

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

July 16, 2023

## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A farmer went out to plant some seeds.

As he scattered them across the field, some seeds fell on a footpath. (Matthew 13:1-9)



Photo courtesy of Margie Battisti

**Garden of the Good Shepherd (see related story on Page 3)**

### Mass Schedule

**Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm**

**Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:30 am, 5:30 pm**

**Weekday Masses: Wed 9:00 am, Thurs 6:30 pm, Fri 9:00 am**

**Word & Communion: Mon & Tues 9:00 am**

**Confessions: Sat 4:00 - 5:00 pm**

### Office Hours & Contact Information

**Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (summer hours)**

**Saturday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Sunday: Closed**

**253-630-0701**



## 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**.

## Pastor's Corner

### Is the Holy Spirit Calling You to a Ministry?



Thanks for all the prayers for a smooth surgery and speedy recovery. I anticipate there will be good news by the time this edition of the bulletin is published.

It is also nice to know that so many people actually read the bulletin. I should not be surprised. The level of participation in our parish is very good. That participation calls for keeping informed.

Each one of us is called to discipleship in our homes, places of work or school, and in our neighborhoods. There are also times when one may be called to serve in a parish ministry as well. Has your life situation changed so that you might have more time to be involved in a parish ministry? What one does in the parish may also strengthen one's discipleship at home.

Let any staff person or me know if you would like to explore a ministry in the parish.

*Fr. Bill*



**Question:** Are other dioceses doing this?

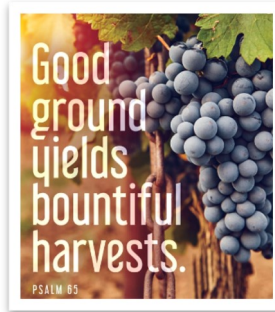
**Answer:** Yes. Dioceses across the United States have implemented similar initiatives. The PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL Core Team has connected with many of them to hear their stories and gather recommendations. Using these insights, our archdiocesan team developed a planning and consultation model that reflects the uniqueness of the Archdiocese of Seattle. Our model is more consultative, embraces our cultural diversity and history, and reflects our large geography that includes concentrated city centers as well as suburban and rural communities.

While we appreciate the guidance and insights from other dioceses, success in the Archdiocese of Seattle will come from the creativity and collaboration of each parish family, led by the Holy Spirit. .

Note: Please continue to read this section, as each week contains a different question. These questions and answers and other information can also be found at [archseattle.org/partners/](http://archseattle.org/partners/).



# Our Church



## This Week in Our Church

### Sunday, July 16

Mass - 9:00 am

Mass - 11:30 am

Mass - 5:30 pm

### Monday, July 17

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

Choir (Sunday 9:00 am) Practice - 7:00 pm

Leadership Meeting - 7:00 pm

### Tuesday, July 18

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

Choir (Fil-Am) Practice - 7:00 pm

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting - 7:00 pm

### Wednesday, July 19

Mass - 9:00 am

Walking Through Grief - 6:00 pm

Stewardship & Evangelization Commission - 6:30 pm

Truthful Reign Band Practice - 7:00 pm

### Thursday, July 20

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

Mass - 6:30 pm

Choir (Sunday 11:30 am) Practice - 7:00 pm

### Friday, July 21

Mass - 9:00 am

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

### Saturday, July 22

Gospel Reflection SFC - 10:00 am

Funeral Mass for Oscar Domingo - 12:00 noon

Confessions - 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Mass - 5:30 pm

### Welcome Back

Do you know someone who has left the Church and may be interested in returning? We would like to welcome them back!

Please contact **Anne Frederick** at our parish office or [annef@sjtbcc.org](mailto:annef@sjtbcc.org) or ext. 125.

### Contact Us!

If you're new to St. John the Baptist parish, welcome! Please feel free to email or call one of us below if you have any questions regarding our parish.

**25810 - 156th Ave. SE, Covington, WA 98042**

**253-630-0701**

### 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 Grounds & Building:

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

### Facility Use & Scheduling:

Kathy Wickward, ext. 101, [kathyw@sjtbcc.org](mailto:kathyw@sjtbcc.org)

### Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation:

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

### Faith Formation (Pre-K - Grade 4):

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

### Liturgy & Pastoral Care:

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

### Member Engagement:

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

### Music Leader:

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

### Youth Minister:

TBD

### Online:



[sjtbcc.org](http://sjtbcc.org)

### Social Media:



@sjtbcovington

On the Cover

### Garden Provides Sustenance

*The Garden of the Good Shepherd* was established by the participants of the *Just Faith* program in 2014. This ministry helps our neighbors who are dealing with food insecurities. The produce harvested from this garden is donated to *The Covington Storehouse*, our local food bank.

There is a core team of members from the beginning, as well as others, who participate as the Holy Spirit moves them. **Margie Battisti** and **Hazel Kroll**, pictured on cover photo, are co-coordinators of the garden.

It is hoped that this garden will bring awareness to the ways we can collaborate to care for God's creation and assist those in need.

Please visit our *Garden of the Good Shepherd* while you're here, and take a moment to thank God for the gifts from this garden.

## Our Church

### Prayer Requests

For those who are **sick**:  
**Jim Forczek, Lauren Gormley,**  
**Anthony Lewis, and Jean Wilford**

For those who have **died**:  
**Phyllis Helmken** (cousin of Mary Ellen Nelson),  
**Jesse Underwood** (uncle of Trena Kupper),  
**Joan Witte**

### Walking Through Grief

This is a 9-week (weekly) FREE educational & inspirational program, which offers support and hope to those experiencing the loss of a spouse, child, parent, friend, or any loved one. Each week will have a different topic of discussion. There will be workbooks, handouts, and other tools to help in your grief journey.

**July 12 - September 6, 2023**  
Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
Online via Zoom

If you are grieving or know of someone who is grieving and you feel this might have some benefit, please contact **Laurie Moloney** at the parish office for more information or to register.

### Watch for Our New “Reserved” Chair Markers

It is sometimes hard for the Eucharistic Ministers to find the people who want communion brought to them during Mass. Thanks to members of the Life, Justice, and Peace Commission, who came up with the idea to add chair covers to help the Eucharistic Ministers spot them more easily, we now have yellow-gold chair markers. If you would like Holy Communion brought to you, just ask a greeter or the Point Person before Mass to give you a yellow-gold chair cover.

Place these covers over your chair back with **the triangle facing towards the aisle**, so it can be spotted easily. They should look like this:



It would also help the Eucharistic Ministers have easier access if the person who needs Holy Communion brought to them would sit at the seat closest to the aisle. Thank you for your cooperation.

### A Note of Thanks From Andrea Mendoza

*“Each one of you has to be God’s microphone. Each one of you has to be a messenger, a prophet. The church will always exist as long as there is someone who has been baptized ... where is your baptism? You are baptized in your professions, in the fields of workers, in the market. Wherever there is someone who has been baptized, that is where the church is. There is a prophet there. Let us not hide the talent that God gave us on the day of our baptism and let us truly live the beauty and responsibility of being a prophetic people.”*

– St. Oscar Romero

As Fr. Bill shared in his Pastor’s Corner two weeks ago, I have accepted a position with Catholic Community Services that will begin later this month.

I wanted to take a moment to pass along my thanks to the St. John the Baptist community for your support of outreach efforts over the last five years. I will never cease being amazed by your heart, faith, and generous spirit.

When I stepped into this role back in 2018, there were so many in this parish that came forward to help me shape this new position into what it has become. Together we have ushered in new ministries and kept our outreach efforts going through the pandemic. We have served hundreds of families during the holidays and advocated in Olympia for policies that align with our Catholic faith.

I am grateful for the dreams you shared that turned into realities and the convictions that challenged the status quo. I appreciate the creativity and flexibility you have shown in continually working to center those on the margins so as to learn how to serve them best.

There have been countless moments of joy, grief, laughter, and tears, which have left a deep imprint on me. I know that I am closing this chapter as a different person than when I stepped into this role, and this community has truly helped to shape the lens through which I view the world.

Thank you to each of you for being messengers, prophets, and microphones for God. I will continue holding the outreach efforts of this parish community close to my heart and am excited to see how the Spirit continues to move in Covington.

Many blessings,  
Andrea  
Pastoral Assistant for Social Outreach and Advocacy

Editor’s note: Andrea has been an invaluable member of the bulletin team. She contributed a lot of the articles written in past issues, notably in our community section, and has reported on a lot of the activities within the parish. Her absence leaves a huge void that will be hard to fill. We wish her good health and much success in her new endeavor.

## Our Church

### Take Me Out to the Ballgame



Here is a chance for you and your family to have a fun outing. Come join the Knights of Columbus and fellow parishioners enjoy a great baseball game between the Tacoma Rainiers and the Round Rock Express this Sunday, July 16, 2023.

Tickets are \$15 and include a hot dog, chips, and water from the stadium concession stand. There is plenty of parking at Cheney Stadium, and it is only \$10 per car.

If you are interested please email Pat at [Bulletin@sjtbcc.org](mailto:Bulletin@sjtbcc.org) by July 15, and the message will be passed on to **Angelo Battisti**.



### We Need Diapers!

Our PREPARES ministry has been busy at work supporting families in need in our community. We have recently had a large number of requests for **Size 6 diapers** and have used up our supply. If you are able to **donate Size 6 diapers**, please drop them off at the Life, Justice, Peace table out in the narthex or in the main office.

If you are interested in being part of this growing ministry, please contact the main office. We currently have more requests for support than we have volunteers to meet them, and we sure could use your help. Ongoing training is provided.

### Extending a Hand

We have had a few people ask whether it's okay to shake hands for the sign of peace at Mass. All COVID restrictions have been lifted, so it's perfectly fine to shake hands. However, we need to respect people and where they are in this journey out of the pandemic. Some may not yet feel comfortable with hand shaking.

If you would prefer not to shake hands, put your hands together and nod your greeting of peace to others. If you extend your hand to someone who isn't comfortable with handshaking, please do not take it personally if they don't take your hand. They may be protecting an immune-compromised loved one, for example.

We have also been asked about holding hands during the Our Father. Again, we need to respect where people are post-COVID. While the tradition in this parish during pre-COVID times has been to hold hands during the Our Father, it is not in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, and is, therefore, not encouraged.



orans posture

You might wish to consider extending your arms out in the *orans* posture like the priest. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, in his book, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, described this posture as "the oldest gesture of prayer in Christendom. It is a gesture of seeking and hoping. Man [sic] reaches out to the hidden God, stretches out toward him. Arms extended have been compared to wings: man [sic] seeks the heights, he wants to be, as it were, carried upward by God on the wings of prayer."

## Our Community



"But some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." Help your marriage be like the rich soil by taking part in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience.

Sign up for upcoming WWME weekends at [wwme.org](http://wwme.org).

**August 25-27, 2023**  
(Beaverton, OR)

**October 6-8, 2023**  
(Spokane, WA)

**October 13-15, 2023**  
(Federal Way, WA)


Contact: Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321



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