

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

November 26, 2023

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Mt 25:31-46)

For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink.
I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. (Mt 25:35)



SJTB Photo Gallery 2022

The Start of a Thanksgiving Meal
(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**.

Advent Gospels



The season of Advent begins next week. On the four Sundays of Advent, the Catholic lectionary presents a series of Gospel readings that prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ. The Sunday Advent readings all rotate on a three-year cycle, but they always follow the same pattern. This Advent, we begin reading from the Gospel of Mark.

The Gospel for the First Sunday of Advent always tells of the reign of Christ at the end of time. It echoes the theme of this Sunday, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. Advent starts with the message that we await the second coming of Christ. This entire season is not just a reminder of a past birth but an anticipation of future glory.

The Second and Third Sundays of Advent always have Gospel readings about John the Baptist. John proclaims the nearness of the kingdom of God and serves as the prophet who bridges the Old and New Testaments. John foreshadows Jesus in his birth, his preaching, and his death. John's message on these two middle Sundays of this season inspires us to follow Christ. The Fourth Sunday of Advent always tells part of the story that just precedes the birth of Christ. These familiar episodes set the stage for the story of Christmas.

The Gospel readings of the four Sundays of Advent come to us in reverse chronology. We start with the end of time. We continue to the period when Jesus was an adult. We end in the days before his birth. Like a funnel, Advent opens with a giant theme, the grandness of Christ the King, and it ends with a humble and poor child lying in a Bethlehem manger.

Fr. Bill

Stewardship Pledge 2023 as of 11/14/23



	11/10/23	This Time Last Year
Goal	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Pledges	\$820,748	\$749,347
No. of SJTB families	1231	1213
No. of families pledging	332	354
Average weekly pledge	\$43.84	\$40.70

This Week in Our Church

Sunday, November 26

Mass - 9:00 am
 Mass - 11:30 am
 RCIA Dismissal - 11:30 am
 Mass - 5:30 pm
 HS Youth Group - 6:30 pm

Monday, November 27

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
 Guatemala Meeting - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, November 28

Word & Communion - 9:00 am
 WICS - 6:00 pm
 Bible Study "Advent Light" - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, November 29

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

Thursday, November 30

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am
 Bible Study "Advent Light" - 7:00 pm
 Hora Santa - 2:30 pm
 Mass - 6:30 pm
 Choir (11:30) Practice - 7:00 pm
 Communications Meeting - 7:00 pm
 RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, December 1

Mass - 9:00 am
 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 9:45 am
 Hispanic Charismatic Adoration - 4:00 pm
 Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 2

Parish Advent Retreat - 9:00 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

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

The Blessings of Food

For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. Mt 25:35

Through the generosity of our St. John the Baptist (SJTb) parishioners, we are able to provide Thanksgiving meals to 423 neighbors. These neighbors come from our very own ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, as well as Catholic Community Services, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Kent Youth and Family Services, and the Kent School District.

Featured on the cover page is our team of parishioners loading the meals from *Red Apple* in Seattle (2022). These meals will be assembled into bags at the SJTB McMullen Center and then loaded into neighbors' vehicles from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 18.

This yearly event would not be possible without the funds donated by our parishioners and the help from our volunteers to pick up, bag, and distribute these meals. We give special thanks to these men and women, boys and girls, who have helped to make this possible.

Please Pray for the sick:

Susan Christ **Vicky Eggum**
Mary Grizzle **Barb O'Neill**
John Ruffio **Nancy Temple**
Matt Thompson **Diep Tran**

and those who have recently **died**:
Cristina Villarreal (mother of Noel Villarreal)
All whose names are inscribed in our
Book of the Dead

We Can Do This!!!

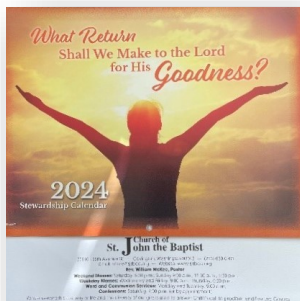
Last week we asked if you could help us with a few more extra dollars. We got more, but unfortunately still not enough. We are still a few hundred dollars short but oh so close to our goal of supporting our many ministries and helping our parish continue its mission to build up the Body of Christ.

We have reached **82% of our goal (\$820,748)** but have only heard from less than 29.3% (360 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 it out and drop it in the collection basket. If you prefer pledging online, please visit us at sjtbcc.org/pledge/ or scan the QR code to the right to access online giving.



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



Our 2024 Parish
Calendars have arrived!
Please **pick up your**
calendar and other
Advent resources after
Masses in December.

Plumber Needed

We need help with fixing a few issues requiring the expertise of a plumber. If you are a plumber or know of anyone who is a plumber, please contact **David** at 253-630-0701 ext. 114.

Parish Leader Team Meeting Update

The Parish Leadership Team met on November 8, and reviewed the parish listening sessions for Partners in the Gospel. While there was the expected anxiety, most were able to get to a place of hope and positive expectation. Members who participated in the sessions were impressed with the quality of listening they experienced. They acknowledged the need to keep the parish updated in the process.

The team also looked at how the parish priorities will be implemented. These priorities were based on the parish listening sessions for the synod. The parish staff and the commissions will be focusing on one or two of those priorities. Staff chose the priorities of "accompanying all on this journey of faith" and "offering healing and hope to those hurt or wounded by the Church." Staff also recommended to the Parish Leadership Team that the parish establish a new Women's Commission to address the priority of "Recognizing, respecting, and being enriched by the experiences and perspectives of women." The Team reviewed a possible charter for a women's commission and recommended establishing it.

The team also reviewed the process for determining the use of the Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate. They recommend the proposal be tied into the parish priorities.



As we draw closer to Christmas, you will see the Giving Tree Ministry come to life. In collaboration with the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry, the annual Giving Tree helps bring Christmas joy to families who are facing difficult and challenging times. Starting this week, the Giving Tree with tags will be placed in the narthex, and parishioners can generously begin bringing in gifts that will be used in our Giving Tree Store on Tuesday, December 19.

Our goal is to support at least 50 families this holiday season. If you would like to help, monetary donations can be made at the following link: ppay.co/TvjVxqeglf8. You can also shop for goods by taking a tag from the Giving Tree in the narthex. **All items need to be received back to the parish by Tuesday, December 18.**

If you have any questions or would like to be involved in this wonderful ministry, please contact **Kathy** at kathyw@sjtbcc.org or 253-630-0701 ext. 101.



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 or 253-630-0710 x125.

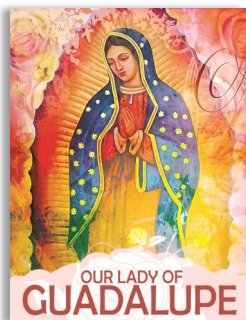
We Welcome Family & Friends

Do you have any family members and/or friends, who you are hoping will come back to church one day? St. John the Baptist will be pleased to welcome them this Thanksgiving and Christmas.

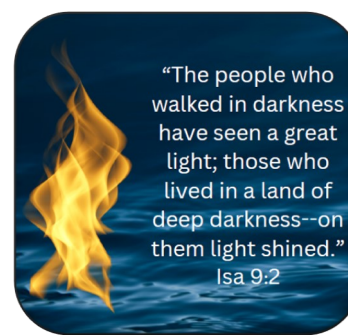
If they become interested in joining our faith family, **Anne Frederick** at our parish office will enjoy connecting with them. Call her at 253-630-0701 ext. 125.

Honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe

Join us as we celebrate the *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*, the Virgin Mary who appeared to Juan Diego, a gifted member of the Chichimeca people in Mexico City, on **Tuesday, December 12**. The celebration includes a novena for nine days, *Mañanitas*, Mass, and dinner. Please mark your calendars for the following events celebrating *Our Lady of Guadalupe*.



- Novena: December 3 to December 11 at 6:00 pm in the church. If there is an evening Mass, the novena will take place after Mass.
- *Mañanitas*: December 12 beginning at 4:00 am, followed by a breakfast of pan dulce and tamales.
- Mass (bilingual): December 12 at 6:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm.



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!"

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/

Come Celebrate Simbang Gabi

Join us for *Simbang Gabi*, a Filipino celebration in anticipation of Christmas, at the **5:30 pm Mass on Saturday, December 16**. The Mass will feature a procession of *parols* (lanterns), traditional Filipino gifts, and music in Tagalog. Following the Mass is a dinner of traditional Filipino foods. All are welcome!

Traditionally, *Simbang Gabi* is a novena of Masses celebrated for the nine days before Christmas. Here are dates and times of *Simbang Gabi* Masses in nearby parishes:

- Saturday, 12/9, 11 am @ St. James Cathedral
- Thursday, 12/14, 7 pm at St. Francis, Burien
- Friday, 12/15, 6 pm at Holy Family, Auburn
- **Saturday, 12/16, 5:30 pm at St. John the Baptist**
- Saturday, 12/16, 5 pm at St. Philomena, Des Moines
- Sunday, 12/17, 5 pm at St. Anthony, Renton
- Wednesday, 12/20, 6 pm at St. Theresa, Fed. Way
- Thursday, 12/21, 6 pm at St. Theresa, Fed. Way
- Friday, 12/22, 6 pm at St. Theresa, Fed. Way
- Saturday, 12/23, 5 pm at Holy Spirit, Kent

Give Back Through #iGiveCatholic!

#iGiveCatholic on #GivingTuesday is on November 28! We welcome you to give back before the big day to support your favorite parish, school, or ministry. Simply visit the Seattle Archdiocese site between November 26 and November 28 during our Advanced Giving Day phase of #iGiveCatholic 2023!

Your friends and family can support St. John the Baptist by giving online at igivecatholic.org/ and searching for St. John the Baptist. Thank you for your continued generosity!"

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Adult Faith Formation

"Advent Light"

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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 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**



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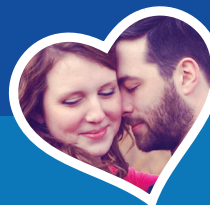
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