

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

**February 18, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of god is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel. (Mk 1:15)



Photo courtesy of Laurie Moloney

## **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**

**25810 - 156th Ave. SE | Covington, WA 98042 | 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**.

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## Going on Vacation

I am leaving next week for a 10-day visit with my mom in Florida. My older sister is my mom's primary caregiver; and I will be giving her a break, so she can take a little trip. I'd rather not be away from the parish during Lent, but that is when my sister made her travel plans. My sister welcomed our folks into her home when they began to need more assistance during COVID. My other siblings and I try to support her and give her breaks every once in a while.

While I am away, our former pastor, Fr. **Jim Coyne**, will preside at the Sunday Masses.

I am often touched by the witness of love many of our parishioners, who are caregivers to a spouse or parent, give. It can be a demanding calling but one made possible because of love. If you are a caregiver, I do hope you are able to reach out to family and friends for the support you need. Sometimes it is more difficult to receive care than to give care. If, as a caregiver, you ever feel isolated or alone, do give a parish staff member a call.

*Fr. Bill*

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25810 - 156th Ave. SE, Covington, WA 98042  
**253-630-0701**



## Contact Us!

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](mailto:billm@sjtbcc.org)

### Bookkeeper:

Nancy Moore, ext. 102, [nancym@sjtbcc.org](mailto:nancym@sjtbcc.org)

### Bulletin:

Pat Defiesta, [bulletin@sjtbcc.org](mailto:bulletin@sjtbcc.org)

### Facility Grounds & Building:

David Aldous, ext. 114, [davida@sjtbcc.org](mailto:davida@sjtbcc.org)

### Facility Use & Scheduling:

Kathy Wickward, ext. 101, [kathyw@sjtbcc.org](mailto:kathyw@sjtbcc.org)

### Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation:

Joan Williamson, ext. 109, [joanw@sjtbcc.org](mailto:joanw@sjtbcc.org)

### Faith Formation (Pre-K - Grade 4):

Therese McHenry, ext. 123, [theresem@sjtbcc.org](mailto:theresem@sjtbcc.org)

### Liturgy & Pastoral Care:

Laurie Moloney, ext. 111, [lauriem@sjtbcc.org](mailto:lauriem@sjtbcc.org)

### Member Engagement:

Anne Frederick, ext. 125, [annef@sjtbcc.org](mailto:annef@sjtbcc.org)

### Music Coordinator:

Luis Diaz de Leon, ext. 108, [luisd@sjtbcc.org](mailto:luisd@sjtbcc.org)

### Youth Minister:

Peter Guthrie, ext. 110, [peterg@sjtbcc.org](mailto:peterg@sjtbcc.org)

### Online:



[sjtbcc.org](http://sjtbcc.org)

### Social Media:



@sjtbcovington

On the Cover

## The Making of Ashes

Where do ashes that we wear on Ash Wednesdays on our foreheads come from? They come from burning dried palm leaves that were blessed the year before.

One of the activities during our Lent Event this year, which was held on February 11, was the burning of last year's palms. Our children learned that these palms become the ashes that Father Bill will mark our heads with the sign of the cross on Ash Wednesday, which starts the Lenten season.

Two large containers of dried palms from last year were burned for about a half hour to get 1/2 cup of ashes. These ashes were then mixed with olive oil, which helps them to stick to the skin better.

So don't forget to bring your old palms in next year, so they can be burnt to create the ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday.

## This Week in Our Church

### Sunday, February 18

**Mass - 9:00 am**

Coffee & Donuts after Mass

**Mass - 11:30 am**

RCIA Dismissal - 11:30 am

**Mass - 5:30 pm**

### Monday, February 19

*Presidents' Day - Building Closed*

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 Leadership Meeting - 7:00 pm

### Tuesday, February 20

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

WICS - 6:00 pm

Women's Commission Leadership - 6:30 pm

Lent 2004 Encounter - 7:00 pm

St. Vincent de Paul - 7:00 pm

### Wednesday, February 21

**Mass - 9:00 am**

American Sewing Guild Meeting - 9:30 am

Oracion - 6:00 pm

Stewardship & Evangelization Commission - 6:30 pm

Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm

Lent 2004 Encounter - 7:00 pm

Vida en el Espíritu Santo - 7:00 pm

### Thursday, February 22

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Lent 2004 Encounter via Zoom - 10:00 am

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

**Mass - 6:30 pm**

RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

### Friday, February 23

**Mass - 9:00 am**

Parents' Night Out - 6:30 pm

Stations of the Cross - 7:00 pm

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 7:30 pm

### Saturday, February 24

Craft & Hobby Day - 10:00 am

Gospel Reflection - 10:00 am

Confirmation Prep for Adults - 1:00 pm

Confessions - 4:00 to 5:00 pm

**Mass - 5:30 pm**



### Next Week

Blood Pressure check after all morning Masses on

**Sunday, February 25**

## Please Pray for

**Terry Forczek, Steven Kleich**  
**Lucas Martincic, Renee Nicholas**  
**Mary Kaye Soderlind**

## and those who have recently died:

**Walt Fechtner**  
(father of Annette Cuccia)  
**Elaine Gilmore**  
(sister of Patti Nicaise)  
**Bill Lepola**  
(husband of Karen Lepola)  
**Samuel Moloney**  
(cousin of Laurie Moloney)  
**Mickie Newman**  
mother of Carol Nelson  
**Rustico Samaniego**  
(uncle of Bob & Amy Schroder)

## Walking Through Grief

This is a 9-week FREE educational & inspirational program offering support and hope to those experiencing loss.

**February 21, 2024 to April 17, 2024**

Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Online via Zoom

If you are grieving or know of someone who is grieving and you feel this might have some benefit for you, please contact **Frank Hammock** at the parish office at **253-630-0701**.

During each weekly session throughout the nine weeks, those attending will gain insight and education about their loss as they watch professionally-produced videos featuring experts in the field of grief. These professionals are joined by a group of contributors, who share their own grief journey and provide inspiration in how they've dealt with their own loss. Each week will have a specific topic and include a group discussion as well as some workbook and self-tasks to work on between meetings. A workbook is provided, along with some tools, handouts, and articles to help in your grief journey.

To learn more, visit [walkingthroughgrief.com/](http://walkingthroughgrief.com/).

## Big Thanks from Pregnancy Aid

Big hugs and thank-yous from all of the volunteers and staff of *Pregnancy Aid of Kent* for the beautiful baby things, diapers, and a couple of car seats. Your generosity to the families we serve, 476 last year, was overwhelming and very much appreciated. It will keep us going with diapers for a few months. Thanks also to all the St. John the Baptist volunteers, who made the Giving Tree Program such a huge success. May God continue to support these ministries.



### Date

### Led by

<b>February 23</b>	Media Team
<b>March 1</b>	Family Friendly
<b>March 8</b>	Knights of Columbus
<b>March 15</b>	Hispanic Community
<b>March 22</b>	Stewardship Commission
<b>March 29</b>	Women's Commission

## Small Faith Groups Opportunity



Join members of our parish for a weekly meeting to break open the scriptures, dialogue, and pray together during Lent.

This will be a five-week journey with the following options:

- **In-person** groups on Tuesday evenings beginning **February 20 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm** in Classrooms 8A & 8B
- **In-person** groups on Wednesday evenings beginning **February 21 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** in Classrooms 8A & 8B
- **Zoom** meetings on Thursday mornings beginning **February 22 from 10:00 to 11:30 am**

Sign up at: [sjtbcc.org/len-encounter/](http://sjtbcc.org/len-encounter/)

For more information, please contact **Joan Williamson** at [joanw@sjtbcc.org](mailto:joanw@sjtbcc.org) or 253-630-0701 ext. 109.

## Confirmation Preparation for Adults



If you are an adult who would like to complete your Rites of Initiation by receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Joan Williamson at [joanw@sjtbcc.org](mailto:joanw@sjtbcc.org) or 253-630-0701 x109.

## Mark Your Calendars



**Stations of the Cross** - 7:00 pm on  
**2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29** (Fridays)

**Lenten Reconciliation Service** - **March 9**, 10:00 am

## 40 Days, 40 Ways

St. John the Baptist's *Creation Care Team* is sharing the second in a series of ideas from the *Franciscan Action Organization*, "40 Days; 40 Ways Guide." Each week throughout Lent, this group will be sharing a different idea. The ideas are designed to provide an alternative or enrichment to your Lenten observations with creation-centered activities. We hope you will consider challenging yourself with some creative action this Lent.



See last week's bulletin for the first idea: Start a Nature Journal. This week we share this idea.

**Become a Lenten vegetarian:** According to a report from the *Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy*, together the biggest 20 meat and dairy conglomerates produce more greenhouse gases annually than Germany, Canada, Australia, the UK, or France. The top five meat and dairy companies produce more greenhouse gases than either ExxonMobil, Shell, or BP. We can do our part by reducing our consumption of meat and dairy. If giving up meat has been a struggle, perhaps making it a Lenten resolution will boost your willpower. Lent is traditionally the season for fasting; what better devotional discipline than to become, for at least 40 days, a vegetarian? Explore [crsricebowl.org](https://crsricebowl.org) Lenten Recipes for menu ideas!

Next week, the team will share another idea.

## You Are Invited To a Baby Shower

The *PREPARES* ministry is throwing a baby shower for one of their clients on

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**

**2:00 - 3:30 pm**

St. John the Baptist Main Conference Room

Please join us as we celebrate this joyful occasion for our new mom, *Margarita*. Her baby boy was born on February 4, six weeks early, weighing in at 4 lbs. 4 oz.

Margarita has no support system outside of *PREPARES*, and the ministry could use some help from the St. John the Baptist parish community. An Amazon baby registry has been set up at [amazon.com/baby-reg/margarita-prepares-march-2024-blackdiamond/1TM0UJ4JJFJMG](https://amazon.com/baby-reg/margarita-prepares-march-2024-blackdiamond/1TM0UJ4JJFJMG). Please consider buying essentials for her new little guy and coming to the baby shower to help celebrate the arrival of her baby boy. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute a gift, please **leave the gift at the church office no later than February 29.**

Please **RSVP to Laura Rothschilds at the parish office by February 26, 2024.** Hope to see you there!

## We Need Your Help Planting Trees!

Join us in planting a mixture of 130 native conifer seedlings on **Saturday, March 2, from 10 am to Noon.** Their thick year-round cover will help shade out the destructive ivy that's invading the forest.

Middle and high school students as well as adults are invited, but middle schoolers must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Community Service Credit is available for high school students.

We recommend wearing long pants, long sleeve shirts, and garden gloves. Bring rain gear in case it rains. Please bring a shovel, Pulaski, and/or hand clippers if you have them.

**Adult Sign up:** [sjtbcc.org/tree-planting/](https://sjtbcc.org/tree-planting/) or scan QR code on the right.



**Middle & High School Students sign up** through Peter Guthrie [peterg@sjtbcc.org](mailto:peterg@sjtbcc.org)

Sponsored by the Creation Care Team & Youth Ministry.

## Update From the Parish Council

The *Parish Leadership Team* (Parish Council) met on February 7. Mike Dennis, from the *Parish Finance Council*, gave a midpoint update on the parish budget. While Sunday collections are below what was anticipated, other fundraising, decreases in expenditures, and staff reduction from last year are keeping us in a good financial position. The team would like to see values arising from our new parish priorities reflected in next year's budget.

Some members of the team were present at the inaugural meeting of the *Parish Women's Commission*. They were impressed at the numbers in attendance and the enthusiasm and energy in the room. They noted the suggestion that the charter include an additional focus on healing as well as ministry to moms. They were also impressed at the age range present, and they expressed the hope that the commission will expand in its cultural diversity.

The team reviewed the Vatican's invitation for a second round of consultation of the upcoming *Synod Session* in Rome this October and how the parish could participate.

The next steps for *Partners in the Gospel* will be a regional training session in March for the pastor and two staff members. Our staff is preparing a Parish Transition Report which will detail all that takes place in the parish. The Archdiocese will announce the Pastor and Parochial Vicar(s) in April. Until then the Archdiocese is recommending prayerful patience.

Members of the *Parish Leadership Team* are: **Joe Burianek, Irene Cervantes, Anne Frederick, Nkechi Mbanugo, Michael Murphy, Ray Palisoc, and Renee Samuelsen.**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6 at 6:30 pm, which is going to be a synodal meeting with other Parish Commissions.



Synod  
2021  
2024

For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission

- where have you experienced or witnessed ways in which Church structures, leadership, or life **hinder** our shared mission;
- where have you experienced or witnessed ways in which Church structures, leadership, or life **encourage and foster** our shared mission; and/or
- what is needed to help all the baptized respond to our shared call to proclaim the Gospel and **live as a community of love and mercy in Christ.**





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