PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

FAMILY 30

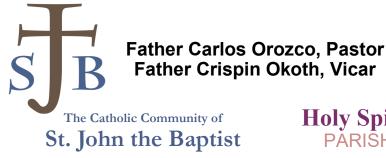






Photo courtesy of Paul Dehmer

Children's Mass, December 24, 2024

The children of St. John the Baptist celebrate the birth of Jesus.

December 29, 2024 Feast of the Holy Family

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways. (Ps 128)





The Catholic Community of St. John the Baptist



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

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

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 Evoy

(husband of Asmaa Evoy)

Leopoldo Mariano

(father of Mercy Lewis)



Welcome to Our Catechumens and Candidates

Our faith community is growing! On Sunday, December 8, 2024, the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)* sponsors introduced 16 members as catechumens (seeking the Sacrament of Baptism) and candidates (seeking full communion through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist).

Please welcome into our faith family the following:

- · Nicole Ayamanjemi
- Kate Gibson
- · Monica Guerrero
- · Michael Hammons
- Everett Hanke
- Dorothy Harris
- · Khan Heuangphimpha
- Dale Johnson
- Tiffany Morin
- · Kristina St. John
- · Atonio Sete
- Anthony Smith
- Kyle Swiderrski
- Alvaro Valdez-Duran
- Mirandha Vazquez Osorio
- Tri Vo-Tran

They will receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil Mass on April 19, 2025. Please pray for them and their sponsors as they journey together through OCIA.



A huge thank you to our wonderful *Giving Tree* volunteers for making this year's event a success! Two months ago, we didn't think we were going to have a *Giving Tree* event. But *Judy Peterson* and her team made it happen on Sunday, December 22!

There were 56 families (out of the planned 60), who came in for gifts for their children, a meal for their families, and gift cards to complete their holiday shopping. No doubt, the smiles on the faces of the families were priceless!

Our volunteers all made it happen: donations; moving donated gifts from under the tree to the McMullen Center; gift sorters; meal pickup; and meal packers. And those wonderful, and sometimes mischievous, elves - they truly were angels helping our families/shoppers get through their shopping lists.

These are the people, who made it happen. Thank you for your generous sharing of your time and treasures.

Joanne Ackerman; Pat & Angel Anderson; Gloria Aragon; Ken & Liz Arreola-Tialavea; Karen Awrylo; Elisa, Daniel, & Leonard Ayala; Angelo Battisti; Pat Carroll; Andrea Chay; Bob & Linda Denney; Pat Defiesta; Eva Diaz de Leon; Janet Dubois; Monica, Lexie, & Ursula Exum; Jean Fennessy; Abby Gilomen; Mary Murphy Johnson & Lyn Johnson; Katie Joyce; Sarah Habryle; Mary Hammock; Kathy Kernan; Art & Kienle: Terry Martin; Rachel Mascarenhas; Molly Murphy; Jackie Muth; Al & Rita Myers; Milly Nabarrete; Riva Patrick; Mary Petersen; Judy Peterson; Paul Sanchez; Bonnie Sawyer; Vince Sobrevilla; Kathy Wickward; and Jose Zuniga.

If you did not sign in on the sheet that was going around or at the front desk, the team apologizes for the oversight. Please email the bulletin editor, *Pat*, your name and it will get published in the next edition. The team wants to make sure everyone who gave so much to this event is recognized.

May God bless our donors and volunteers for their generosity. Let's make this happen again next year!

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.

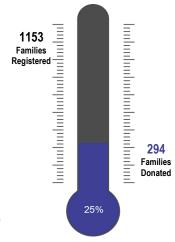
Exchange an unwrapped, unisex gift of up to \$25. Be sure to wear your "festive clothing" (AKA ugly Christmas sweater). Hope to see you all there!

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 <u>PushPay</u> 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.

Temporary Priest Coverage

Father Gilberto of Holy Spirit Parish will be out of the country during the entire month of January. Father Carlos will be the celebrant at all of the Masses at Holy Spirit during that time, and Father Crispin will be the celebrant at all of the Masses at St. John the Baptist for the month of January. You can reach Father Carlos by phone at ext. 125 or email at frcarlos@sjtbcc.org and Father Crispin by phone at ext. 105 or email at crispin@sjtbcc.org. You may also leave a message at the parish desk at 253-630-0701.

Father Jim will celebrate the Sunday Masses on January 5, 2025.

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.



2025 Calendars

Don't forget to pick up your copy of St. John the Baptist's 2025 liturgical calendar in the narthex!

Cold Temperatures Bring Icy Mornings

It's that time of the year again, when cold mornings bring ice to our 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.

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 accompany parishioners on this trip, but *Father Crispin* will be there instead. Please check our <u>website</u> for complete information. 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 **248-915-9933** if you have any questions. We hope to have more information in this bulletin in the next few weeks.

The staff of St. John the Baptist wishes you and your family a safe start to the new year.



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**

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Father Carlos Orozco ext. 125, frcarlos@sitbcc.org

Parochial Vicar:

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Laurie Molonev

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Music Coordinator:

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Youth Ministry:

Peter Guthrie

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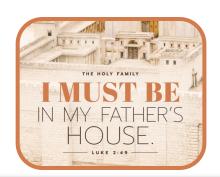






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This Week in Our Church

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

The office is closed December 30 to January 1

Sunday, December 29

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Mass - 9:00 am
Blood Pressure Screening after morning Masses
Mass - 11:30 am
RCIA/OCIA Dismissals - 11:30 am
Mass - 5:30 pm

Monday, December 30

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

Tuesday, December 31

Word & Communion - 9:00 am Oracion - 6:00 pm WICS - 6:00 pm Choir (Fil-Am) Practice - 7:00 pm Vida en el Espiritu Santo - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 1

Happy New Year Mary, the Holy Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation

Mass (Mary, Mother of God) - 10:00 am

Thursday, January 2

Safe Parking Meeting - 3:00 pm Hora Santa - 5:00 pm **Mass - 6:30 pm** Choir (11:30 am Sunday) Practice - 7:00 pm RCIA/OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, January 3

Word & Communion - 9:00 am
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 9:45 am
Hispanic Charismatic Adoration - 4:00 pm
Mass (Spanish) - 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 4

Craft & Hobby Day - 10:00 am Morning Scripture SFC - 10:00 am Confession - 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm Mass - 5:30 pm

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 3rd 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 For Holy Spirit, please register with Brenda Fincher.

Discover Fire



12 UPDATES OF CHRISTMAS

On the ___ update of Christmas my pastor said to me...

- 1. **Thank you** to all our staff and volunteers for all the work and love you put into our advent and Christmas season: Advent retreat, Guadalupe, Simbang Gabi, the team who helped decorate our beautiful worship space, posadas, thank you! It is you who bring this beautiful parish family to **life**!
- 2. **Christmas** is a liturgical season lasting **several weeks**. It ends on Sunday January 7th with the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Enjoy the Christmas decor for the weeks to come. And thank you in advance for those who will step up to help us clean after we enter ordinary time.
- 3. Fr. Gilberto who helps with Spanish Masses will be taking his yearly vacation for the whole month of January. With no Spanish language coverage, I will be presiding over all of Holy Spirit Kent weekend liturgies for all of January. St. John parishioners, you won't see me on Sundays until February. Fr. Crispin will be the main celebrant for most of St. John liturgies this month.
- 4. For those who **miss me** when you don't see me on Sunday, my homilies are now posted online on my **new website**. Just go to **https://frcarlos.blog** to get the latest homily and other little creatives.
- 5. The transition of **Partners in the Gospel** is slow but going. Remember that this first year is the "**get to know each other's parish**" year. We've had several shared retreat, talks, and liturgies to begin that process. This month I will put together the Parish Transition Teams, one made up of staff, and the other made of parishioners from both sites. More to come.
- 6. We have a new rectory house! As mentioned in July, one of the priorities was to find a new rectory house that was suitable for our mission to host and help form seminarians as well as give a space for visiting priests to rest, and a big yard for my dogs and goats. We are now finalizing the paperwork on the new house we acquired and will begin making the move, hopefully, in January. More to come. Thank you in advance for your support for this important project!
- 7.1 will be taking time to rest after Advent and Christmas season in January. I will be out Monday through Friday, January 13-17th, and Monday through Thursday, January 27-30.
- 8. The **Jubilee Year has begun!** On December 24, Pope Francis opened the Holy Doors at St. Peter's Basilica. They will remain open until January 6 of 2026. A Jubilee year is a **special year of prayer** and happen every 25 years under a specific theme that as a universal Church we collectively reflect on. This year the theme is **HOPE**. We began reflecting on hope during our Part 1 Parish Mission. The next one is coming up on February 27-28. Mark your calendars!
- 9. The **Youth Confirmation** group from Holy Spirit is wrapping up their time of formation and will begin to prepare for that important and special day of receiving the seal of the Holy Spirit on Friday February 7. Please **keep them in your prayer**!
- 10. **Beware of scammers!** There is an increase of scammers sending emails pretending to be me, asking to get gift cards or send money. If it sounds strange, ignore it!
- 11. Sad news from the exotic animal ark: I lost one of my big pythons recently, the Carpet Python from Australia. He seemed to have had some issue with his digestive tract and there was nothing the vet could do. Everyone else is doing well.
- 12. You are my Christmas present. I love you.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH









12 ACTUALIZACIONES DE NAVIDAD

- 1. Gracias a todo nuestro personal y voluntarios por todo el trabajo y el amor que ponen en nuestra temporada de Adviento y Navidad: retiro de Adviento, Guadalupe, Sabang Gabi, el equipo que ayudó a decorar nuestro hermoso espacio de adoración, posadas, ¡gracias! ¡Son ustedes quienes dan vida a esta hermosa familia parroquial!
- 2. Recuerde que la Navidad es un tiempo litúrgico que dura varias semanas. Este año termina el domingo 7 de enero con la solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor. Disfrute de la decoración navideña durante las próximas semanas. Y gracias de antemano a quienes se ofrezcan a ayudarnos a limpiar después de que entremos en el tiempo ordinario.
- 3. El padre Gilberto, que me ayuda con las misas en español en Holy Spirit, se tomará sus vacaciones anuales durante todo el mes de enero. Como no habrá cobertura en español, estaré presidiendo todas las liturgias de fin de semana de Holy Spirit Kent durante todo enero. Feligreses de St. John, no me verán los domingos hasta febrero. El padre Crispin será el celebrante principal de la mayoría de las liturgias de St. John este mes.
- 4. Para aquellos que me extrañan cuando no me ven el domingo, mis homilías ahora están publicadas en línea en mi nuevo sitio web. Solo tienes que ir a https://frcarlos.blog para obtener la última homilía y otras pequeñas creaciones.
- 5. La transición de Socios en el Evangelio es lenta pero está en marcha. Recuerden que este primer año es el año de "conocernos mutuamente en nuestras parroquias". Hemos tenido varios retiros, charlas y liturgias compartidas para comenzar ese proceso. Este mes reuniré los Equipos de Transición Parroquial, uno compuesto por el personal y el otro por feligreses de ambos sitios. Pronto habrá más.
- 6.¡Tenemos una nueva casa rectoral! Como se mencionó en julio, una de las prioridades era encontrar una nueva casa rectoral que fuera adecuada para nuestra misión de hospedar y ayudar a formar seminaristas, así como brindar un espacio para que los sacerdotes visitantes descansen y un patio grande para mis perros y cabras. Ahora estamos finalizando los trámites para la nueva casa que adquirimos y comenzaremos a mudarnos, con suerte, en enero. Pronto habrá más. ¡Gracias de antemano por su apoyo a este importante proyecto!
- 7. En enero, me tomaré un tiempo para descansar después del Adviento y la Navidad. Estaré fuera de lunes a viernes, del 13 al 17 de enero, y de lunes a jueves, del 27 al 30 de enero.
- 8.¡El Año Jubilar ha comenzado! El 24 de diciembre, el Papa Francisco abrió las Puertas Santas de la Basílica de San Pedro. Permanecerán abiertas hasta el 6 de enero de 2026. Un año jubilar es un año especial de oración y se lleva a cabo cada 25 años bajo un tema específico sobre el que, como Iglesia universal, reflexionamos colectivamente. Este año, el tema es la ESPERANZA. Comenzamos a reflexionar sobre la esperanza durante nuestra Misión Parroquial Parte 1. La próxima será el 27 y 28 de febrero. ¡Marquen sus calendarios!
- 9. El grupo de Confirmación de Jóvenes del Espíritu Santo está terminando su tiempo de formación y comenzará a prepararse para ese día tan importante y especial de recibir el sello del Espíritu Santo el viernes 7 de febrero. ¡Por favor, manténgalos en sus oraciones!
- 10.¡Cuidado con los estafadores! Hay un aumento en el número de estafadores que envían correos electrónicos haciéndose pasar por mí y pidiendo tarjetas de regalo o dinero. Por lo general, es bastante fácil detectar que son falsos, pero a veces se vuelven creativos.
- 11. Noticias tristes del arca de los animales exóticos: perdí una de mis pitones grandes recientemente, la pitón alfombra de Australia. Parecía haber tenido algún problema con su tracto digestivo y no había nada que el veterinario pudiera hacer. Todos los demás están bien.
- 12. Eres mi regalo de Navidad. Te amo.



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