

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

December 10 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. (Mk 1:2)



Photo from Bulletin Photo Gallery 2017

Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe
(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

See also holiday Mass schedule on Page 5

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**.



Reconciliation

Advent is a season of preparation. We are preparing both for the celebration of the Lord's birthday and for His return in glory. In between this first and final coming of the Lord is the preparation for meeting Him each and every day in prayer and good works.

The *Sacrament of Reconciliation* (also referred to as *Penance* or *Confession*) is a way of meeting the Lord now and preparing for the celebration of Christmas as we await His return in glory. At the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), the church revised the way we celebrate the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*. In 1973, a new ritual was promulgated that not only revised the rite for individual confession but also added a rite for reconciliation of several penitents with individual confession. This emphasized the relation of the sacrament to the community.

With a communal celebration of Reconciliation, with private confession and absolution, the Assembly is nourished by the proclamation of the Word and spiritual song. People receive the support and prayer of the community as they confess their sins to one of several priests present. Communal reconciliation reminds us that our sin affects others and that others will forgive the wrong we've done.

Our parish Advent Communal Reconciliation Service will be Saturday, December 16 at 10:00 AM. If you cannot make that, St. Barbara's in Black Diamond is having the communal service on Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 PM. St. Theresa's in Federal Way has theirs on Friday, December 15 at 7:00 PM.

Fr. Bill

This Week in Our Church

Sunday, December 10

Mass - 9:00 am
 Elementary Program - 10:15 am
Mass - 11:30 am
 RCIA Dismissal - 11:30 am
Mass - 5:30 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena - 6:00 pm
 HS Youth Group - 6:30 pm

Monday, December 11

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena - 6:00 pm
 Choir (9am Sunday) Practice - 7:00 pm
 Choir (Fil-Am) Practice - 7:00 pm
 Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Meeting - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mañanitas- 4:00 am
 Mañanitas Reception - 5:00 am
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass - 6:00 pm
 WICS - 6:00 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Dinner - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 13

Mass - 9:00 am
 Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Mass - 4:30 pm
 Oracion - 6:00 pm
 Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm
 MS Youth Group - 7:00 pm
 Vida en el Espíritu Santo - 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 14

Bible Study "Advent Light" - 10:00 am
 Hora Santa - 2:30 pm
 Facilities & Grounds Commission - 4:30 pm
 One Parish One Prisoner Meeting - 5:00 pm
Mass - 6:30 pm
 Choir (11:30) Practice - 7:00 pm
 Liturgy Commission - 7:00 pm
 RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, December 15

Mass - 9:00 am
 Safe Car Holiday Feast - 6:00 pm
 FF Parent Nite Out Child Care - 6:30 pm
 Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 16

Faith Formation Commission - 9:00 am
 Advent Reconciliation Service 10:00 am
 Gospel Reflection SFC - 10:00 am
 Children's Christmas Mass Rehearsal - 2:00 pm
 Confessions - 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Mass (Simbang Gabi) - 5:30 pm
 Simbang Gabi Reception - 6:30 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

Why We Celebrate

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron saint of Mexico. She is credited with bringing blessings and miracles to people around the world.

She first appeared to Juan Diego, a peasant and native of Mexico in 1531. She instructed him to build a temple on that site where he stood. When he delivered the message to the local bishop, roses not native to the area fell from Diego's cloak, and an image of the Virgin Mary was impressed on the simple garment, the first of many miracles.

We celebrate this patron saint, *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, with a feast that starts with a nine-day Novena on December 3 and ends with Mass on the last day. A *Mañanita* occurs on December 12 to awaken Our Lady. Here, songs are performed by a mariachi band while everyone enjoys a breakfast of tamales and pan dulce (sweet bread).

Featured on our cover is a mariachi band celebrating the start of the *Mañanita* at St. John the Baptist a few years ago. Please join us this week as we celebrate the *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe* on December 12. See Page 5 for a schedule of events.

Please Pray for the sick:

Emma Bermudez **Brayden Ebbesson**
Eleanor Giberson **Diep Tran**
Julie Wynn

and those who have recently **died**:

David Hart (friend of Angie Santiago)

Ron Klapperrich (brother of
Denise Jackson and Dolores Paul)

Osmundo Mendoza

Rosa Montevon (mother of Ruby Camat)

Ministers Needed for Pastoral Care to the Homebound

"Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn, and the poor are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

- Pope Francis

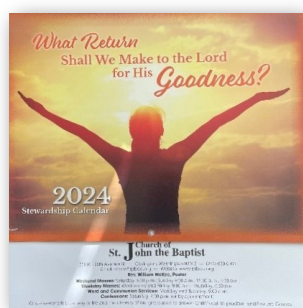
Those who carry Holy Communion to the sick and homebound continue the community's act of worship in the Mass. You bring the Body of Christ that is present in the Mass to them, both in the form of the Eucharist and in form of the community. For the sick and homebound, the receiving of Communion is not only a privilege but also a sign of support and concern shown by the St. John the Baptist community for its members who can't attend Mass.

Pastoral Care also is a ministry of presence. Simply being present and listening to those who cannot attend Mass is a powerful ministry. At St. John the Baptist, we have ministers who take communion to the sick and homebound, and those who visit, listen, and pray with them in the form of words and music.

We currently have a critical need for more pastoral care ministers. Our community is aging, and many more people have requested communion than we have ministers who can take it to them.

Please contact **Laurie** at the parish office if you'd like to become a pastoral care minister to the homebound or at lauriem@sjtbcc.org.

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



Christmas Poinsettias



You are invited to make a donation on behalf of a loved one for the poinsettias that we will use to decorate the church for Christmas. Write the name of the person you wish to remember on a memorial card and place it in the envelope with your payment. Put it in the collection box in the narthex. The memorial cards will be displayed in the narthex at Christmas.

Deadline is December 17, 2023. Donations of \$10 is greatly appreciated.



As we draw closer to Christmas, our annual *Giving Tree* helps bring Christmas joy to families who are facing difficult and challenging times. In collaboration with the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry, which works with families in need, we decorate the Giving Tree with tags in the narthex. Parishioners can choose a tag (or several) and purchase new and unwrapped gifts that will be used in our Giving Tree Store on Tuesday, December 19. We also support Pregnancy Aid in Kent with gifts of baby clothes, car seats, diaper bags, and more.

Our goal is to support at least 50 families this holiday season. You can help in a number of ways:

- Monetary donations at ppay.co/W_CMPHy78W4 (the Giving Tree team will use the funds to shop for items);
- Take a tag from the Giving Tree in the narthex and support our local businesses by shopping for items on the tag;
- Shop online at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com);
- Scan the QR code to donate money.



Please bring all items back to the parish by Tuesday, December 18.

We also need volunteers to guide our families through the store at the McMullen Center. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Pat at bulletin@sjtbcc.org. We expect about 10 families to come through every hour.

Lastly, **we need carts and wagons** to borrow for the event. If you have one to lend, please let Pat know.

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 (FPU)** will begin in late January 2024. 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.

Advent Reconciliation Services

Please mark your calendars for the *Advent Reconciliation Service* at **10:00 am on Saturday, December 16, 2023** in the sanctuary. The communal service includes confession and absolution.

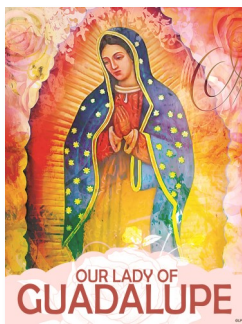
Prepare your heart for Jesus!

New Women's Commission

The Women's Commission information session will be held **Thursday, January 4, 2024** after the 6:30 pm Mass in the McMullen Center Multipurpose Room. This will be a gathering to reflect on the role of women in the church, discuss the current charter, and forge a path forward. All interested women and men are invited to be part of this ground-breaking commission.

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.

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:

- 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

You're Invited to a Crab Feast

(sponsored by the *Knights of Columbus*)



Saturday, January 13, 2024

Dinner: 6:30 pm (doors open 6:00 pm)

\$50/person | \$275/reserved table for 6

Only 120 tickets available and will not be sold at the door

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses in the church office or see any Knight

Menu:

Dungeness crab, Caesar salad, corn-on-the-cob, roasted mix vegetables, dinner rolls, dessert, & drinks

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass - **10:00 am**

Children's Mass - **4:00 pm**

Nativity of the Lord: Mass During the Night - **7:00 pm & 10:00 pm**

Monday, December 25, 2023

Nativity of the Lord: Mass During the Day - **10:00am**

Saturday, December 30, 2023

Feast of the Holy Family - **5:30 pm**

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Feast of the Holy Family - **9:00 am, 11:30 am, & 5:30 pm**

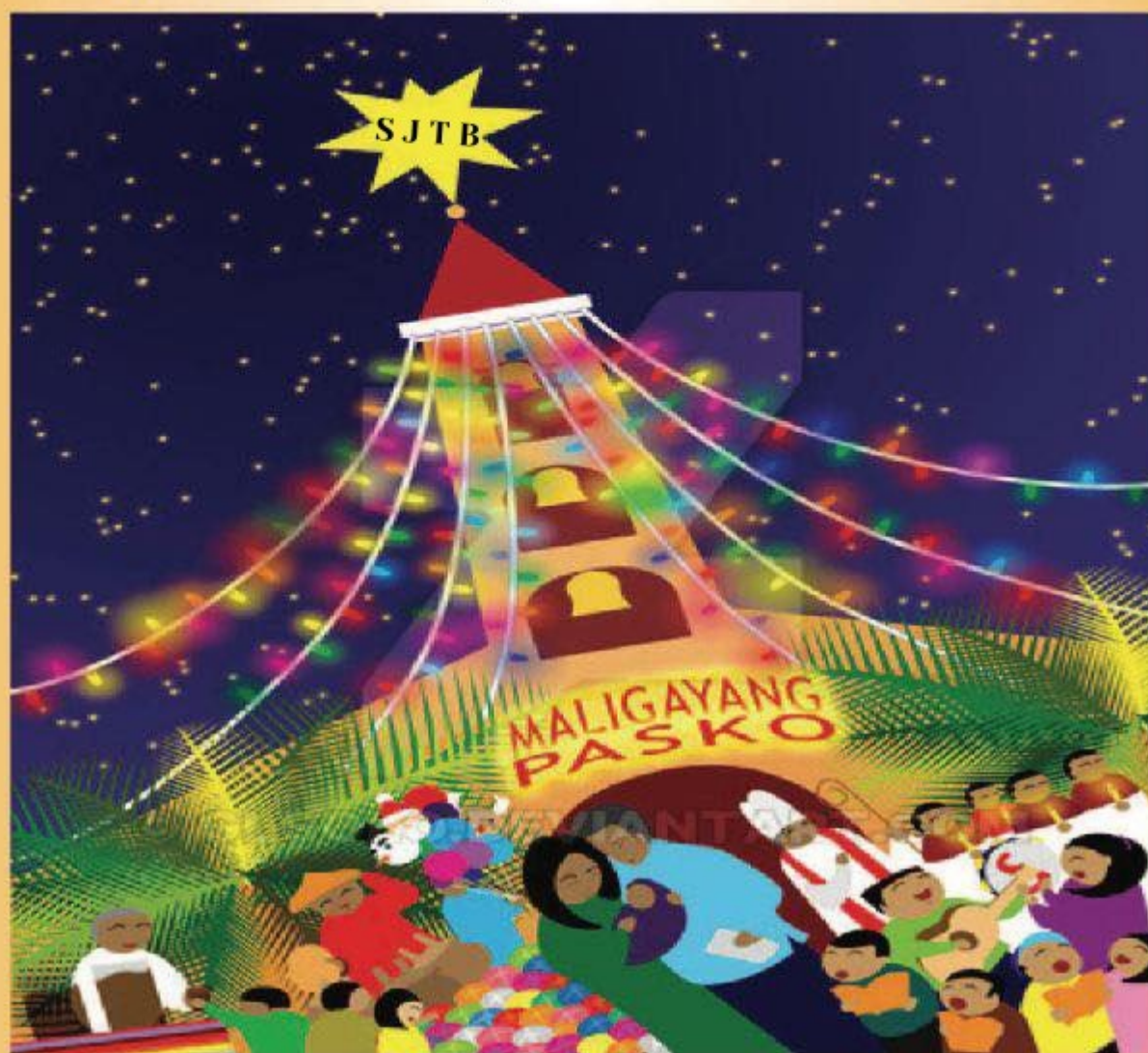
Monday, January 1, 2024

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - **10:00 am**

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

25810 156th Avenue SE Covington, WA 98042

Tel: 253-630-0701



Simbang Gabi 2023

Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Celebrant: Fr. Bill McKee

Please join us after the mass for dinner at the McMullen Hall.

Hosted by: The Filipino-American Association of

SJT B C C

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

DECEMBER 12, 2023

- Mañanitas: 4 am
 - Breakfast: 5 am
 - Mass (bilingual): 6 pm
 - Dinner: 7 pm
-

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron of the Americas, and a powerful symbol of Mexican culture and Catholic faith. Come and celebrate with us as we honor her miraculous appearance to Juan Diego in 1531.



Novena
Dec. 3 - 11
6 pm in the church



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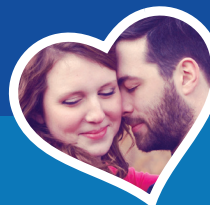
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