

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

February 4, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted. (Ps 147:3)



Photo courtesy of Rose McAvoy

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**.



A New Family

This weekend we are finding out who will be in our new Parish Family. This re-organization, taking place across the Archdiocese of Seattle, is meant to re-invigorate and renew our local Catholic Church. Fewer priests and lay ecclesial ministers, rising costs of running a parish, and changing practices among some of our Catholics show us that the status quo is no longer an option.

After significant research and discussion with other dioceses, our Archdiocese selected the parish family model for restructuring, which combines two or more parishes under the leadership of one pastor and one or more parochial vicars (assistant priests). The archdiocese spent most of the last year in consultation with priests, deacons, parish and school staffs, lay leaders and parishioners. This feed back resulted in some changes, including our originally proposed parish family. We held a second round of listening sessions regarding the change that was proposed. I want to thank all our parishioners who shared their insights and concerns.

The parish families will go into effect July 1 of this year. Over the next three years, the parish families discern on the local level how best to become one canonical parish. This does not necessarily mean having only one site or campus. Prayer, creativity, and sensitivity will help us look at ways of being a vibrant faith community, faithful to the command of Christ to bring the Gospel to all people.

For more information, 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:



@sjtbccovington

On the Cover

Do You Love To Craft?

You should check out the *Craft and Hobby Group* at St. John the Baptist (SJTb)! Every year in January, this group of crafters get together for fellowship. This year on January 26 & 27, there were 24 crafters who participated. Along with fun, food, and camaraderie, the highlight of this year's retreat is supporting one of SJTB's outreach ministries, *St. Vincent de Paul* conference. Support included food and hygiene items for the food bank and proceeds from the purchase of raffle tickets for four donated raffle baskets.

Pictured on the cover is the winner of the "Pamper Yourself" basket, **Marge Battisti** (on the right) with the quilt that was the centerpiece of the basket and was made by **Kathleen Williams** (on the left in the picture).

See related story on Page 4 and information on how you can join this exciting and vibrant group of crafters.

This Week in Our Church

Sunday, February 4

Mass - 9:00 am

Elementary Program - 10:15 am

Mass - 11:30 am

RCIA Dismissal - 11:30 am

1st Reconciliation/Eucharist Prep Parent Meeting - 4:00pm

Mass - 5:30 pm

Youth Group (HS) - 6:30 pm

Monday, February 5

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 Membership Meeting - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 6

Word & Communion Service - 9:00 am

WICS - 6:00 pm

Life, Justice, Peace Commission Meeting - 6:30 pm

Women's Commission Formation Group - 6:30 pm

Advent Light Bible Study - 7:00pm

Wednesday, February 7

Mass - 9:00 am

Parish Leadership Team Meeting - 6:30 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, February 8

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Advent Light Bible Study - 10:00 am

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

Facility & Grounds Commission Meeting - 4:30 pm

One Prisoner One Parish Meeting - 5:00 pm

Mass - 6:30 pm

Liturgy Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm

RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, February 9

Creative Kindness Sewing Meet Up - 9:00 am

Mass - 9:00 am

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 10

First Eucharist Parent/Child In-service - 9:00 am

One Prisoner One Parish Meeting - 9:00 am

Gospel Reflection SFC - 10:00 am

Reconciliation - 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Mass - 5:30 pm

Strengths Party - 6:30 pm

Please Pray for the sick:

Rolando Alas **Kim Anderson**
Yvonne Lawless **Carolina Mendoza**
Diane Price **Laura Rothschilds**
John Ruffo **Lee Williamson**

and those who have recently died:

Bill Lepola
(husband of Karen Lepola)
Mary Ellen Pardo
(wife of Deacon Anselmo Pardo)



LENT

Save the Dates!

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the following:

Faith Formation Lent Event - February 11, 10:15 am

Ash Wednesday - February 14

Mass with Ash distribution - 9:00 am & 7:00 pm
Liturgy of the Word with Ash distribution - 5:30 pm

Stations of the Cross - 7:00 pm on
2/16, 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 (Fridays)

Lenten Reconciliation Service - March 9, 10:00 am

Parish Lenten Retreat - February 17
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

What To Do With Old Palms



We will soon enter the season of Lent, which has 46 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

Remember to **bring your old palms for burning**. Place them in the bin in the narthex. They will be used as ash for distribution on Ash Wednesday.

Did you know that the proper way to dispose of palms is to either burn them or bury them? **They must never be discarded in the trash.**

Your Envelopes and Special Collections



We continue to have special collections every month, which support causes outside our parish (i.e., PREPARES, Rice Bowl, and Catholic Home Missions).

If you receive envelopes, it is really important that you **use the correct envelope** for your donations, so they will get credited to where you would like them to go. If we receive a donation in a Special Collection envelope, we assume it is intended for that Special Collection. But, if you are using that envelope because you don't have the stewardship envelope you need for that week, **please write the word STEWARDSHIP** in large letters somewhere on that envelope, so we can credit it correctly.

Thank you so much for all of your generosity to the parish and special causes. **We appreciate you!**

Update on Stewardship & Evangelization Commission

The *Stewardship and Evangelization Commission* met on Wednesday evening, January 17, 2024 via Zoom.

Christine Martincic is launching a new *Hospitality* ministry team and currently has nine volunteers. We hope to welcome and train them with our upcoming *Welcome Gathering* on January 28 and our *Strengths Party* on February 10. We identified nine possible committees (*Engagement, Stewardship Formation, Hospitality, Evangelization, Welcome Gatherings, Strengths Parties, Supper Club, Childcare, and Parish Island*) that could be structured with a chair and other members who would meet monthly to calendar and plan events, implement programs, pray together, and provide a liaison to the Commission. These committees would help the Commission support parish stewardship more vibrantly.

LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE FOR CATHOLICS

WHEN

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday = Fasting & Abstinence
Every Friday = Abstinence

WHO?

Catholics 14+ practice abstinence,
Catholics 18-59 practice fasting

WHAT IS FASTING?

One full meal & two smaller meals ≠ one full meal

WHAT IS ABSTINENCE?

No meat

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE



Join the fun and food for our next **Strengths party!**

**INPUT
RESTORATIVE
INCLUDERS**

Saturday, February 10,
After 5:30 pm Mass, McMullen Center
RSVP by February 6
Annef@sjtbcc.org

Lenten Retreat

Please join us for a **Parish Lenten Retreat** with our Youth Faith Formation Staff: **Peter Guthrie, Therese McHenry, and Joan Williamson** on **Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 9:00am to 3:00pm**. Lunch is provided. Please register at docs.google.com/forms/d/1wGTQjPof5OdDxn0_IGQky1RYjqCB-NzhWvrDSqeQH04/edit. See attached flyer for more information.

Celebrating Our Rich Cultures

Filipino Choir, Flores de Mayo, Halo Halo Social, Hispanic Charismatic Adoration & Prayer, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Simbang Gabi, Hora Santa, Vida en el Espiritu Santo – these are our most popular examples of multicultural activities here at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. However, they represent only a small piece of the cultural diversity that we see and hear every week, as we look at and listen to our fellow parishioners.

We, the members of your *Liturgical Commission*, are interested in exploring ways to include a fuller and richer variety of the cultural traditions practiced by our parish families.

The word “catholic” means “including a wide variety of things; all-embracing; universal.” We would like your help in furthering St. John the Baptist’s efforts to embrace this ideal.

If your heritage includes a particular feast day, liturgical practice, or celebration that you would like to see embraced by our community, please let us know by contacting **Laurie Moloney** at lauriem@sjtbcc.org.

The Discernment Process for Partners in the Gospel Continues

Based on the input from the public consultation phase last fall, changes were recommended for 25 parish families, which impact 78 individual parishes and missions. These parishes and missions were invited to hold a second round of listening with their parishioners to gather input on the updated version of their parish family. This feedback has been incorporated into the discernment process.

Discernment is different than simply “making a decision.” It involves prayer and quiet time to listen to the Holy Spirit to understand the direction this journey should take us. At this time, we ask everyone to continue praying for this effort.

Upcoming Key Dates

Feb 3 and 4, 2024

Final parish family plan will be announced.

Spring 2024

Pastor and parochial vicar announced.

July 2024

Parish families, under the leadership of one pastor, will begin.

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 or Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
- Zoom meetings on Thursday mornings from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Sign up at: docs.google.com/forms/d/1Gg7j5IWLEbAMoDlp_HNaMRGqJwCyzDx84YYrZgdUvlw/edit

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

Crafters Support Local Ministry

Did you know that the *Craft and Hobby Group* of St. John the Baptist (SJTb) has been getting together monthly for over 20 years? Every January we hold a 2-day “retreat,” where crafters get together to work on their own crafts for an extended period of time while enjoying the fellowship of their fellow crafters. Most of the crafters are members of SJTB, but there is a large contingent who joins us from St. Barbara as well as “independents” who are friends of the other groups.

This year there were 24 participants. One of the highlights of the retreat is supporting the outreach ministry chosen for that year. This year it was our very own *St. Vincent de Paul* conference. We supported them by donating food and hygiene items for the food pantry and proceeds from the raffle tickets for four donated raffle baskets. All of the raffle money went to this outreach ministry along with any leftover funds from retreat fees. This year we raised \$636 in raffle ticket sales, which was “matched” by an anonymous donor with another \$700. With the leftover funds (after buying food for the meals served) from retreat fees, **we were able to give St. Vincent de Paul a check for \$1496.37!** As mentioned on the cover article, the winner of the “Pamper Yourself” basket is **Marge Battisti** with the quilt that was the centerpiece of the basket and was made by **Kathleen Williams**. The other basket winners are: “Pamper your Cat” - **Rose McAvoy**, “Pamper your Pup” - **Nancy Moore**, and “Gnomes for all Seasons” - **Judy Von Bokern**. (See related story on Page 3.)

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, February 24. If you would like more information about joining this fun *Craft and Hobby Group*, please contact **Nancy Moore** in the staff office.



Come learn and find out how
God has uniquely gifted you.
Contact Anne Frederick in the parish office
annef@sjtbcc.org



ST. JOHN THE
BAPTIST FAITH
FORMATION

LENT EVENT

February 11, 2024
McMullen Center
10:15-11:30am

**FAMILIES, TEENS AND
ADULTS WELCOME**

Activities to Prepare for Lent

- Arts and Crafts
- Outreach Project
- Cookies
- Music
- and more!



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Adult Faith Formation

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

TRANSFORMATION TO

TRANSFIGURATION

PRESENTERS:



Therese McHenry



Peter Guthrie



Joan Williamson

As Catholic Christians, we are on a journey of faith! Faith in Jesus Christ. This retreat will be an opportunity to ponder and pray with this journey of transformation. Jesus revealed the change we are called to, in His Transfiguration...life, death, and resurrection is the Paschal Mystery we are invited into! Join us, as we walk this invitation together.

Saturday - February 17, 2024

9am-3pm

(lunch provided)

meet in the sanctuary



Register Here:



For more information contact Joan Williamson
253-630-0701 joanw@sjtbcc.org
25810 156th Ave. SE, Covington, WA 98042

Memories from Guatemala 2023

Victor



Ismael



Olivia



“The Farmer”



Ken Nelson: By now you’ve heard much about our travels to our sister parish in Guatemala last summer, including so many wonderful opportunities visiting the beautiful land, the humble villages, the simple homes and sanctuaries of our warmly-welcoming host families. Here are some friends that I met along the way who made a deep impression on me and who have influenced my prayer life ever since.

These four individuals help me realize what it means to be brothers and sisters across borders—that we can connect on a very common, very fundamental level.

Victor is 28. He is animated, technically savvy, and devoted to a simpler life serving people in a region destroyed by volcanic eruption. Victor—so talented—has chosen to serve his people.

My friend, **Ismael**, is a severely disabled young man, living an immobile and isolated life. He has very limited speech ability yet he shows warm emotion and he needs social interaction and human feeling.

Olivia is a talkative matriarch, frayed by life, with weathered skin, a light-up smile, beautiful, clear blue eyes and a boundless, joy-filled faith. Her large family is a challenge, yet she endures with so little.

“**My Farmer**” is worn and bent by life, whose gnarled, arthritic hands have been roughly shaped by his tilling hoe. He provides daily for his family growing corn on a steep hillside field.

I encourage my fellow parishioners to support St. John the Baptist’s efforts to connect with our Guatemalan family in Jesus’ name.

Vicky French: Oh Guatemala! I applied for a passport June 12, it arrived the afternoon of July 22nd and we left for Guatemala July 23rd! Our welcome & shared worship at the various churches was heartfelt and enthusiastic, rarely led by a priest. I loved the hugs, kisses & hospitality from young & old, healthy & infirm. I was impressed by the beauty of the land and how hard it was to live, plant & harvest corn on the steep mountain hillsides. Their needs are so great, accenting the contrasts between them & our easy way of life by comparison. After listening to many express their collective and individual needs, I am moved to help find a way to at least revisit & carry on our water filter project and provide resources for relatively small church projects; like a keyboard here, a little playground there, material to patch leaking roofs. Many homes have leaking roofs, too. Ultimately, by joining with other nearby churches and organizations here, we might assist in building sewers to address sanitation

Memories from Guatemala 2023

there. A need expressed everywhere was JOBS. Poverty is rampant and teens are leaving home in droves looking for work - in America!

Jim Tanasse (edited by Kathy Wickward) What were the key group takeaways from the trip to Guatemala?

- The work Myra and Rudy are doing in Guatemala around building community in the Special Needs Community was one of the highlights of the trip to our villages in the San Marcos Highlands. It is amazing how much they have accomplished in the six months since they created the non-profit "A Mi Rey" to offer occupational and physical therapy to these kids and young adults. We were impressed by how much this ministry helps struggling families come forward looking for spiritual and physical support for themselves and their children.
- The work SERES is doing in Guatemala to develop youth leadership and hope is amazing. I think there was group consensus around how building a relationship with this organization and our villages would be an amazing catalyst of hope and possibilities in our communities who appear to be struggling from all the loss of youth to the US via immigration. (<https://www.seres.org/>)
- The work Dr Will and Diane are doing at Opal House around health and education is amazing considering they have just been doing it for 15 years. There is a great chance to connect Opal House to A Mi Rey for access to the Opal House clinic's resources. Opal House has a great opportunity for growth beyond all that has been accomplished with shared leadership and vision. (<https://opalhouseguatemala.com/>)
- There appears to be a great deal of disconnectedness within the parish leadership of our communities. It would appear from the five visits we made there is no real consensus about the top priority. Most of the villages had a wish list focused on what needed to be done to their churches, e.g. roof replacements, playgrounds, and the like. The following is a list of health and infrastructure needs which were shared:
 - All the communities need us to help coordinate a dialog around stoves, houses and water filtration to ensure these initial investments are still viable.
 - The communities are pivoting away from compostable toilets to a sewer/water treatment system. Raw sewage is being pumped right into the river and streams. The idea of compostable toilets appears to still have some traction in some communities.
 - Enterprise is still one of the major initiatives the villages need and want to help build hope and jobs in the region.
 - Transportation to school from Barrancas and Canaque for secondary school is needed.
 - Clean drinkable water is still a major issue along with the collection of water during the wet season for watering during the dry season and early planting.
 - Crop diversification and helping farmers see the value of other cash crops and the use of equipment vs hoes to do the farming. A large shortage of labor due to migration.
 - How can we leverage some of the youth who are already here in the US to put a voice and a face to the struggles of our villages?
- We MUST begin to make regular trips to our communities in Guatemala to build better working connections and to grow the mission group. By the same token, we would like to get more members from our communities in Guatemala, perhaps those already in the US, to help put a voice and face to our mission. One dream is to have a mission staff person resident in one of the communities to handle this coordination full time.
- We wish to leverage partnerships with other parishes, civic groups and communities to help leverage the scalability needed to conquer some of the BIG LIFT projects.

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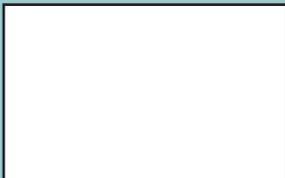
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