



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2025



Photos by **Paul Dehmer**

Weeded and Worth It: Caring for Creation Together

On August 23, volunteers and members of the *Creation Care Team* dedicated much of their day to clearing overgrowth and invasive plants from our largest retention pond. Thank you to everyone who participated! Your hard work made a meaningful difference. (Volunteer names were listed in the September 7 bulletin.)



Our Mission

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

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!

Mass Times & Confessions

(check weekly schedules inside for holiday times and weekly changes to Mass)

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
Wednesday 7:00p Spanish
1st Friday (alternating months - see weekly schedule)

Confessions:

Saturday 3:00p to 4:30p (Main church)
Wednesday 6:00p to 6:45p (chapel)

Vigil: Saturday at 5:30p

Sunday Masses:

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

Weekday Masses:

Monday & Wednesday at 9:00a
Thursday at 6:30p
1st Friday at 9:00a (alternating months - see weekly schedule)

1st Friday Spanish at 7:30p

Word & Communion/Liturgy of the Hours:

Tuesday & Friday at 9:00a

Confessions:

Saturday 4:00p to 5:00p

Office Hours

(check weekly schedules for changes)

Monday to Friday 8:00a to 5:00p
Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday - Closed

Tuesday to Friday 9:00a to 4:00p
Saturday from 10:00a to 3:00p
Sunday & Monday - Closed

CONTACT US | PARISH STAFF

310 3rd Ave. S.
Kent, WA 98032
253-859-0444



25810 - 156th Ave. SE
Covington, WA 98042
253-630-0701



Father Carlos Orozco
Pastor
fcarlos@holyspiritkent.org
fcarlos@sjtbcc.org



Father Crispin Okoth
Vicar
frcrispin@holyspiritkent.org
crispino@sjtbcc.org



Father Gilberto Mora
Vicar
frgilberto@holyspiritkent.org



Brenda Fincher
Outreach
bfincher@holyspiritkent.org | x214



Cynthia Hernandez
Administrative Assistant
chernandez@holyspiritken.org



Guadalupe Madrid
Faith Formation - Spanish
gmadrid@holyspiritkent.org | x229



Mary Molina
Communications
Communications@holyspiritkent.org | x225



Veronica Nava Jimenez
Youth Ministry
VNavaJimenez@holyspiritkent.org | x216



Nancy Ortiz
Assistant to the Pastor
nortiz@holyspiritkent.org | x212



Holly Renz
Liturgy, Music, RCIA, Infant Baptism
hrenz@holyspiritkent.org | x215



Juan Carlos Tafur
Facilities Steward



Evelia Torres-Lopez
Clean Environment



Kristi Vasquez
Administration & Finance
kvasquez@holyspiritkent.org | x221



David Aldous
Facilities Steward
davida@sjtbcc.org | x114



Christina Daniel
Elementary Faith Formation
christinad@sjtbcc.org | x123



Luis Diaz de Leon
Music
luisd@sjtbcc.org | x108



Rose McAvoy
Scheduling & Communications
rosem@sjtbcc.org | x103



Laurie Moloney
Liturgy & Pastoral Care
lauriem@sjtbcc.org | x111



Nancy Moore
Bookkeeping
nancym@sjtbcc.org | x102



Veronica Nava Jimenez
Youth Ministry
veronican@sjtbcc.org | X110



Andrea Shimek
Database Management
andreas@sjtbcc.org | x115



Kathy Wickward
Stewardship & Outreach
kathyw@sjtbcc.org | x101



Joan Williamson
Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation
joanw@sjtbcc.org | x109



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THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH FAMILY



**Please call 253-859-0444
for more current information**

Sunday

Choir Rehearsal (Swahili)
Swahili Community
Rosary (Spanish)
Confirmation
Sac Prep/Catechesis Family Registration

Monday

Bible Study Groups (Spanish)
Food Pantry
Small Christian Communities
Grupo de Oración
Centro Rendu
Grandparent Bible Study (Spanish)

Tuesday

Mother Mary Guild
Adult Confirmation
Small Christian Community
English Classes for Spanish Speakers
Choir Rehearsal (12:30 pm Spanish)
Terrific Tuesday Meals

Wednesday

Young Adult Group (Spanish)
Knights Council
Altar Server Practice (Spanish)
Bible Study (Spanish)
RCIA/OCIA

Thursday

Young Adult Core Team (Spanish)
Holy Hour for Vocations
Apologetics Bible Study (Spanish)
Adult Confirmation (Spanish)
Small Christian Community

Friday

Grupo de Oración
Bible Study Communities
Baptism Prep (Spanish)
Base Ecclesial Groups (Spanish)
Movimiento Familiar Cristiano Catolico

Saturday

Choir Rehearsal (7:00 pm Spanish)
Encuentro Catequetico
Small Christian Communities



Sunday, September 14

Olive Wood Sales before and after am Masses
Mass - 9:00 am
Mass - 11:30 am
Mass - 5:30 pm
Parish Mission Day 1 (Adults) - 7:00 pm
Parish Mission (Youth & Children) - 7:00 pm

Monday, September 15

Mostly Yoga - 8:00 am
Mass - 9:00 am
Prayer Ministry SFC Meeting - 9:30 am
Hispanic Choir Practice - 6:00 pm
Spanish Charismatic Group - 6:30 pm
Knights of Columbus Leadership Meeting - 7:00 pm
Parish Mission Day 2 (Adults) - 7:00 pm
Parish Mission (Youth & Children) - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, September 16

Word & Communion/Liturgy of Hours - 9:00 am
WICS - 6:00 pm
Parish Mission Day 3 (Adults) - 7:00 pm
Parish Mission (Youth & Children) - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, September 17

Mass - 9:00 am
Backpack Buddies set up (youth room) - 9:30 am
Divine Will Prayer Group - 10:00 am
Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm

Thursday, September 18

Mostly Yoga - 8:00 am
Weekly Walking Group - 11:00 am
Creation Care Team Meeting - 1:00 pm
PFLT Parish Leadership Team Meeting - 1:30 pm
La Hora Santa - 3:00 pm
Mass - 6:30 pm
Young Adult Night - 6:30 pm
Azteca Dance Practice - 7:00 pm
Choir (11:30 am Sunday) practice - 7:00 pm
OCIA Meeting - 7:00 pm

Friday, September 19

Word & Communion/Liturgy of Hours - 9:00 am
Choir (Filipino) Practice - 7:00 pm
Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 7:00 pm

Saturday, September 20

Craft & Hobby Day - 10:00 am
Reconciliation - 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Mass - 5:30 pm

Please Pray for

those who are **sick**:

Doug Johnson
Manny Martinez
Betty Wright

and those who have **died**:

Crispin Alzona, Sr. (brother of *Ched Mercado*)
Father James Picton

What is a Parish Mission and Why Are We Having One?

With all the buzz about our upcoming Parish Mission, you might be curious - what is it all about, and why do we celebrate it every year?

A Parish Mission is a special series of presentations designed to help participants encounter Jesus in a deeper and more personal way. Each session builds on the others to create a complete experience. So while we encourage you to attend all three evenings, joining us for only one night can be a blessing. Through storytelling, music, prayer, and reflection, a Parish Mission strengthens our hearts with God's love, enlightens our minds with His truth, and helps us grow as disciples of Christ.

St. John the Baptist is hosting this Mission as part of our ongoing effort to strengthen parish life and invite every member of our community into a closer relationship with Christ. In today's world of noise, stress, and division, these three evenings offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, and experience the peace that only Jesus can give - in our hearts, homes, and the world around us.

This year, we are thrilled to welcome **Dr. ValLimar Jansen**, an internationally recognized Catholic speaker, storyteller, and musician as our featured guest for our Parish Mission. **Dr. Jansen** weaves together music, stories, laughter, and prayer to help people encounter Jesus in transformative ways. Her gift for bringing Scripture and Catholic tradition to life inspires participants of all ages - children, youth, and adults alike to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Plan to join the community as we gather **September 14 to 16 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** each evening at St. John the Baptist parish.

You can learn more about **Dr. Jansen** by visiting her website, meetvallimar.com.



Ask Me Anything About Faith!

Father Carlos wants to know what questions you have about the Catholic Faith. Write them down and drop them in the drop box out in the narthex. He will answer them on **September 25 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm** at a back-to-school event at the McMullen Center. Snacks will be provided along with games, pop quizzes, and prizes. Plan to join us for your answers!

What Can I Expect From This Year's Mission?

So now that you know what a Parish Mission is and why St. John the Baptist is having one this year, here's what you can expect.

Over three inspiring evenings, **Dr. ValLimar Jansen** will lead us on a journey into the peace of Christ:

- Night One – **Peace in Your Heart**: experience how God's love quiets our worries and renews our spirit.
- Night Two – **Peace in Your Home**: discover how forgiveness and faith can bring healing to families and strengthen relationships.
- Night Three – **Peace in Our World**: be inspired to live as a peacemaker, carrying Christ's light into the world.

While adults are being renewed, children and teens won't miss out! A special age-appropriate Mission is planned just for them, from preschool through Grade 12, so the whole family can grow in faith together.

- Children preschool to Grade 4: with **Father Crispin, Christina** and her team.
- Youth Grades 5 to 12: with **Father Carlos, Veronica** and her team.

Come, bring your family and friends. Together, let us be renewed in Christ's peace and share it with the world.

One Spark Ignites Many: Join Us in Supporting SERES

Were you inspired by the talks by **Abigail Quic** and **Antonio Cruz Sánchez** at Mass last weekend about the work of *Social Equity, Resilience, and Ecological Stability (SERES)* in Central America? The St. John the Baptist companion parish in Guatemala, Union de las Aldeas de Cristo Rey, is working with **SERES** to empower its youth and young adults to make a difference in their communities. **SERES** is a home-grown non-profit organization that is based in Antigua, Guatemala and San Salvador, El Salvador. Our parish's mission team first focused on one particularly talented young woman, **Elisa Lopez**, who has recruited 15 young people into the program. Our parish has used existing mission funds to support **Elisa** and eventually will support her cohort.

If you are inspired by **SERES**, you can contribute to the organization. Checks are accepted and should be made out to **SJTBC** with "SERES" in the memo line. There are envelopes for cash in the Narthex.

Thank you for your interest in supporting the life of this program.

Bonfire and S'mores



The Young Adult Group of St. John the Baptist invites all young adults to join them for fellowship and faith sharing on **Thursday, September 18 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** at St. John the Baptist. (This was originally scheduled for September 11.) Bring a friend and enjoy the bonfire and s'mores!

Be the 'Safe' in Safe Car Parking

Our *Safe Car Parking Program* is looking for three (or more) volunteers to help provide the "safe" in safe car parking.

Since 2018, St. John the Baptist has supported eight guests, who sleep in their cars overnight in our parking lot. Our guests receive background checks and case management through *Catholic Community Services*.

Safe Car Parking volunteers work in pairs, taking a **week every month** to check our cameras overnight, log activity, staff the 24-hour phone line, and do a "drive through" to ensure that all is well in our parking lot. There is a monthly meeting on the first Tuesday. New volunteers will be paired with experienced volunteers.

The team is working on a grant to fund additional services through *Catholic Community Services*, including more intensive case management and cold weather motel stays. St. John the Baptist has witnessed the number of people served double over the last year. Please contact **Kathy Wickward** at the parish office for more information.

Test Your Mass Awareness



Last week's question was, "**Why is the 'square cover' placed over the chalice?**" Answer: before the offertory of the Mass, the chalice is covered with a square piece made of linen and stiffened with cardboard. This covering, called the **pall** (from the Latin word for "cover"), **keeps foreign objects like dust or insects from falling into the chalice** or onto the paten (the saucer-like circular dish) and contaminating them. In places where insecticides and air conditioning have greatly reduced the presence of insects during Mass, the use of the pall has greatly diminished.¹ For more information on the names of the other sacred vessels that a priest uses at Mass, please visit Aleteia.org.

Thanks to all who participated in answering last week's question correctly: **Mary Hammock** and **Frank Hammock**. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

This week's question comes from **Marilou Bickel**: "**What is the most important part of the Mass?**" A few weeks ago, the different parts of the Mass were listed. Now name the most important part. If you think you know the answer, email **Pat Defiesta** before Wednesday at bulletin@sjtbcc.org. Names of those who answer correctly will be published in the next edition of the bulletin.

If you would like to submit a question to test everyone's Mass awareness, please email your question to **Pat** at bulletin@sjtbcc.org before Wednesday.

¹ [Eternal Word Television Network \(EWTN\)](http://Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN))

Is There More to Life Than This?



Join a conversation about faith, life, and meaning! Alpha offers an incredible journey to explore the Christian faith in today's modern, complex, and often challenging world. For more information, contact **Dave Richardson** at 253-630-0701. Sign up in the narthex or on the St. John the Baptist web site.

Back to Ministry: A Fall Planning Guide for Leaders



Most ministries take the summer off to allow members to enjoy vacation time with their families. While the time off is wonderful, it's often too short! Before long, it's time to start planning and scheduling regular ministry meetings for the year. Here's a helpful **review of what ministry leaders need to do**.

- **Have a staff contact.** Every parish group has a staff member assigned to help with things like scheduling rooms or answering questions. When a new leader takes office, be sure to let your staff contact know as soon as possible.
- **Schedule and plan.** Different groups have different needs. Keep in mind that youth events can be loud and active. Small faith groups may need quiet spaces. If the staff knows this ahead of time, rooms can be scheduled to accommodate the activity level of the group. Remember to always check the calendar for availability and potential conflicts before making plans. If you are unsure on how to do this, contact the office staff. Note that **your event is not official until you receive confirmation from the staff**.
- **Keys, codes, and room use are intended for that specific meeting.** While the staff is happy to provide keys and door codes to ministry leaders, these keys and codes are not a blanket permission for unplanned meetings. Every meeting that requires room use **must be pre-approved** by the office.
- **All posters and flyers must be approved by the office** before posting. All unapproved material will be taken down by the office.
- **The use of the kitchen or multipurpose rooms requires a walk-through with David Aldous** ahead of time. A checklist must be completed before leaving the event.

If your ministry needs space in the refrigerator or freezer for an event, please let **Rose McAvoy** at the office know when you submit your facilities request. She will add the appliance reservation to your request.

If you are reserving the entire kitchen, you don't need to request the refrigerator/freezer separately.

Faith Formation and funeral ministries do not need to be reserved for normal ongoing use. Reservations are only needed when there will be expanded use for special events.

- There is a protocol for **collecting money at events**. Please check with the office for more information.
- **Be a good neighbor!** Don't hang around the parking lot after dark and continue your party.

If you have any questions, the office staff is always happy to answer them. Please **call 253-630-0701** for more information. Enjoy your event!

From Our Parish to Their Plates: *Backpack Buddies* Need You!



Kids are back in school and receiving breakfast and lunch during the week. Yay! There are 30 families at Covington Elementary experiencing food insecurities. St. John the Baptist members have long supported the *Covington Storehouse* with food donations during the offertory.

Backpack Buddies seek specific food donations that can be put in bags to give to these 30 families to support their nutritional needs over the weekend. There is a Sign-Up Genius site where you can see the list of items and sign up every week. This helps us with storage. There are also flyers in the narthex with the list. Items will be collected over the weekend and on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Bags are packed on Wednesday. Please contact **Andrea Shimek** at the parish office for more information. Or you can scan the QR code to see the list and sign up.



Snacks, Games, God, and You

Are you little Christians ready for a year full of fun, friendship, and faith? Then check us out!

- We are all about **helping you make new friends**, who share your Catholic faith and want to grow just like you.
- Whether you've been coming for a while or this is your first time, you belong here. **We want to walk with you on your faith journey and give you the tools to build a strong prayer life** that can help you through anything, whether at school, at home, or wherever life takes you.
- We'll have **real conversations about God and the life of the Saints**. You'll also get to learn about amazing people from the Bible - real heroes like *David, Esther, Peter, and Mary* - who faced big challenges and still trusted God. Their stories can inspire your story.
- There will be games, snacks, and laughs.
- **This is your space to grow, ask questions**, and discover how much God loves you just as you are.

Little brothers and sisters, this is your turn! No need to tag along with the older kids. Come join the fun, make friends, and learn about Jesus in a way that's perfect for you. Call the office for more information.

Get Crafty! It's Craft and Hobby Day.



Come join us at the Craft & Hobby Day on **September 20 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm** in the McMullen Center, Classroom 8. Bring your craft supplies and tools, and let's get crafty!

Find Your People. Grow Your Faith. Be You.

Wondering what to expect at Youth Group this year for you **high schoolers**? Here's the inside scoop!

- **Make Real Friends.** Meet other teens who share your interests, your values, and your Catholic faith. **No need to pretend** - just show up as you are.
- **Grow in Faith.** Talk about how faith connects with real life. **Discover a deeper purpose that goes beyond school and social media.**
- **Eat and Chill.** Yes, of course there will be snacks! You'll also have plenty of time to hang out, relax, and recharge with people who care.
- **Real Talk.** We'll open up about the things that actually matter - friendships, stress, faith, identity, and how to navigate high school with confidence and purpose.

Nope, this isn't babysitting hour - no little siblings allowed. Think of it as your own corner of the parish: no little brother, no little sister. This one's just for high schoolers! Come join us starting **October 13, 2025 at 6:30 pm at St. John the Baptist** and October 27, 2025 at 7:00 pm at Holy Spirit. We can't wait to see you!

Reflect, Share, and Grow in Faith

Join a "gentle" bible study and fellowship group online **Saturday mornings from 10:00 am to 11:30 am via Zoom**. Come when you can, share your wisdom, and enjoy learning from **Bishop Mueggenborg's** book, "Come Follow Me." We're not theologians, just lovers of God's word and how it relates to our lives.

For more information, call **Joan Williamson** at the parish office or **Mary Petersen** at bulletin@sjtbcc.org.

Bring Home the Beauty of Olive Wood. This Weekend Only!

Check out the olive wood statues and carvings from **Jairys Alyateem**. These are wood carvings straight from Catholic families in the Holy Land, proceeds will support these families. Stop by and purchase a keepsake.

Back to School Pancake Breakfast

Sunday September 21

10:00 am to 11:30 am

Adults: \$10.00

Youth 6-16: \$5.00

Children 5 and Under: Free



Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Biscuit & Gravy

**All Proceeds Will Support The
Parish Family Assistance Ministry**

Explore Life, Faith, & Meaning

with

ALPHA



- **Starting January 13, 2025**
- **Mondays | 6:30-8:00 PM**
- **First 3 "Come & See" Sessions:**
Holy Spirit Parish Hall, 310
3rd Ave S, Kent
- **Remaining weeks:**
Primarily at Holy Spirit,
with some at St. John's

What is ALPHA?



- A free program to explore life's big questions.
- Includes a meal, short video, and honest discussions

**Learn more and sign up
for the first three weeks:**



Questions or need help registering?

For SJTB, email Dave Richardson, dlr32543@comcast.net

For Holy Spirit, email Brenda Fincher, BFincher@holyspiritkent.org





Family 30

TEENS CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

Registration

Holy Spirit

- Online Registration
- In person registration after mass of the following dates:
August 23, 24, 30 & 31, 2025

St. John the Baptist

- Online Registration
- In person registration at the office

Registration fee

For each phase there is a registration fee for materials.
Payment method cash or check.

Phase 1 Classes

Classes will be at Holy Spirit's Faith Formation Building every other Monday at 6 PM to 8 PM.

Bring a Baptism and First Eucharist Certificates if you received the Sacraments in another parish.

Phase 2 Classes: Returning Teens

Holy Spirit

- Sundays from 5 PM to 7 PM

St. John the Baptist

- Tuesdays from 7 PM to 8:30 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU CAN CONTACT VERONICA NAVA

Email: vnavajimenez@holyspiritkent.org or veronican@sjtbcc.org
Phone: 253-859-0444 ext.216 or 253-630-0701 ext.110

HEY! MIDDLE SCHOOLER!



Are you ready for a year full of **FUN FRIENDSHIP & FAITH?**

At Middle School youth group, we're all about helping you **make new friends** who share your Catholic faith and want to grow just like you.

Whether you've been coming for a while or this is your first time — **you belong here.**

We want to **walk with you on your faith journey** and give you the tools to build a strong prayer life that can help you through anything — at school, at home, or wherever life takes you.

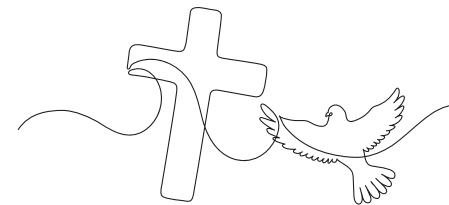
Expect games, snacks, laughs, and **real conversations about God, the life of the Saints**. You'll also get to learn about amazing people from the Bible — real heroes like David, Esther, Peter, and Mary — who faced big challenges and still trusted God. Their stories can inspire your story.

This is your space to grow, ask questions, and discover how much **God loves you — just as you are.**

COME JOIN US — WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

*Wondering what to expect at
High School youth group this year?*

Here's the inside scoop!



Make Real Friends

Meet other teens who share your interests, your values, and your Catholic faith. This is a space where you don't have to pretend — just show up as you.

Grow in Faith

We'll dive into the lives of the saints, bible talk about how faith actually fits into real life, and explore the kind of purpose that goes deeper than just school and social media.

Snacks & Chill

Yes, there will be snacks — and time to just hang out, relax, and recharge with people who care.

Real Talk

We'll open up about the things that actually matter — from friendships and stress to faith, identity, and how to navigate high school with confidence and purpose.

This isn't just another group — it's your space to connect, grow, and feel at home.

Come check it out. You belong here!



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of September 14, 2025

Sunday:

Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37,
38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Monday:

1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Jn 19:25-27 or
Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday:

1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/
Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday:

1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday:

1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk 7:36-50

Friday:

1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/
Lk 8:1-3

Saturday:

1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday:

Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/
1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy *What About Bob?* Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin's failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr. Marvin for break-through "death therapy." In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.

Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week's feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses' snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness – rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don't run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are all like Bob Wiley. The "death therapy" of the cross is our only hope for healing.

This week I invite you to "exalt the cross." If you don't have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us.

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 | THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ©LPI

Send corrections and bulletin content to

Pat Defiesta at communications@sjtbcc.org (for St. John the Baptist bulletin) or

Mary Molina at communications@holyspiritkent.org (for Holy Spirit bulletin).

Please send us content at least two (2) weeks before publication.

For St. John the Baptist questions/comments, email **Pat** at bulletin@sjtbcc.org

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