

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

September 24, 2023

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 20:1-16)

So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last. (Matthew 20:16)



Aerial Photo courtesy of **Bob Jensen**

The Faith Family 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: **Wednesday 9:00 am, Thursday 6:30 pm, Friday 9:00 am**

Word & Communion: **Monday & Tuesday 9:00 am**

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

Office Hours & Contact Information

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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

The *Pastor's Corner* for this week is replaced by the important announcement below. We can't stress enough how crucial these listening sessions are. Please be a part of St. John the Baptist's history and attend the listening sessions by registering at sjtbcc.org/partners/.



The Archdiocese of Seattle will be announcing the current draft proposal of **Our Parish Family** on Saturday, September 23, 2023. Go to archseattle.org/partners/

Now it is time to hear from you, the parishioners of St. John the Baptist.

- What concerns and challenges do you see with this proposal?
- What opportunities and hopes can you envision?
- What further information should the Archdiocese consider?

Please plan to attend one of the five (5) listening sessions being held in the parish during the second week of October. Your responses will be sent to the archdiocese and will play a part in the final configuration of our parish family.

Register by using the QR code or go to sjtbcc.org/partners/



Call the parish office (253 630-0701) to register for childcare provided during the evening sessions.

PARTNERS IN GOSPEL is a strategic pastoral planning effort taking place across the Archdiocese of Seattle to re-invigorate and renew our local Catholic Church. It will bring most parishes together into a new family structure with two or more parishes. The pastor, parish leaders, and parishioners will determine how this new family will best join together as one parish to carry out the mission of the Church.

Our Church



This Week in Our Church

Sunday, September 24

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Mass - 9:00 am

Blood pressure screening - after 9:00 am Mass
Elementary Program - 10:15 am

Mass - 11:30 am

RCIA Dismissal - 11:30 am

Mass - 5:30 pm

HS Youth Group - 6:30 pm

Monday, September 25

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

Tuesday, September 26

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

Wednesday, September 27

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am
Oracion - 6:00 pm
MS Youth Group - 7:00 pm
Truthful Reign Band Practice - 7:00 pm
Vida en el Espíritu - 7:00 pm

Thursday, September 28

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm
Word & Communion - 6:30 pm
Choir (Sunday 11:30 am) Practice - 7:00 pm
RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, September 29

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am
Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

Saturday, September 30

Gospel Reflection SFC - 10:00 am
Confessions - 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Mass - 5:30 pm
FFC Meeting - 7:00 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

We Are Family

Founded in 1991, St. John the Baptist (SJTb) is a faith home to over 1,200 families. Our cover photo features some of our Sunday morning Mass attendees, who gathered after Mass outside the portico of SJTB.

Father Jack Walmesley was the founding pastor along with approximately 250 faith families at the time. Father Jim Coyne was welcomed as the pastor in 2002. He retired in 2021 and was replaced by our current pastor, Father Bill McKee.

SJTb is proud of its more than 80 ministries serving the parishioners as well as the wider community.

We continue to grow as the Holy Spirit guides new members to SJTB.

Our Church

Prayer Requests

For those who are **sick**:

**Mary Arbeen, Jack Ball, Jim Forczek,
George Pikula, Grace Purcell, Robert Ravena,
and Robert Waters**

For those who have **died**:

Zenaida Lara (mother of Gary Lara)

Parish Leadership Team Update

The Parish Leadership Team (PLT) met on Wednesday, September 6 via zoom. We welcomed **Ray Palisoc** as a new member on the PLT. We reviewed the introduction to the Vatican document *Instrumentum Laboris*, which will be the basis for the discernment and discussion for the participants of the first session of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops and Laity to be held in October 2023 in the Vatican. The PLT was involved in the very first level of the synod when the parish held listening sessions. By looking at this document, the PLT was able to see how the Synod has developed. Many of the insights and concerns expressed at the parish level have been affirmed at every stage of the synod process (i.e., archdiocesan, regional, continental, and now universal). PLT members felt affirmed at the work that has been done and the continual invitation to be a synodal church.

The PLT also looked at how the parish can implement the new parish priorities that flowed from our parish synod experience. This process will start with **evaluating and reflecting** where we are at now in respect to these priorities. Then the process continues with exploring new possibilities and option and then coming up with **recommendations** to live out these priorities. Then the parish will have to choose among the various option and **authorize implementation**. Staff and commission members will do most of this work. The PLT suggested that the parish commissions choose one or two of the priorities, so we do not get bogged down with trying to do too much. These priorities are part of what our parish brings to the table as we look at becoming a family of parishes.

The PLT also reviewed the process and dates for implementing PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL and their role in the process. **All parishioners are encouraged to attend one of the listening sessions in October.**

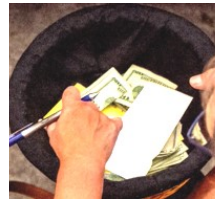
Our Bulletin Has a New Email Address

Effective immediately, the new bulletin email is communications@sjtbcc.org. Because of the different social media platforms on which these articles and ads are now published, we have created an electronic mailbox accessible by members of our communications team leads to view all submitted articles and ads.

Please note that bulletin@sjtbcc.org is still valid and is monitored daily by the bulletin editor.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
IN YOUR PLEDGE
TAKE A STEP

Sharing of Treasurers



As we begin our yearly focus on Stewardship of Treasure, we invite you to reflect on how God has blessed you in your life during this past year. This past week, you should have received a letter from Fr. Bill. He is asking you to **consider God's abundant blessings in your life** and how you return a proper portion of those blessings to our parish, as we continue the mission of helping one another encounter Jesus Christ.

As we also enter into our parish dialogue about PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL, we have the unique opportunity to consider how we are good stewards of God's time, talent and treasure. Our synodal discussions ask us to pray (time) and share our insights with one another (talent) as we continue to commit financially to support our parish this upcoming year (treasure). Please do note that **all of our pledges stay with the budget for St. John the Baptist.**

Knights of Columbus Annual Apple Sale September 30 & October 1 after Masses



Apples will be picked on Friday by our Yakima grower and transported by the Knights of Columbus to St. John the Baptist for sale. It will be available for purchase after all weekend Masses while supplies last.

COATS
FOR KIDS

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. **All sales and donations will support the Coats for Kids Program.**



Our Church

Youth Faith Formation is Back!

Faith formation for Preschool through Grade 12 begins this week!

Middle school youth group meets every Wednesday night from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. High School youth group meets every Sunday night after the 5:30 pm Mass until 8:45 pm with dinner provided. More information to follow on Pre-K to 4th Graders.

It is not too late to register! Forms can be found at [//sjtbcc.org/faith/](https://sjtbcc.org/faith/). If you have any questions, email or call us, **Therese** at ext. 123 or theresem@sjtbcc.org and **Peter** at ext. 110 or peterg@sjtbcc.org.

The Funeral Ministry is Back

As you are most likely aware, the funeral ministry has been on hold for the last two months, because we have not had enough volunteers to support funeral receptions. During that time, the team explored options to restart offering receptions. We came up with some ideas to reduce the workload, and we've had some new volunteers sign up.

A sign-up sheet is created for those who have not officially joined our ministry but are interested in participating on a **limited basis**, such as donating a salad or a dessert, reception setup (9:30 am - 12:00 noon), serving (12:00 noon - 1:00 pm), cleanup (1:00 pm - 3:00 pm), delivering leftover food for donation as needed, and washing table linens and returning them to the McMullen Center.

If you are interested, please sign up at this link: sjtbcc.org/funeral-ministry/

Thanks for your interest in this vital ministry.

Children's Liturgy of the Word Come Join Our Team

Help support this ministry! We need you to:

- help children have an age-appropriate experience of the Liturgy of the Word;
- help children apply the Word of God to their own experiences and actions;
- help children become closer to God; and
- help children learn how to participate, both internally and externally, in the celebration of the Mass.



We want to continue offering a Children's Liturgy of the Word this fall during the Sunday 9:00 am Mass and need **volunteers to support this ministry**. If you have a heart for children and the Mass, this may be the calling for you. For more information, please contact **Therese** at Theresem@sjtbcc.org or call 253-630-0701 ext. 123.

Calling All Creatures, Big and Small

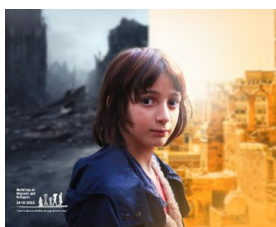


Bring your beloved pet or pets to receive a blessing on **Sunday, October 1, at 12:30 pm** behind the McMullen Center. Please be sure that your four-legged friend is either on a leash or in a pet carrier.

To show our care for animals in need, we invite you to bring a donation of pet food that we will be passing to the Covington Storehouse Food Bank.

Our Community

Free to Choose Whether to Migrate or to Stay



This week is *National Migration Week*, culminating with the *World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR)* on Sunday, September 24. The Catholic Church has been celebrating the WDMR since 1914. It is always an occasion to express concern

for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. Every year the WDMR is the last Sunday of September. In 2023, it will be celebrated on September 24.

As the title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay".



We are called to give 100% in our marriage. Learn how to be the best spouse you can be by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a weekend for married couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together.

Sign up for upcoming WWME weekends at wwme.org.

October 6-8, 2023

Spokane, WA

October 13-15, 2023

Federal Way, WA

November 15-17, 2023

Spokane, WA

Contact: Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321

What's the latest with the Synod?



Initiated by Pope Francis, the Synod on Synodality is a process of listening and dialogue which began in 2021 with a worldwide consultation of the People of God. The Synod continues with gatherings of delegates in Rome in October 2023 and is expected to conclude in 2024. Learn more about the upcoming Synod in this question-and-answer format or go to the Archdiocese of Seattle's Synod website, archseattle.org/synod.

What is a Synod? The Church is in synod! The word “synod” means “on the way together” and refers to a gathering of the Church for discernment or decision-making.

Who is part of the Synod? This Synod is unprecedented in the breadth of participation. In fall of 2021 and winter and spring of 2022, millions of people all over the world participated in listening sessions — the widest consultation of the people of God, and indeed of the human family, in history. In the Archdiocese of Seattle, 11,000 people took part in listening sessions in their parishes or online.

In October 2023, laypeople as well as bishops will serve as official delegates to the Synod — a first. Archbishop Paul D. Etienne was named a delegate by Pope Francis, making him one of about 20 Americans participating in the Synod.

What happens next?

All the work that has happened to this point has prepared the way for the gathering of delegates in Rome in October 2023. The work of the delegates will be guided by the *Instrumentum Laboris* for the Synod. What happens next depends on their deliberations. We know that the Synod will continue into a second session in October 2024.

What will be talked about?

The *Instrumentum Laboris* guiding the work of the delegates this fall asks a wide range of questions focused on how the Church can foster communion, strengthen participation, and carry out its mission. Topics considered include

caring for creation, ecumenism, the participation of the baptized in the life of the Church, the role of women, and the inclusion of marginalized groups, as well as considerations around leadership and decision-making at the local, national, and global levels. Ultimately, the focus of the Synod is synodality itself: How can we walk together more effectively? How can our decision-making processes engage the whole people of God? How can we listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit more intentionally? How can we overcome polarization and divisions and walk together without erasing differences, but holding them in creative tension?

Where can I find out what's happening at the Synod this October?

The Synod assembly is likely to be widely covered in the media. It is important to choose reliable sources because many popular media outlets will likely focus on any controversial topics that are discussed, possibly losing sight of the big picture: The Synod is not about a single topic, but rather about how we walk together as Church in every aspect of life and ministry.

We recommend the following sites for balanced information about what is happening at the Synod:

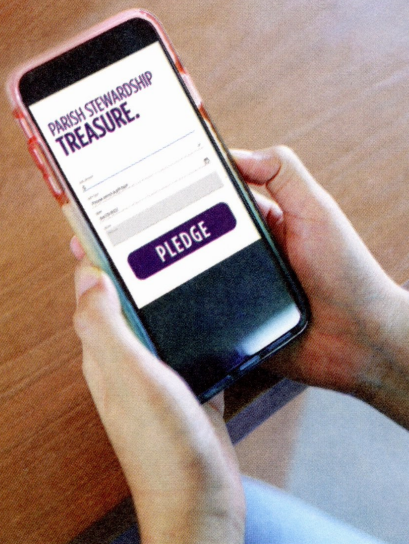
- [Synod.va](https://synod.va): Site for the Synod, available in several languages
- vaticannews.va/en.html: Official media site for the Vatican, available in several languages
- usccb.org/newsroom: Official media site for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- NWCatholic.org: News from our local Church and around the world
- archbishopetienne.com: Archbishop Etienne's blog, where he will share regular updates first-hand from the Synod assembly. You can sign up to receive new posts in your email.

What can we do now?

This is a good time to read, reflect on, and discuss the *Instrumentum Laboris* and the other documents the Synod has produced so far. Above all, let us pray for the Synod, that the delegates in Rome may listen deeply to one another and, most especially, to the Holy Spirit!

For information about the Synod, please visit archseattle.org/synod.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE.



PLEASE
PRAYERFULLY
CONSIDER
GOD'S GIFTS
TO YOU AND
MAKE YOUR
PLEDGE TODAY.

Gratitude starts when we recognize
that we have received a gift.

Everything we have is a gift from God and we're called to share these gifts with others. This is stewardship.

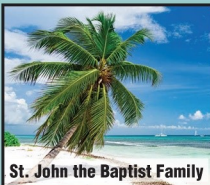
Understanding this, embracing the joy of stewardship, is what creates in us a "need" to give. We give not because there is a need to give — but because our heart points us to give as a part of our faith journey. We give because we are grateful for what we have been given.

If you haven't already decided on your parish stewardship commitment, please prayerfully consider God's gifts to you and make your pledge today. Good things happen when you share. Seeing everything before us as gift — we joyfully accept the responsibility to grow and return our gifts to God.

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