

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

February 25, 2024
Second Sunday of Lent

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. (Ps 116:9)



Photo courtesy of Media Team

Members of St. John the Baptist's *Liturgy Commission* leading the Stations of the Cross.
See related story on Page 3.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:30 am, 5:30 pm

Weekday Mass for *this week only*: **Wednesday 9:00 am**

Word & Communion for *this week only*: **Monday, Tuesday, & Friday 9:00 am, Thursday 6:30 pm**

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

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**.

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!

Pastor's Corner

Two Parishes Becoming One Family



Partners in the Gospel is a strategic pastoral planning effort taking place across the archdiocese to re-invigorate and renew our local Catholic Church. *St. John the Baptist* Parish will be partnered with *Holy Spirit* Parish in Kent. This takes effect July 1 and over the next three years, these two communities will decide how to best become one parish. This does not necessarily mean one campus. The process is meant to be slow, guided by prayer.

Currently, the parish staff is preparing a transition workbook that describes the governance of our parish, our councils, and commissions as well as our programs and procedures. This will be of help to the priest(s) who will be assigned to this parish family. So far, our report is 30 pages long! Next month, there will be workshops on transitions for pastors and up to two staff members from every parish.

By mid-April, priests' assignments should be finalized. Most priests will be moving, though there will be some exceptions. The experience of other dioceses, who have done this restructuring, indicate that there are struggles if one pastor stays. The other parish(es) in the family feel like the neglected stepchild. When all the priests are new to a parish family, all the communities have a greater feeling of equality as they begin planning on how to become one parish. I am not sure if the fact that both Fr. Carlos at *Holy Spirit* and I are both relatively new in our assignments will have any bearing in the decision-making or not.

See the Article in Northwest Catholic nwcatholic.org/news/jean-parietti/how-is-your-new-pastor-being-chosen.

For more information on Partners in the Gospel, go to archseattle.org/partners/.

Fr. Bill

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

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

Praying the Stations of the Cross

Why do we pray the Stations of the Cross and why during Lent? Praying the Stations of the Cross reminds us that we are not alone in our suffering, that Jesus suffers with us. Prayerful meditation through the Stations of the Cross is especially common during Lent and on Fridays throughout the year, in commemoration of Christ's Crucifixion on Good Friday.

At *St. John the Baptist*, ministries are called upon to lead the prayers at the stations every Friday during Lent. The first Stations of the Cross prayer during this Lent season was led by the members of the *Liturgy Commission*, as featured on our cover photo. Six other ministries will have the opportunity to lead each Friday's prayer during this Lenten season.

The stations are always present in our church, which means that we can spend time with them at any time. We can also pray the stations outside, especially on a cold or windy day and ponder Christ's suffering in a different way. Praying the stations is like having a conversation with the Lord.

This Week in Our Church

Sunday, February 25

Mass - 9:00 am

Blood Pressure Screening after morning Masses

Elementary Program - 10:15 am

Mass - 11:30 am

RCIA Dismissal - 11:30 am

Mass - 5:30 pm

Youth Group (High School) - 6:30 pm

Monday, February 26

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

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

Tuesday, February 27

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

WICS - 6:00 pm

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

Confirmation (High School) Prep Year 2 - 7:00 pm

Lent 2004 Encounter - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 28

Mass - 9:00 am

Oracion - 6:00 pm

Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm

"Walking Through Grief" Zoom - 7:00 pm

Lent 2004 Encounter - 7:00 pm

Vida en el Espíritu Santo - 7:00 pm

Youth Group (Middle School) - 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 29

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Lent 2004 Encounter via Zoom - 10:00 am

PREPARES Baby Shower for Margarita - 2:00 pm

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

Word & Communion - 6:30 pm

Communications Meeting - 7:00 pm

RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, March 1

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 9:45 am

Hispanic Charismatic Adoration - 4:00 pm

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry - 5:00 pm

Stations of the Cross - 7:00 pm

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 2

Confirmation Prep (Adults) - 9:00 am

Gospel Reflection - 10:00 am

Confessions - 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Mass - 5:30 pm



Help Plant Trees

March 2
10 am to 12 pm

Sponsored by the
Creation Care Team
and Youth Ministry

**Please Pray for
the sick:**

*Steven Kleich,
Lucas Martincic
Mary Kaye Soderlind*

and those who have recently died:

*Steve Dalsag (husband of Kathy Dalsag)
Walt Fechtner (father of Annette Cuccia)
Father Tony Haycock
Mickie Newman (mother of Carol Nelson)
Chris Ward (fiancé of Madeleine Sutton)*

**Update from
the Liturgy Commission**

The Liturgy Commission met on February 8, 2024. The final charter document was distributed to the commission members.

The members agreed to host the first Stations of the Cross on February 16, which was led by **Marilou Bickel, Pat Defiesta, Paul Dehmer, Laurie Moloney, and Mary Syslo. Luis Diaz de Leon**, who is also a commission member, provided the music.

The commission continued discussions on how to celebrate other cultures within the Liturgy. We received some feedback from parishioners based on our bulletin announcement a few weeks ago. Representatives from these cultures will be invited to a future commission meeting.

The commission also continued discussions on a dress code for liturgical ministers. No decision has been made at this point.

The Eucharistic Ministry (EM) subcommittee reported on their efforts to update the process for EMs at Mass, recruitment, and the EM retreat/training, which is now scheduled for May 4 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. More information on this retreat will be announced in the bulletin or via email to the active EMs.

The commission will focus on the Greeter ministry next because of the need. Only two of our weekend Masses have Greeters. We will invite the Greeter lead to attend a future meeting to discuss strategy.

The next meeting will be on March 14 at 7:00 pm.

**Knights of Columbus
Friday Family Fish Fry**

**March 1, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
McMullen Center
Breaded Fried Cod, French Fries,
Clam Chowder and Drinks**



<u>Date</u>	<u>Led by</u>
March 1, 7:00 pm -----	Family Friendly+++
March 8, 7:00 pm -----	Knights of Columbus
March 15, 7:00 pm -----	Hispanic Community
March 22, 7:00 pm -----	Stewardship Commission
March 29, 3:00 pm -----	Women's Commission

+++Family Friendly - This is a great opportunity for families to pray and give as well as fast if you plan to attend the Fish Fry at 5:00 pm. **We are looking for families who would like to participate by reading a short reflection at a station.** Please contact **Therese McHenry** at ThereseM@sjtbcc.org if you are interested.

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 or 253-630-0701 x109.



**Lenten Communal
Reconciliation**

With Individual Confession

Saturday, **March 9 at 10:00 am**
Reflection by **Joan Williamson**

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 pm 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 am to 11:30 am**

Sign up at: sjtbcc.org/lent-encounter/

For more information, please contact **Joan Williamson** at joanw@sjtbcc.org or 253-630-0701 ext. 109.

We Need Your Help Planting Trees!

Join the *Creation Care Team* 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.



Adult Sign up: sjtbcc.org/tree-planting/ or scan QR code to the left. Or you may use the hard copy sign-up sheet at the Life Justice Peace table in the narthex.

Middle & High School Students sign up through Peter Guthrie peterg@sjtbcc.org.

Plant Waterers Needed

The church sprinkler system may have unloaded a few thousand gallons of water about a month ago, but most of our plants never got a drop of it. And now we need someone to water the plants in the sanctuary and narthex. If you love plants and can come about once a week to water them, our plants will love you! Please contact **Laurie Moloney** in the parish office if you can help our lovely plants thrive.

A Special Thank You to the Craft & Hobby Group

For I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I needed clothes and you clothed me. (Mt 25:35-36)

The members of St. John the Baptist's conference of *St. Vincent de Paul* send their **warm and special thank you to the Craft and Hobby Group** and its benefactor, who matched the amount from the raffle ticket sales, for their generous donation of \$1,496.00. With that amount, the conference will be able to help four families with rent or provide food bags for 27 families or clothing for 30 people. If only you could see the smiles on the faces of the people we help!

Supper Club is Back!

Let's get together for food! The exciting *Supper Club* is back in time for spring (March, April, and May) get-togethers. You choose the schedule for your group. Sign up as a single, as couples, or as families. See the attached registration form to this bulletin.

Sign up on our website at archseattle.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/65/responses/new or scan the QR code.



For any questions contact our Parish office or leave a message for **Bren Triplett**.

40 Days, 40 Ways



St. John the Baptist's *Creation Care Team* is sharing the third 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, which is designed to provide an alternative or enrichment to your Lenten observations with creation-centered activities.

Week of 2/11/24 idea: Start a Nature Journal.

Week of 2/18 idea: Become a Lenten Vegetarian. This week we share this idea.

Study & Share Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si'* ("Praise Be to You"):

You are bound to be moved by Pope Francis's eloquent Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. Pope Francis calls nature a "constant source of wonder and awe" and also "a continuing revelation of the divine." His encyclical is a poem of praise, but it is also a powerful prophetic document, calling people to a "global ecological conversion." Pope Francis emphatically connects the peril of our planet to issues of peace and justice, calling for "profound changes" in our current social and economic structures, which serve the interests of the rich and powerful at the expense of the poor and the planet. In fact, he does not shy away from calling these structures "sinful." You can read or download the entire text on laudatosi.org

Next week, the team will share another idea.

Narthex Thank You

Thank you to the kind people who have donated money towards our insurance deductible! This was a lovely gift, easing some pressure on our Capital Reserve fund. To the people who have donated to stewardship regularly, we also thank you! You are the reason we have a Capital Reserve fund.

Service Master has the narthex area dried out, approximately to the amount of our deductible, so now we are collecting bids for the repairs from a few local contractors. We are collecting three bids: one has already come in; we are waiting for another bid; and we have another company which is interested but has not scheduled their walk-through.

Thank you again for your generous donations. We will continue to keep you updated of progress.

Keep Our Media Team Safe

An area in the Narthex is blocked off until we can get the water damage repaired. We realize that it is difficult to get from the baptismal font to the area to the left or to the nursery. We removed chairs from the back row in front of the media table.

Please cross behind the chairs but *in front of the media team*.

The media team moves around and sometimes has items in the walkway. We would hate for someone to trip and get hurt. Thanks for your cooperation.

The Vatican has invited local Churches to undertake a second consultation, this time on the theme of the co-responsibility of the baptized. They state: “As members of the faithful People of God, all the baptized are co-responsible for mission, each according to his or her vocation, competence, and experience. Therefore, all contribute to imagining and discerning steps to reform Christian communities and the Church as a whole”.



Please plan to attend one of the parish sessions, either **Thursday afternoon, March 14** or **Saturday morning, March 16** and share:

- 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**.

To register, please visit us at sjtbcc.org/synod-2024/ or scan





2024 Spring Round (March, April, May)

Know thy Neighbor!

Share a meal with fellow parishioners in small groups at each other's homes. Each host within a group will host once and provide the main course and beverages while the others in your group provide appetizers, salad, and dessert. The menu is up to you as the host. It can be any meal (dinner, lunch, breakfast or brunch) as long as your group agrees.

Groups consist of 3 hosts. A host is made up of a couple or a single or a family who is hosting a meal at their home. All ages are welcome to join. Register with a friend or as a couple to be assigned together or register as a single (make note if you would like to be paired with another single for Supper Club).

Groups will be assigned and the list will be distributed to all participants. At this point, the first person listed in a group needs to contact their group to select their first date for a meal and set the menu. Future meal dates can be set when you gather or through email, whichever works best for your group. The Spring round ends when each pair has had a chance to host.

Person 1 _____

Address _____

City _____, ZIP _____

Phone _____ email _____

Food/pet allergies, food sensitivities or comments: _____

Circle if you have DOGS or CATS

Please pair me with another single YES _____ NO _____

Person 2 _____

Address _____

City _____, ZIP _____

Phone _____ email _____

Pet/food allergies, food sensitivities or comments: _____

Other Comments? _____

Contact **Bren Triplett** at the parish office for any questions.

We Need Your Help Planting Trees!



Some of the ivy pulling volunteers from Sept 2023

After the project to clear invasive blackberries & English Ivy last September, a parishioner was inspired to donate a mixture of 130 native bare-root conifer seedlings to St. John's. These will help our forest transition from Cottonwoods & Alders to the gentle giants of a mature evergreen woodland.

We need your help planting these seedlings on Saturday, March 2, from 10 am to Noon.

Middle and high school students as well as adults are invited. Middle-schoolers must be accompanied by parent/guardian. Community Service Credit available for high school students.

Adult Sign up: sjtbcc.org/tree-planting/

Or scan QR code here



Middle & High School Students:
Sign up through Pete Guthrie
peterg@sjtbcc.org

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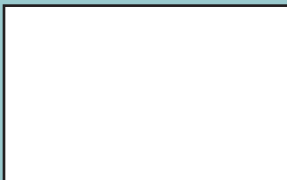
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