 2015: New Year's Eve**

4 p.m. – Terminal 3

5:30 p.m. – Terminal 1

**January 1, 2016: New Year's Day**

1 p.m. – Terminal 1

4 p.m. – Terminal 3



### Masses For The Week

Sat. Dec 26 – 9am

+ **Nada & Andy Batinic**  
req. by *Kaya Batinic*

Sat. Dec 26 - 5:00pm

+**Richard Dallimore**  
req. by *The Dallimore Family*

Tues. Dec 29 – 8:20am

#### Special Intention

req. by *Mary Yearwood*

Wed. Dec. 30 - 7:00pm

+**Eardley & Wynes Riggs-Long**  
req. by *Denise Roga & Family*



Thur. Dec 31 – 5pm

**NO INTENTION**

HOLY HOUR 6:30PM – 8PM

Fri. Jan 1 – 9am & 11am

**NO INTENTIONS**

Sat. Jan 2 – 5pm

+**Sam Saturno**  
req. by *The Cannella Family*

### St. John the Evangelist Communication Survey

As part of a restructuring of Pastoral Council, a communications portfolio has been created to assist the Council in the goal of serving parishioners with their spiritual journey. As part of this transition, the Council is conducting a survey to understand the way our Parish communicates with the community and how our parishioners obtain information regarding our Catholic faith.

This confidential survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. Please visit [www.sjewhitby.ca](http://www.sjewhitby.ca) to complete the survey online. While the Council prefers digital responses for expedited data review, those parishioners that require a paper version, copies are available at the back of the Church.

Please complete the survey no later than January 10, 2016.

Thank you for assisting Pastoral Council with this important initiative.

Should you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Michael Cvitkovic, Communications, Pastoral Council at [mtscvitkovic@gmail.com](mailto:mtscvitkovic@gmail.com) or 647-965-3499.

### TAUNTON MILLS SUNDAY COMMUNION MINISTRY

We are in need of more ministry members to take communion to Taunton Mills Long Term Care on a

rotating basis after the Sunday 9am Mass. A detailed description of the ministry is available by calling the parish office. Please consider this important ministry during this Holy Year of Mercy.



### 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!



**Thank You  
For Supporting the  
Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> Santa Claus  
Parade  
Pancake Breakfast  
& Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> Council  
4895 Membership  
Drive**

**For those wishing to respond  
directly or return their prospect  
cards please contact Don  
Huppe at 905-655-9140 or  
[djhuppe@gmail.com](mailto:djhuppe@gmail.com)**

### St. John the Evangelist Parish Refugee Sponsorship Initiative

The next Refugee Sponsorship Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., in the St. Albert Room (above the Sacristy). The goal of this meeting is to complete the formation of our Parish Committee lead team. We need to have this committee in place before we can be assigned a refugee family from the Office of Refugees at the Archdiocese of Toronto. Some of the key roles to be filled by committee members and other parishioners include providing assistance to the refugee family in the following areas: budgeting, housing, employment/volunteering, government documentation, ESL, introduction to Canadian culture, and medical services.

If you are interested in being part of the Parish Refugee Sponsorship

Committee, please contact the parish office if you have not already done so.

### CALLING ALL WOMEN...

Become part of a global women's Catholic lay organization which holds membership in the World Union of Catholic Organizations. Join the Catholic Women's League of Canada. Through your efforts, prayerful service and the sharing of your unique personal God-given talents you can be blessed with grace-filled moments while, becoming an agent of change. The Catholic Women's League of St. John the Evangelist will be holding their membership drive on the weekend of January 23/24. Please become a member or renew your membership to The Catholic Women's League of Canada

### St. John the Evangelist Prayer Group

**Wednesdays @1pm, Parish Centre  
We resume meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>.**  
Jan 6, Faithfulness by Fr. Meeks  
Jan 13, 20 God's Will for You by Rosalind Moss  
Jan 27, Feb 3 The Potter Day of Discovery Video  
Feb 10 Ash Wed Examination of Conscience by *Sr. Ann Shields*

### Kindergarten Registration DCDSB

We welcome families to register their children turning 4 years old as of December 31, 2015 to register. Step 1. Visit [dcdsb.ca](http://dcdsb.ca) from January 11 to 15, 2016 to enrol your child through our online registration process. For registration questions, email [admissions@dcdsb.ca](mailto:admissions@dcdsb.ca) Step 2. Call your local Catholic school and make an appointment to complete your registration during the week of January 18 to 22, 2016.

Do you have before and after school child care arrangements for September 2016? We offer child care services. Call (905) 576-6150 x 2172.

### Durham Catholic District SB Winter/Spring Course Guide

Copies of the Durham Catholic School Board Continuing Education Winter 2015-16 Course Guides are available in the foyer for pickup. Classes begin January 5, 2016.