

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

December 24 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." (Lk 1:35)



Photo courtesy of Paul Dehmer

A Light That Will Never Be Extinguished
(see related story on Page 3)

Mass Schedule

December 23: 5:30 pm

December 24: 10:00 am (no 11:30 am & 5:30 pm Masses)

December 24 (Christmas Eve): 4:00 pm (Children's Mass);
7:00 pm & 10:00 pm (Christmas Masses)

December 25: 10:00 am (Christmas Mass)

See Page 3 for the rest of this week's Mass schedule

Confessions: **Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 pm**

Office Hours & Contact Information

December 25 to 27: Closed but may leave message at **253-630-0701**

December 28 & 29: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

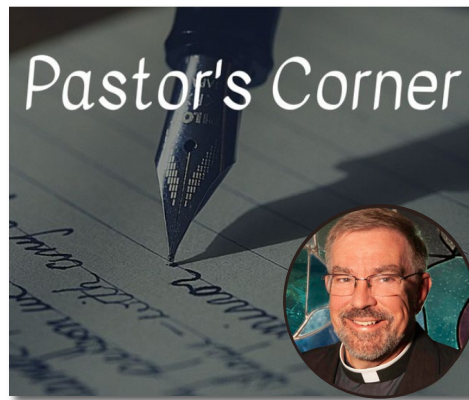


Mission Statement

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 reveals to us a God who wants to be close to us. The awesome Christmas message is that, out of love for us, God has become one of us so we can become one with God

This is the faith that animates St. John the Baptist Catholic Community. We gather to worship in gratitude for all that God has done for us and trusting in the promise of eternity. We grow in our discipleship. Each one of us is on a particular journey of faith. Each one of us has another step to take. We accompany each other, wherever we may be on this journey. And we go in service. We have Good News to share, doing so with acts of love and compassion, caring for all God's people, and caring for God's creation.

Christmas is a day we welcome many people. There are those who are now 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 today. COVID has kept many people away from in-person gatherings. We welcome those who are now transitioning back to in-person worship. There may be other things that have kept folks away. If you are one of those joining us today, we are so glad you are here with us today. We hope that whatever has kept you away can be resolved, healed, or forgiven. If you are one of our neighbors without a faith community to call your own, welcome!

Wherever you are at on this journey of faith, St. John the Baptist Catholic Community is here to walk with you. Together, may we discover the presence of the Risen Lord who has promised to remain with us forever.

You can find more information about our faith community on our web page at sjtbcc.org . You can also call the parish office and chat with myself or any of our staff at 253 630-0701.

Welcome!

Fr. Bill

This Week in Our Church

Sunday, December 24

Mass 4th Sunday of Advent) - 10:00 am
 Mass (Children's Christmas) - 4:00 pm
 Mass (Nativity of the Lord) - 7:00 pm
 Mass (Nativity of the Lord) - 10:00 pm

Monday, December 25 **OFFICE CLOSED**

Mass (Nativity of the Lord) - 10:00 am

Tuesday, December 26 **OFFICE CLOSED**

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

Wednesday, December 27 **OFFICE CLOSED**

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am
 Oracion - 6:00 pm
 Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm
 Vida en el Espiritu Santo - 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 28

Yoga - 7:30 am
 Hora Santa - 2:30 pm
 Mass - 6:30 pm
 Choir (11:30) Practice - 7:00 pm

Friday, December 29

Mass - 9:00 am
 Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 30

Gospel Reflection SFC - 10:00 am
 Confessions - 4:00 to 5:00 pm
 Mass - 5:30 pm



Love Came Down on Christmas

Love came down at Christmas,
 Love all lovely, love divine.
 Love was born at Christmas,
 Star and angels gave the sign.

- Christina Rossetti, 1885

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 Gift of Light

Our Advent Retreat this year, which was held on December 2 and led by **Joan Williamson** (kneeling) and the RCIA team, focused on the *gift of light*, specifically the gift of Jesus being the Light of the World; a light that will never be extinguished.

As baptized faithful, we have received this Light and are to keep it burning brightly. This Advent has been a time to do just that! It is a time for us, like Mary, to allow Christ Jesus to grow within us so that we can bring Christ into our world, especially the broken places. When we bring Jesus, we bring hope! Jesus is the best gift that we can give to anyone!

Our bulletin's cover photo this week features the retreat attendees and the Advent wreath signifying the four candles of Advent whose lights remind us of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The wreath was created by **Martha Alas and Judy Fuchs**.

May this Light always be with you, not only during Advent and Christmas but throughout the year. And may it be lit forever.

Please Pray for the sick:

Mary Grizzle **Mary Ellen Pardo**

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
incense at both Masses

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**

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.



**St. John the Baptist
Christmas Giving**
Christmas - 176

<https://ppay.co/cOuVz1DvWdY>

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 would like to know more about our faith, **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. Please call her at 253-630-0701 ext. 125 or email annef@sjtbcc.org.

Annual Report is Now Available

Do you want to know what's been happening from July 2022 to June 2023 at St. John the Baptist? If so, you've come to the right place! The staff has put together a report that captures the highlights of our parish throughout this period. It also gives a brief financial overview of our income and expenses as well as a high level view of the financial health of our ministries and commissions.

Please take some time to read through our report at: sjtbcc.org/annual-report/

If you have any questions, please contact the office staff at 253-630-0701.

You Are Invited to a Painting Party

Paint was purchased for the sanctuary bathrooms with our Annual Catholic Appeal rebate. There will be a **Painting Party on Friday December 29, 2023 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm** and also on **Saturday, December 30 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**. All supplies will be provided. Just bring yourself and the energy to paint and have a wonderful time with everyone! Snacks will be provided. For questions, contact **David Aldous** or **Kathy Wickward** in the office, 253-630-0701. Thanks for your time!

A Special Thanks to the Knights of Columbus

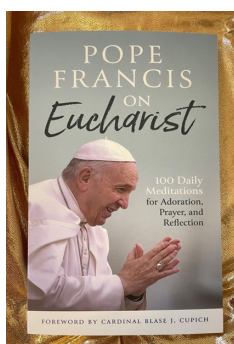
One of our ministers, **Renee Samuelsen**, who takes communion out to members of our community who are homebound, received this note from a wonderful parishioner who was helped by the Knights of Columbus.

"I am so grateful for the men in the Knights of Columbus that came out to my home and removed a very old, large satellite dish. It's been sitting in my yard for over 30 years and I didn't know what to do about it. I miss being able to come to church due to medical issues, but I thought it was wonderful that my community came to me and helped me with this unusual task. Thank you to the men from the Knights that came out and removed it so quickly."

- Eileen Robinson

Happy Anniversary St. John the Baptist!

Please pick up your parish gift
after Masses on
January 6 & 7, 2024.



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. For more information and a copy of the charter, check our website sjtbcc.org/womens-commission/.

Financial Peace University Classes Starting Soon

Our next session of **Financial Peace University** will begin in late January 2024. Classes will be held between Sunday morning Masses in the parish conference room.

Suggested cost is \$50, but there are several scholarships available.

For more information, please contact **Anne** at annef@sjtbcc.org or 253-630-0710 x125.



David Aldous (Facilities), **Pat Defiesta** (Bulletin), **Luis Diaz de Leon** (Music), **Anne Frederick** (Stewardship & Evangelization), **Peter Guthrie** (Youth Minister), **Therese McHenry** (Faith Formation), **Father Bill McKee** (Pastor), **Laurie Moloney** (Liturgy), **Nancy Moore** (Bookkeeping), **Kathy Wickward** (Administration), and **Joan Williamson** (Faith Formation).

Our Volunteers Are Wonderful!

The 2023 Giving Tree event has come and gone. But it will be remembered for a very long time! There were 63 families who came through the store to get presents and meals. The smiles on their faces could have lit up the entire city of Kent! And their gratitude was endless.

And this could not have happened if it weren't for St. John the Baptist's wonderful volunteers! Two weeks ago, our Giving Tree volunteer list didn't have enough names to form a football team. By Monday, December 18, we could have formed three football teams! Thank you is not enough to express the team's gratitude for what our volunteers have accomplished. But we will start there.

Before the main event, lots of planning was done on the sidelines. **Kathy Wickward**, **Margie Vieirra**, and **Pat Defiesta** made a thought come to life with their planning. With the help of their elves (AKA volunteers), the main event was a stellar performance on December 19 from 12:00 noon to 6:30 pm.

Thank you to these wonderful elves (volunteers):

Pat & Angeline Anderson, Angelo & Marge Battisti, Carlton & Debbie Baxter, Claire Baxter, Erin Blair, Claire & Lydia Bonte, Sue Carpenter, Eva Diaz de Leon, Janet Dubois, Jean Fennessy, Kathleen Grizzle, Peter Guthrie, Mary Hammock, Sofia Hinkle, Sabah Jabbouri, Lyn Johnson & Mary Murphy Johnson, Kathy Jolly, Kathy Kernan, Cooper McAvoy, Al & Rita Myers, Barbara Nagel, Betty Lou Partridge, Chris & Sarah Pirson, Jacob Renfert & Carson Renfert, Laura Rothchilds, Renee Samuelsen, Bonnie Sawyer, Martha Schmelzer, Dan & Nancy Schmitt, Connie Teece, Paul Wickward, Joan Williamson, David Zentner, and Jose Zuniga.

Our sincere apologies to those whose names we have missed. You are just as appreciated! And to those who have brought wagons and carts to help our shoppers, a huge thanks to you too! They all came in very handy.

You **all** have truly demonstrated the spirit of Christmas! May you always remember the smiles you have given to our families who came through the store!

Welcome New Parishioners!



Have you joined St. John the Baptist in the last year? If so, we would love to welcome and get to know you at our Welcome Gathering **lunch** on **January 28, 2024 after the 11:30 am Mass**. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please **RSVP** to Anne Frederick at annef@sjtbcc.org by **January 24, 2024**.



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