

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

November 19, 2023

**Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 25:14-30)**

To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have abundance.  
But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. (Mt 25:29)

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Photo from Bulletin Photo Gallery

**Healing by Praying**  
(see related story on Page 3)

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## **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

### Thanksgiving and Welcoming Refugees

In one sense, Thanksgiving Day remembers the first refugees arriving to this land. Those pilgrims came in search of religious freedom. If they had not been helped by the Native Americans, they would have all died of starvation and exposure. The welcome and assistance they received meant their survival. It also established our American identity of welcoming refugees and immigrants.

The U.S. has always been a haven for the world's refugees, and the Catholic Church plays a large role in that welcome. Welcoming refugees is the American way and an important part of our Catholic tradition.

The U.S. Bishops have declared that America's immigration system is broken and in need of comprehensive reform. Yet, only a few in Congress seem ready to address this need. Too many simply want to close the door. During his visit to the United States, Pope Francis implored all Americans to remember the Golden Rule and help refugees:

"Our world is facing a refugee crisis of a magnitude not seen since the Second World War. This presents us with great challenges and many hard decisions. We must not be taken aback by their numbers but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation. To respond in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal. We need to avoid a common temptation nowadays: to discard whatever proves troublesome. Let us remember the Golden Rule: *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you* (Mt 7:12). (Speech to U.S. Congress, 9/24/15)

This Thanksgiving Day, can we not only remember the welcome those first refugees received, which was the origin of this civil holiday, but can we also look at what welcome we can offer the refugees seeking freedom today?

Fr. Bill



## Stewardship Update

### Stewardship Pledge 2023 as of 11/9/23



	11/8/23	Last Year
Goal	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Pledges	<b>\$742,576</b>	\$702,603
No. of SJTB families	1231	1213
No. of families pledging	313	327
Average weekly pledge	\$45.62	\$41.32

## Our Church

### This Week in Our Church

#### Sunday, November 19

Mass - 9:00 am  
Advent Fun Day - 10:00 am  
Blood Pressure Screening - after 9:00 am Mass  
Mass - 11:30 am  
Mass - 5:30 pm  
HS Youth Group - 6:30 pm

#### Monday, November 20

##### *Office Closed*

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am  
Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am  
Prayer Ministry SFC Meeting - 9:30 am  
Choir (9am Sunday) Practice - 7:00 pm  
Knights of Columbus Leadership Meeting - 7:00 pm

#### Tuesday, November 21

Word & Communion - 9:00 am  
WICS - 6:00 pm  
Bible Study "Advent Light" - 7:00 pm  
Choir (Fil-Am) Practice - 7:00 pm

#### Wednesday, November 22

Mass - 9:00 am  
Oracion - 6:00 pm  
Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm  
Vida en el Espíritu Santo - 6:00 pm

#### Thursday, November 23

##### *Thanksgiving - office closed*

Thanksgiving Mass - 10:00 am



#### Friday, November 24

##### *office closed*

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

#### Saturday, November 25

Craft & Hobby Day - 10:00 am  
Gospel Reflection SFC - 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

### Healing and Giving Thanks Through Praying

Have you ever had a time when you wanted to pray but didn't know how to pray or what to pray? God hears us, no matter how we pray. But sometimes, we need that support from fellow humans to pray with us and lift us up.

St. John the Baptist can provide that support to you through our *Prayer Ministry Group*. Praying with this group helps one's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. And just as important in this group is giving thanks for what God has been doing in one's life.

Featured on our cover page are **David Richardson**, Ministry Coordinator, and **Zelie Dolan**, team member praying with a parishioner after the 9:00 am Sunday Mass.

All team members have completed the required training for prayer ministry. This ministry is available for parishioners after the weekend masses as well as for individuals requesting prayer support at home.

This group welcomes you to pray with them in times of hardship as well as wellness.



## Our Church

### Please Pray for our sick:

<b>Rosalia Acoba</b>	<b>Aria Klotz</b>
<b>Skyler Boyd</b>	<b>Addie Klotz</b>
<b>Theresa Boyd</b>	<b>John Ruffio</b>
<b>Mary Grizzle</b>	<b>Nancy Temple</b>
<b>Barbara Hogenhout</b>	<b>Diep Tran</b>

### Our recently died

**Violet Katz** (mother of Karen Harvey)  
**Cristina Villarreal** (mother of Noel Villarreal)

### 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.

### Spotlight Your Ministry

A picture is worth a thousand words! And what better way to send a message to the community about who and what we are here at St. John the Baptist than to feature a photo of one of our church ministries on our bulletin's front cover!

If you want to give your ministry some air time and shout to the community on what great disciples your team members are or maybe just invite someone to join your team, please contact the bulletin committee at [bulletin@sjtbcc.org](mailto:bulletin@sjtbcc.org). Together, we can "paint" your ministry in the bulletin.

### A Note of Thanks

Thank you to all the generous people who contributed to our hat, scarf, and mitten drive. We collected over 200 items and even some socks and a few sweaters. The recipients will be warmed by your thoughtfulness. **Thank you for your generosity!**



### Interested in Being a Liturgical Minister?



As the holidays approach, please think not only about the physical gifts you will be giving out to family and friends but also the spiritual gift you will be giving yourself. Consider becoming more involved in your spiritual life this new year by becoming a liturgical minister.

We are in need of Sacristans, Point Persons, Eucharistic ministers, Altar Servers and Cross Bearers, Lectors, Greeters, and Audio and Video ministers. The more volunteers we get, the less you'll be volunteering. Today, some of our ministers are serving every Sunday. While it is spiritually fulfilling to them, it is also our duty as parishioners to give them a break. **Contact Laurie Moloney** at our parish office for more information and training.

Or you may talk to these people at the Masses to find out more about being a minister: **Jeff Babbitt** for Altar Servers & Cross Bearers, **Luis Diaz de Leon** for Audio, **Pat Defiesta** for Eucharistic Ministers, **Kathy Kernan** for Greeters, **Norm & Tia Bailey** for Lectors, **Scott Gilyeat** for Point Person, **Paul Dehmer** for Sacristans, and **Laurie Moloney** for Video. They are coordinators for the listed ministries.

### 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.



### 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.

## 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**.

### We Welcome Family & Friends

Do you have any family members and/or friends, who you are hoping will come back to church one day? Why not plant a bug in their ear and welcome them to the Thanksgiving or Christmas Mass? St. John the Baptist will welcome them with open arms!

If they become interested in joining our faith family, you may contact **Anne Frederick** at our parish office on how they can join.

### Thanksgiving Office Hours

Please remember that our office is indefinitely closed on Mondays, and calls will be forwarded to voicemail.

So that our parish staff may enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with their families, the **office is also closed on Thursday (Thanksgiving Day) and Friday**. If you have a pastoral care emergency and have to call the parish office on these days, please call 253-630-0701 and press 9.

From the team of St. John the Baptist bulletin, we wish you and your loved ones a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!



### We Can Do This!!!

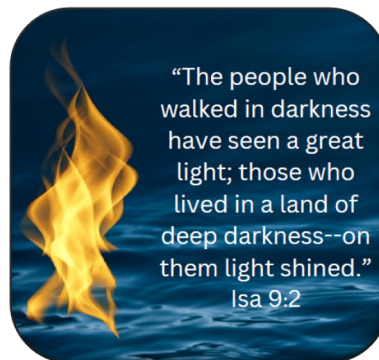
Have you ever found yourself in line at the grocery store being a few dollars short of money to buy the groceries? Well, that's where we are right now. We're more than a few dollars short, but you get the idea. Please help us buy our "groceries" or more specifically, support our many ministries and help our parish continue its mission to build up the Body of Christ.

We have reached **74% of our goal (\$742,576)** but have only heard from less than 26% (313 families) of our parish households. We have surpassed our goal this year when compared to the same time last year. But we're still short 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!



### Parish Advent Retreat

**Joan Williamson**, our Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation, 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.

Please join us in the Sanctuary on **Saturday, December 2, 2023 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Lunch will be provided.

You can register here [sjtbcc.org/retreat/](http://sjtbcc.org/retreat/)



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
Adult Faith Formation

# "Advent Light"

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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



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)**





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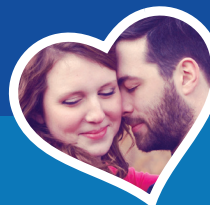
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St. John the Baptist, Covington, WA

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