

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST



May 3, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Easter

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



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

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

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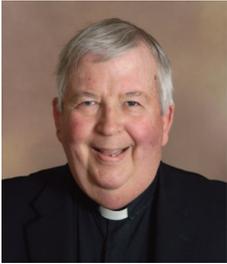
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CONTACT INFORMATION

Church/Office:
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E-Mail: office@sjtbcc.org Website: 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 am currently reading *The Shepherd's Life* by James Rebanks. He speaks of the joy of herding and caring for sheep, a job that has been in his family for several hundred years. His farm is located in the northwest part of England, known as the Lake District. The great attachment that

the shepherd has for his sheep epitomizes the description that we have in John's gospel as we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday this weekend. Jesus is one with his sheep. He knows each by name. He is familiar with each one's foibles. The sheep in turn respond only to their shepherd's voice and none other. What a beautiful reminder of how Christ loves each of us in a unique way! May we be attuned to his voice especially in this unsettling time. May he calm our fears and lead us to peace of mind and heart.

Just a reminder that I am hearing confessions in the church on Saturdays from 4 to 5 pm

Fr. Jim



Starting Monday, May 4, the sanctuary will be open for prayer Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1pm to 4pm. **Please enter through the office.** No more than 10 people will be able to enter at a time, and we ask that you stay at least 6 feet away from anyone not a part of your household, to reduce the risk of spreading infection.



Loving God, Your desire is for our wholeness and well being. We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time. We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened. We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.

We pray: may love, not fear, go viral.

Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good. Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity. Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,

You, the God who does not abandon. Amen.



"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." Psalm 118:24

On this Easter day, we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died and rose for us. It is a day of great joy, but as we enter another week of "Stay Safe – Stay Home" it can be challenging to rejoice and be glad. I know for me that not seeing my grandchildren has been particularly difficult. I also know that as one of God's stewards, I am called to rejoice in those moments of grace that are presenting themselves as I shelter in place.

Over the past few weeks, parish volunteers and staff have been calling many of our parishioners to check in with them. Listening to their stories about how family members and neighbors are stepping up to help with grocery shopping, how grateful they are for the streaming of our Sunday Mass, and how they are using this time to tackle home projects has been inspiring.

During our phone conversations we are hearing how grateful our parishioners are for the blessings of our faith. There are many ways we can use this unexpected gift of time in our homes for rejoicing in this Easter season the Lord has made. We hope you will find time to check in with our parish website, www.sjtbcc.org or to like our Facebook page and connect with our liturgies and other resources that will indeed lift our spirits and remind us of all that we are thankful for.

As stewards, this is also a grace-filled opportunity for more time to pray. Prayer opens us up to have grateful hearts and to see the many ways love for others is occurring through outreach to those in need, connecting with friends, internet social gatherings, increased concern for our elderly and just saying hi to others as we walk outdoors.

How are you finding ways to *Live a Legacy of Love* during this time? We would love for you share your stories with us!

Anne Frederick



FAITH FORMATION

HANG IN THERE

I remember picking up a card to write a note of encouragement for a friend. The card had a kitten, hanging by its front paws/nails, from just above the ground with the words, "Hang In There" written above it. I would guess that we all have had moments in our lives where we have felt this way. It could be that you are in a moment of this same troubling angst as we wait to once again gather and receive Eucharist. Using every ounce of your very being to hold on until we once again can say, "Amen!" and consume the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist! It may feel like you are fading? You may feel like the kitten in the picture on the greeting card I found and sent to a friend? But could it be that the kitten had actually jumped to catch the limb, in an attempt to get itself onto the branch. Could it be that the next step was to pull its hind legs up to the limb and gradually achieve the task at hand by sitting perched at a new height...seeing from a different perspective?

Could it be that this new reality of how we do church during the COVID-19 pandemic is calling us to see from a new height? God would never instigate the horror, ugliness, sickness of COVID-19 in our world! Rather, God will take every opportunity to show us His love, to bring good out of all situations (Romans 8:28). We know all that is good is from God (James 1:17-19). This time of celebrating mass in the midst of our living rooms, viewing from a screen, and saying the spiritual Eucharist prayer for Communion, instead of receiving the real presence of Jesus in the form of the bread and wine at Communion is very foreign to Catholics. This is tough indeed, hang in there!

Could it be that God is wanting to show us His very real presence in our lives at home, in the grocery store, on the tv/computer screens as we journey this time of physical distance from our fellow human beings? Could it be that God wants to continue to bring good in our lives at this time, wants us to practice seeing/experiencing His very real presence in our lives and our world, as we are, right here and right now!...as we wait to receive the precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ again in the Eucharist! Our Catholic teachings tell us that God is present everywhere. The Gospel of John begins with a dissertation on the WORD, in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. We know that Jesus is the WORD. When we look at the story of creation in Genesis we see that God spoke and life came into being, chaos gained order (Genesis 1:1-2:4). From the beginning of existence God has been present in our reality that we call earth, time and life... God created it all! Our church teachings also tell us that humans are designed with a yearning for revelation (CCC 33 & 231), a yearning for God. Could it be that God is wanting to reveal Himself right now to you, in a new way? Are you open to that? Would you be willing to ask God to show you, opening your eyes, your heart, your very being to show you how active He is right now, in this situation? Can you and I feast on these moments at this time, finding sustenance in God from this perspective?

Continued on the next page:

As we wait to receive Jesus in the most holy Body and Blood through the Eucharist, I suggest we don't settle with the "Hang In There" perspective! I suggest that we, with the help of God, pull our hind legs up to the branch! Sitting perched looking from a new perspective, we experience the holy presence of our God in our new reality of COVID-19 and what it brings. We can take heart in the fact that God is desiring to be very present to each one of us. We simply need to ask, with a disposition of openness, for the movement of the Holy Spirit to fill us up! Come Holy Spirit.

Blessings,

Joan Williamson

PA for Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Mental Health Resources:

Uncertain times and sudden changes can lead to an increase in stress, anxiety, and depression. There are many resources available to access a listening ear or some coping tips.

Hotlines (all are available 24/hrs, 7 days a week):

24-Hour Crisis Line: 866-427-4747

Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

Domestic Violence Hotline: Call 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224 for TTY, or if you're unable to speak safely, you can log onto thehotline.org or text LOVEIS to 22522.

Substance Abuse & Mental Health (SAMSA): 1-800-662-4357

General Mental Health Resources & Guidance

[National Alliance on Mental Illness Covid-19 Guide](#)

[Considering Faith, Community, and Mental Health during the Covid-19 Crisis](#)

[Parenting Guide during Covid-19](#)

[US Department of Health & Human Services: Mental Health & Coping](#)

[Mental Health First Aid](#)

In Parish Financial Assistance: Refer to Andrea (if not a parishioner, refer to St. Vincent de Paul-206-767-6449)

Neighborly Support

We have a number of parishioners who have offered to provide a variety of services from grocery shopping to donating masks. If you could use some support, please contact Anne (annef@sjtbcc.org) or Andrea (ansream@sjtbcc.org) to get you connected with one of our willing members.

Please join The Knights of Columbus in a special Rosary prayer to Mother Mary on **Wednesday 13 May**, in conjunction with the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Praying will be done in your own home, in virtual communion with fellow parishioners and Knights. Our united prayers will resound with power.

At the conclusion of the Glorious Mystery, all participants will say a "Prayer for Protection in time of Pandemic" to our Mother Mary.

There is no in person gathering. Sign ups for either the morning or afternoon time slots on SJTB web site. If neither time slot works for you, please pray at your own convenience on the same day, 13 May. Copies of the Silver Rose Program with the Glorious Mystery and the concluding Prayer for Protection in English and Spanish are available on SJTB web site.

If you have any questions, please email Ben Lee, benedic1@hotmail.com.



A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

O Mary, you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother, you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,
O Holy Mother of God.
In our needs, despise not our petitions,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



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One Rose*

*Our Lady of Guadalupe
Silver Rose Program*

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