

# PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

## FAMILY 30



The Catholic Community of  
St. John the Baptist

Father Carlos Orozco, Pastor  
Father Crispin Okoth, Vicar



Holy Spirit  
PARISH



Photo courtesy of *Rose McAvoy*

### The Candles of Advent at St. John the Baptist

One Pink and three purple candles - what do they mean? These candles adorn the center of the Advent wreath and represent the light of Christ entering the world. The first candle (purple) represents *Hope* and the anticipation of Christ's coming. The second candle (purple) represents *Peace* and reflects the preparation of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The third candle (pink) represents *Joy* and invites believers to rejoice as Christmas draws nearer. The fourth (purple) candle symbolizes *Love* and the message of God's love that the angels announced at Christ's birth.

May your Christmas be bright as the candles on the Advent wreath!

# December 22, 2024

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)



### Who We Are

United in the Holy Spirit, we are a multicultural community celebrating Mass in four languages as we strive to live humility, gentleness, patience, bearing one another through love, striving to preserve unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body, one spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God.

-Ephesians 4:1-6

## Worship Schedule

**Vigil: Saturday at 5:00p | Spanish 7:00p**

**Sunday Masses:**

**8:30a | 10:30a | 12:30p Spanish**  
**2:30p Swahili | 6:00p Chuukese (1st Sunday)**  
**8:00p Spanish**

**Weekday Masses (in chapel):**

**Monday 9:00a**

**Wednesday thru Friday 9:00a**

(Spanish Mass on Wednesday at 7:00p)

**Confessions:**

**Saturday 3:00p to 4:30p (Main church)**

**Wednesday 6:00p to 6:45p (chapel)**

**Office Hours & Contact Information**

**Monday to Friday from 10:00a to 2:00p**

**Saturday & Sunday - Closed**

Come visit us at:  
**310 3rd Ave. S.**  
**Kent, WA 98032**  
**253-859-0444**



The Catholic Community of  
St. John the Baptist



### 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!

## Worship Schedule

Please check "This Week in Our Church" for any Mass schedule changes

**Vigil: Saturday at 5:30p**

**Sunday Masses:**

**9:00a | 11:30a | 5:30p**

**Weekday Masses:**

**Monday & Wednesday at 9:00a**

**Thursday at 6:30p**

**Word & Communion:**

**Tuesday & Friday at 9:00a**

**Confessions:**

**Saturday 4:00p to 5:00p**

**Office Hours & Contact Information**

**Tuesday to Friday from 9:00a to 4:00p**

**Saturday from 10:00a to 3:00p**

**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 Carlos Orozco**  
ext. 125, [fcarlos@sjtbcc.org](mailto:fcarlos@sjtbcc.org)

## Parochial Vicar:

**Father Crispin Okoth**  
ext. 105, [crispino@sjtbcc.org](mailto:crispino@sjtbcc.org)

## Administration, Engagement & Outreach:

**Kathy Wickward**  
ext. 101, [kathyw@sjtbcc.org](mailto:kathyw@sjtbcc.org)

## Bookkeeper:

**Nancy Moore**  
ext. 102, [nancym@sjtbcc.org](mailto:nancym@sjtbcc.org)

## Bulletin:

**Pat Defiesta**  
[bulletin@sjtbcc.org](mailto:bulletin@sjtbcc.org)

## Database Management:

**Andrea Shimek**  
ext. 115, [andreas@sjtbcc.org](mailto:andreas@sjtbcc.org)

## Facility Grounds & Building:

**David Aldous**  
ext. 114, [davida@sjtbcc.org](mailto:davida@sjtbcc.org)

## Facility Scheduling & Communications:

**Rose McAvoy**  
ext. 103, [rosem@sjtbcc.org](mailto:rosem@sjtbcc.org)

## Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation:

**Joan Williamson**  
ext. 109, [joanw@sjtbcc.org](mailto:joanw@sjtbcc.org)

## Elementary Faith Formation:

**Karen Remy-Anderson**  
ext. 123, [karenr@sjtbcc.org](mailto:karenr@sjtbcc.org)

## Liturgy & Pastoral Care:

**Laurie Moloney**  
ext. 111, [lauriem@sjtbcc.org](mailto:lauriem@sjtbcc.org)

## Music Coordinator:

**Luis Diaz de Leon**  
ext. 108, [luisd@sjtbcc.org](mailto:luisd@sjtbcc.org)

## Youth Ministry:

**Peter Guthrie**  
ext. 110, [peterg@sjtbcc.org](mailto:peterg@sjtbcc.org)



[sjtbcc.org](http://sjtbcc.org)



@sjtbcovington



## This Week in Our Church

All Masses are at St. John the Baptist unless otherwise noted.

**The office is closed**  
**December 24 to January 1**

### **Sunday, December 22**

Children's Liturgy - 8:30 am  
**Mass - 9:00 am**  
**Mass - 11:30 am**  
RCIA/OCIA Dismissals - 11:30 am  
Giving Tree - 1:00 pm  
**Mass - 5:30 pm**

### **Monday, December 23**

**Mass - 9:00 am**  
Christmas Decorating - 10:00am  
Guatemala Team Meeting - 6:00 pm  
Choir (9:00 am Sunday) Practice - 7:00 pm  
Choir (Fil-Am) Practice - 7:00 pm

### **Tuesday, December 24**

**Mass (Children's Christmas) - 4:00 pm**  
Oracion - 6:00 pm  
WICS - 6:00 pm  
Vida en el Espiritu Santo - 7:00 pm  
**Mass (Christmas Eve) - 7:00 pm**  
**Mass (Spanish) - 10:00 pm**

### **Wednesday, December 25**

**Mass - 10:00 am**

### **Thursday, December 26**

Hora Santa - 5:00 pm  
**Mass - 6:30 pm**  
Choir (11:30 am Sunday) Practice - 7:00 pm  
RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

### **Friday, December 27**

Word & Communion - 9:00 am  
Baptism (Kennedy Family) - 10:00 am  
Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 6:30 am

### **Saturday, December 28**

Confession - 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
**Mass - 5:30 pm**





## Please Pray for

the sick:

**J.J Chapel**  
**Matthew French-Conners**  
**Cecelia Kinkela**  
**Genevieve Petersen**  
**Elizabeth Richardson**  
**Connie Turner**  
**Leah Womack**

and those who have recently **died**:

**David Gayan**  
(father of David Gayan)  
**John Envoy**  
(husband of Asmaa Envoy)  
**Leopoldo Mariano**  
(father of Mercy Lewis)



The Giving Tree team is anxiously awaiting the upcoming *Giving Tree* event on December 22 from 1:00 to 7:00 pm. However, **the team is in dire need of volunteers**, especially elves. Now that you've so graciously donated toys, clothes, and money to the families on the list, the team is asking that you **please give of your time during the event**.

We have 60 families on the *Giving Tree* list. At least 10 of them will be coming in every hour. In order to best help these families through the store, the team needs elves to help them pick out gifts.

In addition to the shopping elves, the team needs elves to pack the food bags that are given to each family. You can sign up to be a food or a shopping elf at this [link](#) or scan the QR code. Feel free to dress in your elf outfit while volunteering as elves, or don your Christmas festive attire!



VOLUNTEER

If you're reading this on December 22, come by the McMullen Center today, after the morning Masses and lend us a hand by being an elf.

Your gifts of toys, clothing, and money are still being accepted until December 21. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please visit us at [PushPay](#).

The *Giving Tree* team thanks you for helping make this season merry and bright for families who are less fortunate than most of us.

## Thank you from *St. Vincent de Paul*



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 **\$16,509.00** from September to November 2024, we were able to assist 181 families with rent and utilities as well as provide 36 bags of food and 21 bags of hygiene/cleaning supplies. Your donation to the Thanksgiving meal event provided turkey meals to 40 families in our community. **THANK YOU to our St. John the Baptist community!**

If you would like to donate to this ministry so we can help our neighbors in need, please visit us at [pushpay.com/g/sjtbcc](https://pushpay.com/g/sjtbcc) and click on "**St. Vincent de Paul**" under "**Fund**".

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.

If you want to participate in this life-giving ministry by volunteering, please contact Pat at [patd@seattlesvdp.org](mailto:patd@seattlesvdp.org).

This ministry helps the poor and the less fortunate in our community. Please encourage our neighbors who need help with rent, utilities, food, or clothing to call the St. Vincent de Paul Help Line at 206-767-6449.



## Decorate With Poinsettias

You are invited to make a donation on behalf of a loved one for the poinsettias that we will use to decorate the church for Christmas. Blank cards are available in the narthex. Write the name of the person you wish to remember on a memorial card and place it in the envelope with your payment. Put it in the collection box in the narthex.



The memorial cards will be displayed in the narthex at Christmas.

**Deadline is this Sunday December 22, 2024.** A donation of \$10 per flower pot is greatly appreciated.

Poinsettias will be available to take home after Epiphany to decorate your home.

## Let's Party!

For all singles and unmarried couples between 18 and 39 years old, come join us! St. John the Baptist is hosting a *Christmas Party with White Elephant Gift Exchange and Karaoke* on **December 30 at 7:00 pm** at the McMullen Center.

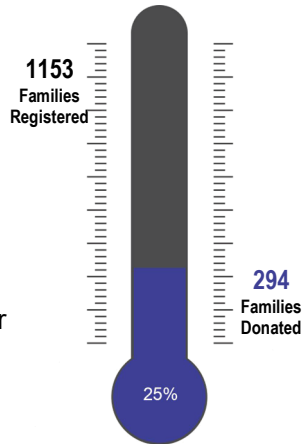


Exchange an unwrapped unisex gift of up to \$25. Be sure to wear your "festive clothing" (AKA ugly Christmas sweater) for a group photo. Hope to see you all there!

## Become a Steward of Your Treasure

Thanks to all who have pledged their time and treasure to our parish! We are entrusted with God's kingdom. Your support makes our formation, liturgy, community, and outreach programs possible.

While it would be nice to reach our monetary goal of \$1M, our primary goal now is to have **each and every registered household pray and respond to the call of stewardship**. This thermometer shows how many pledges we have received. We finally hit the 25% of all registered households mark - thank you!



- 294 households have pledged their treasures
- \$683,796.00 total pledged is 68% of our goal of \$1M
- **25% of our registered families have pledged**

Remember, even the smallest pledge counts! Your commitment helps us to budget our funds for the coming year.

Please fill out a pledge card on [PushPay](#) or scan the QR code to the right. **If you pledge online, please report your total pledge for the year.**



Change your life by becoming engaged, as the steward that our Lord and Savior has called you to be.

## Crab Feast Canceled

With regrets, the *Knights of Columbus* are canceling the January Crab Feast. The inability to obtain quality Dungeness crab at a reasonable price has led the *Knights* to this decision. If things change, they will consider rescheduling.



**12 DAYS PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY**  
Padova – Venice – Siena – Assisi – Rome  
**APRIL 23- MAY 3, 2025**

There is a change on this *Pilgrimage to Italy* trip. **Father Carlos** was originally going to lead this trip, but **Father Crispin** will lead it instead. Please check our [website](#) for complete information. A reservation application is also attached to this bulletin. We have not yet had a chance to replace Father Carlos's photo with Father Crispin's.

The office has limited information on this pilgrimage, so it's best to call **Holy Sepulcher Tours & Travel** at **989-239-6584** if you have any questions.

## 2025 Calendars

Get your copy of St. John the Baptist's 2025 liturgical calendar! They are now available in the narthex in both English and Spanish.

## Cold Temperatures Bring Icy Mornings

It's that time of the year again, when cold mornings bring ice to our church's parking lot and sidewalks.

When the temperatures drop below freezing, frost and ice form on the parking lot and sidewalks creating unsafe conditions for people attending the early morning Masses.

Without a dedicated ministry, de-icing the parking lot was only made possible by snagging a parishioner or two before Mass to help with the de-icing. We need a few strong people/families willing to be on a winter rotation to come and spread the de-icer on our sidewalks and parking lot at 8:00 am on these icy mornings. This will be a special ministry team that will only operate through mid-March.

Please contact **David Aldous** at (253) 630-0701 x114 if you can support this ministry.

Thank you for your gift of time and talent.



## Love Came Down on Christmas

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine.  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.

- Christina Rossetti, 1885



**David Aldous** (Facilities), **Karen Remy-Anderson** (Faith Formation), **Pat Defiesta** (Bulletin), **Luis Diaz de Leon** (Music), **Peter Guthrie** (Youth Minister), **Rose McAvoy** (Scheduling & Communications), **Laurie Moloney** (Liturgy), **Nancy Moore** (Bookkeeping), **Father Crispin Okoth** (Vicar), **Father Carlos Orozco** (Pastor), **Andrea Shimek** (Database Management), **Kathy Wickward** (Stewardship), and **Joan Williamson** (Faith Formation).

# Discover Fire

PASTOR'S  
CORNER



## 800 YEARS OF GAZING UPON THE NATIVITY

Dear parish family,

This past Christmas marked 800 years since, on December 25, 1223, St. Francis of Assisi erected the first nativity scene as told in his biography by St. Bonaventure. It was reported that people experienced healings as they gazed on this great drama of human salvation artistically set before their eyes, making people flock to pray before the child Jesus. Popularity quickly spread through Europe, and it would become a part of the Christmas Christian identity in the centuries to come.

Nativity scenes have taken all sorts of shapes and sizes, from the simplicity of the Holy Family on hay and a wooden stable, to elaborate towns and cities from any era depicting many characters in scenes of daily life as artists express the birth of Christ breaking into ordinary life. They invite us to do just that: gaze, gaze upon the beauty of God with us. This is expressed at the blessing prayer which takes place on Christmas Eve: **"Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen."**

To commemorate 800 years I am inviting us to begin a new tradition here at St. John the Baptist, of making the Nativity Scene a stronger focus of our Christmas season.

Last year I had the opportunity to meet Santiago Regalado, a young adult from Ecuador, an architect by trade who learned how to make nativity scenes in Ecuador through a Franciscan artist using a style of art typical of Franciscan style manger scenes. We have since partnered to create scenes for Christmas and Easter. I give him the vision, he creates the structure, and then I add the details. We hope you enjoy and enter into the mystery of our Lord's nativity, born NOT in the temple, NOT in an empire, but in the simplicity of a small town. God came into the simplicity of daily life. The scene is made with individual parts that can be assembled in different configurations and can be expanded on each year as the scene becomes more elaborate and alive with time.



### From the artist: Santiago Regalado

*This work is a result of team effort through several stages: from imagining the concept, to acquiring the materials, to placing the pieces together. Art is living, subject to change and adjustments as it begins to take shape, and this was no exception.*

*The nativity story is a story of belonging, of a migrant family searching for an opportunity and trusting in*

*God's providence in that move. That was the inspiration behind this piece, it is our faith as a pilgrim Church, and all art, I believe, speaks of this search. I am personally grateful to Father Carlos, a fellow artist, for the opportunity. His creativity and sensitivity to art played a fundamental role in the making of this project. Thank you, Father, for the trust.*

*My prayer is that all of us might look upon this manger scene and be motivated to be visible and tangible signs of the Catholic Christian faith. Merry Christmas.*



In the spirit of **St. Francis**, may our prayer before the nativity scene unites us all, **brothers and sisters all, in the faith of Christ Jesus.**

Blessed Christmas,  
Fr. Carlos



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH



ESPAÑOL AL REVERSO

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST





# 800 AÑOS MIRANDO LA NATIVIDAD

Querida familia parroquial,

El año pasado se cumplió 800 años desde que el 25 de diciembre de 1223 San Francisco de Asís erigió el primer pesebre como se cuenta en su biografía por San Buenaventura. Se dice que las personas experimentaban curaciones al contemplar este gran drama de salvación humana artísticamente presentado ante sus ojos, haciendo que la gente acudiera en masa a orar ante el niño Jesús. Su popularidad se extendió rápidamente por Europa, y se convertiría en parte de la identidad cristiana navideña en los siglos venideros.

Los pesebres han tomado todo tipo de formas y tamaños, desde la sencillez de la sagrada familia sobre paja y un establo de madera, hasta elaborados pueblos y ciudades de cualquier época que representan a muchos personajes en escenas de la vida cotidiana. Es la manera en como los artistas expresan el nacimiento de Cristo irrumpiendo en la vida ordinaria. Nos invitan a hacer precisamente eso: mirar, mirar la belleza de Dios con nosotros.

Esto se expresa en la oración de bendición que tiene lugar en la víspera de Navidad: **"Señor, bendice a todos los que miran este pesebre; que nos recuerde el humilde nacimiento de Jesús, y eleve nuestros pensamientos a Él, que es Dios-con-nosotros y Salvador de todos, y que vive y reina por los siglos de los siglos. Amén".**

Para conmemorar los 800 años, este año los invito a comenzar una nueva tradición aquí en San Juan Bautista de hacer que la escena de la Natividad sea un enfoque más fuerte de nuestra temporada navideña.

Tengo la oportunidad de conocer a Santiago Regalado, un joven adulto de Ecuador, arquitecto de profesión que aprendió a hacer pesebres en Ecuador a través de un artista franciscano amigo suyo, utilizando un estilo de arte típico de las escenas de pesebre de estilo franciscano. Nos asociamos para crear la escena que ahora se muestra en la pila bautismal. Yo le doy la visión, él hace la estructura, y yo le pongo los detalles. Es un equipo de trabajo entre artistas. Le agradezco su disposición a ofrecer sus talentos artísticos a la Iglesia. La escena está hecha con piezas individuales que se pueden ensamblar en diferentes configuraciones y se pueden ampliar cada año a medida que la escena se vuelve más elaborada y viva con el tiempo.



## Del artista: Santiago Regalado

*Este trabajo ha sido desarrollado en equipo; han sido varias las etapas y procesos que se han generado desde la concepción de la idea, hasta la materialización del objetivo. En este proceso evolutivo ha primado un factor importante del cual he sido partícipe, al brindar soluciones y adaptarme a eventuales cambios, con el propósito de mejorar la propuesta artística.*

*Me identifico con todas las personas que hemos llegado a este país, siempre dando lo mejor de nosotros a pesar de nuestras limitaciones económicas y sociales, pero no de nuestros lúcidos talentos. Esto sirve como motivación participativa para conmemorar que nuestra Santa Iglesia Católica ha sido históricamente un cimiento universal de evolución, y uno de esos pilares ha sido el arte.*

*En lo personal y profesional, destaco con profunda gratitud al Padre Carlos, un ser privilegiado de talento y entrega que ha sido fundamental para la concepción de este creciente proyecto con su profundo sentido y percepción del arte. Gracias, Padre, por la confianza.*

*Motivemos a todas las personas para que el Pesebre, símbolo visible y tangible del cristiano católico, sea un estandarte para que cada año sea mejor, no solo en lo visible y lo artístico, sino también en lo personal y familiar.*



En el espíritu de **San Francisco**, que nuestra oración ante el pesebre nos una a todos, hermanos y hermanas, en la fe de Cristo Jesús.

Bendita Navidad,  
P. Carlos

# A life changing gift for Christmas

**Is there more to life  
than this?**



Imagine gathering and conversing over this *provoking* question. On which side of the line would I be? What can I learn, what can I contribute so that the small group is *collectively enriched*?

Alpha gatherings are designed to explore the Christian faith in a modern and complex world. It is a safe, non-judgmental setting.

Gatherings include sharing a meal, watching a video and conversing in small groups to share perspectives and experiences.

We gather beginning **Monday January 13, 2025, 6.30-8.00pm**. *Come and see* for the first three Mondays, and then decide on your commitment for the remaining eight weeks. These first three gatherings will be at the Holy Spirit Parish Hall, 310 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S, Kent.

**Gift Alpha to Yourself**

**Gift Alpha to a dear friend and loved one**

Registrations highly recommended. For SJTB, please email Dave Richardson, [dlr32543@comcast.net](mailto:dlr32543@comcast.net) For Holy Spirit, please register with Brenda Fincher.



# 12 DAYS PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

## Padova – Venice – Siena – Assisi – Rome

### APRIL 23- MAY 3, 2025

FR. CARLOS



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# RESERVATION APPLICATION

## 12 DAYS PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

### Padova – Venice – Siena – Assisi – Rome



**Optional Post Tour  
Extension to Jordan**

Yes  No

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please complete one application per person)

**Full Name** (as printed on your passport):

First Name:

Middle Name:

Last Name:

**Name** (as you wish it to appear on your name badge):

**Date of birth:**

Male

Female

**Mailing Address**

Street:

**Mobile Phone:**

**Home Phone:**

City:

State:

Zip code:

**Work Phone:**

**Email Address**

#### PASSPORT INFORMATION

**Country of citizenship:**

**Passport number:**

**Passport date of issue:**

**Passport date of expiration:**

**Frequent flier number:**

**Known traveler number:**

#### ROOM ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION

**Please check one:** Double/triple occupancy  Single occupancy (**Private Room**) \$850.00 additional

*\*All prices are in US Dollars based on per person in a double/triple room, Passengers rooming alone is subject to single supplement\**

**If choosing double occupancy, please indicate the name of your roommate  
if known at the time of booking**

**If choosing single occupancy, would you be willing to share a room with another person?**

Yes

No

#### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

**Please list the name, relationship and phone number for a family member/close friend who is NOT traveling with you:**

**I agree to the terms and conditions as stated in this tour contract:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a copy of current passport and a deposit of **\$500.00 per person** made payable to:

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