The Catholic Community of St. John the Baptist

February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

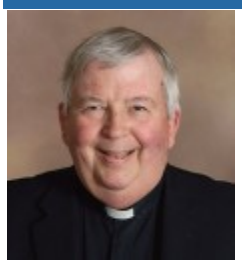
WELCOME

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

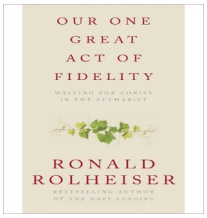
The Catholic Community of St. John the Baptist: Where stewardship is a way of life and the diversity of our gifts is used to answer Christ's call to proclaim and live the Gospel.
Gather in God's Name, **Grow** in God's Time, **Go** in God's Spirit

FROM YOUR PASTOR



The following is a segment of my winter reading list: Courage for Truth and Witness to Freedom both by Thomas Merton, The Picture of Durian Gray by Oscar Wilde, Tokyo Ueno Station by Miri Yu, *Just As I Am* by Cicely Tyson, The Dead Are Arising by Les Payne, The Answer is by Alex Trebek, The Evening And The Morning by Ken Follett, A Passage to India by E. M Foster, Arrowsmith by Sinclair Lewis, Voices from Chernobyl by Svethana Alexievich, Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Andersen, The Clouds by Aristophanes, The Hamlet by William Faulkner, The Decameron by Giovanni Boccaciio, and the final volumes of the Wheel of Time series by Robert Jordan. I'm still working on a few from the Autumn list. If you'd ever like a free book or two from my parish office just let me know.

Fr. Jim



Have you picked up your book yet?.

Books can be found on tables in the narthex and also in the parish office. Please pick up your copy after Mass or during office hours.

Be sure to pick up your calendar in the Narthex or the parish office

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

FAITH FORMATION

PK-4th grade Faith Formation -
We have between 12-17 kids joining the Children's Liturgy of the Word each Sunday morning from 10:15-11:00am via ZOOM with Therese McHenry! After celebrating the Liturgy, we have 10-15minutes to enjoy an activity or discussion on applying God's Word! Please join us! We would love to see you there! Just email Theresem@sjtbcc.org to make sure you get the weekly zoom invite!
Adult volunteers needed! Please email Thersem@sjtbcc.org

Elementary Faith Formation is planning a six week art/drawing project with an outreach focus! We need adult volunteers willing to join the zoom art classes starting Monday, February 22nd at 4pm. We will meet via zoom for the six Mondays in Lent. If you can help out with one or more Monday please contact Theresem@sjtbcc.org

Please pray for those who are sick: *Delila Paine, Bob Meucci, Manuel Mariano, Mr. & Mrs. Ira White, Susan Antoncich and Gina Howell*
Please pray for those who have died*: Lynora Reeves (mother of Oats and Tina reeves), Robert Kupper (father of Peter Kupper) and Martha Tran Thi Ngu(aunt of Linda Thu Vuong)*

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Monday, Feb. 8
Word & Communion, 9 am
Tuesday, Feb. 9
Word & Communion, 9 am
Wednesday, Feb.10
Mass, 9 am
Thursday, Feb. 11
Mass, 6:30 pm
Friday, Feb. 12
Mass, 9 am
Saturday, Feb.13
Confession, 4 pm
Mass, 5:30 pm (register)
Sunday, Feb/. 14
Mass, 9am and 11:30 am (register)

Parish Stewardship Report for
Sunday, January 31, 2021

Stewardship Envelopes	$	4,494.00
Stewardship Loose	$	5,103.81
Vigil Lights	$	35.85
NW Catholic	$	767.00
St. Vincent de Paul	$	360.00
Just Faith Books	$	120.00
Catholic Home Mission	$	5.00
Missal Sales	$	10.00
Mass Intentions	$	20.00
Elem. Faith Formation Fees	$	20.00
Priest Retirement Fund Donation	$	120.00
Honey Bucket Reimbursement	$	289.50
Total	$	11,345.16

Do you feel called to pray for preborn children at risk of abortion and their moms?
You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion! Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000 volunteers!
Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- **Vigil location:** Outside Planned Parenthood 10056 SE 240th St, Kent
- **Vigil hours:** 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Saturday
- **Local contact:** Mary K, 253-631-2088, 19JMJ54@comcast.net
- **Learn more** … get involved … and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/Kent

WE ARE CALLED Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. **Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the narthex next weekend.** *Rice Bowls will also be available in the parish office.* During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

We Rejoice in Gratitude!
Over the past six months the Stewardship and Evangelization Commission has been discussing the book, ***What Do I Own and What Owns Me?*** This question was fundamental to Archbishop Murphy's understanding of stewardship that is also central to the mission of St. John the Baptist. **Essentially, as stewards we know that we actually own nothing and instead are truly owned by a good and gracious God.** Even amid our current pandemic, we trust in the abiding love of God. We continue to generously share our gifts with others.
Fr. Jim and all the staff are deeply grateful for the commitment of everyone here at the parish to authentically live out our call to stewardship. We recognize and celebrate this commitment through the response to our recent treasure campaign. **577 of our households pledged a total of $982,291 to support our many ministries. What an abundance of blessings have been shared!**
This support allows us to update our technology for livestreaming Masses, provide online faith formation, continue our parish commission meetings via Zoom, maintain a safe facility, care for our neighbors in need, offer pastoral care for those suffering losses and make available our in-parish financial assistance program. Thank you to our parish community for being stewards in the truest sense of the word! **Our parish's ability to foster and cherish the gifts of others, while also serving them enlivens God's abiding presence with us, as the Body of Christ.**
This past year has certainly been a challenging one of all of us. **However, the grace of our faith is most definitely a blessing we can lift up and rejoice in.** Over the past year, I have been able to connect with many parishioners on the phone or by email. The stories of resilience, finding a silver lining during challenges and the ability to provide hope, even when feeling vulnerable has been such a gift to experience. The faith of our parishioners is strong and vibrant and gracious. **Even though we are not yet able to fully join with one another to celebrate Eucharist, Thanksgiving for one another does abound among us!**

In preparation for Ash Wednesday, you may bring your old palms and leave them in the marked bin in the Narthex.

Stations of the Cross
7 pm
Friday, Feb.19, 2021

In addition to the following services, there will be an ash minister available during office hours (9 am to 3 pm) if you want to receive ashes without coming to a service. **Registration is required for all the services.**

- 9 am: Mass and Ashes (Livestreamed)
- 5:30 pm: Word and Ashes
- 7 pm: Mass and Ashes (Livestreamed)

Because of the pandemic, the Vatican has changed how we will receive ashes this year. These changes minimize the necessity of physical contact between minister and recipient and removes the need for the minister to speak while in close proximity to the recipient.

Just before Fr. Jim and the ash ministers start distributing the ashes, Fr. Jim (or Joan Williamson in the case of the Word and Ash service) will address those present and say only once, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." Then Fr. Jim and the ash ministers will sanitize their hands and distribute the ashes to you at your chairs. The ashes will be sprinkled on your head without touching you or saying anything. They will, of course, be wearing masks. You will not get a cross traced on your forehead with the ashes.

The distribution of ashes by sprinkling on the head is a common practice in some countries including at the Vatican and in Italy.

Stations of the Cross
We will hold socially distanced, safe Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent at 7 pm. If you or your group would like to lead the stations on one of the Fridays, please contact Laurie Moloney in the office.

Fasting and Abstinence Regulation: All persons fourteen and older are bound by the law of abstinence; all those eighteen but not yet fifty-nine years old are bound by the law of fast. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence, and Catholics in the Archdiocese of Seattle abstain from meat on the other Fridays of Lent as well. We are also encouraged o keep the ancient paschal fast, which includes Good Friday and Holy Saturday, ending after the Easter Vigil.
Fast: On a day of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal the other full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juice, are permitted.
Abstinence: On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. All Catholics who are fourteen and older are bound by the law of abstinence. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

Life, Justice, Peace

Creation Care Corner

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

"...we need to commit ourselves to caring for creation, without squandering its resources…"
-Pope Benedict XVI

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:
Keep it simple! Pope Francis cautions us to avoid the "culture of consumerism" when he says, "A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment." A simpler "outer" life, free of clutter and distraction, makes it easier to be more spiritual. In turn, spirituality leads to a less attached and simpler outer life. A virtuous circle! Material simplicity is an intentional pathway to more joy, happiness and the flourishing of God's Creation. Filter acquisition decisions through a lens of needs v. wants. "Less is more".

2020 Storehouse Thank You! On behalf of the Storehouse Food Bank and St. John the Baptist, we wanted to express a huge amount of gratitude for your generosity throughout the year. In 2020, the St. John's community donated **2,372 pounds of canned/dry foods**. In a year that experienced a surge in need, we thank you for your continued support of community so that no individual goes hungry.

Action Steps: Become a Responsible Consumer!

- Find out how many victims of forced labor were involved in producing the products you most commonly buy by visiting the slavery footprint website.
- Download the Sweat & Toil app from the U.S. Department of Labor. Use when shopping to know which products and countries contribute to child labor.
- Traveling? Inquire if the hotel where you are staying has signed the Tourism Child-Protective Code of Conduct. This set of principles requires code members to train their employees on how to identify & report trafficking cases. If your hotel has not signed, encourage them to do so.
- Educate yourself on how to better patronize businesses who are making serious efforts to keep their supply chains free of slave labor. Use this handout to learn how ethical trade equals just working conditions and wages, an antidote to labor trafficking!

With encouragement from Pope Francis, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General designated February 8th as an annual day of prayer, reflection, and action against human trafficking. On this day, we remember and pray for survivors and victims of modern-day slavery. We pray that we may work together to remove the causes of this disgraceful scourge that is present in all our cities and neighborhoods. This day is also one of awareness and action: our prayers are strengthened three-fold when we accompany them with a willingness to become aware of the problem and become involved in erasing this evil.

February 8th is also the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita. Born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869, St. Bakhita was kidnapped and enslaved as a child. Eventually she was sold to an Italian diplomat and taken to Italy, where she valiantly asserted her freedom with the help of the Cannossian Sisters of Venice. Through her faith, St. Bakhita realized the promise of liberty inherent in the human spirit. She lived out the rest of her life as a Cannossian sister, sharing her empowering testimony of human freedom and dignity. In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Josephine Bakhita, noting that in this saint, "we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation."

A Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Joseph Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering.
Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.
O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery;
Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity.
Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.
Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith.
Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.
We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.
Amen.

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