

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

April 7, 2024  
Second Sunday of Easter  
Sunday of Divine Mercy

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is everlasting (Ps 118:1)

Photo collage courtesy of **Father Carlos Orozco**, Priest Administrator of Kent Holy Spirit Catholic Church.



St. John the Baptist photos courtesy of **Paul Dehmer**.

**One Family; One Faith - Holy Spirit & St. John the Baptist**  
(see related story on Page 3)

## Worship Schedule

Vigil: Saturday 5:30 pm

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

Weekday Masses: 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**

# 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!

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## Pastor's Corner

### Reception of Holy Communion



In celebrating the Mass, some things are determined by the Vatican, some by the conference of bishops for each nation, some by the local bishop, and a few by the pastor of a parish. How we receive Holy Communion is determined by each national conference of Catholic bishops. This may make it a bit confusing since our parish is made up of people from around the world. How you receive Communion in the nation of your birth may not be the custom here.

In the United States the posture for receiving Communion is standing. Those who kneel for communion are not to be refused, but they are to be instructed on the proper way to receive Communion. As you come forward for Holy Communion, one is to slightly bow one's head in reverence to the Eucharist. Note that there is no genuflection, just a bow of one's head.

Communion may be received either on the hand or on the tongue. If receiving on the tongue, you must do more than just open your mouth. You must stick out your tongue as well as open your mouth. (Yes, there seems to be a growing problem with this.) If receiving on the hand, hold one palm on top of the other. The Eucharist is never taken; it is always received. Therefore, let the Eucharistic Minister place the host on your tongue or on your hand.

Before receiving Communion, the Eucharistic Minister will proclaim, "The Body of Christ" or "The Blood of Christ." The one receiving Communion is to answer, "Amen." Be sure to answer loud enough for the Minister to hear you. This is your statement of faith that you believe the bread and wine are indeed the full presence of Christ and that you, yourself, are indeed a member of the Body of Christ on earth. As St. Augustine said, "We become what we eat."

Consume the Eucharist immediately upon receiving it.

The reception of communion is not the moment for personal expressions of piety, which can distract others and draw attention to ourselves. Rather, reverent in our belief in the Lord's true presence in the Eucharist, this is the time when we should be most unified as a community doing the same gestures. In receiving the Body of Christ, we become one with Christ and through Christ, one with everyone else who receives the same Eucharistic Lord.

*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](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

## Partners in the Gospel

Pastor and Parochial Vicar assignments will be announced at the Masses this weekend, April 6 & 7.

Here at *St. John the Baptist* (SJTb), **Tom East** will be our Parish Liaison. Tom is hired and trained by the Archdiocese of Seattle and will work in partnership with our leadership teams. Tom will provide support to design and implement a One-Parish Plan to partner with *Holy Spirit* in Kent. This plan will be presented to the archbishop before becoming one canonical parish.

Many thanks to **Father Carlos Orozco**, Priest Administrator at *Holy Spirit*, for providing the collage featured on our bulletin cover. Photos were taken in early February to form a collage of the two parishes, who are expected to become one parish in July 2027.

Please watch for further updates in future issues of our bulletin.

## This Week in Our Church



### Sunday, April 7

*Divine Mercy*

**Mass - 9:00 am**

Elementary Program - 10:15 am

**Mass - 11:30 am**

**Mass - 5:30 pm**

### Monday, April 8

*The Annunciation of the Lord*

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

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

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

### Tuesday, April 9

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

WICS - 6:00 pm

Mission Meeting - 6:30 pm

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

### Wednesday, April 10

**Mass - 9:00 am**

Oracion - 6:00 pm

Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm

Vida en el Espiritu - 7:00 pm

"Walking Through Grief" Zoom - 7:00 pm

### Thursday, April 11

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

Facilities & Grounds Commission Meeting - 4:30 pm

**Mass - 6:30 pm**

Liturgy Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm

RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

### Friday, April 12

Creative Kindness Meet-up - 9:00 am

**Mass - 9:00 am**

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

### Saturday, April 13

Adopt-A-Street Cleanup - 9:00 am

Retreat for Adult Confirmation Prep - 9:00 am

Craft & Hobby Day - 10:00 am

Gospel Reflection - 10:00 am

Reconciliation - 4:00 pm

**Mass - 5:30 pm**

## Please Pray for the sick:

**Mike Grizzle**  
**John Lawless**  
**Barb Martz**

## and those who have recently died:

**Jim Bull**  
**Diane Murphy** (sister of Mike Murphy)  
**Mary Peralta** (sister of Ben & Mary Peralta)

## New Life in Christ A Call for All

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age. (Mt 28:19-20)

By our Baptism, we are called to follow the command that Jesus gave at the end of his earthly journey in human form. Jesus trusts that you and I will continue this ministry of the apostles, and we do so because we are disciples first. We are people who continue to learn and grow in faith.

One way we do this is by tapping into the opportunities provided in our parish community. One such opportunity is the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults* (RCIA) process, which is a formation process that leads adults into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Here at St. John the Baptist, a group of 19 individuals have been fully initiated into our tradition. They came into full communion with the Church at the *Easter Vigil* this past weekend, March 30. As a community, we celebrate significant milestones with these newly-baptized brothers and sisters. We welcome to our community of St. John the Baptist the following:

**Jimmy Arvizu**  
**Kobe Bossert**  
**Liliana Cavazos**  
**Bailey Cooksey**  
**Micah de Castro**  
**Crystal Kwa**  
**Angelica Medina**  
**Emily Morado**  
**Eduardo Romero-Ramirez**  
**Adrianna Wenger**

**Blaine Bossert**  
**Felipe Castro**  
**Maria Cavazos**  
**Noah de Castro**  
**Clari Gonzalez**  
**Lilian Le**  
**Christian Mezhua**  
**Leonardo Rodriguez**  
**Emily Vergara**

If you are called to become a candidate for RCIA, please contact **Joan Williamson** at the parish office to further discuss. For more information about the RCIA process and its importance for the parish community, check out the USCCB RCIA website at [usccb.org](https://www.usccb.org/rcia).

## What's Next With the Synod?

Thank you to all our parishioners who participated in the latest listening session, which addressed the question of what hinders and what encourages the shared mission of all the baptized.

The synthesis report of the *Synod Assembly in Rome of October 2023* states, "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." Your responses will help prepare for the *Synod Assembly in Rome* on October 2024. For more information go to [synod.va/en.html](https://synod.va/en.html).



## St. Vincent de Paul Update

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)

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus as he would have 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.

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

Because of your generous donation of **\$20,871.00** from January to March 2024, we were able to assist 102 families with rent and utilities (\$17,798.00) as well as provide 26 bags of food (\$1,430.00) and 16 bags of personal hygiene items (\$1,643.00). **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](mailto:patd@seattlesvdp.org).

## Children, Come Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word at Mass

We offer a Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays, during the 9:00 am Mass for children ages 5 to 10. Kids celebrate the Catholic faith with readings, reflections, prayers, and songs, which are designed to engage their age level. This program will run from October through May. Contact **Therese McHenry** at [ThereseM@sjtbcc.org](mailto:ThereseM@sjtbcc.org) if you have any questions or would like your child to participate. Or you may call the parish office.

## Adopt-A-Street Spring Cleanup



Don't forget to join the *Creation Care Team* next weekend, **Saturday, April 13 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am** for a street cleanup. It should be easier this time than last because of less street construction. For safety purposes **these cleanups will be limited to adults only.**

Please **register by April 11** using this link: [archseattle.ccbchurch.com/goto/scheduling/271/public](http://archseattle.ccbchurch.com/goto/scheduling/271/public) or by paper in the Narthex at the *Life, Justice, and Peace* table.

The *Random Acts of Cleanup* is another opportunity to consider. It is being offered by The City of Covington, who sponsors our street cleanup events. This program is a litter cleanup program for individual volunteers ages 18 and older. For more information visit [covingtonwa.gov/cleancovington.php](http://covingtonwa.gov/cleancovington.php).

## We Welcome a New Administrative Assistant



A few weeks ago, we welcomed **Michele Myers** as our Childcare Coordinator and **Andrea Shimek** as our Database Manager.

This week, we are excited to welcome **Rose McAvoy** as our Administrative Assistant! Rose comes to us with a background in website content creation, purchasing, communications, and photography (owner of "Rose McAvoy Photography"). She has facilitated a Bible study and is part of the *Women's Commission*. Rose will join the website team and will be responsible for supporting *Faith Formation*, facility scheduling, and purchasing. Her first day in the office will be April 17. Welcome Rose!

## Don't Forget Your CRS Rice Bowls

Your Lenten alms through *Catholic Relief Services* Rice Bowl make a global difference for millions of our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need. Funds will help families in countries like Uganda, El Salvador, and Indonesia access nutritious food and build sustainable livelihoods. **Please bring your Rice Bowls in the box in the Narthex by Sunday, April 7.**

If you didn't get a chance to pick up a Rice Bowl, you can still donate at [CRS Rice Bowls](#).

## Cookies and Coffee for Anne

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 bid her goodbye and have cookies and coffee/tea with her.

We **need your help** to make this event successful. Please see volunteer opportunities to **bring cookies and help with setup and cleanup here.** [sjtbcc.org/hospitality-signup/](http://sjtbcc.org/hospitality-signup/). Thanks for your help.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

## Update from the Liturgy Commission

The *Liturgy Commission* (Commission), under the leadership of **Mary Syslo**, met on Thursday March 14 at 7:00 pm to discuss the following.

- A Liturgical Ministers (LM) survey went out to all LMs the first week of March. The main question on the survey was, "Have you ever been distracted by what a Liturgical Minister was wearing during Mass?" Out of 75 responses, 58 LMs (78%) said they have never been distracted. The purpose of this survey was to address the inclusion of a dress code in the future LM Instruction Manual. The Commission will have a subcommittee explore this issue based on the survey results.
- The Eucharistic Minister (EM) subcommittee, lead by **Pat Defiesta**, presented its revision of the EM Instructions to the Commission for concurrence. The next step is to present to the Pastoral Staff for approval and incorporation into the future LM Instruction Manual. There will be an EM Retreat on May 4 to discuss the revised instructions with all EMs.
- The next LM subcommittee to revise its instructions will be the Greeters, which will be lead by **Kathy Kernan**, who was invited to the meeting for an overview of her subcommittee requirements.
- The Commission discussed installing Holy Water bowls by the entrance doors for easier and safer access to the holy water. They were originally considered when the church was built, but the decision was not to include them mainly because of the desire to have one source for the baptismal waters. Also, great care was taken to design the font and the stained glass behind it. So the commission decided against extra Holy Water bowls by the doors.
- The Commission will be hosting the next *Welcome Gathering* on May 19.

The next Commission meeting will be on April 11 at 7:00 pm.

# APRIL Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month.



## The Effects of ABUSE

When a child is abused, the effects are grave and can last a lifetime. Some of the most common effects of abuse include:

- Loss of faith and trust in God.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder, psychological distress, and other indirect signs of trauma, such as anxiety, trouble sleeping, chronic stomach pain, and headaches.
- A greater risk of developing behavioral problems, substance abuse, and suicide.

The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt, and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place.

## Steps to Prevent ABUSE

### *Communicate with Your Children*

It is extremely important to communicate openly with your children. Let them know that they can talk to you about anything that bothers them. This will help you identify warning signs and grooming behaviors perpetrated by offenders before they escalate to abuse.

### *Educate Yourself and Your Children on Abuse*

Learning how to identify, prevent, and report abuse is key. Parents and guardians should empower their children to protect themselves from harm and to report abuse. Ask your diocesan safe environment coordinator or parish delegate about opportunities for safe environment training.

### *Identify and Report Warning Signs of Child Abusers*

Grooming behaviors are the actions abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts, while others allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, such as wrestling and tickling. Abusers also often try to isolate their victims from family or friends and encourage their victims to keep secrets from their parents or other caring adults.

## Holding Offenders ACCOUNTABLE

To help hold offenders accountable, report all suspected abuse to local public authorities. You can also contact your local diocesan victim assistance coordinator to make a report and seek outreach for the abused.

In accordance with diocesan policy, when a single act of sexual abuse is admitted or established, the offender is to be removed permanently from ministry.



“Let it be clear that before these abominations the Church will spare no effort to do all that is necessary to bring to justice whosoever has committed such crimes . . . To those who abuse minors I would say this: convert and hand yourself over to human justice, and prepare for divine justice.”

—Pope Francis, Dec. 21, 2018



# Every child deserves a **safe environment.**

Ministry to children and young people is a **privilege**, not a right.

The sexual abuse of minors is a **crime** and a **grave sin.**

In accordance with diocesan policy, when a single act of sexual abuse is admitted or established, the offender is to be **removed permanently** from ministry.

To help hold offenders accountable, report all abuse to **local public authorities**. You can also contact your local diocesan victim assistance coordinator to make a report and seek outreach for the abused.



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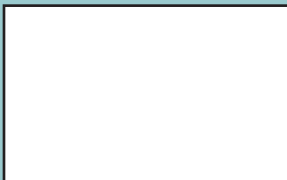
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