

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

May 12, 2024
Seventh Sunday of Easter
The Ascension of the Lord

The Lord has set his throne in heaven. (Ps 103:19)



Photo courtesy of SJTB Media Team

Keep your blood pressure in check!
(see related story on Page 4)

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

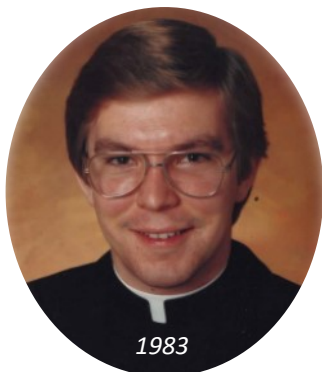
Whether you're a registered parishioner or first-time visitor, we hope you feel welcomed. There are many ways to get involved. If you have any questions, please let one of our staff members know or call the parish office at **253-630-0701**.

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!



1983



What Change?



Today

At a recent 50th wedding anniversary celebration, I was amazed at how young the couple looked on the day of their wedding. I only knew them for the past three years.

As I get ready to enter senior priest status, I wonder how I have changed over the past 41 years of active ministry.

We often don't realize the subtle changes that take place over the years. My appearance hasn't changed much...well...except for less hair and more gray, more weight, stronger glasses, a few wrinkles around the eyes, a bit of arthritis, and a few more aches and pains. Maybe I am getting old!

More important than the changes in appearance, I am hoping that this growth is spiritual - the strengthening of talents and abilities, the expansion of one's heart. As a senior priest, I hope to focus on some of those things.

And now, being more mindful of the physical change, the first goal I have set for retirement is getting to the gym more often!

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
(until June 30, 2024)
ext. 105: billm@sjtbcc.org

Administration, Engagement & Outreach:

Kathy Wickward
ext. 101, kathyw@sjtbcc.org

Bookkeeper:

Nancy Moore
ext. 102, nancym@sjtbcc.org

Bulletin:

Pat Defiesta
bulletin@sjtbcc.org

Database Management:

Andrea Shimek
ext. 115, andreas@sjtbcc.org

Facility Grounds & Building:

David Aldous
ext. 114, davida@sjtbcc.org

Facility Scheduling & Communications:

Rose McAvoy
ext. 103, rosem@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

Music Coordinator:

Luis Diaz de Leon
ext. 108, luisd@sjtbcc.org

Youth Minister:

Peter Guthrie
ext. 110, peterg@sjtbcc.org



sjtbcc.org

@sjtbcovington

Our bulletin is also online at parishesonline.com/publication-page/st-john-the-baptist-church-98042?pid=15745f04-2fb8-4cc4-815f-d1cc9ec579c4&type=Church&acc=05-1539

This Week in Our Church

The Ascension of the Lord



Sunday, May 12

Mass - 9:00 am

Mass - 11:30 am

Mass - 5:30 pm

Monday, May 13

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 4th Degree Meeting - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, May 14

Word & Communion - 9:00 am

WICS - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, May 15

Mass - 9:00 am

American Sewing Guild Meeting - 9:30 am

Oracion - 6:00 pm

Stewardship & Evangelization Commission Mtg. - 6:30 pm

Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm

Vida en el Espiritu Santo - 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 16

Mostly Yoga - 7:30 am

PREPARES Meeting - 9:30 am

Funeral for Jim Bull - 11:00 am

Creation Care Team Meeting - 1:00 pm

Hora Santa - 2:30 pm

Mass - 6:30 pm

Finance Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

Post Alpha Meeting - 7:00 pm

RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, May 17

Mass - 9:00 am

Spring Cleaning - 10:00 am

Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 pm

Saturday, May 18

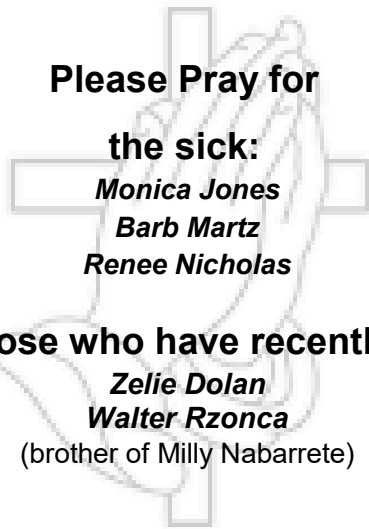
Faith Formation Commission Meeting - 9:00 am

Gospel Reflection - 10:00 am

Spring Cleaning - 10:00 am

Reconciliation (Confessions) - 4:00 pm

Mass - 5:30 pm



Please Pray for

the sick:

Monica Jones

Barb Martz

Renee Nicholas

and those who have recently died:

Zelie Dolan

Walter Rzonca

(brother of Milly Nabarrete)

PREPARES Needs Your Help



On the weekend of May 11 and 12, the PREPARES ministry of *St. John the Baptist* will be hosting a *Mother's Day Needs Drive*. We will be collecting items to fill PREPARES Support Bags that will be distributed to disadvantaged mothers in our community.

We especially need diapers - **only** Sizes 5 and 6 and Pullups Sizes 3T and 4T for boys and girls please. Donations will be accepted after each of the Masses on May 11 and 12. A complete list of items needed can be found at sjtbcc.org/prepares-mothers-day-drive/. A baby crib, where you can place your donations, will be set up in the narthex.

Thank you for your support of this vital ministry for our mothers-in-need.

Annual Catholic Appeal Update

Our parish is living out our mission through our strong support of the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal. Your gift supports our dedicated priests, deacons, religious women, and lay ministers who serve all of us as we strive to grow in our faith.

Thank you to all who have returned your pledge and gift. And please remember that all funds received over our **goal of \$128,669.00** will be returned to our parish to support our parish project of building a safe enclosure around the ponds on the church grounds.

You can use the envelope in the pews or give online (and watch your mileage or cash back grow) at archseattle.org/GiveACA to make a safe and convenient gift to the appeal. Thank you for your support!

Here is where we stand **as of May 3:**

Total amount pledged: \$42,198

Total pledges: 89

Average pledge: \$474.13

Yard Sale Collection Dates

We will start collecting items for our yard sale after Masses on **May 18** and all Masses thereafter until the sale. All items must be in good working condition. Note that large furniture will be accepted starting June 10. Please, **NO** fuel tanks and cans, no large appliances, no car seats, no helmets, and no mattresses. **Do not drop off any items without authorization.** If unauthorized items are dropped off, we are responsible for disposing of them, which usually comes with a fee.

The yard sale will start with a preview sale on June 20, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (entry fee \$10), and then continue June 21 to 22 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, ending June 23 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Supporting our yard sale means supporting Catholic education, tuition, and programs. Please donate your items that were once your treasures, and pick up new treasures when you shop at our yard sale.

Sign-up here: sjtbcc.org/get-ready-to-shop/

Or scan this code to see the various volunteer opportunities to sign up.



Flores de Mayo Takes a Hiatus

The *Fil-Am Community* has been celebrating *Flores de Mayo* since May 2009 here at St. John the Baptist. Due to unforeseen circumstances, there will not be a *Flores de Mayo* celebration this year. They hope to celebrate together with our parish family of Holy Spirit in May 2025.

Welcome to the Table

Congratulations to our 33 children who celebrated their First Communion on Saturday, May 11!

Alexis Agu-Ibe, Ryan Aguas, Deacon Airey, Emma Balint, Yulizabeth Becerrii-Frausto, Alkai Belaski, Kaia Belaski, Alistair Bishop, Rose Borden, Jacob Bournes, Andrew Camasosa, Joseph Craig, Kelly Dymacek, Jaslia Cardenas, Leah Fernandez, Thiago Fernandez, Aaron Hernandez-Mendoza, Callee Johnson, Jencarlos Monge-Paredes, Daniel Nelson, Lenorah Olson, Avery O'Connell, Mikael Palisoc, Natalia Pascua, Rafael Perez, Konner Rivera, Damian Romero Ramirez, Aida Rubalcava, Alonso Rubalcava, Sloane Torelli, Arya Vidal, Daniel Velazquez, and Ximena Velazquez.

May the Lord continue to renew you and feed you through the Holy Eucharist for all the days of your lives.

On the Cover

May is *American Stroke and Hypertension Awareness* month. Since 2006, the *World Hypertension League* has made May 17 *World Hypertension Day* to promote awareness, prevention, and control of hypertension or high blood pressure.

Featured on our cover this week is **Betty Lou Partridge**, a registered nurse and parishioner here at *St. John the Baptist*. Once a month after the morning Masses, Betty Lou volunteers her time in our main conference room to help interested parishioners take control of their blood pressure. In the photo, Betty Lou works with parishioner **Eva Diaz de Leon** in taking her blood pressure. While Betty Lou will not diagnose hypertension, she will suggest that you visit your physician if there are any concerns.

Empower yourself to measure your blood pressure at home. Know your numbers and take control of your blood pressure.

Building a Catholic Community

There is no such thing as “independence” when we’re talking about a community. We are always dependent on each other, from the food that we eat (someone had to grow or raise them) to the clothes that we wear (someone had to make them.) As a community, we need to think of ourselves as “interdependent”, especially in times of needing a ride to go to Mass or any other church activity.

Because *St. John the Baptist* does not have a transportation ministry, we are interdependent on each other to offer or ask for a ride to attend Mass or church activities. The parish’s staff members are limited by insurance liabilities to perform this ministry; but as a community, we can offer this rideshare to one another. Please consider being a steward to this self-ministry by offering a ride to someone who needs it. And if you’re the one needing the ride and are confident in the person you are asking, feel free to ask for a ride.

This article in *US Catholic* might offer inspiration as well as information. Here's to building a Catholic Community! [U.S. Catholic \(uscatholic.org\)](http://U.S. Catholic (uscatholic.org)).

Counting Heads at Masses

It's that time of the year again, when our parish needs to send Mass attendance counts to the archdiocese. These Mass counts provide vital data that help the archdiocese gauge attendance trends, demographic shifts, and overall parish engagement. This information is crucial for planning and allocating resources effectively. It also ensures that our programs and services meet the actual needs of our parishioners.

Our Point People at each Mass will be doing the count around the time of Father Bill's homily. Thanks for your understanding. We apologize for the inconvenience and disruption that this counting may cause.

Come Sing With Us

Do you like to sing or play an instrument? The **11:30 am** Mass choir is looking for new members. If you are interested, contact **Myke Smith** via the church office, or stop by the choir area after Mass.

A Reminder for all NEW Volunteers

To our new volunteers here at St. John the Baptist (SJTB) parish, welcome! We are happy to have you join our many ministries.

Volunteers are required to take an online certification class to keep our vulnerable communities safe. This class includes a background check. If you are new to volunteering in any capacity here at SJTB, please **register with Virtus Online**, virtusonline.org, **within 30 days of volunteering**.

If you are already registered with *Virtus Online* and have completed the certification process, you are good for three years while in active service. You will get a reminder email when your next cycle will need to be renewed.

For people without access to minors or vulnerable adults but will work with cash, checks, or other negotiables, a background check must be completed on or before the first day of service and every three years while in active service. This requirement is also in effect for those volunteers who drive on behalf of the parish.

Thank you for keeping our vulnerable communities at SJTB safe!

Enjoy God's Creation

Who doesn't enjoy a stroll in a beautiful setting? All the better when it is nearby and free! Soos Creek Botanical Garden on 29308 132nd Ave SE (Auburn) is just the place!

Planted in the late 1960's by one man, the 12 acres today are breathtaking at all seasons. It is maintained mostly by senior volunteers.

Visit us at sooscreekbotanicalgarden.org/.

Quo Vadis Days 2024

June 24-27 at Camp Hamilton

Not sure what the priesthood is all about or how to hear God's call? Spots are filling up, and space is limited for this amazing four-day camp for high school men (entering Grades 9-12 next school year). Sign up now to gather with priests and seminarians from the Archdiocese of Seattle for an opportunity to learn more about the priesthood and to deepen your faith to better discern God's call in your life. \$50 fee can be waived in cases of need. Visit us at archseattle.org/events/qvd24/ for more information and to register.



Annual Catholic Appeal 2024

One Mission, One Family, Together in Christ

The **Annual Catholic Appeal** funds ministries and services for your local Catholic community – including your neighbors and your parish. Your donation ensures the availability of outreach ministries, education, faith formation, support for parishes and much more!

Your donation supports outreach ministries that:

- Care for the sick
- Engage youth communities
- Comfort the grieving
- Promote faith sharing
- Counsel those in crisis
- Welcome refugees
- Inspire CYO campers
- ... and much more.

Your ACA donation directly supports your parish with centralized services like human resources, financial services, liturgy guidance, faith formation, communications, building construction and more – all to ensure your parish can spend more time on pastoral care and less time on administration.



PICTURED FROM TOP: Catholic Youth Convention, Seminarians, CYO Camp

Make Your Gift Today

archseattle.org/GiveACA | Call 800-809-4921 | Scan the QR code



Annual Catholic Appeal | 710 9th Avenue, Seattle WA 98104 | aca@seattlearch.org



Come one...

Come some of you...

- **Families**
- **Individuals**
- **Teens**
- **Groups**

All Parish Spring Cleaning

Friday, May 17th and/or Saturday,
May 18th

Many hands (spread out) make light work!!

Help us get ready for summer!

- **We provide cleaning supplies**
- **You bring muscle, enthusiasm and gloves!**
- **Clean the Sanctuary, and Grounds**

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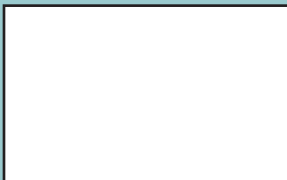
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