

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

December 11, 2022  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Matthew 17:9a, 10-13



Photo courtesy of Gary Lara, circa 2016

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm**  
**Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:30 am, 5:30 pm**  
Word & Communion: **Mon & Tues 9:00 am**  
Weekday Masses: **Wed 9:00 am, Thurs 6:30 pm, Fri 9:00 am**

## Office Hours

**Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**  
**Saturday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**  
**Sunday: Closed**



## MISSION STATEMENT

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!

## WELCOME

Whether you're a registered parishioner or first-time visitor, we hope you feel welcomed.  
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 at **253-630-0701**.



[office@sjtbcc.org](mailto:office@sjtbcc.org)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

25810 156th Ave SE  
Covington, WA 98042  
@sjtbcovington  
**253-630-0701**

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH STAFF

### Pastor:

Father Bill McKee, ext. 105 [billm@sjtbcc.org](mailto:billm@sjtbcc.org)

### Bookkeeper:

Nancy Moore, ext. 102 [nancym@sjtbcc.org](mailto:nancym@sjtbcc.org)

### Bulletin:

Pat Defiesta, [bulletin@sjtbcc.org](mailto:bulletin@sjtbcc.org)

### Facility Steward:

David Aldous, ext. 114 [davida@sjtbcc.org](mailto:davida@sjtbcc.org)

### Music Coordinator:

Luis Diaz de Leon, ext. 108 [luisd@sjtbcc.org](mailto:luisd@sjtbcc.org)

### Pastoral Assistant for Administration:

David Cromer, ext. 101 [davidc@sjtbcc.org](mailto:davidc@sjtbcc.org)

### Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation, RCIA & Sacramental Prep :

Joan Williamson, ext. 109 [joanw@sjtbcc.org](mailto:joanw@sjtbcc.org)

### Pastoral Assistant for Pre-School/Elementary Faith Formation:

Therese McHenry, ext. 123 [theresem@sjtbcc.org](mailto:theresem@sjtbcc.org)

### Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy & Pastoral Care:

Laurie Moloney, ext. 111 [lauriem@sjtbcc.org](mailto:lauriem@sjtbcc.org)

### Pastoral Assistant for Social Outreach and Advocacy:

Andrea Mendoza, ext. 115 [andream@sjtbcc.org](mailto:andream@sjtbcc.org)

### Pastoral Asst. for Stewardship & Evangelization

Anne Frederick, ext. 125 [annef@sjtbcc.org](mailto:annef@sjtbcc.org)

### Pastoral Asst. for Youth Ministry 5-12:

**OPEN;** contact Joan Williamson if interested

## THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

### Sunday, December 11

**Mass - 9:00 am**

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast - 10:00

Faith Formation (PS & Elementary) - 10:15 am

Financial Peace University - 10:15 am

**Mass - 11:30 am**

**Mass - 5:30 pm**

Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena - 6:30 pm

### Monday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mañanitas - 4:00 am

Prayer Ministry Training - 9:00 am

Our Lady of Guadalupe **Mass** - 6:30 pm

Choir (FilAm) Practice - 7:00 pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe Reception - 7:30 pm

### Tuesday, December 13

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

Funeral for Katelyn Marshall - 10:30 am

Funeral Reception for Katelyn Marshall - 11:30 am

Hispanic Music Group - 7:00 pm

Guatemala Committee Meeting - 7:00 pm

### Wednesday, December 14

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

Funeral for Patricia Hegre - 11:00 am

Funeral Reception for Patricia Hegre - 12:00 noon

Christmas Children's Mass Rehearsal - 4:30 pm

Choir (Sun 5:30 pm) Practice - 7:00 pm

Grief Ministry Zoom - 7:00 pm

Youth Ministry (Grades 5 - 12) - 7:00 pm

### Thursday, December 15

Yoga - 7:30 am

Prepares - 9:30 am

Creation Care Team - 1:00 pm

Hora Santa de Reparación - 2:30 pm

Universal Christ Faith Group - 4:00 pm

**Mass - 6:30 pm**

Choir (Sun 11:30) Practice - 7:00 pm

RCIA - 7:00 pm

### Friday, December 16

**Mass - 9:00 am**

Funeral for Cheryl Oakley - 11:00 am

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

Choir (Fil Am) practice - 7:00 pm

### Saturday, December 17

Gospel Reflection SFC - 10:00 am

Christmas Children's Mass Rehearsal - 10:00 am

Confessions - 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**Mass (Simbang Gabi) - 5:30 pm**

## Pastor's Corner



*"Amid the challenges and struggles of life, Christmas always happens. Let Christmas happen for you. God desires to be close to you, especially in your hardships and suffering."*

- Fr. Bill

### Christmas Always Happens

In times of war and in times of peace; in times of prosperity and during economic hardship and crisis; when families can gather and when families are separated - Christmas always happens. The experience of Christmas or the feeling of Christmas may vary due to the circumstances of life. Maybe, the greater the hardship, the greater the hope of Christmas shining through.

Remember that first Christmas came amidst political upheaval, in a country occupied by a foreign army. Society was deeply divided between those who collaborated with the Romans and those who wanted to fight them. Roman taxation reduced most to poverty. Because of a government edict, a young couple, the mother pregnant with her first child, had to close up the carpenter shop and leave home and relatives at a time they needed them most and travel to register for a census. There, alone in a stable, Christmas happened. Hope arrived with the sound of a newborn baby crying.

God had become one of us. God had entered into human suffering. And God continues to enter into our suffering. It is there that God often invites us to a deeper relationship. The hope of Christmas is realizing how near God is to us, how close God wants to be with us.

Amid the challenges and struggles of life, Christmas always happens. Let Christmas happen for you. God desires to be close to you, especially in your hardships and suffering. God proved that when he entered human suffering in the manger that first Christmas and again when he accepted that cross to suffer for us till he could suffer no more. But the story does not end with suffering; it ends with resurrection, with hope. Above all, may your Christmas be filled with hope.

-Fr. Bill



## Stewardship



**STEWARDSHIP** is about generously sharing God's gifts with one another, which is foundational to our mission at St. John the Baptist.

The sacrificial **sharing of your gifts through our annual renewal of parish treasure** allows us to provide vibrant

music each weekend as we celebrate Mass, to support those who are living on the margins in our community, to offer faith formation across all ages and stages of life, to pay our staff a just and living wage, and to maintain our beautiful Church and property.

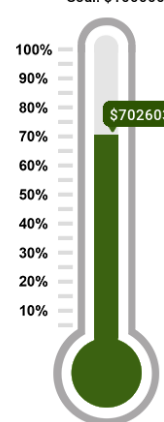
Please pray that this year each one of us will experience the joy of Sacrificial Giving: of generously sharing our gifts to help us build our parish community and the Body of Christ. **Your pledge matters!**

Goal	\$1,000,000
<b>Pledges Received *</b>	<b>\$702,603</b>
% of goal	70.7%
# of families at SJTB	1216
# of families pledged	327
% of families pledged	26.9%
Average weekly pledge	\$41.32

\* Pledge update as of 12/5/22.  
See website for more current updates.

**Thank you for your support!**

Goal: \$1000000



## Parish Mission

### CARE and "House Warming" Gifts



During this Advent week of joy, I reflect on a recent experience of CARE within our parish community.

On December 2, I received a text from one of our Safe Parking guests, excited to share that he had signed his lease and would be living in his new apartment beginning that evening. The text expressed gratitude to the parish for being the stopgap he needed to secure safety and stability.

Starting out in a brand new place, our guest did not have any furnishings or cookware, but with a quick request, donations came flooding in to help him on his journey.

Thank you to our wonderful parishioners, who demonstrated true CARE by supporting our guest during his stay at the parish and into the next chapter of his life.

If you would like to learn more about our Safe Parking ministry as a way to CARE, please contact me at the parish office on how to get involved.

**Andrea Mendoza**



## Ministry Spotlight



Simbang Gabi, which means “Evening Mass,” is a Filipino Christmas tradition consisting of nine novena Masses in preparation for Christmas Day. It begins on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December and ends at midnight on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

In the olden days, these evening Masses were celebrated at dawn, when the roosters crow; hence, the name *Misa de Gallo* or “Mass of the Rooster.” This was done for practical reasons, as Filipinos then were mainly farmers or fishermen. The early schedule allowed them to hear Mass before they started their daily work. Thus, at daybreak, church bells rang, and families would walk or ride *carabao* (water buffalo) sleds with their *parols* (star lanterns) to their local churches. After Mass, the parishioners would revel in the beauty of the *Belen*, an artistic tableau of the Nativity Scene, and enjoy a variety of delicacies being sold at the churchyard, such as *bibingka* (rice cakes), *puto bumbong* (steamed glutinous rice), hot *pandesal* (breakfast rolls), and coffee or *salabat* (ginger tea).

The *Simbang Gabi* tradition continues not only in the Philippines but also in many overseas Roman Catholic Filipino communities. Today, here in the United States, it is often celebrated any time between 5pm - 8pm instead of dawn in order to accommodate the needs of the community members. But no matter the place, time, or language this revered Filipino tradition is celebrated or observed, it never fails to reawaken the Christmas spirit in everyone. It remains to be a tradition that effectively promotes strong camaraderie among Filipinos through a collective effort of prayer, fellowship, and charity. Truly, the *Simbang Gabi*, in its very essence, reflects the solid unwavering faith and devotion of the Filipino people.

With this, we, the Filipino-American (Fil-Am) Group of St. John the Baptist, are happy to invite and share with you this rich and meaningful tradition. We hope to see you in this year's ***Simbang Gabi*** on **December 17 at 5:30 pm**. Reception will follow after the Mass.

Submitted by **Tess Bayon**



Merry Christmas from the  
Fil-Am Community of St. John the Baptist

## Our Church

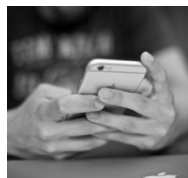
### Prayer Requests

For the **sick** :

**Jackie Cleveland, Faye Driessen, and Iris Lehigh**

For those who have **died**:

**Louisa Igwenyere**  
(mother of Christian Igwenyere)



During Advent, fellow parishioners will be calling every household. If you receive a call from an unusual number, please consider picking up or checking your voicemails. We truly would like to connect with you and find out how we might support you!!

### Christmas Poinsettias Needed

You are invited to make a donation of \$10 (suggested amount) on behalf of a loved one for the poinsettias that we will use to decorate the church for Christmas.



Write the name of the person you wish to remember on a memorial card. Place the card in the envelope with your payment, and deposit it in the collection box in the narthex. The memorial cards will be displayed in the narthex at Christmas.

**Deadline is December 18, 2022.**

### New Wine



It's a new church year, so we thought we'd try something new. For years we have been using Mont La Salle winery's Chateau Des Freres wine at Mass. We are switching to Mont La Salle's Rosato. It's a deep rose colored wine with a sweet and rich mellow taste. It's one of the most popular altar wines from Mont La Salle. Let us know what you think!

Simbang Gabi is a cherished Filipino tradition of a nine-day novena of Masses preparing for Christmas. Originally, Mass was at dawn so laborers could attend. Today, in the United States, Mass is usually in the evening followed by a meal.



Here is a schedule of Simbang Gabi Masses in South King County.

- Thursday 12/15 7:00 pm at St. Anthony, Renton
- Friday 12/16 6:30 pm at Holy Family, Auburn
- **Saturday 12/17 5:30 pm at St. John the Baptist**
- Sunday 12/18 5:00 pm at St. Anthony, Renton
- Monday 12/19 7:00 pm St. Philomena, Des Moines
- Tuesday 12/20 6:00 pm St. Francis, Burien
- Wednesday 12/21 6:00 pm St. Theresa, Federal Way
- Thursday 12/22 6:00 pm St. Theresa, Federal Way
- Friday 12/23 6:00 pm St. Theresa, Federal Way

## Our Church

### Returning Catholics

No matter how long you have been away and no matter the reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church.

We miss you, and we would like to welcome you home. If you left the Church in pain that we have caused; if you feel you have done something to separate yourself from us; if you have married outside the Church; if you attend Mass only at Christmas and Easter, for weddings or funerals but do not receive Holy Communion; or if you have not been to confession in a very long time, please contact Anne Frederick [AnneF@sjtbcc.org](mailto:AnneF@sjtbcc.org) or call 253-630-0701 x125. We look forward to walking with you on your faith journey.



### Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast



Sunday December 11, 2022  
10:00 – 11:30



**COATS  
FOR KIDS**

All Donations Will Support  
Coats for Kids at Kent's  
Springbrook Elementary School

Our Giving Tree is still collecting gifts for our Giving Tree Store, which will support families facing challenging times. The Giving Tree also needs items to support Pregnancy Aid of Kent, which is a social service agency that helps pregnant women and women with children. Items such as diapers, wipes, infant car seats, clothing (especially sizes newborn – 6 months), mesh crib bumper pads, bottles, pacifiers, and baby formulas are all items that are being collected for Pregnancy Aid.

Monetary donations can be made at the following link: [tinyurl.com/sjtbholidays](https://tinyurl.com/sjtbholidays) Or you can also fulfill the Amazon wish list at [amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3DX1NTQULLRFC](https://amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3DX1NTQULLRFC), where you can purchase your items and have them shipped directly to the parish. Or you can simply take a tag from the Giving Tree in the narthex and purchase the items for our families. All items need to be received back to the parish **by December 18**. If you have questions or would like to be involved in the Giving Tree ministry, please contact Andrea Shimek at the parish office.



### Choose to Wrap Gifts in a Reusable Bag Instead of Wrapping Paper



Wrapping paper can only be used once while gift bags can be reused. You can give a festively concealed gift and care for creation at the same time. Or you can wrap your presents in newspaper or brown paper and personalize with your own hand drawn decorations. You can still be festive and make the gift special without buying wrapping paper.

### Welcome Circles for Ukraine

15,000 Ukrainians have come into Western Washington since the beginning of the war. With more on their way, our Archdiocese is committed to helping parishes and parishioners create "Welcome Circles" to help families integrate into our neighborhoods. We at St. John the Baptist are working to create a Welcome Circle and join the cause. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Andrea at 253-893-6884 or [andream@sjtbcc.org](mailto:andream@sjtbcc.org).

## Our Community

### CCS Appeal Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Catholic Community Services' (CCS) Appeal for the Poor. Each year, CCS supports over 77,000 individuals across 180 programs in Western Washington. If you would like to support this cause, you can make a donation by visiting [ccswww.org/donatenow](https://ccswww.org/donatenow). The first 100 new households who give at least \$100 will have \$100 of their gift matched – doubling your impact of Light & Hope to our neighbors in need!



### Vine Maple Place Winter Needs

Moms facing homelessness are in urgent need of warm winter coats and Vine Maple Place is almost out! They are seeking new or gently used **women's cold weather coats** (all sizes needed but especially **larger sizes, L - 4X**)

Purchase Online: [amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2XT8C44LNJ2AW](https://amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2XT8C44LNJ2AW) to purchase coats to be delivered to Vine Maple Place. Or purchase and deliver by bringing donations to the Family Hope Center in Maple Valley: 21730 Dorre Don Way SE, Maple Valley or Kent: 24044 104<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Kent from Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm).

### Information



### Sessions

The Archdiocese of Seattle has opened the inquiry year for the permanent diaconate for Catholic men generally aged 35 to 56 interested in learning more about being a deacon! For more information, go to [archseattle.org/deacon/](https://archseattle.org/deacon/)



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YOUR PLEDGE TODAY.



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