

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

July 9, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:25-30)



Photo by Rose Racicot

San Sebastian, San Marcos, Guatemala (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

What Do We Do In the Absence of a Priest?



I would not mind being compared to Pope Francis. I am going to have the same surgery he had. Next week I will have minor surgery for a hernia repair. It is day surgery, but I will be home at least one week for recovery. Fr. Jim will cover the weekend Masses for us.

My recovery time is a good occasion to remind all what we do in absence of a priest. The two main areas of concern center on the Sunday Gathering for Eucharist and for people who are dying. If we were not able to find a priest to help, we do have people trained to lead a Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of Communion in place of the Mass. If the situation was not planned for, we may not have sufficient number of consecrated hosts in the tabernacle. We would need to request a neighboring parish to consecrate additional hosts for us or simply have a Liturgy of the Word.

When a person is near death, the Church has a beautiful ritual called, "The Commendation of the Dying." This may be led by a priest, deacon, or layperson. If a priest is not available, we will have trained staff members and parishioners who can be with be with families at this difficult but holy moment.

The Anointing of the Sick, which requires a priest, is that prayer which we pray for healing and recovery from serious illness.

The term, "Last Rites," has not been in official use for the past 60 years, since the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. The closest thing to a last rite would be the Commendation of the Dying or the reception of Holy Communion by the one going home to God. Neither of these require a priest. As a priest, it is always a privilege to be with people at these moments, and they are a priority.

With PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL, maybe a priest will be able to focus more on pastoral ministry. With fewer priests, there may be more occasions for the laity to be the presence of the Church for one another.

What do we do in the absence of a priest? We continue being Church.

Fr. Bill



Question: What does this mean for lay leaders?

Answer: As the Church lives out the PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL process, the work of Lay Ecclesial Ministers will become even more important. That is why we are investing in a new Lay Ecclesial Ministry formation program to strengthen and support our existing Lay Ecclesial Ministers while we train new ones. More information about this new program will be coming out.

Note: Since 1/22/23, a new question was featured in this column weekly. 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/. Please be sure to check our flyer on the electronic version of this bulletin.

Our Church



This Week in Our Church

Sunday, July 9

Mass - 9:00 am

Mass - 11:30 am

Mass - 5:30 pm

Monday, July 10

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

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

Choir (Fil Am) Practice - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, July 11

Guatemala Committee - 7:00 pm

WICS - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, July 12

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

Truthful Reign Band Practice - 7:00 pm

Thursday, July 13

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

One Parish One Prisoner - 5:00 pm

Word & Communion Service - 6:30 pm

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

Friday, July 14

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

Saturday, July 15

Gospel Reflection SFC - 10:00 am

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 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

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 Leader:

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

Outreach Ministries:

Andrea Mendoza, ext. 115, andream@sjtbcc.org

Online:



sjtbcc.org

Social Media:



@sjtbcovington

On the Cover

Guatemala Awaits

Our cover photo features the village of San Sebastian, San Marcos, Guatemala from the rooftop of the group's host family's home in February 2020. Rudy & Myra, hosts, own a shoe business in downtown San Sebastian and were generous to host eight St. John the Baptist members in their large family home.

We are thrilled to be returning at the end of July. Our group will depart the afternoon of Sunday, July 23, and return on Thursday, August 3. We ask for your prayers during this time!

Our hope of this trip is to continue building relationships with our brothers and sisters as well as explore our next steps in supporting their sanitation improvement efforts.

For more information on our upcoming trip, please visit: sjtbcc.org/guatemala-2023/.

Our Church

Prayer Requests

For those who are **sick**:
Jim Forczek, Debbie Laville,
Jean Wilford, and Pol

For those who have **died**:
Robert Adams (brother of Connie Vaughn)
Cheyenne Chilo
(daughter of Deacon Carl & Michelle Chilo)
Godofredo Collantes (brother of Carolina Mendoza)
Benigora Villareal (mother of Brando Villareal)

Walking Through Grief

This is a 9-week (weekly) FREE educational & inspirational program offering 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.

Our Funeral Committee Needs Volunteers

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one and have had their funeral at St. John the Baptist (SJTb) in the times before and after COVID, chances are that you have experienced the amazing love, care, and food provided by the Funeral Reception Committee headed by Kathy Faille. This has been a part of the SJTB ethos of care in our gatherings since nearly the beginning. Families have appreciated the tremendous community support that a reception represents at a difficult time in their lives.

Typically 6-12 parishioners set up the room, prepare the food, and help with clean up. Unfortunately, the team is short-handed, as age and illness reduce the ranks. If the team cannot fill its roster, it will not be able to host receptions for SJTB funerals. **Currently, the ministry is on hiatus until we can find more volunteers.** We need men and women who can work on their feet for at least 4, and up to 6 hours, on the occasional Thursday or Friday (up to three times per month).

Please contact **Laurie Moloney** at the office (206-630-0701) if you are called to and can participate in this important work.

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 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 communion brought to them would sit at the seat closest to the aisle. Thank you for your cooperation.

How Can We Improve?

It has been almost a year since we launched the new look on our parish bulletin. **The bulletin team would love to hear from you.** We meet once a month to discuss ways to improve. Please tell us what you like the most about the bulletin as well as where we can improve! Email us at bulletin@sjtbcc.org or if you would like to remain anonymous, feel free to drop a note in the collection basket and mark it “bulletin.” We look forward to hearing from you!

Annual Cherries Sale July 8 & 9

**After all weekend Masses
while supplies last**

Sweet Yakima Cherries
Freshly picked and packed
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Graphic design by Knights of Columbus

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 on 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 **call the parish office** at 253-630-0701 and leave message for Angelo Battisti.



Give Outreach A Chance!



We have several opportunities to be involved in our outreach efforts and are constantly looking for additional support. Our ministries vary in focus, time commitment, and type of involvement. If you are interested in learning more

about our outreach efforts and how you can get involved, please **contact the parish office** at 253-630-0701. Our ministries thrive with the help of our incredible parishioners and provide support to many individuals in our community. Thank you for your discernment in how you can be Christ's hands and feet through our outreach efforts.



Bulletin Brings Happy Endings



Remember this lost device article from a couple of weeks ago, when a family had inadvertently placed this in a package meant for the Yard Sale? Well, we have a happy ending. We have reunited this device with the happy owner!

Aside from the importance that lost items can be reunited with their happy owners, we are doing this follow up article to illustrate the power of our bulletin. And what is important for the bulletin is that we have people reading them! So please continue to read our bulletin. You'll never know what you will find in it. It may be that lost item you've been looking for!

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

Rachel's Corner

Hope and Healing After Abortion



project rachel

Peace starts here

"I am clay in His hands and even though I shattered, God reshaped me and now I know what I am made of and by whom. I went through the heat of the fire which is where I was purified and now am a new creation in Him. I feel very loved by God because He has given me so many blessings that didn't even know about, and on this retreat I recognized that I am a daughter of God and loved by Him." - Testimonial

Has your heart been shattered by abortion? Allow your loving creator to give you a new heart. Join us on our next Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat.

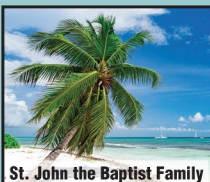
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Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services.

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