

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

November 12, 2023

**Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 25:1-13)**

So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return. (Mt 25:13)



Photo courtesy of Irene Cervantes

**Celebrating Our Faithful Departed on *Día de los Muertos***  
(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

**Tuesday to Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

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

**Sunday & Monday: 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

### Mass Counts Indicate St. John the Baptist is Growing



We have just finished the annual October Mass count. Overall, there was a 31% increase since last year. In 2022, the average Mass attendance was 722. This year the average attendance was 945, an increase of 223 people! Each of our four Masses saw an increase, with our Sunday evening Mass seeing the largest increase of an average of 63 people. The 9:00 AM Sunday Mass continues to be the highest attended with an average of 306. The count is very encouraging.

There is a sizable swing in attendance. The lowest weekend was October 22 with only 880 people at Mass. The highest weekend was October 29 with 1,003 at Mass. Prior to COVID, attendance was around 1,166.

First, I would like to welcome those who have returned to in-person participation at Mass or who have joined our community. Second, a word of thanks to all our regulars who provide the backbone of our worshipping community. Finally, a word of encouragement to those who attend sometimes but not every Sunday. Research indicates that 39% of Catholics attend Mass every week, while 40% attend once or twice a month or less. Sometimes we do not have the choice when we or a family member gets sick or when one has to work on the weekends. Sometimes one is traveling or even attending another parish with family or friends. However, sometimes it is easy to let a bit of laziness or other priorities take precedence over Sunday worship. Going to the gym could be a good analogy. I may not feel like going, but once I am there, I am glad I went and know that I am taking care of my health. The sacraments maintain our spiritual health. Studies show that those who regularly participate at Mass tend to be happier and have a better week. Your presence also improves the quality of our praying together.

When we become a Family of Parishes next July, we will have to examine how many Masses each site will need. The number of priests assigned to our family may limit the number of Masses being offered. With a seating capacity of 450, we certainly do not need four Masses (capacity of 1800 for an average of 945). Three would be nice; two would be a tight fit. I would not envision any immediate change.

In addition to seating capacity, we need an adequate number of liturgical ministers. Currently, we do not have enough to staff four Masses. Some ministers are being asked to serve every weekend. Here is what you can do to help maintain our Masses at St. John the Baptist. First, help us continue the upward trend of attendance. Invite friends and family to attend Mass with you. See if a new neighbor is Catholic and tell them about the parish. Secondly, volunteer for a liturgical ministry. Contact Laurie or myself for more information.

*Fr. Bill*



*Editor's note: Mass counts were done by each Point Person for that Mass.*

## Stewardship Update

### Stewardship Pledge 2023 as of 11/6/23



	10/27/23	Last Year
Goal	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Pledges	<b>\$657,042</b>	\$702,603
No. of SJTB families	1231	1213
No. of families pledging	284	327
Average weekly pledge	\$44.49	\$41.32

## Our Church

### This Week in Our Church

#### Sunday, November 12

**Mass - 9:00 am**

Pancake Breakfast - 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, November 13

**Office Closed**

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

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

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

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Meeting - 7:00 pm

#### Tuesday, November 14

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

WICS - 6:00 pm

Bible Study "Advent Light" - 7:00 pm

HS Confirmation Year 2 - 7:00 pm

#### Wednesday, November 15

**Mass - 9:00 am**

American Sewing Guild Meeting - 9:30 am

Oracion - 6:00 pm

Middle School Youth Group - 7:00 pm

Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm

Vida en el Espíritu Santo - 7:00 pm

#### Thursday, November 16

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

PREPARES Meeting - 9:30 am

Bible Study "Advent Light" (Zoom) - 10:00 am

Funeral for Henry Medina - 11:30 am

Creation Care Team Meeting - 1:00 pm

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

**Mass - 6:30 pm**

Stewardship & Evangelization Commission - 6:30 pm

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

Finance Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

#### Friday, November 17

**Mass - 9:00 am**

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

#### Saturday, November 18

Thanksgiving Meal Prep & Distribution - 8:00 am

Faith Formation Commission - 9:00 am

Gospel Reflection SFC - 10:00 am

High School Confirmation Year 1 Prep - 10:00 am

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](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 Coordinator:**

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

#### **Youth Minister:**

Peter Guthrie, ext. 110, [peterg@sjtbcc.org](mailto:peterg@sjtbcc.org)

#### **Online:**



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

#### **Social Media:**



@sjtbcovington

On the cover

### Understanding *Altar de Día de los Muertos*

The Day of the Dead or *Día de los Muertos* is a result of the combination of Mesoamerican traditions with the Christian understanding of remembering the faithful departed on All Souls Day, November 2.

A key part of this celebration is the preparation of an *Altar de Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead altar). The purpose of the altar is for family members to remember their beloved dead. Images of death such as *Calaveras de azúcar*, sugar skulls, are abundant on Day of the Dead altars along with colorful images.

Featured on our cover this week is this year's *Altar de Día de los Muertos*, which was displayed a few days before All Souls Day. St. John the Baptist hopes to display this *Altar de Día de los Muertos* every year, and all are welcome to bring photos of their deceased loved ones to this altar.

Ultimately, the Day of the Dead is a celebration of life! And, together with the whole Church, we pray that our faithful departed may enter into eternal life with Christ.



## Our Church

### Please Pray for

those who are **sick**:

**Rosalia Acoba, Mary Arbeen,  
Skyler Boyd, Theresa Boyd, Ellen Eisen,  
Mary Grizzle, Barbara Hogenhout,  
Aria Klotz, Addie Klotz,  
John Ruffio, and Diep Tran**

those who have **died**:

**Jessie Ackerson** (adopted father of the Hartman Family)  
**Fran McHenry** (mother-in-law of Therese McHenry)



### Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors at Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is almost here! And we need your help!

We are planning to serve our community by providing a nutritious Thanksgiving dinner for our less fortunate neighbors. But **we can't do this without your help**. So please consider donating towards our purchase of these meals. Each meal is \$45, and we plan to purchase 483 meals. So we will need at least \$21,735.

To donate, please take an envelope on one of the church chairs, write a check (to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church) or insert cash, and drop in the collection basket. We will **need the donation by November 17** to purchase the meals on the morning of the 18th. You can also donate via the Pushpay button on our website, [pushpay.com/g/sjtbcc](https://pushpay.com/g/sjtbcc) and choose "Thanksgiving Meals."

We also need **volunteers** for our distribution day, Saturday, **November 18**. Volunteers will help with bagging the food, handing out the bags to our neighbors in need, and cleaning up. Students, if you need to fulfill your community service hours, here's your chance! Please consider volunteering and sign up at [archseattle.ccbchurch.com/goto/scheduling/177/public](https://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.**



### Join Us For Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is November 23, a time for celebrating what we have been blessed with. Join us in giving thanks during our Thanksgiving Mass on **November 23 at 10:00 am**. Bring a food item to be blessed for your Thanksgiving dinner. We will also take up financial and food collections to support a local food bank.

### 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](mailto:bulletin@sjtbcc.org) if you have questions on the deadline or what can be published.

### Pancake Breakfast



**Sunday, November 12  
10:00 to 11:30 am**

By supporting our pancake breakfast, your donations will assist a seminarian, who is most in need of assistance (determined by the Archdiocese), journey down the path of formation and discernment towards priesthood.



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### Cold Temperatures Bring Icy Mornings

When the temperatures drop below freezing, frost and ice form on the parking lot and sidewalks creating unsafe conditions for people attending the 9 am Mass.

Without a dedicated ministry, de-icing the parking lot was only made possible by snagging a parishioner or two before Mass to help with the de-icing. We need a few **strong people/families willing to be on a winter rotation** to come and spread the de-icer on our sidewalks and parking lot at 8 am on these icy mornings. This will be a special ministry team that will only operate through mid-March.

Please contact **David** at (253) 630-0701 x114 if you can support this ministry.

Thank you for your gift of time and talent.



## Our Church



Our next session of **Financial Peace University** will begin in late January 2024.

This program offers a variety of online and written resources for money management and investing in your future. The nine sessions will be facilitated by a fellow parishioner and retired financial executive, who will share his expertise with participants.

This program is the perfect gift for parents and grandparents to share with your young adult children!

It helps people of all ages with planning for the future to not only stay out of debt but to build a life of generosity!

Classes will be held between Sunday morning Masses in the parish conference room.

Suggested cost is \$50 with some scholarships available.

For more information, please contact **Anne** at [annef@sjtbcc.org](mailto:annef@sjtbcc.org) or 253-630-0710 x125.

### Gifts From the Garden of Good Shepherd

*For I was hungry and you gave me food. (Mt 25:35)*

The *Garden of Good Shepherd*, tended by our green-thumbed ministers, yielded a bountiful harvest this year. This harvest, along with donations from parishioners, was donated to *The Storehouse*, Covington's local food bank. Donations provided sustenance to neighbors suffering from food insecurities.

- Blue Lake Pole Beans ----- 111 pounds
- Tomatoes ----- 31 pounds
- Beets ----- 18 pounds
- Acorn squash ----- 13 pounds
- Potatoes ----- 8 pounds
- Kale ----- 12 bunches

Many thanks to this ministry for providing over 181 pounds of produce to our neighbors in need!

### Advent Fun Day is Coming!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for **10:00 am on Sunday November 19!** Our *Faith Formation* team is going to have activities for the whole family to celebrate the Season of Advent. Come join us at the McMullen Center. For more info, contact **Therese** at x 123.



### We're Not Quite There Yet

We are wrapping up our Parish Stewardship of Treasure Renewal, but we have a long way to go to reach our goal. Thank you to those who have made a financial commitment to sustain our parish. Your gifts support our many ministries and help our parish continue its mission to build up the Body of Christ.

We have reached **65.7% of our goal (\$657,042)** but have only heard from less than 23% (284 families) of our parish households. Last year at this stage of the drive, we were inching towards 70% of our goal. We would like to be there in the next few days and need your help. We would love to hear from everyone!

Please return the card sent to you in the mail. If you can't find your card, we have one for you in the seats in our Church. Fill out and drop it in the collection basket. If you prefer pledging online, please visit us at [sjtbcc.org/pledge/](http://sjtbcc.org/pledge/) or scan the QR code to the right to access the online giving website.

**Your help is needed to sustain our parish and its mission and ministries.** Every little bit will help!



## Our Community



More than 1,000 Washington residents die by suicide every year. Suicide is the #2 cause of death, second only to firearms, and #10 leading cause of death overall.<sup>1</sup>

Please join us for safeTALK, a suicide intervention workshop facilitated by high school students from the Archdiocese of Seattle's Catholic Lifesaver Corps. This three-hour suicide alertness training helps participants recognize a person with thoughts of suicide and connects them with resources to help them choose to live.

**Saturday, November 18**

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

St. James Cathedral

907 Columbia Street in Seattle, WA 98104

Register at:

[archseattle.org/ministries/outreach-ministries/mental-health-ministry/event-registration-safetalk/](http://archseattle.org/ministries/outreach-ministries/mental-health-ministry/event-registration-safetalk/)

<sup>1</sup> [Pacific Northwest Suicide Prevention Resource Center](http://PacificNorthwestSuicidePreventionResourceCenter.org)



ST. JOHN THE  
BAPTIST  
FAITH  
FORMATION

# ADVENT FUN DAY

**MCMULLEN CENTER**  
**November 19th**  
**10:00 - 11:30am**

**FAMILIES, TEENS AND ADULTS WELCOME**

**Activities for the  
entire family!**

- - 
  - 
  - 
  -
- Advent Crafts!**  
**Cookies Decorating!**  
**Story! And More...**



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
Adult Faith Formation

# PARISH ADVENT RETREAT

**Saturday - December 2, 2023**

**9am-3pm**

**(lunch provided)**

**meet in the sanctuary**

**"The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light; those who  
lived in a land of deep darkness--on  
them light shined." Isa 9:2**

Joan Williamson and some of the RCIA Team will lead the community in prayer with the theme of "Light"! We will have a movement of presentation, ponder, creative expression, and group sharing as the method of our journey for the day.

click here to register

**[texthttps://tinyurl.com/adventretreatsjtb](https://tinyurl.com/adventretreatsjtb)**

**For more information contact Joan Williamson  
253-630-0701 [joanw@sjtbcc.org](mailto:joanw@sjtbcc.org)**



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
Adult Faith Formation

# "Advent Light"

## THRESHOLD BIBLE STUDY

The method of Threshold Bible Study is rooted in the classical tradition of lectio divina, an ancient yet contemporary means for reading the Scriptures reflectively and prayerfully. Reading and interpreting the text (lectio) is followed by reflective meditation on its message. The reading and reflecting flows into prayer from the heart.

Advent is a time for new understanding, for putting different pieces of God's revelation together so as to see the divine plan more clearly.

We listen to the words of the ancient prophets, to the wisdom of Jesus, to the stories of his birth and infancy, and we make connections between them. Then we connect those truths to our own lives and our contemporary world and see ways God is acting anew, ways God continues to reveal the coming of Jesus to us today.



### **Tuesdays 7-8:30pm**

In person Nov 7 - Feb 6, 2024  
(except Dec 12, 19, 26 & Jan 2,  
In Classroom 8A & 8B

### **Thursdays 10-11:30am**

via zoom Nov 9 - Feb 8, 2024  
(except Nov 23, Dec 21, 28, & Jan 4)  
Cost is \$10.00 for the book

Click Here to Register

<https://tinyurl.com/BibleStudysjtb>

For more information contact Joan Williamson  
253-630-0701 x109 joanw@sjtbcc.org





# REPORT FROM ROME:

## Did the church listen to women and LGBTQ Catholics at the synod?



**Heidi Schlumpf**

*National Catholic Reporter  
Senior Correspondent*

**Fall Catholic Heritage Lecture  
and the 2023 Ann O'Hara Graff Lecture**

**Tuesday, November 14 at 4pm**  
**Public Reception at 3:15pm, Campion Ballroom**



RSVP  
requested



### EVENT SPONSORS:

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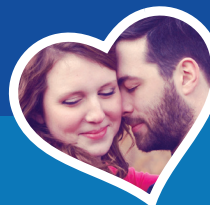
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