

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

October 22, 2023

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 22:15-21)

Then the Pharisees met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. (Mt 22:14)



Stock photo - St. John the Baptist Media Team

Partners in the Gospel Input Session
(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 to 5:00 pm**

Office Hours & Contact Information

Monday (till 10/23/23) to Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Sunday & Monday (starting 10/30/23): 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

Concerns and Hopes Generated from Parish Listening Sessions

About 160 parishioners participated in our six listening sessions regarding the proposed draft of our parish family. This family would include *St. Barbara*, Black Diamond; *Sacred Heart*, Enumclaw; and *St. Aloysius*, Buckley together with *St. John the Baptist*. The greatest concern seems to be the geographical distance. One of the hopes is having greater diversity. Many of the concerns centered on things we do not yet know. We do not know how many priests will be assigned to this family. There will be at least two, possibly three. There is no one archdiocesan blueprint on how this will work or what it will look like. Each family, on the local level, will make those decisions. The major issues these families will have to discern are:

- how we gather people for the celebration of Mass and the other sacraments;
- how we foster vibrant communities where we accompany one another on this journey of faith;
- how we form disciples and educate our children in the faith while continuing our adult formation as well;
- how do we reach out to those in need and bring others the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The founding members of our parish did this some 33 years ago. I believe there is excitement, and there is energy in forming something new. This will be a long process of discernment for us, taking up to three years. But I hope there will be some of that excitement and energy that gave birth to this faith community.

All of the concerns, hopes, and other comments have been sent to the Archdiocese. The Oversight Committee guiding this process, together with the Presbyteral Council, will consider all the feedback. Archbishop Etienne will announce the final configuration of these parish families in early 2024. They take effect on July 1, 2024.

Let us hold all in prayer during this time.



Fr. Bill

Stewardship Update

Stewardship Pledge 2023 as of 10/13/23



	10/13/23	This time last year
Goal	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Pledges	\$369,654	\$484,642
No. of SJTB families	1231	1213
No. of families pledging	152	229
Average weekly pledge	\$46.77	\$40.70

Our Church



This Week in Our Church

Sunday, October 22

World Mission Sunday

Mass - 9:00 am

Blood pressure screening - after morning Masses

Elementary Program - 10:15 am

Mass - 11:30 am

Mass - 5:30 pm

HS Youth Group - 6:30 pm

Monday, October 23

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

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

Guatemala Meeting - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 24

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

WICS - 6:00 pm

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

HS Confirmation Year 2 Prep - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, October 25

Mass - 9:00 am

MS Youth Group - 7:00 pm

Truthful Reign Band Practice - 7:00 pm

Vida en el Espíritu - 7:00 pm

Thursday, October 26

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Funeral for Jim Forczek - 11:00 am

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

Mass - 6:30 pm

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

RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, October 27

Mass - 9:00 am

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

Saturday, October 28

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

Partners in the Gospel:

Voicing Our Concerns; Counting Our Blessings

The road to Partners in the Gospel is a difficult one, and we need to call on The Holy Spirit to walk with us.

As we have all been informed, our **proposed** partners will be St. Barbara (Black Diamond), Sacred Heart (Enumclaw), and St. Aloysius (Buckley).

Our first input session was held on October 5 at 7:00 pm with five other input sessions scheduled from October 11 thru 15, averaging about 30 participants per session. Featured on our bulletin cover are participants from the October 5 session. Concerns about distance and loss of parishioner involvement were balanced with hopes of more opportunities for youth and greater diversity. All of the comments from all of the sessions will be sent to the Archdiocese to be reviewed. We will have more information in this bulletin in the upcoming months.

There will be bumps on this road, but together we can make it with the Holy Spirit guiding us.

Our Church

Please Pray for

those who are **sick**:

Mike Crist, Theresa Godinez, Brad Reorda

those who have **died**:

Hilda Abola (niece of Rosarita Parks)

Florinda Dimaunahan (aunt of Angie Santiago),

Jim Forczek (husband of Terry Forczek),

Alfred Garcia (brother of Mary Ellen Pardo),

Henry J. Medina (father of Angelica and Vincent Medina),

Gary Patterson (father of Sharon Clark),

Danny Townsend (nephew of Paul Dehmer),

Frances Udeh (uncle of Nkechi Echeruo),

Renato Vellutino (uncle of Bonnie Sawyer),

Devon Wroblewski (cousin of Mary Ellen Nelson)



Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors at Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is just over a month away! Once again, we are planning to serve our community by providing a nutritious Thanksgiving dinner for our less fortunate neighbors. We would like to raise enough money to fund 500 meals to distribute to our St. Vincent de Paul families, as well as our families of Joint Base Lewis McCord, Kent School District, and others.

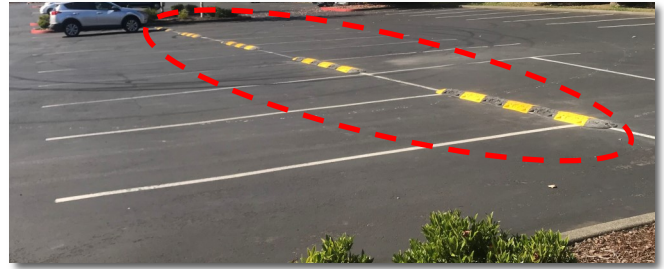
Many thanks to the fantastic people at *Beacon Hill Red Apple*, who will supply us with the food. Each meal is \$40. **To purchase the meals, we need help! We need money!** Please take an envelope, place your donation, and drop in the collection basket. You can also donate via the Pushpay button on our website, pushpay.com/g/sjtbcc and choose "Thanksgiving Meals."

We also need volunteers for our distribution day, Saturday, **November 18**. Please consider volunteering and sign up at archseattle.ccbchurch.com/goto/scheduling/177/public. Volunteer an hour or volunteer all day! Various times are available, so you can choose the time that works best for you.

Thank you for your generosity.

Support our Hat, Mittens, and Scarf Drive

It's getting cold outside, and we need your help with donations. Our annual hat, mittens, and scarf drive will be on the weekends of **October 28** and **November 4**. Please put your donations in the box in the narthex or drop them off at the office. Thank you for your support.



Caution: Speed Humps Ahead

In case you missed last week's article, thanks to our 2022 Annual Catholic Appeal rebate funds, we are able to install speed humps in our parking lot to reduce the number of late night "donut drivers," who speed through the lot and put our Safe Car Parking guests at risk.

These speed humps also double as parking curbs, because they are safer than actual curbs, provide greater visibility, and have a lower profile.

We have a total of 36 speed humps that will be installed, thanks to our Facility Steward, **David Aldous**.



Return Your Treasure Commitment Card



We are very grateful to the many parishioners who have returned a Treasure Commitment Card to the parish. **Your generosity supports the mission and the many ministries of St. John the Baptist.**

Please refer to our graph on Page 2 for status on where we are today. Only 12% of our parish families (152 families out of 1231) are pledging 37% (\$369,654) of our goal. Every dollar helps. Let us strive for 100% participation!

For those of you, who have not yet pledged, please prayerfully reflect on how God is calling you to support our parish. Please return the card sent to you in the mail, pledge online at sjtbcc.org/pledge/, use the QR code above, or fill out one of the cards on the seats in our Church. **We thank you for your good Stewardship of all that God has given you.**

Get Your Articles in Early

With the holidays coming up, we expect a lot of activities by the various ministries. If your ministry is planning on announcing an event or want an article in the bulletin, please remember to submit **no later than 10 days** before the weekend you want your article to appear. Email bulletin@sjtbcc.org if you have questions on the deadline or what can be published.

Our Church

Update from Faith Formation Commission

(submitted by *Joan Williamson*)

At the September 16 meeting, we asked the question, "What do you understand the *Partners in the Gospel* to be?" The understanding among the group at that time was our process of strengthening the Church of the Northwest to further the Gospel message by equipping us to better share the Gospel. It was brought about by the shortage of priests and deficits in some parishes, and that combining parishes will use our resources more effectively. Partnering doesn't mean that we will be closing a lot of buildings/sites. It will help make the financial end of parishes run better and may help make parishes more fiscally responsible. We have a lot of time to plan and build parish together over the three years and will need to be intentional in doing so.

There was a deep sense of trust in Archbishop Etienne and his team, that prayer and the movement of the Holy Spirit will help to join us with our Partners as we move forward. There will need to be some surrender and some "letting go" at times during this process to a new parish. Because we tend to be creatures of habit, this can be a difficult experience at times. Change is hard, we have created a great community here; but we know that as we move with the Holy Spirit, we will help to grow a beautiful new parish. This is an invitation into an opportunity of personal growth as well. There will probably be beautiful additions to our prayer lives because of it. Welcoming, compromising, and creativity are gifts that we will need to lean into.

Update from Finance Council

(submitted by *Kathy Wickward*)

The Finance Council met in September to review our year end finances for fiscal year 2022-2023. The October meeting is the Partner's input session. We welcomed new member **Mike Shimek** to the council!

We ended the year "in the black," because we used the PPP loan to help cover staff salaries this fiscal year. Our facilities expenses were higher than expected due to required expenditures from the safety audit. For the new fiscal year, we are pleased to have brought in fundraising dollars. We also expect a decrease in our property insurance bill, but we do have a higher assessment from the Archdiocese due to a change in the formula it uses to calculate each parish's contribution.

We have hired a new youth minister but will not hire additional staff until the Partners in the Gospel process is complete.

The stewardship campaign is underway. While parishes will join into families as of July 2024, all finances and finance councils will be separate until July 2027, at the earliest. A summary of financial health will again be published monthly in the bulletin. Kathy is working on an Annual Report to parishioners, which will be available during the stewardship campaign.

Update from Facilities and Grounds Commission

(submitted by *David Aldous*)

The Commission met on Thursday evening, October 12. Here is a brief synopsis of the meeting. Complete meeting minutes are on file.

Projects to improve safety and security are set and paid for with the 2022 ACA Rebate. This includes driveway entrance gates, speed humps, and an access gate at the pedestrian entrance as well as wayfinding signs.

We are looking at having a small work party on Saturdays, October 21 and 28, to install the access gate at the pedestrian entrance near the Garden of the Good Shepherd. Stay tuned for more info. Speed humps are being installed in the parking lots. (See article and photo on speed humps on Page 4 of this bulletin. Note the difference in bumps and humps: bumps are taller in height but shorter in length; humps are shorter in height and longer in length.)

The next subject of the meeting was the repainting of the restrooms adjacent to the Sanctuary. New colors have been selected, which will look better with the tile and countertops already in the restrooms.

We will restart the volunteer de-icing and snow removal team once the cold weather arrives. Please consider volunteering for this important ministry to keep our parishioners safe attending Masses. More to follow.

Counting People at Masses

Every May and October, the Archdiocese requires every parish to send in Mass head counts to evaluate Mass participation. Our Point People will be doing head counts at every Mass. You will see them walking through the aisles in the middle of Mass with a paper and pencil or a counter. We apologize for the interruption during Mass and thank you for your understanding. We hope to publish our results in future issues of the bulletin.

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.


 **VIRTUS**® Online

We have started our faith formation program and are deeply appreciative of the volunteers who give their time to share their faith with our youth!

St. John the Baptist is committed to a safe environment for our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. If you are volunteering in any capacity, you will need to **register with Virtus**, a program that provides training on how to keep our vulnerable communities safe. It also provides background checks and policy documents. Please set up an account at virtusonline.org within 30 days of volunteering.

Thank you for keeping our vulnerable communities safe!

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE PLANNING

Title	Parish Treasure Renewal	Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)	Special Collections	Parish Outreach	Other Charities
Purpose	Allows parish to plan operating budget for providing essential services and ministries.	Supports Archdiocese, includes parish rebate for donations over goal amount.	Funds selected local and global causes. Collections mandated by Archdiocese.	Financial aid and donations of items for designated needs and collections.	Non-profits and other groups serving local and global needs
Frequency	Every Fall	Every Spring	Monthly as Designated	Seasonal	
Amount	<i>2-5% family gross income</i>	<i>1% family gross income</i>	<i>1-2 % family gross income</i>		
Provides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday and weekday Masses • Grounds and facilities • Pastoral care • Sacramental preparation • Youth and young adult services • Faith formation programs for all ages • Music ministry • Social outreach and advocacy • Evangelization • Support for parish community events • Bulletins and website • Administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support for more than 60 Archdiocesan ministries • CYO Camps • Seminarians • Catholic Schools • Retreat Center • Hospital and Prison Chaplains • Catholic Community Services (CCS) • Diaconate formation • Clergy continuing education • Vocations • Pastoral planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Rice Bowl • St. Vincent de Paul • Catholic Community Services (CCS) • <i>NW Catholic</i> and Communications • Catholic Campaign for Human Development • Catholic Home Missions • World Missions • Peter's Pence • Holy Land Support • Prepares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanksgiving meals • Giving Tree Store • Diaper Drives • Sister Parish in Guatemala • School Supplies • Food Donations • Knights of Columbus sponsored drives 	<p>List those other charities you support:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
\$ Amount Total	<i>My anticipated planned \$</i>	<i>giving for the year \$</i>	<i>for Catholic and \$</i>	<i>other non-profit \$</i>	<p>QR Code for Parish Online Giving</p>

PARISH STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE.



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

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

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.



Black Catholic Advisory Circle

www.bcacseattle.org

WE ARE ALL GOD'S PEOPLE:

A CULTURAL IMMERSION

Summit

11th Nov 2023

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

318 Third Ave S

Kent, WA 98032

\$40
PER PERSON



Keynote speaker: Gloria Purvis

Guest speakers: Deacon Mel Tardy and Fr. Robert P. Boxie, III

The summit will revolve around the notable keynote speaker, Gloria Purvis, a prominent author. Deacon Mel Tardy will delve into the life and impact of Daniel Rudd, emphasizing his efforts to call the Catholic Church to justice and beyond. The legacy of local Catholic military service members will be honored. The interrelationship between Black Catholic history and Catholic social teaching will be explored through a panel discussion featuring Malcolm Nelson, Principal of St. Therese Catholic Academy in Seattle, and Fr. Robert P. Boxie III, Chaplain at Howard University, and more. The day will culminate in a Mass of Praise and Worship, led by Archbishop Paul Etienne, offering participants to come together in faith and gratitude.

Register Now

BLACK CATHOLIC ADVISORY CIRCLE MISSION:



As individuals united by our African heritage within the community of God, we proudly acknowledge our unique talents and offerings to the Archdiocese of Seattle. Our primary objective is to exchange our exceptional abilities, narrate our experiences, advance the role of lay leaders, and establish inclusive outreach initiatives. Through these efforts, we strive to champion social justice by means of evangelization, fostering a more equitable and compassionate society.

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