

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent

With the Lord, there is mercy and fullness of redemption. (Ps 130:7)



Photos courtesy of St. John the Baptist Media Team

The *Knights of Columbus* lead 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

Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am; Thursday 6:30 pm

Word & Communion: **Monday & Tuesday 9:00 am**

Confessions: **Saturday 4:00 pm 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

Come visit us at **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

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

Mary's Way of the Cross

"I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you say." These words spoken by Mary, Mother of Jesus, set in motion the process of our redemption.

On March 8, the *Knights of Columbus* led with prayers and meditation from *Mary's Way of the Cross*. These prayers and meditations allowed all present to see through Mary's eyes what Jesus was going through on the way to Calvary.

At *St. John the Baptist*, ministries are called upon to lead the prayers and meditations at the stations every Friday during Lent. The fourth Stations of the Cross prayers and meditations during this Lenten season was led by the *Knights of Columbus*, as featured on the cover page. The *Hispanic Community* led prayers on March 15. Other ministries will have the opportunity to lead the last two Stations of the Cross this Lenten season.

It's not too late to attend at least one Stations of the Cross prayer and meditation hour and experience the repentance and grateful redemption as we walk with Jesus in his last hours and meditate on the words of his mother, Mary.

LENT

A SEASON OF RENEWAL

This Week in Our Church

Sunday, March 17

Mass - 9:00 am

Elementary Program - 10:15 am

Coffee & Donuts after 9:00 am & 11:30 Masses

Mass - 11:30 am

RCIA Dismissal - 11:30 am

Grades 5-12 Sacramental Prep - 4:00 pm

Mass - 5:30 pm

Youth Group (High School) - 6:30 pm

Monday, March 18

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

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

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

Knights of Columbus Leadership Meeting - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, March 19

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

WICS - 6:00 pm

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

Lent 2024 Encounter - 7:00 pm

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 20

Mass - 9:00 am

American Sewing Guild Meeting - 9:30 am

Oracion - 6:00 pm

Stewardship & Evangelization Meeting - 6:30 pm

Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm

Lent 2024 Encounter - 7:00 pm

Vida en el Espiritu - 7:00 pm

"Walking Through Grief" Zoom - 7:00 pm

Youth Group (Middle School) - 7:00 pm

Thursday, March 21

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

PREPARES Meeting - 9:30 am

Lent 2024 Encounter via Zoom - 10:00 am

Creation Care Team - 1:00 pm

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

Mass - 6:30 pm

Communications Meeting - 7:00 pm

RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, March 22

Mass - 9:00 am

Fish Fry - 5:00 pm

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

Stations of the Cross - 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 23

RCIA Spring Retreat - 9:00 am

Craft & Hobby Day - 10:00 am

Gospel Reflection - 10:00 am

Reconciliation - 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Mass - 5:30 pm

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!



Procession in Holy Week

by Paul Turner



You may feel you deserve applause when you get out of bed or off the couch and go to church. After all, many Catholics don't even do *that* much. You do. During Holy Week however, going to church is not enough. Just when you think you can settle into your favorite pew, you will be asked to stand up, leave your place, and walk. Many Catholics resist. They become pew potatoes. But those who join the processions of Holy Week will find their faith and charity rewarded.

On Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, for example, the Mass will begin outdoors. Instead of going directly into the church as usual, you may gather in another area - indoors or out. The priest will bless the palm branches; he or the deacon will proclaim the Gospel, and then all process into the church acclaiming Christ. (Of course, those with walking difficulties may be seated in the church beforehand.)

On Thursday of the Lord's Supper, the evening Mass does not conclude in the usual way. Instead, a procession forms right after communion. The Blessed Sacrament is brought to a special chapel or tabernacle. You will be invited to join this procession, singing hymns of praise and moving to a place where you may pray privately in the course of the night.

During the Good Friday liturgy, you will be invited forward to adore the cross. The Eucharist is the only thing we genuflect before, except on Good Friday when we genuflect before the Cross.

At the Easter Vigil, as on Palm Sunday, you will be invited to start Mass outside the church. There, a fire will be burning, signifying the resurrection of Christ, the light that shatters darkness. Carrying candles, you enter the church following a pillar of fire, as our ancestors marched from slavery to freedom.

The processions of Holy Week draw us into the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ. It is worthwhile to get up out of the pew.

Fr. Bill

**Please Pray for
the sick:**

**Jim Day
Renee Nicholas
Pete Villa**

and those who have recently died:

Lee Williamson

Honor a Loved One

It's not too late to send in your donations to remember your loved ones with Easter flowers! A suggested donation of \$10 will purchase a pot of flowers, which will be used to decorate the church for Easter.

Write the name of the person or persons you wish to remember on a memorial card (available in the Narthex), place the card in the envelope with your payment, and deposit it in the collection box in the Narthex. The memorial cards will be displayed in the Narthex on Easter.

Deadline for donations is March 24, Palm Sunday.

**Knights of Columbus
Friday Family Fish Fry**

**March 22, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
McMullen Center**

**Breaded Fried Cod, French Fries,
Clam Chowder and Drinks**



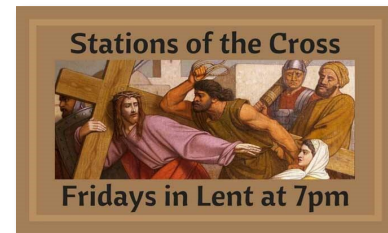
Triduum Schedule

**Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:
Holy Thursday, March 28
7:00 pm**

**Stations of the Cross:
Good Friday, March 29
3:00 pm**

**Passion of the Lord:
Good Friday, March 29
7:00 pm**

**Easter Vigil in the Holy Night:
Saturday, March 30, 8:00 pm**



Date

Led by

**March 22 ----- Stewardship Commission
March 29, 3:00 pm ----- Women's Commission**

**Small Faith Groups Opportunity
Lent 2024 Encounter**

It is not too late to join members of our parish for a weekly meeting to break open the scriptures, dialogue, and pray together during Lent.

Options for this journey are:

- **In-person** groups on Tuesday evenings (began **February 20**) until March 26 from **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** in Classrooms 8A & 8B.
- **In-person** groups on Wednesday evenings (began **February 21**) until March 27 from **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** in Classrooms 8A & 8B.
- **Zoom** meetings on Thursday mornings (began **February 22**) until March 28 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.

Come Join Us!

Do you ever wish that you knew more about God or the church? Do you have a desire to have a more personal relationship with Him? Are you interested in exploring these types of questions with a small group of fellow parishioners? This is the essence of what a *Small Faith Sharing Group* does.

Our group is looking for two or three more members. We currently have three members (two men and a woman), and we meet on **Fridays from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm via Zoom**. We have done studies on the sacraments, the creeds, who Jesus is, and the Mass. We do book studies, bible studies, and more. If this group sounds interesting to you, please contact the parish office and leave a message for **Dave Zentner**.

There is also a *Women's Group*, which meets on Monday evenings, and that group is also interested in adding more women. Contact **Joan Williamson** at joanw@sjtbcc.org for more information on this group.

Next Week

Blood Pressure check after all morning Masses on
Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday)

We Bid Anne Frederick Goodbye

Our beloved **Anne Frederick** will be retiring in the middle of April. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family. Anne has brought many smiles to our faces over the years, and we will truly miss her spiritual guidance and wisdom.

We will gather after the Masses on **April 20 and 21** to congratulate her.

May God always be with you in this new chapter in your life, Anne! We hope we can still be graced with your presence at Masses here at St. John the Baptist in the future!

Staffing Changes at St. John the Baptist

We have two new hires! **Michele Myers** is our childcare coordinator, and **Andrea Shimek** is our new database manager. You may already have heard or seen Michele's announcement at Mass two weeks ago; she will handle the childcare arm of the hospitality team. Andrea Shimek will be in the office on Friday mornings as she balances work for St. John the Baptist with her duties at the Archdiocese. **Welcome Michele and Andrea!**

Also in April, **Kathy Wickward** will move into a new position: Pastoral Assistant for Stewardship and Outreach. While overseeing administration, Kathy will support our community, evangelization, and outreach ministries.

St. John the Baptist is in the process of hiring an additional person to take on facility scheduling and other tasks. Watch for that announcement in an upcoming bulletin!

Conifer Seedlings Planted on March 2

Many thanks to the 24 adults and 19 youths, who came out to plant 130 native conifer seedlings on a surprisingly sunny Saturday morning, March 2.

Special thanks to parishioner, **Kate Machata**, who donated the seedlings and provided her expertise in planting them. Thanks also to **David Aldous**, our Facilities Steward, who helped prepare the area and provided tools and equipment needed for planting. And finally, thanks to the enthusiastic students from the *Kentridge National Honor Society*, who joined in the effort.

These conifers will grow to shade out the English ivy, Himalayan Blackberries and other invasive species that have been encroaching the woods. During their typical long life, they'll sequester carbon from the air and produce oxygen and provide homes for countless creatures. The seedlings are available annually from *King Conservation District*.

Many thanks to St. John the Baptist's *Creation Care Team* and the *Youth Ministry* for sponsoring this event.

Training Session Scheduled for Eucharistic Ministers

The Liturgy Commission has elected to revise the current Eucharistic Minister Instructions and Guidelines. A Committee has been tasked to work on this revision. Once approved by the Liturgy Commission, these instructions and guidelines will be given to all Eucharistic Ministers at a retreat/training session scheduled for **Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon**.

This is a mandatory session for all Eucharistic Ministers, including substitutes. If you are absolutely unable to make this date, please email **Pat Defiesta** at bulletin@sjtbcc.org. Note that there is no make-up session scheduled at this time. Please mark your calendars. Thank you to all of our Eucharistic Ministers, who tirelessly serve in this ministry!

40 Days; 40 Ways

St. John the Baptist's *Creation Care Team (CCT)* is sharing the fifth in a series of ideas from the *Franciscan Action Organization*, "40 Days; 40 Ways Guide." These ideas are designed to provide an alternative or enrichment to your Lenten observations with creation-centered activities. See previous bulletins for other ideas.

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

Week of 2/18/24 idea: Become a Lenten Vegetarian.

Week of 2/25/24 idea: Study & Share *Laudato Si'*.

Week of 3/3/24 idea: Find Your Voice.

Week of 3/10/24 idea: Contemplate "*Earth Rise*."

This week we share this idea: take a sabbath walk in the woods

This can be a time for the whole family to enjoy the great outdoors! It will add to your experience if you read Peter Wohlleben's, *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate*. The author, a professional forester, will make you aware of the hidden "conversations" taking place among the trees and how they are sending messages through the air by producing special scents and through their root systems, employing filaments of fungi. Knowing that trees have their own social lives and commitments can make walking among them a spiritual experience.



If you hike alone, consider taking along a copy of the Psalms 19, 24, and 148. There is a kind of communion that you can feel in the creaking of the branches, the wind rustling through the leaves, and the hushed stillness that seems always to envelop a solitary walker in the woods.

Next week, CCT will share on having a conversation with an elder.

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