

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

December 3 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mk 13:33)



Photo courtesy of Peter Guthrie

High School Winter Olympics Night (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**.



St. John the Baptist Women's Commission

One of the strong concerns we heard during our parish synod listening sessions in January and February of 2022 centered on the role of women in the Church. The Parish Leadership Team incorporated that concern in our new parish priorities, which states:

We recognize, respect, and are enriched by the experiences and perspectives of women and those who are marginalized or underrepresented.

To help us live out this priority, the parish staff recommended, and the Parish Leadership Team has endorsed, the formation of a St. John the Baptist Women's Commission. The purpose of this Women's Commission is to support, empower, and form Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. The areas of focus will be:

- Mentoring, formation, discussion, and sharing;
- Opportunities to recognize and to involve women in leadership and ministry to the Word, Altar, and Service; and
- Form liaisons with other regional, national, and universal groups of Catholic women so that our parish can advocate for the voice of women.

Are we listening correctly to the parish? The test will be in parishioners' desire to be a part of this commission, either in roles of leadership or in the various activities that the commission will support. In January, we will begin recruiting for this new commission, which is open to both men and women.

Does this announcement spark something exciting in you? If so, please plan on attending an information session after the first of the year. Together, let us build something from the ground up.

Fr. Bill

This Week in Our Church

Sunday, December 3

Mass - 9:00 am
 Elementary Program - 10:15 am
Mass - 11:30 am
 RCIA Dismissal - 11:30 am
Mass - 5:30 pm
 HS Youth Group - 6:30 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena - 6:30 pm
 1st Reconciliation Parents Meeting - 7:00 pm

Monday, December 4

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am
 Prayer Ministry SFC Meeting - 9:30 am
 Christmas Family Social - 4:00 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena - 6:00 pm
 Choir (9am Sunday) Practice - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 5

Word & Communion - 9:00 am
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena - 6:00 pm
 WICS - 6:00 pm
 Life, Justice, Peace Commission - 6:30 pm
 Bible Study "Advent Light" - 7:00 pm
 Choir (Fil-Am) Practice - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 6

Mass - 9:00 am
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena - 6:00 pm
 Partners Input for Parish Leadership - 6:30 pm
 Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm
 MS Youth Group - 7:00 pm
 Vida en el Espíritu Santo - 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 7

Bible Study "Advent Light" - 10:00 am
 Partners in the Gospel Parish-wide consultation - 10:00 am
 Creation Care Team Meeting - 1:00 pm
 Hora Santa - 2:30 pm
 Safe Parking Meeting - 3:00 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena - 6:00 pm
Mass - 6:30 pm
 Choir (11:30) Practice - 7:00 pm
 Partners in the Gospel Parish-wide consultation - 7:00 pm
 RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - 9:00 am
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena - 6:00 pm
 Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm
 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 9

Craft & Hobby Day - 10:00 am
 Gospel Reflection SFC - 10:00 am
 Confessions - 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Mass - 5:30 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena - 6:00 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

No Losers; Only Winners!

Let's have a little fun before we welcome in winter and as we prepare for Advent and Christmas. The "faithful remnant" of the high school youth group did just that on November 19, 2023 - have fun!

Featured on the cover page is St. John the Baptist's high school youth group taken at their *Winter Olympics Night* on November 19. This was a night for high school youths to build relationships within their small groups. Each small group was a "country" competing against the other groups in winter-themed events such as a snowball fight, marshmallow marathon, speed wrapping and removal with mittens on, blind fold tree decorating, and much more. The photo is the group's "official" Olympic photo with the teams wearing their different colored ribbons at the ceremony.

The group meets every Sunday after the 5:30 pm Mass. The last meeting of the year will be on December 17, which will be the annual Christmas party. All high school youths are welcome to attend - the more the merrier!

Please Pray for the sick:

Laurie Bastian **Emma Bermudez**
Brayden Ebbesson **Vicky Eggum**
Eleanor Giberson **Alec Lane**
Barb O'Neill **Diep Tran**
Julie Wynn

and those who have recently **died**:

David Hart (friend of Angie Santiago)
Hank Henn (grandnephew of Margie Vieira)
Ron Klapperrich (brother of
Denise Jackson and Dolores Paul),
Rosa Montebon (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.

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.

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.

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



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, who 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.

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.

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 their young adult children!

FPU 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.

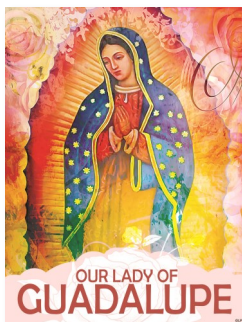
We Welcome Family & Friends

Do you have 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.

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:

- 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



Thank You From the Knights of Columbus

To all who attended the Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast on November 12, thank you!

Your donations enabled us to send a vocation support check for \$500 to Richard Ordos, a Seminarian from Olympia attending Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon.

Holiday Mass Schedule

Friday, December 8, 2023

Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)
9:00 am & 7:00 pm

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 -
10:00 am

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

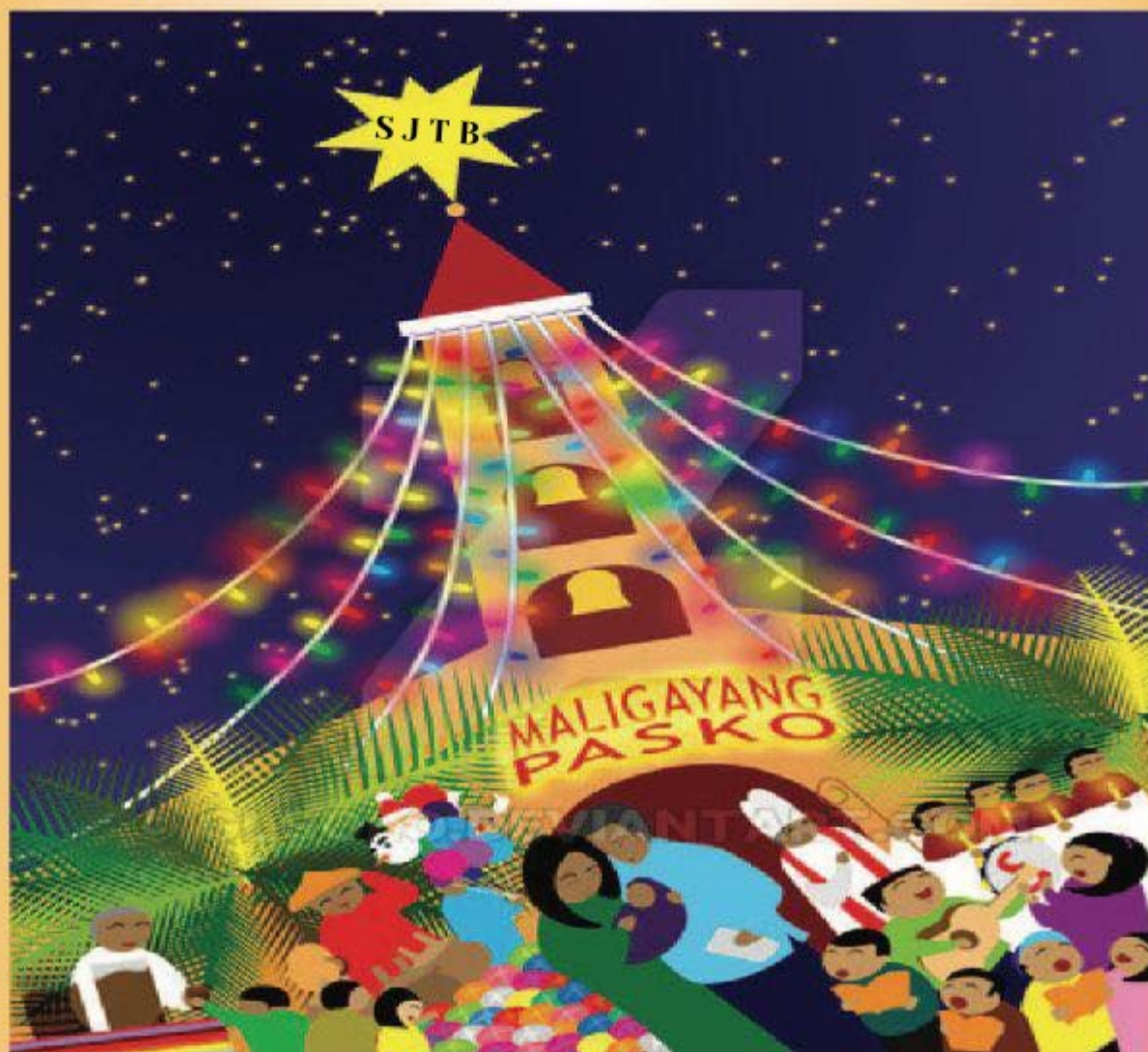
Monday, January 1, 2024

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

S J T B C C



**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

UPDATE

November 2023



Thank you to everyone who provided input and feedback on the parish families during the recent public consultation phase of Partners in the Gospel.

More than 800 people provided comments online, while nearly 140 parishes and missions hosted in-person sessions in several languages including English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Q'anjob'al, a Mayan language indigenous to Guatemala. In total, the Archdiocese of Seattle received more than 700 input session reports resulting in more than 3,000 pages of input.

Overall, the sessions were fruitful. Staff, lay leaders and parishioners listened to the Holy Spirit and provided their input on their proposed parish families.

Over the past few weeks, all collected input - by notetakers during the in-person sessions and from the online feedback form - was sorted by parish family. Each set of parish family data was read by two people who wrote a synthesis including any proposed changes, concerns and hopes for the new parish family.

This synthesized reports, along with the raw input data, were used by the Oversight Committee, the Presbyteral Council and the Partners in the Gospel team to inform the next draft of proposed parish families. Specifically, of the 61 proposed parish families, 25 were recommended for changes based on this recent consultation.

Public Input Phase results in changes to 25 draft parish families

There will be a second round of consultation with staff and parishioners with these 25 proposed parish families before a final recommendation is submitted to Archbishop Etienne at the end of the year. The final parish families are expected to be announced in early 2024.

A Parish Family Feedback Report of public input was released on November 16, 2023 with a letter from Archbishop Etienne, thanking everyone who participated in the public input process. Read Archbishop Etienne's letter and Parish Family Feedback Report online at archseattle.org/partners.

What do you hope for?

Here's what your fellow Catholics wrote online during the public consultation phase:

- Hope that the younger people will be motivated to serve the church and answer the call to the priesthood/religious life.
- We hope it serves as a wake-up call about the difficult temporal realities the Church faces in Western Washington in the present context. We hope there is genuine renewal through the process, though we admit to a certain trepidation that it will be disruptive to many people's habits of Church attendance and the routines which support a life of faith.
- My hope is that we focus on the key elements of our faith — love God and love one another. Some of the wrangling over the less important part of our faith serve to distract us from loving one another as Christ loved us.

"What do I want for my children's children?"

Not a 20 person Mass, not pastors overworked, but rather a fully engaged parish. This isn't about us, but about everyone.

— Fellow Catholic

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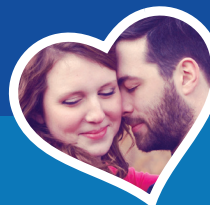
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