

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

December 17 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

The Magnificat: Mary's Song of Praise -
Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! (Lk 1:46-47)



Photo courtesy of Greg Dwidjaya 2022

Celebrating "Night Mass" the Filipino Way
(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 4

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**.



A Christmas Invitation



Christmas on a Monday makes for a very short Fourth Week of *Advent*. It is less than 24 hours long! To accommodate the Christmas Eve Masses on Sunday, December 24, there will only be two Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent: the 5:30 pm Vigil Mass on December 23 and a 10:00 am Mass on Sunday December 24. There is no 9:00 am, 11:30 am, or 5:30 pm Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Christmas Masses are at 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 10:00 pm on Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24. **Fr. Dave Rogerson** will be the presider and homilist at the 10:00 pm Mass. Mass on Christmas day will be at 10:00 am.

Christmas is a day we welcome many people. There are those who are here every Sunday for whom Mass is the highlight of the week and a source of strength for the coming week. We welcome family members and relatives who are visiting for the holiday. We welcome those of other faith traditions, who join their family members and friends. We also welcome those who are searching for a faith or who only have a tenuous connection with the faith community. Let's be sure to offer these folks a warm welcome and a vibrant liturgy that just might draw them closer to the Lord and back to His people.

Celebrate your Christmas Mass with joy. It's contagious.

Fr. Bill

This Week in Our Church

Sunday, December 17

Mass - 9:00 am

Blood Pressure Check after both morning Masses
Elementary Program - 10:15 am

Mass - 11:30 am

RCIA Dismissal - 11:30 am

Mass - 5:30 pm

Monday, December 18

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

Prayer Ministry SFC Meeting - 9:30 am

Giving Tree Store Set Up - 10:00a

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

Knights of Columbus Leadership Meeting - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 19

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

Giving Tree Store - 12:00 to 6:30 pm

WICS - 6:00 pm

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

Wednesday, December 20

Mass - 9:00 am

Children's Mass Rehearsal - 4:30 pm

Oracion - 6:00 pm

Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm

Vida en el Espíritu Santo - 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 21

PREPARES Meeting - 9:30 am

Creation Care Team Meeting - 1:00 pm

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

Mass - 6:30 pm

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

Finance Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, December 22

Mass - 9:00 am

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 23

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:



[@sjtbccovington](https://www.instagram.com/sjtbccovington)

On the cover

A Night to Celebrate

Simbang Gabi, which translates to Night Mass, is a cherished Filipino tradition and is celebrated with great joy and devotion by our Filipino American (Fil-Am) community at St. John the Baptist. Its roots lie deep in the Filipino culture, and the Fil-Am is proud to share this beautiful Filipino tradition and its rich heritage with everyone.

The highlight of the event is the Eucharistic celebration, accompanied by a beautiful procession of *parols* (lanterns), as featured on our bulletin cover. The *parols* symbolize the star that guided the Three Wise Men to Bethlehem.

The Mass is bilingual with its readings and liturgical music in *Tagalog*, adding to the cultural experience. After the Mass, everyone gathers at a reception to enjoy delectable Filipino dishes.

This event showcases the Fil-Am's hospitality and gratitude to Jesus, the reason for our *Simbang Gabi* celebration. It is celebrated annually at St. John the Baptist. We hope you had a chance to join the Fil-Am Community this year in celebrating *Simbang Gabi* on Saturday, December 16. If not, be sure to join us next year.



Please Pray for the sick:

Mary Grizzle Kimberly Mach-Jones
Mary Ellen Pardo Jessie Santiago
Diep Tran

and those who have recently died:

Michael Colbrese
(cousin of Mary Hammock)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass - **10:00 am**
Children's Christmas Mass - **4:00 pm**
Nativity of the Lord Mass
7:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Monday, December 25, 2023

Nativity of the Lord Mass - **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**

Christmas Poinsettias

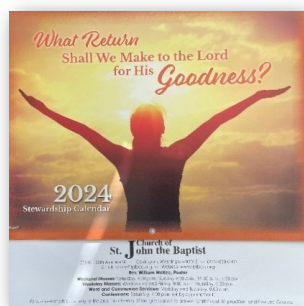


You are invited to make a donation on behalf of a loved one for the poinsettias that we will use to decorate the church for Christmas. Write the name of the person you wish to remember on a memorial card and place it in the envelope with your payment. Put it in the

collection box in the narthex. The memorial cards will be displayed in the narthex at Christmas.

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

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



We Welcome Family & Friends

Do you have 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 Christmas.

If they become interested in joining our faith family, **Anne Frederick** at our parish office would love to connect with them and discuss how they can become a part of St. John the Baptist Faith Family. Call her at 253-630-0701 ext. 125 or email annef@sjtbcc.org.



In partnership with the St. John the Baptist (SJTJB) St. Vincent de Paul Ministry, we are excited to announce that through your generous donations, we will be helping **54 families** through the Giving Tree this year. We purchased 44 meals from *Seattle Red*

Apple to gift to our St. Vincent de Paul neighbors around the area for Christmas. Thank you, Everyone!

But let's not stop here! We can surely use more. We also support the PREPARES Ministry at SJTB and Pregnancy Aid in Kent with gifts of baby clothes, car seats, diaper bags, and more. We have more tags on the Giving Tree 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.

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 Monday, December 18.

We still 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 but we are short of volunteers ("Shopper's Aids").

We also 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 the Giving Tree Ministry or St. Vincent de Paul Ministry, please contact **Kathy** at kathyw@sjtbcc.org or 253-630-0701 ext. 101.



Come Celebrate *Simbang Gabi*

If you missed St. John the Baptist's *Simbang Gabi* Mass, you can still join in on this Filipino tradition by attending the *Simbang Gabi* Masses in our neighbor parishes:

- 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

Update on Facilities Projects

The St. John the Baptist Facilities Commission met Thursday, December 14, and reviewed progress on the last two Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) rebate projects.

There is a gate ready to install at the south driveway. It will be open during weekend masses and church office hours when school is open. **We need volunteers to open and close the gate.**

There are six more speed humps to install. Additionally, the access gate to the neighborhood east of the church is ready to install.

We have also purchased paint for the sanctuary bathrooms (2020 project). **Parishioners are invited to help paint the bathrooms on Friday, December 29 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

We are obtaining bids from plumbers to replace the faucets, which were donated by a parishioner, in the McMullen Center bathrooms. Bids will include upgrading the plumbing fixtures and piping around them. Another plumbing project is fixing a leaking valve in the baptistery pump room.

Also discussed is the new ACA project, which is fencing around the retention ponds to provide safety. A rough estimate is about \$33,000. Our goal is to better understand the requirements before accepting a bid.

We will also be removing two dangerous trees on the church property. With the help of our volunteer, who works in wetland remediation, we plan to replace nuisance trees with about eight cedar or evergreen trees.

Please contact Kathy at kathyw@sjtbcc.org for more information or at 253-630-0701 ext. 101.



Are you interested in your child receiving a mission-based, community-focused Catholic education? For nearly 100 years, *St. Anthony School* has educated the whole child to better the world and serve others. We have spots available in all grades for this upcoming school year, 2024-2025. Please visit our website at sasr.org or email Jean Dang at dang@sasr.org to set up a school tour or to learn more info.

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.

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.



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.

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

St. John the Baptist 2024 Craft and Hobby Retreat

The Craft and Hobby retreat will be held on January 19 and 20, 2024 in the Multipurpose Rooms of the McMullen Center on church grounds. Friday hours will be 10:00 am – 9:00 pm and Saturday hours will be 9:00 am – 9:00 pm. Masks will be **optional** this year and we WILL be serving dinner both days and breakfast on Saturday! Bring your own lunch or partake of the smorgasbord that is downtown Covington. Please bring a snack to share on EITHER Friday or Saturday. (No need to bring a snack both days – we end up with too much food.)

We will be offering a free Make-n-Take project on both Friday and Saturday afternoon (same project each day – pick the day that works best for you). The project is a surprise as I haven't thought of it yet. All supplies will be provided.

Our outreach partner this year is our St. Vincent de Paul food bank. This will be the second time in the last 8-10 years that we have collected food items for them. A separate sheet describing their mission and the items they most need is included with this form. Bring your donations with you to the retreat and get a free raffle ticket!

We will have two raffle baskets at the retreat. Tickets are \$1 each and all proceeds will also go to our St. Vincent de Paul chapter food bank.

If you haven't been to the retreat in a while, this is a reminder that for only \$15 per day you get 11-12 hours of uninterrupted time to work on your projects, PLUS dinner (and breakfast on Saturday), and you can still leave your supplies here overnight in our locked building. No hauling stuff back and forth! Your assistance with cleanup after meals and at the end of the retreat on Saturday is appreciated. Please fill out the registration form below and return it to Nancy Moore at St. John the Baptist by January 12 to hold your spot. We will have a limit of 30 people per day.

Email me with any questions: nancym@sjtbcc.org or nancy.moore@comcast.net

St. John the Baptist 2024 Craft and Hobby Retreat Registration Form

Return form and payment to Nancy Moore C/O St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
25810 - 156th Ave SE, Covington, WA 98042

Name: _____ Friday fee \$15 _____

Email Address: _____ Saturday fee \$15 _____

Phone Number: _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to St. John's

I will be there for Dinner on Friday _____

I will be there for Breakfast on Saturday _____

I will be there for Dinner on Saturday _____

Special Instructions (need to be near an outlet, seat me with friends, etc.):

Please bring an **extension cord** with you if you need electricity. Bring money for raffle tickets. Bring items to donate to our St. Vincent de Paul food bank.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank Donations

Most Needed:

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Canned Meat (chicken, tuna, etc.)

Pasta and Pasta Sauce

Canned Fruit or Fruit Cups

Box dinners (Mac `n Cheese, Rice - a - Roni, etc.)

Protein Bars, Nutribars, etc.

Cereal

Full-size toiletries as below:

Toothbrushes and toothpaste

Dental Floss

Liquid Hand Soap

Hand Sanitizer

Thank you so much for supporting those in need through our St. Vincent de Paul food bank. You are appreciated!

If you are unable to go shopping, know that we will happily accept your monetary donations at the retreat! 😊



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