

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

March 29, 2020  
Fifth Sunday in Lent



## WELCOME

Whether you're a registered parishioner or first-time visitor, we hope you feel welcome. There are many ways to get involved. If you have any questions, please let one of our staff members know or call the parish office 253-630-0701

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Community of St. John the Baptist: Where stewardship is a way of life and the diversity of our gifts is used to answer Christ's call to proclaim and live the Gospel.

**Gather** in God's Name, **Grow** in God's Time, **Go** in God's Spirit



## SCHEDULE OF LITURGIES

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE-253-630-0701 AND SOMEONE WILL CONTACT YOU.

## PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Jim Coyne, Pastor ext. 105** [jimc@sjtbcc.org](mailto:jimc@sjtbcc.org)

**Pastoral Asst. for Liturgy & Pastoral Care**  
Laurie Moloney, ext 111 [lauriem@sjtbcc.org](mailto:lauriem@sjtbcc.org)

**Pastoral Asst. for Administration**  
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**Pastoral Asst. for Stewardship & Evangelization**  
Anne Frederick, ext. 112 [annef@sjtbcc.org](mailto:annef@sjtbcc.org)

**Pastoral Asst. for Faith Formation, RCIA & Sacramental Prep**  
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**Pastoral Asst. for Social Outreach and Advocacy**  
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**Music Ministry Coordinator**  
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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Church/Office:  
25810 156th Ave SE, Covington, WA 98042

Phone: 253-630-0701

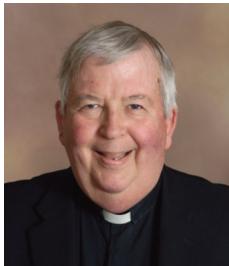
E-Mail: [office@sjtbcc.org](mailto:office@sjtbcc.org) Website: [www.sjtbcc.org](http://www.sjtbcc.org)

**Regular Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday 9 am - 4:30pm Saturday, 10 am - 3 pm

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

## FROM YOUR PASTOR



I've been going a bit stir crazy for the past couple of weeks. Many of you may feel the same. Our gospel reading this weekend focuses on Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. To Martha and Mary, Jesus personifies the resurrection and the life. In calling forth Lazarus from the tomb he

offers new life. During this time of bearing with effects of the spread of the coronavirus may we know deep down that Jesus is call us out of the tomb of fear of the unknown. He will see us and our loved ones through the days and weeks ahead. May his blessing be on us all.

*Fr. Jim*

Until we can gather here at St. John's for Mass, Fr. Jim will continue to televise the Mass on the weekend. You can view this on our church website. [www.sjtbcc.org](http://www.sjtbcc.org) or via our Facebook page. Our page is public, so you do not need an account to view it. It also has the most up to date information and resources!



There will be  
NO Palm Distribution on  
Palm Sunday  
April 5, 2020

STAY HOME  
STAY SAFE  
STAY HEALTHY  
WASH YOUR HANDS  
REMEMBER, WE ARE  
HERE FOR YOU!!

## STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to everyone who sent in their pledges by mail or by dropping them by the office. As of March 25, 2020 the Church and the Parish Office will be closed. We appreciate your stewardship contributions and ask that you mail in your envelopes. Because of your faithfulness and generosity, we will survive this.

I erred when I offered St. Vincent de Paul's services in my last letter. It turns out that the parish assistance fund will be run through the office – please call us with your needs and we will be sure to get back to you. It is non-parishioners whose calls go through the main St. Vincent de Paul number. My apologies for the confusion.

Speaking of phone calls, even when the office is closed and even if we are required to close by order of the governor (as of March 25), we are able to access our voice mail and our email from home. We are primarily working from home these days, but we want to stay in touch with you. We appreciate your messages of support!

*In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)*

Kathy Wickward  
Pastoral Assistance for Administration



Fr. Jim and our parish staff are praying for our community during this challenging coronavirus Pandemic. While our parish building is closed, we would like to know if anyone is needing spiritual or other assistance. For example, we have some volunteers who are willing to pickup and deliver groceries. Please do let us know how we might offer support for one another.

We are calling our older parishioners to check in with them during this time. If you would like us to pray with you or to find out how we might help you, please contact the parish office 253-630-0701 or email Anne Frederick at [annef@sjtbcc.org](mailto:annef@sjtbcc.org)

May God's grace help us find peace, hope and the blessings of being faith-filled as we journey this pandemic.

Anne



## Loving the Body of Christ

I miss our community and our Masses here at St. John the Baptist, especially our sharing of the Eucharist, our very long signs of peace, holding hands at the Our Father, and our friendliness to each other with handshakes and hugs.

When the COVID-19 coronavirus arrived in our area, we had to change how we interact with each other to prevent the spread of the disease. Now we are isolated from each other, participating in the Mass online or on TV.

And yet I still feel connected to you all through the celebration of the Mass. The Mass is what unites us in a radical way even when we must be physically apart from each other.

The Church as the Body of Christ and the Eucharistic Body of Christ are inseparably linked. It is in the reading of the Word and the breaking of the bread that we are brought together into one body, even if we are not physically together.

Christ is present to us in the Word whether we hear it proclaimed at Mass or we read scripture at home. As John says in his Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (Jn 1:1). Each time we hear God's Word, Christ is there for us and feeding us from the table of his Word (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, no. 51).

The celebration of the Eucharist not only unites us to God as individuals who are isolated from one another, we are also united to Christ along with all the other members of the Body of Christ. We trust that the Holy Spirit unites us when we participate in the Mass online during this time of our being apart from each other physically. This is because we are still part of the mystical Body of Christ that is the Church.

We hope to continue bringing you the Mass said by Fr. Jim on our website ([www.sjtbcc.org](http://www.sjtbcc.org)) and on Facebook. Gather your family or roommates and participate in it as if you were at the church. Read the scriptures throughout the week. Many Catholic organizations are offering their publications free online during this crisis, such as *Give us This Day*, *Magnificat* and *The Word Among Us*. And call each other, especially those who live alone. We are still the community of St. John the Baptist. Let's take care of each other in this unprecedented time by staying away from each other. This is how we Live our Legacy of Love to protect and care for each other.

*Laurie Moloney, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy and Pastoral Care*

## GUATEMALAN CORNER



I was pleased and honored to join seven other parishioners in our latest mission trip to Union del las Aldeas Corpus Christi. This visit was an enlightening adventure into the life of a church community much different financially but similar in Catholic values to St. John's.

A few examples observed are as follows: God's presence was with us when we attended mass on Sunday. The service began at 11:00 AM at a church in San Sebastian with Fr. Lorenzo presiding. We were worshiping in solidarity because of the 2 hour time difference, the 9:00 AM mass at St John's was taking place at the exact same time we were with our companion parish. The parishioners truly demonstrated the biblical art of hospitality. We were treated like royalty with handshakes and hugs from over 50 of the attending parishioners. Even though we were strangers in their church we felt like long lost relatives.

During our family visits we found that many of the villagers had improved cinderblock homes. We also saw first hand the poverty and struggles faced when that was not the case. One home consisted of a 10 ft by 20 ft tin roofed adobe shack with no heat and a dirt floor crowded with 10 beds. Their kitchen or cooking area was in a separate structure, equipped with one electric light bulb hanging from the ceiling and an open ended wood burning stove similar to those supplied by St John's during an earlier visit. Unfortunately the exhaust pipe was undersized so the room had a smokey atmosphere and it was difficult to breath. There was no running water in the kitchen but non potable water was located just outside of the door where a wash basin was used for washing hands and clothes.

Despite their poverty, the presence of the Holy Spirit was evident. One little 7 year old girl giggled as she said we talked funny. She so enjoyed and couldn't get enough of being swung from the arms of Jim and Mike. There are so many children like this little girl who are unable to travel to distant schools and receive even a basic education.

As I pull into the St. John's parking lot I can see the children laughing and running at the Covington elementary school across the street. It would be wonderful if the children in the high country villages of Guatemala had the same future fortunes.

Submitted by Angelo Battisti

## Coronavirus Prayer

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

*By Kerry Weber, executive editor at America Magazine*



## Hope sprouts in the Garden of the Good Shepherd

### La esperanza brota en el jardín del buen pastor

On March 23rd I spotted some sugar snap peas, planted March 5th, peaking out through the soil. The tiny display of folded green leaves as if in prayer, gave me comfort and reminded me of the continual need for patience...The harvest may not be until June depending on unknown environmental conditions. During these challenging times dealing with the coronavirus may you too find comfort in the hope of God's creation.  
Que el Señor nos bendiga y nos guarde  
May the Lord bless us and keep us  
Margie Battisti



Opportunity to Dream. Young people must be provided good nutrition to be able to pursue their dreams. Did you have the opportunity to dream? What can you do to give young people the opportunity to dream? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more.

CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities. It offers simple, yet powerful, ways for every one of our parishes, most of our schools, and families throughout western Washington to bring Lenten spirituality to life.

Every Lent, Catholics here and throughout the U. S. do something amazingly holy and just. Our prayers, fasting and almsgiving become lifesaving aid for millions of individuals living in conditions of poverty around the world. The hungry are fed; the thirsty are given drink; immigrants and refugees are served; the homeless find shelter.

The CRS Collection is one of the twelve national collections established by the bishops of the United States and represents our community of faith at work in the world.

The CRS Collection theme, Help Jesus in disguise, reminds us of the presence of Christ in every one of our brothers and sisters in need.

The bishops encourage us to view the national collection in the light of stewardship and sharing. It is right and just that we give something back, helping people in our nation and worldwide to live better and grow in the love of Jesus.

Please remember to continue to add to your Rice Bowls and they will be returned to the church when the churches are open again.