



The Baptism of the Lord



WEEK OF JANUARY 11, 2026



Baptism

April 2025

Photos by **Paul Dehner**, Easter Vigil Baptism 2025



Joining Christ in the Waters

As we celebrate the Baptism of Christ today, we are reminded of our own baptism. Some among us were baptized as infants and others as adults. Yet, regardless of when we were brought to the font, the Sacrament of Baptism bestows upon us the grace of new birth, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and our incorporation into the Body of Christ, the Church.



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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Thanks to our Holiday Teams!

In case you missed it two weeks ago, here is something from the desk of Stewardship and Outreach Ministry.

The Knights of Columbus recognized a need and stepped in to assist with directing traffic for the Christmas Masses by guiding parishioners to available spots in our lot and to overflow parking at Covington Elementary School, ensuring smooth parking for all worshipers. This year, attendance was remarkable: 752 people participated in the Children's Christmas Eve Mass, 527 attended the 7:00 pm Mass, and 367 joined us for the 10:00 pm Mass. On Christmas Day at 10:00 am, we welcomed 542 people, a 26% increase over last year. Thank you to members of our Knights of Columbus: **Bailey Cooksey, Mark Rosenberger, Gilbert Tulop, and Jose Zuniga**, for your generous service with traffic control during our Christmas Masses!

To all who donated items and gifts to our *Giving Tree* - thank you! Like our Thanksgiving meal program, *Giving Tree* allows us to invite those experiencing poverty to participate in our cultural tradition of gift giving on Christmas Day. Your generosity sends a message of hope to all children.

We served 35 St. Vincent de Paul families, 10 community and parish families, and an additional number of families of service members stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. In total, 144 children ages 1–17 experienced a brighter, happier Christmas!

Thanks especially to our *Giving Tree* organizers: **Pat Defiesta, Mary Hammock, and Kathy Kernan**, along with their hard-working elves: **Joanne Ackerman, Kathy Androse-Downs, Tamara & Pete Baker, Christine Batiqulin, Sue Cassidy, Andrea Chay, Roslyn, Paul, & Hannah Clark, Bailey & Kelly Cooksey, Ferdinand Cruz, Janet Dubois, Monica & Lexie Exum, Jean Fennessy, Linda Fix, Terry & Chad Forczek, Lyn Johnson, Mary Murphy Johnson, Eva Diaz de Leon, Mike & Rose McAvoy, Shaun & Cooper McAvoy, Rita Myers, Mary Ellen Nelson, Riva Patrick, Donna Pirog, Susan Ravotti, Diane Rosenberger, Laura Rothschilds, Andrea & Mike Shimek, Bonnie Sawyer, Vince Sobrevilla, Kathy Wickward, & Molly Stevenson**. Our apologies if any elf slipped through the sleigh bells - your support still shines as bright as Christmas lights!

St. John the Baptist Giving Tree Store 2025



Photos by **Pat Defiesta & Jean Fennessy**

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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This Week in Our Parish Family

Please call
253-859-0444
for event times.



Holy Spirit
PARISH



Sunday, January 11

Choir Rehearsal (Swahili)
Swahili Community
Sacramental Prep
Knights of Columbus All You Can Eat Breakfast
Rosary (Spanish)
Mother Mary Guild
Centro Rendu
Adult Faith Formation

Monday, January 12

Bible Study Groups (Spanish)
Food Pantry
Small Christian Communities
Confirmation
Centro Rendu
Rosario del Migrante
Grandparent Bible Study (Spanish)

Tuesday, January 13

Rosary (12:00 pm)
Adult Confirmation
Small Christian Community
Choir Rehearsal (12:30 pm Spanish)
Terrific Tuesday Meals 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, January 14

Young Adult Group (Spanish)
Rosary (English & Spanish)
Cursillos (Spanish)
RCIA/OCIA 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Knights of Columbus

Thursday, January 15

Adult Confirmation
Clases de Confirmacion
Choir (12:30 pm)
Tesalonicenses
Apostoles de la Palabra

Friday, January 16

Grupo de Oracion
Baptism Classes Base (Spanish)
Ecclesial Groups (Spanish)
Divine Mercy
Clases de Confirmacion

Saturday, January 17

Confirmation
Sacramental Prep
Grupo de Oracion
Small Christian Communities

Sunday, January 11

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

Monday, January 12

Mostly Yoga - 8:00 am
Mass - 9:00 am
Hispanic Choir Practice - 6:00 pm
High School Youth Group - 6:30 pm
Choir (9:00 am Sunday) Practice - 7:00 pm
Spanish Charismatic Group - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 13

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

Wednesday, January 14

Mass - 9:00 am
Backpack Buddies Setup (Youth Room) - 9:30 am
Middle School Night - 6:30 pm
Finance Council Meeting - 7:00 pm
Choir (Truthful Reign) Practice - 7:00 pm

Thursday, January 15

Mostly Yoga - 8:00 am
Creation Care Team - 1:00 pm
Hora Santa - Holy Hour - 3:00 pm
Mass - 6:30 pm
Choir (11:30 Sunday) Practice - 7:00 pm
OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, January 16

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

Saturday, January 17

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

Please Pray for

those who are **sick**:

**Jaime Babbitt, Chad Forczek,
Neal Johnson, Arlene Warnke**

those who have **died**:

David Nolan Berry
(cousin of Mary Murphy Johnson),
Joan Horner (wife of Buzz Horner)

Wanted: Gently Used or New Coats/Jackets

We are still accepting donations for **clean, gently used or new all-weather coats (adult sizes only)**.

The Kent Food Bank and Emergency Services, located in downtown Kent on West Harrison Street, would love to have the gently used coats in your closet that you no longer want. They will be given to our unsheltered neighbors.



Please drop off coats in the **Coats for Unsheltered Neighbors Box** in the narthex at St. John the Baptist. Coats will be collected throughout the month of January. Please remember that **long "dressy" coats will not meet their needs**, as these are neighbors without shelters. There are resources for children's coats, so no children's coats are needed currently.

May God bless you for your kindness and generosity.

Annual Crab Feast

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus



After an unexpected cancellation last year, the Knights of Columbus annual **Crab Feast is BACK!**



Save the date: **February 7, 2026 at 6:00 pm** for a multi-course dinner served by the Knights of Columbus.

The menu features generous portions of **freshly caught Dungeness Crab** with appetizers, Caesar Salad, rolls, clam chowder, vegetable side, dessert, and beverage (non-alcoholic).

Ticket prices: **\$65 per person OR \$375 for a table for 6**. Tickets can be purchased after Masses or at the parish office. Tickets are selling fast! Credit cards are accepted if purchase is made after Masses.

The proceeds from this dinner will support parish ministries.



New Winter Bible Study with Adult Faith Formation

Don't forget to register for the Winter Bible Study. You can join via Zoom or in person. Options are available online at [our website](#).

Cost is \$10 for the book. Please call the parish office so we can order your book. For questions, please email **Joan Williamson** at joanw@sjtbcc.org.

Happy Birthday St. John the Baptist!
January 1991



Our journey started in the fall of 1990, when **Father Jack Walmesley** was assigned to establish a new parish in the Covington area. Ten acres of land had been set aside by the Seattle Archdiocese to build a new church, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. The rest, they say, is history!

Here's a snapshot of **our journey**:

- January 1991 - First Mass of the Catholic Community of Covington celebrated at Horizon Elementary School with about 100 families
- March 1991 - **Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen** approves the name of "St. John the Baptist Catholic Church"
- July 1991 - **Sister Carol Ann McMullen**, SNJM, joined **Father Jack** in starting the religious formation program
- September 1992 - The building of stewardship begins with home visits
- January 1995 - Ground was broken for church sanctuary and for office space
- January 1996 - The church sanctuary was dedicated; parish grows to 600 families
- September 2000 - The first Life Teen Mass was celebrated
- November 2000 - Construction of education/social center begins; parish grows to 820 families
- August 2001 - Grand opening of the McMullen Center (named after **Sister Carol Ann McMullen**); parish grows to 1,000 families
- July 2002 - **Father Walmesley** moves to another parish as **Father Jim Coyne** takes over
- July 2021 - **Father Jim** retires, and we welcomed **Father Bill McKee** as our new pastor
- July 2024 - **Father Bill** retires, and we welcomed **Father Carlos Orozco** as our new pastor and **Father Crispin Okoth** as our new vicar as we join Holy Spirit Parish as "Family 30."

Today, we are **1153 families** strong today and counting!

Be sure to check the bulletin and our website for celebration activities throughout January as we commemorate this special anniversary.

Serving Our Neighbors in Need

The *St. Vincent de Paul Conference* at St. John the Baptist is actively answering the calls of our neighbors in need, providing assistance with food, rent, utilities, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene products.

With our parishioners' generous **donations totaling \$79,933.00** from January to December 2025, we were able to:

- Assist 544 families with rent and utilities
- Provide 139 bags of food and 58 bags of hygiene/cleaning supplies
- Provide furniture for seven families



THANK YOU, St. John the Baptist community, for your incredible generosity!

If you would like to live out your Gospel call by joining this life-giving ministry, contact Pat at patd@SvdPSeattle.org.

Neighbors seeking help with rent, utilities, food, or clothing may call the St. Vincent de Paul Help Line at 206-767-6449.

To donate to this ministry, please visit pushpay.com/g/sjtbcc and select "St. Vincent de Paul" under "Fund." Thank you for your continued support! We also need donations of gently-used beds and a storage unit if you aren't using one.

Back to School, Back to Giving: Join Our Backpack Buddies Team



Thank you to all who dropped off supplies for our Backpack Buddies program! The response has been amazing, and we are excited to put every donated food item to good use.

This week we especially need **juice boxes, individual oatmeal packets, fruit snacks, and microwave popcorn**. Needs change every week, so be sure to check this bulletin for the most up-to-date list of needed items. If you have any questions or need the link to buy supplies from Amazon, please contact **Andrea Shimek** in the parish office. This ministry continues throughout the school year, and your support makes a difference.

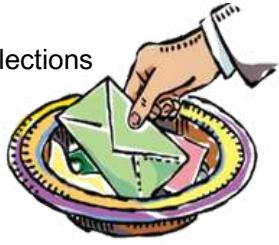
Your support is appreciated all year long.

Upcoming Mass Celebrants: January 19 - 23

Father Carlos will be off the week of January 19 - 23. In his absence, **Father Dave Rogerson** will celebrate the 9:00 a.m. Mass on January 19, and **Father Crispin** will celebrate the Masses on January 21 at 9:00 a.m. and January 22 at 6:30 p.m. Please keep *Father Carlos* in your prayers during his time away. We are grateful to *Father Dave* and *Father Crispin* for assisting during this time.

Envelopes and Special Collections

We continue to hold special collections each month to support causes beyond our parish, such as PREPARES, Rice Bowl, and the Catholic Home Missions along with church events.



If you receive donation envelopes, **it is important to use the correct envelope** so your contribution is credited to the fund you intend to support. Any donation received in a Special Collection envelope will be credited to that specific collection. If you are using a Special Collection envelope because you do not have the appropriate stewardship envelope for that week, please write **STEWARDSHIP** in large letters on the envelope so we can credit your gift correctly.

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish and to these special causes. We truly appreciate your support.



Honoring a Loved One At a Mass

One simple way we care for one another as a faith community is by praying by name. You are encouraged to add a Loved One in our Parish Prayers.

Universal Prayer List (Prayers of the Faithful):

- You can request a name to be included on our universal prayer list. These names are read aloud at Mass during the Prayers of the Faithful (before the Offertory) and are also printed in our weekly bulletin. If someone is sick, we must have their permission to include their name, since this prayer request is public. There is no donation expected for prayer list requests, including those who have recently died or for an anniversary of death.

Mass Intentions:

- You can also request a Mass intention - having a Mass offered for the intention of a specific individual. Mass intentions are available for our weekday Masses:

Monday - 9:00 am
Wednesday - 9:00 am
Thursday - 6:30 pm

It's customary to make a donation when reserving a Mass intention date; the suggested donation is \$20 - \$50.

To request either a prayer list name or a Mass intention, **contact the parish office at 253-630-0701**. A staff member or volunteer will be happy to help you. This prayer list will also be printed in the weekly bulletin.

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER '26!



CYO Summer Camps

offer programs for students from pre-K to 12th grade.

The only camps in Washington that encourage campers to foster respect and dignity for themselves, others, and the environment, **all rooted in Catholic teachings.**



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EMAIL: cyo@seattlearch.org

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What is ALPHA?

- A free program to explore life's big questions.
- Includes a meal, short video, and honest discussions
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Starts January 19th

Mondays | 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: St John the Baptist

25810 156th Ave SE, Covington, WA
McMullen Bld. Multipurpose Room

Learn more & Register



Questions or need help registering?

Email [Dave Richardson](mailto:Dave.Richardson@comcast.net), [dlr32543@comcast.net](mailto:Dave.Richardson@comcast.net)
or [Brenda Fincher](mailto:BFincher@holyspiritkent.org), BFincher@holyspiritkent.org



SEVEN THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Mustard Seed Commitments



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Secretariat of
Justice and Peace



In the Parable of the Mustard Seed, Jesus tells us, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the ‘birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches’” (Mt. 13:31-32). How are we called to respond to Jesus’ example of the mustard seed? How can our small acts of faith bear great fruit for our lives and the lives of those around us?

Mustard seed commitments are concrete actions such as changes in lifestyle or habits, that someone can easily adopt. This resource can help inspire individuals or communities to take modest but sustainable commitments. See below examples that relate to each theme of Catholic social teaching.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Commit to greeting and speaking respectfully to someone who is ignored (e.g. someone who works at your parish, a neighbor, a homeless person), ensuring you treat each person you encounter with dignity.

Rights and Responsibilities

Eat one simple meal per week and donate what you'd have spent to a local shelter or ministry; or volunteer monthly at a soup kitchen or food pantry.

Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

Support fair-wage businesses; buy from companies that pay their employees well; or consciously avoid buying from companies known for unfair labor practices.

Care for God's Creation

Reduce single-use plastics at home; commit to using public transportation, carpooling, or biking at least sometimes; plant a small garden or support tree-planting/care for green spaces.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Pledge to attend one additional parish meeting or community event each month (e.g. parish council, youth ministry, town hall) and encourage others to bring someone who is not usually involved.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Commit to being more informed about one local policy issue (housing, education, healthcare). Write or call a local official at least once a year about that issue.

Solidarity

Visit the website of Caritas and Catholic Relief Services and learn about their efforts to address global issues such as poverty, disease, underdevelopment, climate change and migration.

Action:

Review the mustard seed commitment prompts for each CST theme. You can write your own commitments on the back of this sheet and then share them with others to have faith like a mustard seed!



Discover Fire

IN TIMES OF CRISIS: THE KINGOM OF GOD IS STILL HERE

Many entered the **new year** with hope, only to feel that we are already off to a **difficult start**. From the situation in **Venezuela** to ongoing debates around **immigration enforcement** in the United States, and the many other conflicts unfolding across our nation and world, the weight of global events is heavy.

Over the past week, I have heard a wide range of emotions, frustration, anger, disillusionment, confusion, indifference, hope, and even excitement, often about the very same situations, from people whose hearts genuinely seek the good. This tells us two things: how deeply divided we remain, and how complex these realities truly are. Where some see issues as black and white, others recognize many gray areas.

I find myself struggling somewhere in between. We all have opinions, and I have my own. While I strive to stay informed, remain balanced, avoid echo chambers, and genuinely listen to others, as Pope Francis continually invited us to do, what I think personally remains just that, an opinion. So when people ask what I think about a particular issue, I try to hold my views with humility and instead offer the one truth not subject to my feelings: the Gospel, the Good News. This is what we proclaimed at Christmas, celebrated at Epiphany, and continue this weekend with the Baptism of the Lord: **“The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand”** (cf. Mt 3:2; 4:17).

This is no mere mantra for optimism. It is a reality rooted in God's irrevocable blessing upon His people.

As the ancient priestly blessing reminds us: *The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

In the fullness of time, God sent His Son, born of a woman, to redeem us and make us adopted children, heirs through the Spirit who cries out, “Abba! Father!” The shepherds found Mary treasuring these mysteries in her heart, pondering the name given by the angel, Jesus, “God saves.” Mary, the Holy Mother of God, models this posture for us: in a broken world, she ponders, blesses, and brings forth peace.

So I humbly ask this of you as a New Year's resolution. No matter what is happening in the world, no matter where you stand on particular issues, let us not fall into the temptation to respond like everyone else.

We are Christians; we bear God's name. We are called to love as Christ loves, welcoming the stranger, protecting the vulnerable, promoting human dignity, and seeking unity. **We are Catholic;** we stand as a sign of communion between God and humanity, reflecting the life of the Trinity in our families, the “domestic church,” where we learn endurance, forgiveness, and worship.

In this spirit of mercy, may the Holy Mother of God intercede for our parish family. Let us begin this year anew, blessed, graced, and at peace.

Fr. Juan Carlos O.

SPANISH ON REVERSE



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



EN TIEMPOS DE CRISIS: EL REINO DE DIOS SIGUE AQUÍ

Muchos comenzaron el año nuevo con esperanza, solo para sentir que ya hemos tenido un comienzo difícil. Desde la situación en Venezuela hasta los debates en curso sobre la aplicación de la ley migratoria en Estados Unidos, y los muchos otros conflictos que se desarrollan en nuestro país y el mundo, el peso de los acontecimientos globales es abrumador.

Durante la última semana, he escuchado una amplia gama de emociones: frustración, ira, desilusión, confusión, indiferencia, esperanza e incluso entusiasmo, a menudo sobre las mismas situaciones, de personas cuyo corazón busca sinceramente el bien. Esto nos dice dos cosas: cuán profundamente divididos seguimos y cuán complejas son estas realidades. Donde algunos ven los problemas como algo blanco o negro, otros reconocen muchas zonas grises.

Me encuentro en un punto intermedio. Todos tenemos opiniones, y yo tengo las mías. Aunque me esfuerzo por mantenerme informado, ser equilibrado, evitar las cámaras de eco y escuchar atentamente a los demás, como el Papa Francisco nos invitaba constantemente a hacer, lo que pienso personalmente sigue siendo solo eso, una opinión. Así que, cuando me preguntan qué pienso sobre un tema en particular, intento mantener mi punto de vista con humildad y, en cambio, ofrecer la única verdad que no está sujeta a mis sentimientos: el Evangelio, la Buena Nueva. Esto es lo que proclamamos en Navidad, celebramos en la Epifanía y continuamos este fin de semana con el Bautismo del Señor: «El Reino de los Cielos está cerca» (cf. Mt 3,2; 4,17).

Esto no es un simple mantra para el optimismo. Es una realidad arraigada en la bendición irrevocable de Dios sobre su pueblo. Como nos recuerda la antigua bendición sacerdotal:

El Señor te bendiga y te guarde;

el Señor haga resplandecer su rostro sobre ti, y tenga de ti misericordia;

El Señor alce sobre ti su rostro, y te conceda paz.

En la plenitud de los tiempos, Dios envió a su Hijo, nacido de mujer, para redimirnos y hacernos hijos adoptivos, herederos por medio del Espíritu que clama: "¡Abba! ¡Padre!". Los pastores encontraron a María atesorando estos misterios en su corazón, meditando en el nombre dado por el ángel, Jesús: "Dios salva". María, la Santa Madre de Dios, nos modela esta postura: en un mundo quebrantado, ella medita, bendice y trae paz.

Así que les pido humildemente esto como propósito de Año Nuevo. Pase lo que pase en el mundo, independientemente de su postura sobre temas específicos, no caigamos en la tentación de responder como los demás.

Somos cristianos; llevamos el nombre de Dios. Estamos llamados a amar como Cristo ama, acogiendo al extranjero, protegiendo a los vulnerables, promoviendo la dignidad humana y buscando la unidad. Somos católicos; somos un signo de comunión entre Dios y la humanidad, reflejando la vida de la Trinidad en nuestras familias, la «iglesia doméstica», donde aprendemos la perseverancia, el perdón y la adoración.

En este espíritu jubilar de misericordia, que la Santa Madre de Dios interceda por nuestra familia parroquial. Que comencemos este año de nuevo, bendecidos, llenos de gracia y en paz.

Fr. Juan Carlos O.

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