



## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*



WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2025



Photo by **Laurie Moloney**

### *Celebrating Our Faithful Altar Servers*

Altar servers at St. John the Baptist Parish received a blessing from Father Carlos on December 7. Our altar servers play a vital role in helping the liturgy run smoothly and prayerfully each week. With reverence and quiet dedication, they assist the priest at the altar, prepare the sacred vessels, carry the cross and candles, and help set the tone of worship for the entire assembly.

Their service is not only a gift to the parish but also a meaningful way for young people to grow in faith, leadership, and responsibility. We are grateful for their commitment and encourage other youth who feel called to this ministry to consider joining our wonderful team of altar servers.



## 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 4:45p (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



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## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH FAMILY



Please call 253-859-0444 for times.

### **Sunday, December 21**

Adult Faith Formation  
Centro Rendu  
Choir Rehearsal (Swahili) - 12:00 pm  
Rosary (Spanish)  
Sacramental Preparation  
Swahili Community - 4:30 pm  
Confirmation - 6:30 pm

### **Monday, December 22**

Bible Study (Spanish) - 10:00 am  
Grandparent Bible Study (Spanish) - 10 am  
Food Pantry - 1:00 pm  
Centro Rendu - 3:00 pm  
Small Christian Communities - 7:00 pm  
Partners in the Gospel PFAC - 6:30

### **Tuesday, December 23**

Rosary - 12:00 pm  
Choir Rehearsal (Spanish) - 12:30 pm  
Terrific Tuesday Meals - 5:30 pm  
Small Christian Community - 7:00 pm  
Adult Confirmation

### **Wednesday, December 24**

Cursillos (Spanish) - 2:00 pm  
Knights of Columbus Golf Committee - 6:00 pm  
RCIA/OCIA - 6:30 pm  
Bible Study  
Rosary (English & Spanish)  
Young Adult Group (Spanish)

### **Thursday, December 25**

*Christmas*



### **Friday, December 26**

**Office Closed**

Swahili Community Choir Retreat - 9:00 am  
Grupo de Oración - 7:00 pm  
Base Ecclesial Groups (Spanish) - 7:00 pm  
Bible Study Communities  
Divine Mercy

### **Saturday, December 27**

Swahili Community Choir Retreat - 9:00 am  
Sacramental Preparation - 9:00 am or 12:30 pm  
Choir Rehearsal (7:00 pm Spanish) - 7:00 pm  
Small Christian Communities - 7:00 pm



### **Sunday, December 21**

**Mass - 9:00 am**  
Giving Tree Store - 12:30 pm  
Children's Liturgy of the Word - 9:00 am Mass  
Elementary Faith Formation - 10:15 am  
**Mass - 11:30 am**  
**Mass - 5:30 pm**

### **Monday, December 22**

Mostly Yoga - 8:00 am  
**Mass - 9:00 am**  
Funeral for Bruce Willard - 11:00 am  
Living Nativity - 5:00 pm  
Hispanic Choir Practice - 6:00 pm  
Young Adult Prayer Service - 6:30 pm  
Choir (9:00 am Sunday) Practice - 7:00 pm  
Spanish Charismatic Group - 7:00 pm

### **Tuesday, December 23**

Word & Communion/Liturgy of Hours - 9:00 am  
Christmas Decorating - 10:00 am  
WICS - 6:00 pm  
Grupo de Oracion - 7:00 pm

### **Wednesday, December 24**

**Office Closed**

**Mass (Children's) - 4:00 pm**  
**Mass (English) - 7:00 pm**  
**Mass (English) - 10:00 pm**

### **Thursday, December 25**

*Christmas*

**Mass (English) - 10:00 am**



### **Friday, December 26**

**Office Closed**

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

### **Saturday, December 27**

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

## Please Pray for

those who are sick:

**Antony Lewis**

those who have died:

**Matthew Mazzitelli**

(grandson of Tim & Sharon Mazzitelli)

**Jean Smith** (aunt of Roberta Tift)

## Making Room for One Another This Christmas

Christmas at St. John the Baptist is a joyful time - filled with familiar faces, visiting family, and many guests. To help us extend a warm welcome, **please consider sitting closer to the front and sliding toward the center of the pew.** Leaving space at the aisle ends and toward the back makes it easier for newcomers to find a seat, especially if they arrive a little late or have children in tow. To help everyone find a place, we ask that you **please refrain from reserving multiple seats** for late arrivals.

Also, please **avoid standing in the narthex during services.** It may feel like a helpful option when seating is tight, but it violates fire code capacity and creates safety concerns.

Thank you for helping make St. John the Baptist feel like home to everyone who walks through our doors.

## Decorate with Poinsettias

You are invited to make a donation in honor or memory of a loved one to help provide the poinsettias that will decorate our church for Christmas. Blank memorial cards are available in the narthex - simply write the name of your loved one, place the card and your donation in the envelope, and drop it in the collection box. All memorial cards will be displayed in the narthex at Christmas.



**Deadline: Sunday, December 21, 2025**

**Suggested donation:** \$10 per poinsettia

## Help Us Deck the Halls for Christmas!



Your help is needed to prepare the sanctuary for our Christmas Masses! Setup will begin on **Tuesday, December 23, at 10:00 a.m.** Extra hands are especially appreciated for arranging the flowers, decorating, and overall preparing the sanctuary for Christmas.

The more volunteers we have, the faster and more joyful the preparations will be. Thank you for sharing your time and talents to help make our sanctuary shine this Christmas season!

## CHRISTMAS MASS PARKING



In anticipation of the large number of Christmas worshippers, the parking lot across the street from our parish grounds will be open for additional parking. Please **use extra caution when crossing the street to and from the church for Mass**, especially in the evening when visibility is lower.

Once the church lot is full, all vehicles will be directed to the parking lot across the street. **Please do not park illegally on church property**, as doing so blocks access for emergency vehicles and creates safety hazards for everyone. **This will be enforced during all Christmas Masses.** Thank you for your cooperation.

We expect several hundred worshippers, especially at the 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm Masses. **If you arrive later, please plan on parking in the lot across the street.** Your cooperation helps us welcome everyone smoothly and safely during this joyful celebration.

## Meeting God's Mission With Your Gifts



Our parish, St. John the Baptist, is blessed with many active and vibrant ministries. We offer **10 Outreach Ministries**, including Backpack Buddies; Creation Care Team; Garden of the Good Shepherd; Guatemala Companion Parish; Life, Justice, & Peace Commission; Pregnancy Aid; PREPARES; Safe Car Parking; St. Vincent de Paul; and seasonal activities such as Thanksgiving Meals and the Giving Tree Store.

In addition, we have a **wide range of Stewardship Ministries**: Parish Leadership, Administrative Support, Community Life, Facilities and Grounds Maintenance, Liturgy and Music, Pastoral Care, Preschool and Elementary Faith Formation, Stewardship and Evangelization, Youth Ministry & Life Teen, and the Women's Commission.

God has entrusted each of us with unique gifts meant to be shared. When you offer your time, talents, and heart through our parish ministries, you become part of something greater than yourself - helping to build up the Church, strengthen our community, and bring Christ's love to the world. **Step forward in faith, discover where God is calling you, and let your gifts shine for the good of all.**

If you are interested in learning more about any of these ministries, please visit our website at [sjtbcc.org](https://www.sjtbcc.org) or contact the parish office at **253-630-0701**.



## Help Us Clear the Way This Winter!



Icy roads and sidewalks may not be on our minds right now - flooding seems to be the word of the week - but this is the Pacific

Northwest, and snow and ice are inevitable at some point this winter. When temperatures drop, icy sidewalks and parking lots can create unsafe conditions for those attending early morning Masses, especially parishioners with mobility challenges.

**We are still looking for families who can dedicate a little time around 8:00 a.m. on a Sunday to help de-ice the sidewalks.** Your efforts will help ensure everyone can safely attend Mass during the winter months. If you are interested in this "winter ministry," please contact **Joe Holien** at 253-630-0701 x220 to join the de-icing team.



Thank you for your time, care, and service!



## New Winter Bible Study with Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation is offering a winter Bible study using the Threshold Bible Study book "Peacemaking and Nonviolence" by Stephen J. Binz.

Choose one of two options:

- **Wednesdays** (January 21, 28; February 4, 11, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; and April 15, 22)  
at **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in person** in the Main Conference Room in the parish office.
- **Thursdays** (January 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26; and April 16)  
at **10:00 am to 11:30 am via Zoom**

Cost is \$10 for the book.

Please register [online](#) at our website or call the parish office so we can order your book. For questions, please email **Joan Williamson** at [joanw@sjtbcc.org](mailto:joanw@sjtbcc.org).

## A Gift of Comfort and Prayer



Prayer shawls serve as a tangible reminder of God's presence, love, and mercy, offering comfort and solace to those who receive them. If you or someone you know is facing medical procedures, grieving, living with illness, navigating the challenges of aging, or simply in need of comfort, we have prayer shawls available at no cost.

Each shawl is lovingly crafted by our *Prayer Shawl Ministry*, whose members pray for the future recipient as they work. These shawls are also blessed before distribution. You are welcome to **stop by the office during regular hours to pick one up**, or you may request one from a Point Person or staff member after Mass.

## Don't Celebrate the Holidays Hungry



The children are off for the holidays, so our middle school and Wednesday morning team will be taking a much needed 2 week break. We are always in need of help! Please consider spending part of a Wednesday morning or evening preparing the 41 bags we send to Covington Elementary, and remember to check our weekly bulletins for the most up-to-date list of requested items. If you have any questions, **please contact Andrea Shimek** in the parish office. This is an ongoing effort that will run throughout the school year.

Ways to support the *Backpack Buddies Program*:

- Shop our Amazon wish list (search "**2025-2026 Backpack Buddies for Covington Elementary**") by clicking [Amazon](#), or by scanning the QR code. Items can be shipped directly to the parish office.
- Use your preferred online retailer and have your items shipped directly to the parish office.
- Purchase items locally and place them in the bin by the *Life, Justice, and Peace* table in the narthex or bring them to the parish office.
- Monetary donations. Write all checks out to "St. John the Baptist Catholic Church".



Merry Christmas from the Backpack Buddies team!

## All Aboard the Ark: Father Carlos on Relevant Radio

Father Carlos was recently featured on Relevant Radio in a 15-minute interview highlighting his unique ministry, *Life in the Ark* with Fr. Carlos. In the conversation, he shares how his love for animals - and his commitment to responsible pet care - has become a creative way to teach faith, theology, and a sense of wonder at God's creation. His short and family-friendly videos feature animals from his own "ark," offering a joyful bridge between everyday life and the beauty of our faith.

Father Carlos has already been invited back for another interview in January. We invite you to listen and discover how faith, creation, and evangelization come together in this delightful ministry by visiting [relevantradio.com](http://relevantradio.com). Stay tuned for more information on how you can listen to his January interview.



## Walking Group Winter Pause

The Walking Group will be taking a seasonal break and will resume in the spring. We look forward to gathering again when the weather warms and the paths are inviting once more.



PARISH FAMILY 30

# Christmas

MASS TIMES

## CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24<sup>th</sup>

Holy Spirit

5:00 pm, english  
7:30 pm, spanish  
10:00 pm, english

St. John the Baptist

4:00 pm, english  
Children's Program  
7:00 pm, english  
10:00 pm, english

## CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25<sup>th</sup>

Holy Spirit

10:00 am, english  
11:30 am, spanish  
2:30 pm, swahili

St. John the Baptist

10:00 am, english

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1<sup>st</sup>

Holy Spirit

10:00 am, english  
7:30 pm, spanish

St. John the Baptist

6:00 pm, english

Holy Spirit  
327 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, Kent  
holyspiritkent.org

St. John the Baptist  
25810 156<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Covington  
sjtbcc.org

# Simbang Gabi 2025

## SOUTH KING DEANERY MASS SCHEDULE

**Commissioning Mass**  
**Saturday, December 13 | 11AM | St. James Cathedral | 804 9th Ave, Seattle**

**December 14 | 10:30 AM**

St. Philomena  
1790 S 222nd St | Des Moines

St. Thomas  
4415 S 140th St | Tukwila

**DAY 1 - MONDAY**  
**December 15 | 6 PM**

St. Francis of Assisi  
15236 21st Ave SW | Burien

**DAY 2 - TUESDAY**  
**December 16 | 6 PM**

St. Francis of Assisi  
15236 21st Ave SW | Burien

**DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY**  
**December 17 | 5 PM**

St. Theresa  
3939 SE 331<sup>st</sup> St | Federal Way

**December 17 | 6 PM**  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
10243 12th Ave S | Burien

**DAY 4 - THURSDAY**  
**December 18 | 6 PM**

St. Bernadette  
1028 SW 128th St | Seattle

**DAY 5 - FRIDAY**  
**December 19 | 6 PM**

St. Bernadette  
1028 SW 128th St | Seattle

**December 19 | 6:30 PM**  
Holy Family  
505 17th St SE | Auburn

**DAY 6 - SATURDAY**  
**December 20 | 5 PM**

Holy Spirit  
327 2nd Ave S | Kent

St. Andrew  
1401 Valley Ave | Sumner

St. Francis of Assisi  
15236 21st Ave SW | Burien

St. Stephen the Martyr  
13055 SE 192nd St | Renton

St. Vincent de Paul  
30525 8th Ave S | Federal Way

**December 20 | 5:30 PM**  
St. John the Baptist  
25810 156th Ave SE | Covington

**DAY 7 - SUNDAY**  
**DECEMBER 21 | 10 AM**

St. Francis of Assisi  
15236 21st Ave SW | Burien

**DECEMBER 21 | 5 PM**  
St. Anthony  
416 South 4<sup>th</sup> St | Renton

**DAY 8 - MONDAY**  
**DECEMBER 22 | 6 PM**

Our Lady of Lourdes  
10243 12th Ave S | Burien

**DAY 9 - TUESDAY**  
**December 23 | 6 PM**

St. Francis of Assisi  
15236 21st Ave SW | Burien



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS ❄️ AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Veronica - Joan - "Papa" Luis - Nancy M. - David  
Rose - Laurie - Kathy - Christina - Nancy O.  
not pictured: Andrea



& Joe



And From the Bulletin Staff:

Pat Defiesta, Mary Petersen, Rita Rydberg, Bonnie Sawyer, Kathleen Williams





# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:  
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,  
and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isa 7:14)

### Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

### Second Reading:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 1:7)

### Gospel:

"Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.  
For it is through the Holy Spirit  
that this child has been conceived in her.  
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)

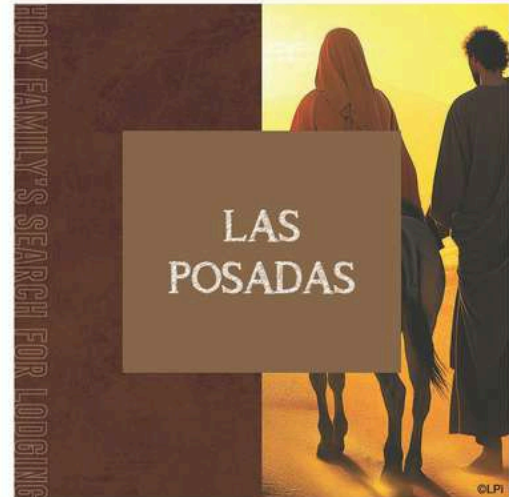
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise — like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us.

## Observances for the week of December 21, 2025

<b>Sunday:</b>	4th Sunday of Advent
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. John of Kanty, Priest
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Christmas Eve
<b>Thursday:</b>	The Nativity of the Lord
<b>Friday:</b>	St. Stephen, First Martyr
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	The Holy Family



## Devotions, *Explained!*

Las Posadas is a Mexican tradition which recreates the Holy Family's search for lodging in Bethlehem. This nine-day devotion anticipates the birth of Jesus Christ, who seeks refuge in the heart of every man and woman.

## Prayer for Advent - Miracles

Dear God,  
You are in the miracle business.  
I still believe that You can move  
mountains and separate seas.  
Break into every unknown and  
astound us with Your goodness  
and grace.  
Amen.

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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Send corrections and bulletin content to

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**Mary Molina** at [communications@holyspiritkent.org](mailto: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](mailto:bulletin@sjtbcc.org)

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