

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

WELCOME

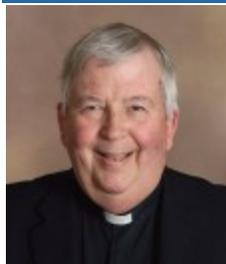
Whether you're a registered parishioner or first-time visitor, we hope you feel welcome. There are many ways to get involved. If you have any questions, please let one of our staff members know or call the parish office
253-630-0701

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



During every Mass, immediately after the Our Father, the priest says a short prayer known as the embolism: "Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

This prayer is particularly meaning full during Advent, the season when we consciously "await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ" with joyful expectation.. This kind of waiting is often difficult, as joy and expectation do not generally characterize our everyday experiences of waiting. Few of us are filled with hope as we sit in a traffic jam, stand at a bust stop, or wait for the pandemic to ease. We shop online and are willing to pay for guaranteed two-day (or overnight) delivery. We assume that Wi-Fi access will be fast and omnipresent-and we grow less patient when we have to wait for websites, audio or video to load. Amid these everyday experiences, the Advent liturgies play a crucial role in teaching and reminding us how we ought to wait with joyful expectation.

May this Advent season, different as it is, help us prepare for the Lord's coming, both at Christmas and at the end of time. We do not wait alone. We have each other. May we grow in our capacity to receive all that our new born Savior has to offer.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church/Office:
25810 156th Ave SE, Covington, WA 98042
Phone: 253-630-0701
E-Mail: office@sjtbcc.org Website: www.sjtbcc.org
Regular Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 9 am—3 pm Saturday, 10 am —3 pm

Fr. Jim



Faith Formation

Faith Formation Materials ready for pick up in the office: If you weren't able to pick up your materials on Nov. 12th during the drive-by pick up event, no worries! Your materials are waiting for you in the office. You can pick them up Monday through Friday from 9am-3pm or Saturday from 10am-3pm.

PK-4th Grade Faith Formation families!
Children's Liturgy of the Word: Via zoom Weekly, starting Nov. 29th from 10:15-11:00!

Are you struggling trying to get your child(ren) to be more engaged in the weekly Mass? Especially when Mass is coming through a screen? Consider making this Children's Liturgy of the Word part of your Sunday morning routine. Join us every Sunday morning with Therese McHenry, via ZOOM, to watch a 25 minute video that correlates with the weekly Mass readings. This interactive experience is designed to connect with our youngest Catholics, inviting them to listen and respond to the weekly readings with song, praise, discovery and it's all on a child's level! There will even be time for social connection! I'll send out a zoom link each Saturday. Have questions? Email Therese McHenry - ThereseM@sjtbcc.org



Sunday Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Reflection Questions:

What are some of the moments in your life when you have been waiting, watching? Was it for the return of a child who was out for the evening? Was it in the military when you were on duty, and it was your watch for the night? Was it sitting by the bed of a loved one, wanting them to return to health, full health even? Describe the feelings you remember, the attention level you had, the endurance needed, the hope present, was there exhaustion, and the emotions in the midst of it.

As we begin Advent, we are called to "Watch!" What is it we are watching for? Unpack what that means!



The Guadalupeños are hosting the novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Spanish. It starts on December 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the church. It goes for 9 sessions. In the case of Saturday nights, it will start after Mass.



Please pray for those who are sick:
Betty Alston, Dolores Hedlund, Paulette Guy and Becca Paredes.

Please pray for those who have died:
Debbie Hagan (mother of Rachel Gifford), April Schroeder (mother of Brenda Leyda), Julio Caesar Pinedo (brother of Rosanna Del Aguila), William Jensen (father of Bob Jensen), Isaias Salgado (father of Pruda Salgado)

DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER

December 5, 2020—Saturday
Advent Retreat ZOOM
Register at www.sjtbcc.org/2020/11/06Advent

December 5, 2020—Saturday
Advent Reconciliation Service
2pm Registration required:
Register at <https://sjtbcc.org/mass-registration/>.

Regular Confessions every Saturday at 4 pm

Christmas Mass Schedule:

December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve
Mass at 4 pm and 10 pm—Mass will be livestreamed
Registration is required

December 25, 2020 Christmas Day
Mass at 10 am
Registration is required

Parish Office will be closed
December 23, 24, 25, 26 and 28th



EUCHARIST THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD;

An **ADVENT** Day
RETREAT

You will approach the altar this Christmas with a whole new perspective when you join us as we look back on our own earliest memories of the Eucharist and what children today are telling us through their stories and artwork.

Saturday December 5th - 9am-1pm - Via Zoom

To Register go to:

<https://sjtbcc.org/2020/11/09/advent>



Featuring

**DR. ANN
GARRIDO**

Associate Professor of Homiletics at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, MO, Dr. Garrido has authored 10 books and for the past 25 years, she has been involved in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd movement: a Montessori-based collaboration of children and adults who seek to enjoy a common spiritual life.

STEWARDSHIP

GOD SO LOVED HE GAVE



From a Heart of Gratitude, We Give Our

TREASURE

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and turn toward Advent, we are so grateful for the ongoing support of our parishioners! Your financial commitment is a true gift for many others. We hope that those of you who are able to pledge will do so online or by calling the parish office. Your donations continue to bless this parish and all those we serve through our many ministries!

2021 calendars and Advent "Little Blue Books" can be found

on the tables in the narthex. Please pick up one for each family! We will continue to set out more calendars each week in December.



After the passing of my mother I found myself re-evaluating my commitment to the church. I realized I had drifted away. Not only had I, but I kept my son from it too. During this time, I had recently moved and would drive by

the church and would think one day I will come in; that went on for months.

When I would drive home Phillip, my son, would play Pokémon Go. He was looking for the elusive Pikachu and one day he popped up on his phone. He begged me to turn around. Normally I would just tell him I needed to get home and start on chores. But I stopped and had him show me. I thought, why not. I turned and went on the hunt for Pikachu. He was in the church parking lot.

When I turned in and parked. I saw activity going on and told him "We need to go in". I said, "We're here why not?" We then went in and witnessed a lot of kids practicing for Christmas mass. I felt a void fill just being there. I asked who I could see to ask for info and was told "Look for the red head". I met Joan and felt like I was welcomed home. This was in December of 2016. I realized God sent Pikachu to bring me home. Oh and he was caught ☐

By: Elizabeth Mezhua

GOD SO LOVED HE GAVE



From a Heart of Gratitude, We Give Our

TREASURE

Our goal for our Stewardship Drive is:

\$1,200,000.00

As of Nov. 24, 2020

amount pledged \$754,391=62.9% of goal

pledges=339=29.2%

of families=1159

Weekly avg. pledge= \$42.80/week



Parish Stewardship Report for Sunday,
Nov. 22, 2020

Stewardship Envelopes		\$
Stewardship Envelopes		
Stewardship Loose	\$	1,915.00
Holy Days	\$	5.00
Vigil Lights	\$	19.40
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	204.00
Mass Intentions	\$	25.00
Holiday Gift Drive	\$	5,290.00
Total	\$	12,939.40



Honor your Loved Ones with Christmas Flowers

Again this year, you can honor your loved ones who have died with poinsettias for the sanctuary at Christmas. They are \$10 each. There are memorial cards in the narthex that you can put your loved one's name on along with your payment. If you are isolating because of COVID, mail your \$10 and name of your loved one to the office. We'll fill out a card for you. We'll display the cards in the narthex, and the church will be full of beautiful poinsettias at Christmas. The deadline is Dec. 13th.



Join us for our
Advent Reconciliation Service

Saturday, December 5th

2 PM

Registration Required

First Sunday of Advent: The season of Advent is upon us, and in today's Gospel Jesus delivers a simple message through the pen of Saint Mark: "Be watchful! Be alert!" Christian stewards understand what Jesus meant when he said, "IT's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task." Good stewards realize that to each one a task is assigned by God. They have been set in a particular place and station in life, and have been gifted with unique relationships. How do we respond to the tasks or cultivate our relationships in a way that keeps us alert for the return of Christ?

LIFE, JUSTICE, & PEACE

Creation Care Corner

Taking action to protect God's great gift to us
— Mother Earth



"The justified concern about threats to the environment... commits us to working responsibly for the protection of creation."
—Pope Benedict XVI

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Be a mindful consumer to reduce waste.

Before purchasing, ask yourself how it will impact the environment. Avoid products with excess packaging. Don't buy what you don't need. Borrow or rent items you need only for occasional use. For items you do buy, look for durability. Consider buying secondhand clothes and household items from thrift stores, consignment shops, and private sellers when it makes sense. Before disposing, donate useful old household items so someone else can reuse them.

REMEMBER THE 5 R'S OF SUSTAINABILITY:

Refuse ■ Reduce ■ Repair ■ Reuse ■ Recycle

Thanksgiving Meals: A huge THANK YOU to the entire St. John the Baptist community for making this year's Thanksgiving meal distribution the most successful to date! We'll have a much longer thank you in next week's bulletin, but we wanted to let you know that through the generosity of our parish, we were able to provide 544 families with a meal for Thanksgiving this year. This is more than we have ever provided in a time when the need is so great. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

One Parish, One Prisoner: Did you know that there are roughly the same number of prisoners in the state of Washington as there are churches? [Underground Ministries](#) is partnering with the [Archdiocese of Seattle](#) to pair each church with an individual who is currently incarcerated and will be released within the next 1 to 2 years. The idea - building intentional relationship to provide mutual transformation and ongoing support as that individual is released into the community. St. John the Baptist is exploring joining this effort. To be able to do so, we need at least 5 committed individuals who are willing to engage in this relationship, including letter writing and visits (when it is safe to do so) plus committing to be a support for the person when they are released. If this is something you may be interested in learning more about, please contact Andrea (andream@sjtbcc.org or 253.630.0701x115).

An COVID update from our COVID-19 Safety Officer

Airflow in the Church

David had a test done in the church to see how well the space is ventilated. With the furnace blowers on (they are on all the time), 5,600 cubic feet of air is exchanged every minute.

As a result of this information, we will not need to keep the doors in back of the church open. The blowers cause enough pressure to open the top louvres, which brings in even more fresh air. And we will keep the doors between the sanctuary and the narthex open for more airflow. This means the church won't be as cold as the north pole, but it may be a little cooler than normal because of the louvres. Thanks for helping us keep our community COVID free!



A HUGE thank you to all the wonderful people who contributed hats, scarves and gloves for the needy. We collected about 200 items and received thanks and smiles from those who received them. You were all so generous.
Anne Diaz

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Monday, Nov. 30

Word & Communion, 9 am

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Word & Communion, 9 am

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Mass, 9 am

Thursday, Dec. 3

Mass, 6:30 pm

Friday, Dec. 4

Mass, 9 am

Saturday, Dec. 5

Advent Retreat by Zoom,
(register)

Confession, 4 pm

Mass, 5:30 pm (register)

Sunday, Dec. 6

Mass, 9am and 11:30 am (register)

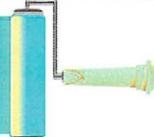


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