

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

January 7, 2024
The Epiphany of the Lord

And the star that the three wise men had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem.
It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. (Mt 2:9)



Artwork by Steffi Daniel, Age 9

The Epiphany

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

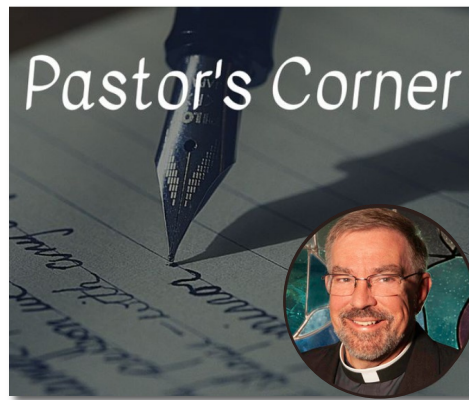


Mission Statement

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**.



Parish Priorities

In our parish priorities, we state, "*St. John the Baptist Catholic Community offers Christ-like inclusion and acceptance.*"

To further this goal, the parish staff, for its own development, is reading Fr. James Martin's book, *Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity*. Martin takes those last words from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which teaches that Catholics are called to treat homosexuals with "respect, compassion, and sensitivity" (#2358).

One of the insights Martin gained was realizing that far more people than he had imagined are touched by this topic. Many Catholic families are affected by LGBT issues, be they moms and dads, brothers and sisters, grandparents uncles and aunts, cousins, or friends of gay Catholics.

Martin does not start with those issues that are divisive for the gay community: our Church's teaching on marriage and sexual relations. His approach is to focus on how we first can build a bridge in order for folks to be more receptive and understanding of our Church's teaching. The more foundational issue is our baptismal identity. We are all children of God, members of the Body of Christ.

What does it mean to offer Christ-like inclusion and acceptance? In part, it means being a place where all people will experience respect, compassion, and sensitivity. That challenges all of us.

Fr. Bill

This Week in Our Church

Sunday, January 7

The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass - 9:00 am

Elementary Program - 10:15 am

Mass - 11:30 am

RCIA Dismissal - 11:30 am

Mass - 5:30 pm

Youth Group (HS) - 6:30 pm

Monday, January 8

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

Choir (9am) Practice - 7:00 pm

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

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Meeting - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 9

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

WICS - 6:00 pm

Advent Light Bible Study - 7:00pm

Wednesday, January 10

Mass - 9:00 am

Oracion - 6:00 pm

Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm

RCIA Family Prep - 7:00 pm

Vida en el Espíritu Santo - 7:00 pm

Youth Group (MS) - 7:00 pm

Thursday, January 11

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Advent Light Bible Study - 10:00 am

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

Facilities & Grounds Commission Meeting - 4:30 pm

One Parish One Prisoner Meeting - 5:00 pm

Word & Communion Service - 6:30 pm

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

Liturgy Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm

RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, January 12

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

Saturday, January 13

Gospel Reflection SFC - 10:00 am

Confessions - 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Mass - 5:30 pm

Crab Feed - 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



Note: Father Bill will be attending the annual Priests' Retreat and will be out all week. This year's director is Benedictine Father Julian Peters from St. Meinrad School of Theology. The retreat is entitled, "Living the Unfolding of Mystery".

The office will be open per the hours listed on the front of this bulletin.

Happy Anniversary St. John the Baptist!

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

Please Pray for

the sick:

Barb Hogenhout **Micaela Rose**

and those who have recently died:

Michael Colbrese
(cousin of Mary Hammock)

Amy Hermann
(friend of Trena Kupper)

Henry Joseph Medina
(father of Angelica Medina)

Annual Report is Now Available

Would you like to see a review of our activities between 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 during 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.

Welcome New Parishioners!



Have you joined St. John the Baptist in the last year? If so, we would love to welcome you 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**.

Show Us Your Art Skills

The bulletin is looking for artists who can provide artwork for the cover of our bulletin.

The drawing must depict the life at St. John the Baptist Catholic community in some way. We welcome any artwork as long as you don't mind having your name published in our bulletin. If you are interested in featuring your artwork or need more information, please contact Pat at communications@sjtbcc.org.

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 8:00 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.

Liturgy Commission Update

The Liturgy Commission met on Thursday, December 14. This commission will be focusing on one liturgical ministry at a time to evaluate and streamline processes as well as recruit more ministers. They will start with Eucharistic Ministers by creating a subcommittee to begin planning a retreat for our existing Eucharistic Ministers. The commission also discussed ways to recruit more ministers. About four times the number of current ministers are needed.

The Commission also chose two parish priorities to focus their efforts on:

- We delight in the rich diversity of cultures and traditions;
- We provide opportunities for all to grow and share in their faith as a life-long journey.

Discussion also included ways to focus on these goals, such as inviting parishioners from different cultures to a commission meeting to talk about their traditions.

The commission continued its discussion of the booklet, *Meeting Christ, Exploring the Liturgy*. There was discussion about when to sit after the *Prayers of the Faithful*. It was decided that Father Bill should sit immediately after the *Prayers of the Faithful* and have the congregation follow. Then the Lector will announce the names of who will bring up the gifts.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Articles That Don't Make Our Bulletin Deadline

The bulletin is sent out every week in an email that also contains updates, sneak previews, and other information that sometimes do not make the bulletin deadline. (Articles are due 10 days before the Sunday you want your article to appear.) If you would like to have a condensed version of your article sent out in the weekly Friday email, please contact Kathy at communications@sjtbcc.org.



New Hospitality Ministry Needs You!

If you are interested in supporting St. John the Baptist in the area of hospitality, we want to hear from you!

We invite you to participate in hospitality in the following areas:

- Setting up and decorating for events
- Planning, preparing, and/or serving food
- Taking down and cleaning after events

You can volunteer for all or part of these aspects of hospitality that are so greatly needed and appreciated if you have interest, talents/skills, or feel called to support the parish in this way. If you are interested, please fill out this form: sjtbcc.org/hospitality/ or scan the QR code to the right.



Thank you for time and interest. We look forward to hearing from you!

WWJD?

We caught your attention, again! WWJD - What Would Jesus Do?

Have you ever thought about how to serve as Jesus served in today's world? *St. Vincent de Paul* ministry provides the perfect opportunity to live out the call of the gospel to serve our neighbors in need.

For I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. (Mt 25:35-36)

The *St. Vincent de Paul Conference (SVdP)* at St. John the Baptist is making a difference in our community by answering the calls of our neighbors for assistance with food, rent, and utility costs.

From January to December 2023, **thanks to your generous donations of \$92,797.00**, we were able to assist 1,549 people with rent and utilities as well as provide 132 bags of food and 73 bags of personal hygiene items. Through material donations, we helped 7 families with furniture and 4 families with clothing. In partnership with St. John the Baptist parish, SVdP also gave out 38 meals for Thanksgiving and served 41 families through the Giving Tree event.

THANK YOU to our St. John the Baptist community!

If you want to participate in this life-giving ministry, please **contact Pat** at patd@seattlesvdp.org.

Women's Commission Update

The St. John the Baptist Women's Commission met for the first time January 4. Starting with lectio and prayer over Luke's account of the Visitation, we moved to listening to one another as we expressed our hopes for the commission. Some ideas were that the commission would be a place for women's voices to be heard, for groups specifically for women to get started, and to advocate with national and international groups for the recognition of women as partners in the work of the gospel.

The commission would be charged with evaluating how we live out the parish priority to recognize the work of women and to ensure no lay ministry is specifically assigned to women or men.

One group expressed the hope that the commission is able to touch all women in the parish. We wrestled with how we might want to contribute to the work of the commission as individuals.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 pm, where we will address more concrete details.

Struggling With Grief



Do you struggle with what to say to a grieving friend? Put off writing those condolence cards? Want to setup a meal train for a family in crisis, but don't know how?

Widowed Parent Institute founder Jenny Lisk shares practical tips for Grief Allies: the friends and neighbors who want to be supportive and helpful for the grieving people in their lives.

Wednesday, **January 10, 2024**
7:00 to 8:30pm
 Hybrid Zoom & Isaac Orr
 910 Marion St.
 Seattle, WA 98104

Register at archseattle.org/ministries/outreach-ministries/mental-health-ministry/wellness-wednesdays/ for this free event.

Mass for Healthcare Professionals & Caregivers

If you work in healthcare in any capacity, you are invited by Archbishop Etienne to join in person or livestream to celebrate members of the healthcare community and profession on **Saturday, February 10 at 5:30 pm at St. James Cathedral** (804 9th Ave., Seattle, WA 98104)

Hospital workers are encouraged to wear their scrubs or other professional attire.

Mass is held in February to coincide with the World Day of Prayer for the Sick, instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1992 as "a special time of prayer and sharing and of reminding everyone to see in his sick brother or sister the face of Christ."

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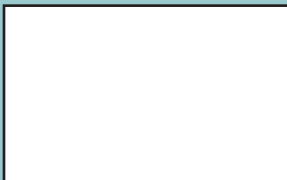
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