

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF



# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

July 26, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 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



## FROM YOUR PASTOR



The Jesuit priest Anthony de Mello wrote a story called *The Diamond* which can be linked to the parable of the pearl of great price. It goes as follows:

*The wise man had reached the outskirts of the village and settled down under a tree for the night when a villager came running up to him and said, "The stone! The stone! Give me the precious stone!"*

*"What stone?" asked the wise man.*

*"Last night God appeared to me in a dream," said the villager, "and told me that if I went to the outskirts of the village at dusk I should find a wise man who would give me a precious stone that would make me rich forever."*

*The wise man rummaged in his bag and pulled out a stone. "He probably meant this one," he said, as he handed the stone over to the villager. "I found it on a forest path some days ago. You can certainly have it."*

*The man gazed at the stone in wonder. It was a diamond, probably the largest diamond in the whole world, for it was as large as a person's head.*

*He took the diamond and walked away. All night he tossed about in bed, unable to sleep. The next day at the crack of dawn he woke the wise man and said, "Give me the wealth that makes it possible for you to give this diamond away so easily."*

*Fr. Jim*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Summer Office Hours:**

**Monday—Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm**



## Summer Office Hours

Starting Monday, **July 6, 2020** our summer office hours  
Will be Monday—Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



Our Annual Appeal Campaign is coming to an end. It is not too late to return your pledge envelope if you haven't already done so! Please fill out a pledge envelope today or donate online-the web address is on the pledge envelope. If you have any questions please call Nancy at 253-630-0701.

Update for our Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign

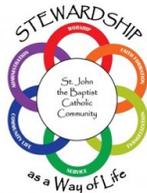
As of July 20, 2020

Goal: \$126,503.00

Pledges: \$ 94,261.67

# Pledges: 298

Avg. Pledge \$ 316.31



*Your ongoing generosity and commitment to stewardship is a great blessing for our community and for those we serve, who are especially needing support during this challenging time.*

Blessings, Anne

Parish Stewardship report for Sunday, July 19, 2020

Envelopes:	\$ 4,789
Loose	\$ 11,702.55
Faith Direct for 7/4/2020	\$ 24,888.75
St. Vincent de Paul:	\$ 999.00
Misc. donations	\$ 1,150.00

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## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

### Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary time

A profound stewardship prayer is offered by the young King Solomon in today's first reading. He asks the Lord to give him an understanding heart, compassion towards God's people and the insight to distinguish right from wrong. An understanding heart, or wisdom, is a gift from God. It is a gift that enables us to make good decisions and prudent choices. Cultivating and sharing this gift is essential, especially when poor decisions and lack of compassion have consequences that affect the lives of others. During these disquieting times, are we asking God for an understanding heart? Are we exercising good stewardship over the gift of wisdom? Are we sharing our compassionate hearts with others?

### Mass Changes Coming in August

In light of the worsening COVID-19 situation and in the interest of safety for our community, we are moving the Masses back outside for the month of August beginning the weekend of August 8 and 9. We will still be in the church the first weekend in August (Aug. 1 and 2).

When we are outside, we can have up to 125 people at each Mass, so we will have only two Masses per weekend: Saturday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10 am. We will reexamine going back into the church in September.

Please register for Masses in August at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e4ea9a728a6fa7-indoor>. Include the names of everyone who is attending in the Who Are You seated box on the form. This will speed up check-in. If you had previously signed up for the 9 am or 11:30 am Mass for Sunday, Aug. 9th, you are now registered for the outdoor 10 am Mass on Sunday, Aug. 9th.

Please bring your own chairs! We will have a limited number of chairs available for those who don't have portable chairs.

We'll see you outside in August!

### CELEBRATING THE RITES OF INITIATION!!!

We are finally able to celebrate the Rites of Initiation with our folks seeking to be baptized, confirmed, and receive their First Eucharist. These individuals have been on a year long journey through the RCIA process. We would love for the community to hold them in prayer over the next few weeks as they celebrate the Scrutinies, have a moment of retreat, and then finally are welcomed into the Christian family and full communion with the Catholic Church on August 14, 2020.

*Please hold in prayer our Catechumens (those receiving all three Rites):*

Justin Baker, Esperance Fadonough, Trena Kupper, Ester Ramos-Grano, Jovita Ramos-Grano, Ana Rodrigues, Marissa Rodriguez, Andy Silva, Melissa Torres, and Jacob Zook

*Please hold in prayer our Candidates:*

Laura Cortez (receiving Confirmation), & Pete Kupper (Making a Profession of Faith, receiving Confirmation and First Eucharist).

*Also receiving Sacraments on August 14th will be:*

Anthony Angel (Infant Baptism), Anthony Silva (First Eucharist), and Matthew Torres (First Eucharist).

Remembering Fr. Lorenzo: "Let's Open the Word Together"

July 13, 2020 In solidarity with our sister parish, Union de las Aldeas Corpus Christi, we are mourning the recent passing of their dear pastor, Fr. Lorenzo, a Salvatorian Missionary. Fr. Lorenzo had only been their pastor for about 6 months, but our St. John the Baptist mission group had gotten to know him well as we coordinated our recent mission trip with him in February 2020. From his warm smile and hugs to his adventurous spirit in leading us to get a better view of Volcan Tajumulco, the highest point in Central America, Fr. Lorenzo truly made us feel welcome and loved! He handled his 4-wheel drive mini SUV (it was a white Suzuki Jimny) like one of the expert cowboys rode their horse. One of our vehicles developed a burnt out clutch in this remote spot and was also stuck by a rock. Without hesitation, Fr. Lorenzo pitched in with the younger men and pushed the car free. His concern for us was further demonstrated when he put three of the women in his vehicle and very carefully drove down the mountain.

Throughout our trip, he arranged meaningful visits for us to connect and bond with his parishioners over shared meals in the villages. We experienced a very personal mass for our group in his private rectory chapel as well as a Sunday mass in his largest church at San Sebastián the day we departed. Fr. Lorenzo was a man of deep spirituality and servant values. He said to us, "There are two ways to be with your people. The first choice is: I speak, you listen. The second choice is: I am one among you and we open the Word together." He was very relational with his parishioners and us. He was a truly wise man with a gentile and caring spirit.

We ask for your prayers for the soul of our dear Fr. Lorenzo and for his parishioners (our sister parish brothers and sisters) whose hearts are grieving and hurting right now. Rest in Peace Fr. Lorenzo, we love you!

We'd like to share his obituary, written by Cardinal Baltazar Porras Cardozo, so you can learn a little more about this special man and his ministry:

*\*In memory\**

**\* PADRE LORENZO GARIJO RAMÍREZ \***

*On Friday, June 12, Father Lorenzo died of pneumonia from which he could not recover. He was 71 years old, of which fifty had passed as a member of the Society of the Divine Savior, Salvatorian Fathers. Much of his priestly life was spent in Venezuela in the communities of San Félix in the Bolívar state, El Amparo in Caracas and in San Rafael de la Pedregosa in Mérida. He went to Spain a number of years ago, called by his superiors, first as a parish priest in Madrid where he built the temple of the parish that was entrusted to them. Transferred then to Logroño, he always maintained an emotional closeness and concern about what was happening in Venezuela.*

*I have a very pleasant memory of him, because during his stay in Mérida he was an indefatigable good man in the parish of San Rafael de La Pedregosa, alternating with the presidency of the religious of the archdiocese. Very attentive to diocesan life, he participated in and encouraged the pastoral work of consecrated life integrated into the Andean evangelizing work. Humbly and quietly, he was a pastor with a heart like Christ's, driven by the charisma of his congregation founded by Father Francisco Jordan. He linked his activity with a life of prayer and permanent personal and communal formation. He was concerned with living out the theological and spiritual aspects of consecrated life.*

*He received many interesting materials that he shared with us. He sent me many of the homilies and reflections that he received from Spain to share with the clergy. His last mailing in mid-May included the Corpus Christi homily, the day I write this short chronicle. In conversation with Cardinal Carlos Osoro, Archbishop of Madrid, he expressed his sympathy and admiration for Father Lorenzo, a key player in the construction of the parish church that he blessed last year. Several of the works of Salvatorians in Venezuela have the stamp of dynamism and creativity of Father Garijo.*

*Rest in peace this missionary with a Christlike heart who left a trail of good and virtue where he passed. To his Salvatorian brothers in Venezuela, our prayer and novena for his eternal rest, and to Fr. Milton Zonta, Superior General, the expression of our gratitude and recognition for the Salvatorian presence in our homeland. Rest in peace and intercede for us before the throne of the God you loved and served.*

Respectfully submitted by Rose Racicot  
Guatemala Mission Group



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Do you want to address racism in your faith community, but you don't know where to begin? Join us!

Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege is an 8-week module that awakens groups to the economic systems, public policies, cultural norms, and hidden biases that empower some and oppress others. The first half of the module introduces a framework for understanding and recognizing racial disparities in power and privilege. Sessions 5-8 take a deeper dive into specific issues related to power and privilege, including affirmative action, the school-to-prison pipeline, the criminal justice system, and powerful biases in media representation. As with all JustFaith programs, participants will explore how their faith should inform their response to their learning, as well as discern action steps for working toward racial equity in their own communities.

Please note that Faith and Racial Equity is not for the faint of heart! The module is designed for participants who are willing to wrestle with hard questions and take an honest look at their own attitudes, assumptions, and choices. However, through spiritual grounding and community-building, participants find support and belonging throughout their journey to personal transformation and social action.

All sessions will be conducted via Zoom. St. John the Baptist will be offering a Monday evening (6 pm to 8:30 pm) and a Thursday morning (10 am - 12:30 pm) module to allow for different schedules starting in August. (Please note: future sessions will be offered on different days later in the year if you are unable to make either a Monday evening or Thursday morning).

Visit [tinyurl.com/sjtjustfaith](http://tinyurl.com/sjtjustfaith) for more information and to sign up today!

# HOW CAN YOU FIND CLARITY IN AN ELECTION YEAR?

The best way to get clarity is by forming your conscience. Your conscience is not something that allows you to justify doing whatever you want, nor is it a mere "feeling" about what you should or should not do. Rather, conscience is the voice of God resounding in the human heart, revealing the truth to us and calling us to do what is good while shunning what is evil.

The Church teaches that we must work to form conscience through prayer, learning, and conversation, so we can be prepared to make decisions whenever the opportunity arises.

**RESOURCES**

- [What does it mean to form my conscience?](#)
- [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#)
- [Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [USCCB website](#)

☆☆

DEVELOPING A WELL-FORMED CONSCIENCE IS ONE WAY TO FIND CLARITY.



### HOW TO FORM YOUR CONSCIENCE

1. Be open to the truth and what is right.
2. Read the Bible and the teachings of the Church.
3. Examine the facts and background information about various choices and be discerning in where you gather information.
4. Prayerfully reflect to discern the will of God.
5. Seek the prudent advice and good example of trusted leaders and others to support and enlighten our conscience.
6. Learn about the authoritative teaching of the Church.
7. Pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us develop our conscience.
8. Regularly partake in an examination of conscience to hear God's voice in your life.

**HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION**

1. When has my conscience guided me to "do good and avoid evil"?
2. What are some key resources I can use to form my conscience?
3. What do I do to regularly form my conscience? What more should I do?



**Please pray for those who are sick:** Garry Goebel , Fr. Pat Ritter and for those suffering from COVID—19  
**Please pray for those who have died:** John LaSharr (father of Rick LaSharr)



For those who purchased tickets for the Luau will be receiving refunds by mail. If you purchased tickets and have recently moved, please call the church office by **August 1, 2020** to update your address and get a refund. Mahalo.

## THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

- Monday, July 27**  
Summer Office Hours Monday—Saturday 10 am-3 pm
- Wednesday, July 29**  
Mass, 9 am
- Thursday, July 30**  
Mass, 6:30 pm
- Friday, July 31**  
Mass, 9 am
- Saturday, August 1**  
Confession, 4 pm  
Mass, 5:30 pm (register)
- Sunday, August 2**  
Mass, 9:30 & 11:30 am (register)

