

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

July 30, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
for you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. (Matthew 11:25)



Photo by *Wilson Defiesta*

St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. John the Baptist (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

St. John the Baptist Church is a Diverse Community



Our parish is growing in its multi-cultural identity. This weekend, our Filipino community shares some of their delicious cuisine, including a signature dessert, halo-halo. This coming Saturday, we will be celebrating a quinceañera from the Mexican culture. It is a blessing for a girl's 15th birthday, a rite of passage into becoming a young woman. In this blessing, the girl gives thanks to God for the gift of life and faith. She makes the promise, "With your grace, I commit myself to serve my brothers and sisters all my life." She asks the Blessed Virgin Mary, "Help me to hear the Word of God as you did, holding it in my heart and loving others, so that as I walk with Jesus in this life, I may worship Him with you in all eternity."

This coming week we are also celebrating a baptism according to the rite of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church. The Melkites, who are Byzantine Rite Catholics in union with Rome, trace their history to the first century Christians of Antioch, where Christianity was introduced by St. Peter. They are mainly centered in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. In their ritual for baptism, the infant is immersed in water, and the infant is also confirmed and shares in Holy Communion.

We are a wonderfully diverse community with many customs and ways of doing things. Our parish priorities call us to look for ways to recognize, respect, and share the cultural diversity that exists in our community. We are all the richer for it.

Fr. Bill



PRIESTS :

- 161** Total archdiocesan priests
- 80** pastors
- 62** senior status
- 92** Diocesan priests working in a parish
- 26** Extern priests (from other dioceses)
- 30** Religious order priests
- 13** Seminarians
- 2** Estimated average number of ordinations per year
- 20** Approximate number of priests over next 10 years
- 10** Estimated number that will become pastors in 10 years; remaining 10 will become parochial vicars



ARCHDIOCESE TODAY:

- 136** Parishes
- 26** Missions
- 12** Stations
- 10** Deaneries
- 2** Camps
- 1** Retreat center
- 4** Associated Catholic Cemeteries

MASS ATTENDANCE:

- Declined **11%** (between pre-pandemic years 2010 - 2019)
- As a percentage of total registered parishioners declined **40%** to **35%** (between pre-pandemic years 2010 - 2019)
- Church facility utilization declined **52%** to **46%** (between pre-pandemic years 2010 - 2019)

FINANCIAL:

- **64%** of parishes are operating a deficit
- Parishes are relying on Sunday contributions to fund ministries and staff
- Many parishes rely on non-operating income to break even

"The status quo is no longer an option." - Archbishop Etienne

WE NEED TO CHANGE SO WE CAN RE-ENVISION PARISH LIFE AND BETTER ACHIEVE OUR MISSION AS CHURCH.

SOURCE: July 2023 Partners in the Gospel UPDATE newsletter, Archdiocese of Seattle

Our Church



This Week in Our Church

Sunday, July 30

Mass - 9:00 am
Halo-halo Social - 10:30 am
Mass - 11:30 am
Mass - 5:30 pm

Monday, July 31

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am
Choir (Sunday 9:00 am) Practice - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, August 1

Word & Communion - 9:00 am
Choir (Fil-Am) Practice - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, August 2

Mass - 9:00 am
Truthful Reign Band Practice - 7:00 pm
Walking Through Grief - 7:00 pm

Thursday, August 3

Creation Care Team - 1:00 pm
Hora Santa - 2:30 pm
Safe Parking Meeting - 3:00 pm
Mass - 6:30 pm
Choir (Sunday 11:30 am) Practice - 7:00 pm

Friday, August 4

Mass - 9:00 am
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 9:45 am

Saturday, August 5

Gospel Reflection SFC - 10:00 am
Quinceañera - 1:00 pm
Confessions - 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Mass - 5:30 pm



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

Bookkeeper:

Nancy Moore, ext. 102, nancym@sjtbcc.org

Bulletin:

Pat Defiesta, bulletin@sjtbcc.org

Facility Grounds & Building:

David Aldous, ext. 114, davida@sjtbcc.org

Facility Use & Scheduling:

Kathy Wickward, ext. 101, kathyw@sjtbcc.org

Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation:

Joan Williamson, ext. 109, joanw@sjtbcc.org

Faith Formation (Pre-K - Grade 4):

Therese McHenry, ext. 123, theresem@sjtbcc.org

Liturgy & Pastoral Care:

Laurie Moloney, ext. 111, lauriem@sjtbcc.org

Member Engagement:

Anne Frederick, ext. 125, annef@sjtbcc.org

Music Coordinator:

Luis Diaz de Leon, ext. 108, luisd@sjtbcc.org

Youth Minister:

Peter Guthrie, ext. 110, peterg@sjtbcc.org

Online:



sjtbcc.org

Social Media:



@sjtbcovington

On the Cover

Service to the Less Fortunate

Are you searching for a fulfilling ministry to let Jesus' love work through you? The *St Vincent de Paul* Conference at St. John the Baptist is making a significant difference in our community by lovingly delivering food, rent, and utility assistance to help those in need.

Featured on the cover is St. John's ministry of St. Vincent de Paul, lead by President **Pat Defiesta** and Vice President **Rose Racicot** (both in front row). This ministry is 16 members strong (not all members are pictured in photo) with Vincentians (ministers) doing phone intake, food & essentials delivery (including clothing and furniture), and food pantry.

We thank the many generous donors, who donated over \$105,000 to this cause in the last 12 months! This ministry would like more help from volunteers. If you are interested, please visit us at sjtbcc.org/svdp/. We hope you will pray about how Jesus is calling you to serve and join us in assisting those in need.

Our Church

St. John the Baptist Welcomes New Youth Minister

On July 10, we welcomed Peter Guthrie as our new youth minister! We are truly thrilled to have him join us and are already enjoying his enthusiasm and wry sense of humor. We asked him to introduce himself to the community, and he responded with the following short biography:



Hello everyone!

My name is Peter Guthrie, and I have just been brought on as the new Youth Minister here in the parish. I look forward to meeting you all personally. But until I get that opportunity, I would like to briefly introduce myself.

I grew up locally in Federal Way as a born and raised Catholic going to St. Vincent de Paul, where Fr. Bill was actually my pastor as a high school youth. That's right, I knew Fr. Bill before the beard and he knew me before the bald. As the oldest of three boys, I grew up being the "responsible" one in a house that never had a quiet evening (sorry, not sorry, Mom!). My brothers and I were very active in sports, especially soccer and baseball. One of the best experiences I had playing was when I got to travel to Denmark and Sweden to play on the Benson USA team. By high school, sports and friends were the priority, and though I never stopped believing in God, my faith had definitely taken a back seat. But as I got a bit older, my values and priorities shifted.

By the time I graduated from Kennedy Catholic, I no

longer found my identity in what I was but in whose I was. Rediscovering my identity as a beloved son of God led to further steps to act out of and in accordance with that identity. This brought me to Gonzaga University and Bishop White Seminary, where I graduated with a degree in philosophy and Catholic studies as a seminarian for the Seattle Archdiocese. After graduating, though I did not continue on to ordination, I have continued to serve my Church and my God in various capacities such as a Catholic school teacher, coach, campus minister, and a volunteer working with and serving all ages of the Church from pre-K to hospice care.

In my down time I enjoy reading, hiking, camping, golfing, going to baseball games (go Mariners/Rainiers!), and anything sports or outdoors related. Backyard BBQs and yard games are probably my favorite summertime activities. If anyone is planning one soon, feel free to send an invite my way - fair warning, I'm undefeated in cornhole and bocce ball so have your "A-game" ready!

As a summary, I am just a young man in love with his faith and God, hoping to share that passion with and help strengthen the faith of an already thriving parish. I am very excited to be here and be a part of St. John's community. I look forward to getting to know the youth and families here as well as each of you individually in the parish. If you see me around (I've even posted my picture, so you know what I look like), please do not hesitate to strike up a conversation. I will try not to be bashful too and will insert myself at a table or two for coffee and donuts.

Until we meet in person, may God bless and keep you through these leisurely summer days!

Fresh Fruits and Veggies Wanted



If you are the farmer whose seeds fell upon fertile soil and produced abundant crops (Matthew 13:8), please share your blessings of produce with us!

The Garden of the Good Shepherd is open to receiving donations of fresh produce to share with our friends at the Covington Storehouse, our local food bank. Each year, food grown in our parish garden is delivered to the food bank weekly until the fall, along with any donations that have been collected.

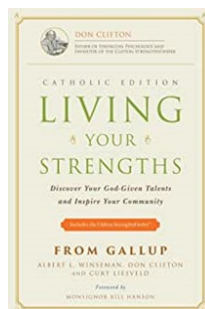
Donations may be from your garden or purchased from the store and can be dropped off at the main office or in the crate outside the McMullen Center.

Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor. (Proverbs 22:9)



Based on the book, *Living Your Strengths*, learn about your special talents from God and how to share them with others!

New classes begin on Friday mornings in person on August 11, 18 and 25.



Living Your Strengths classes are three to four weeks in length. They are either scheduled during the day in person or in the evening via Zoom. For more information about this fun and informative program, contact Anne Frederick at 253-630-0701 x125 or email at annef@sjtbcc.org.

Our Church

Prayer Requests

For those who are **sick**:
Jerry Anderson, Laurie Moloney,
Art O'Neil, and Pol

For those who have **died**:
Oscar Domingo (father of Tess Herrera)

Chaz Needs Dental Work

Through our journey with Chaz, our *One Parish One Prisoner* (OPOP) neighbor, he has identified that needing to receive extensive dental work is a major challenge in keeping him from a successful transition back into society. If you are involved with the dental community and think this may be something you may be able to provide support for, please contact the main office at **253-630-0701** to get connected to the OPOP team.

Pet Foster Family Needed

The *Safe Parking* team is seeking resources for fostering animals. We currently have a family with children in our program, but they have a pet which is a barrier to securing emergency shelter. The goal is to identify someone to foster their dog, so the family can transition into a shelter and be reunited once they secure stable housing. **If you have any connections to animal fostering**, please contact the CCS Safe Parking Case Manager, Stephanie at 253-508-2755.

Diaper Shortage

Our *PREPARES* volunteers are currently walking with 12 moms and their children living in our community. Many of these are recently-arrived immigrants, who are navigating life in a new country. We thank you for your recent support with Size 6 diapers, and we now have gone through our supply of Sizes 4 and 5 diapers as well. **If you are able to assist with Sizes 4 and 5, please drop donations of diapers** at the office or the Life, Justice, Peace table. These gifts of diapers will help provide a sense of stability to these moms.

We continue to receive requests from moms looking for connection and support. Our ministry is hoping to add new volunteers, who have a heart for walking with moms with young children. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact the main office at **253-630-0701**. Ongoing training is provided.

Auto Repair Request

One of our *Safe Parking* guests needs some work done on their vehicle, as their AC is not working and only one door is able to open at this time. The Safe Parking team is looking into resources in the community that may help with this. **If anyone is involved with or connected to the auto repair community**, please contact the main office at 253-630-0701.

We currently have a full slate of guests in Safe Parking. The ministry is **seeking a few more volunteers to help support this ministry**. Training is provided.

Our Community

Pilgrimage of Peace to Japan

A delegation from the Archdioceses of Santa Fe and Seattle is embarking on a transformative Pilgrimage of Peace to Tokyo, Akita, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, Japan from **July 31 to August 12, 2023**. The delegation comprises of Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, and Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, Archbishop of Seattle, along with representatives from various organizations and archdiocesan offices dedicated to nuclear disarmament and social justice.

The mission of the Archdioceses of Santa Fe and Seattle's Pilgrimage of Peace is to establish a strong ecclesial and personal relationship with the bishops of Japan. The Pilgrimage of Peace is driven by a compelling vision and mission statement, which is rooted in a world free from nuclear weapons due to their inherent threat to lasting peace.

For further information, please visit archseattle.org/about-the-archdiocese-of-seattle/archbishop-etienne/pilgrimage-of-peace/

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 | 1:10 P.M. | KC VS. S

TICKET PRICES
MAIN-\$26
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Join us for Faith and Family Day at T-Mobile Park! Gather your friends and family for some summer baseball and claim a limited-edition Mariners-themed Faith and Family t-shirt when you purchase through this special offer. Stick around postgame for a faith-based concert! Those picture perfect PNW days will be here before you know it.

Tickets must be purchased through Group Sales representative to receive t-shirt.

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FAITH & FAMILY

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Supporting local students
through
communities in schools

Drop off items in the bin at
the Life, Justice, Peace
table

We will be collecting school supplies to benefit students in the Kent School District. Watch those "back to school" sales and pick up items to help kids get off to a good start this school year.

Help Your Neighbors!

Volunteers Help With:

*Housework

*Yardwork

*Shopping/Errands

*Transportation

*Pet Care

*Companionship

*Much more....



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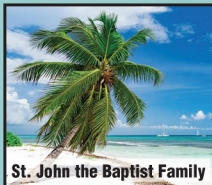


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