



The Epiphany of the Lord



WEEK OF JANUARY 4, 2026



Happy New Year to everyone!

Photo by **Wilson Defiesta**

With Heartfelt Gratitude for our Parish Family

Thank you for your generous and steadfast support of Family 30 Parish, Holy Spirit and St. John the Baptist, throughout 2025. Your prayers, participation, and contributions have strengthened our parish community in countless ways. We are deeply grateful for your faithfulness and look forward to continuing our mission together in 2026.



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



Sunday, January 4

Choir Rehearsal (Swahili)
Swahili Community
Sacramental Prep
Children's Choir
Rosary (Spanish)
Confirmation Classes
Adult Faith Formation

Monday, January 5

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

Tuesday, January 6

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

Wednesday, January 7

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

Thursday, January 8

Mujeres de Fe
Choir (12:30pm)
Confirmation Classes
Apostales de la Palabra

Friday, January 9

Grupo de Oracion
Bible Study Communities
Base Ecclesial Groups (Spanish)
Hispanic Community Event

Saturday, January 10

Sacramental Prep/Catequisis Familiar
Small Christian Communities
Movimiento Familiar Cristiano Catolico

Sunday, January 4

Mass - 9:00 am
Mass - 11:30 am
Mass - 5:30 pm

Monday, January 5

Mass - 9:00 am
Hispanic Choir Practice - 6:00 pm
Choir (9:00 am Sunday) Practice - 7:00 pm
Knights of Columbus Council Meeting - 7:00 pm
Spanish Charismatic Group - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 6

Word & Communion Service/Liturgy of Hours - 9:00 am
Safe Car Team Meeting - 2:00 pm
Life, Justice, & Peace Commission Meeting - 3:00 pm
WICS - 6:00 pm
Confirmation Phase 2 - 6:30 pm
Grupo de Oracion - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 7

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

Thursday, January 8

Hora Santa - Holy Hour - 3:00 pm
Facilities & Grounds Commission Meeting - 4:30 pm
Mass - 6:30 pm
Women's Commission Meeting - 6:30 pm
Choir (11:30 Sunday) Practice - 7:00 pm
Liturgy Commission Meeting - 7:00 pm
OCIA - 7:00 pm

Friday, January 9

Word & Communion Service/Liturgy of Hours - 9:00 am
Funeral for Matthew Mazzitelli - 11:00 am
Choir (Filipino) Practice - 7:00 pm
Hispanic Charismatic Prayer - 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 10

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

Please Pray for

those who are **sick**:

Chad Forczek, Neal Johnson

those who have **died**:


David Nolan Berry (cousin of *Mary Murphy Johnson*),
Ida Gonzales (mother of *Christine Byrd*),
Joan Horner (wife of *Buzz Horner*)

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



Children return to school this week, and our middle school students and Wednesday morning team will be back in action assembling **41 weekend bags** for our Backpack Buddies at Covington Elementary. Our supply closet is getting very low! This week we especially need **macaroni & cheese, canned soup (chicken noodle, tomato, & vegetable beef), ramen, granola bars, and popcorn.** Needs change every week, so be sure to check here for the most up-to-date list of needed items. If you have any questions, please contact **Andrea Shimek** in the parish office. This ministry continues throughout the school year, and your support makes a difference.

You can support with donations through the following ways:

- 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.
- Make a monetary donation. Write checks to "St. John the Baptist Catholic Church" and write "Backpack Buddies" in the memo line.



Happy New Year from the Backpack Buddies team!
Your support is appreciated all year long.

Welcome Wiggles!

Families with babies, toddlers, and young children are invited to participate in Mass from where you're comfortable.

- **Sanctuary:** Little voices and wiggles are a joyful part of parish life.
- **Nursery:** Live video & audio, space to move, comfy seating, toys, and restroom with changing table.

Children's missals and crayons are available in the narthex—two options: Preschool–Early Elementary and Older Elementary. **Changing tables** are available in every restroom.




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  sjtbcc.org or call the parish office so we can order your book. For questions, please email **Joan Williamson** at joanw@sjtbcc.org.

Wanted: Gently Used or New Coats/Jackets

Here's your chance to do some spring cleaning early! The Kent Food Bank and Emergency Services, located in downtown Kent on West Harrison Street, is accepting **clean, gently used or new all-weather coats (adult sizes only)** for our unsheltered neighbors. If you have coats that you would like to donate to help our neighbors in need, please drop them off 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 annual 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 **freshly caught Dungeness Crab** with appetizers, Caesar Salad, rolls, clam chowder, vegetable side, dessert, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Ticket prices: **\$65 per person OR \$375 for a table for 6.** Tickets can be purchased after Masses or at the parish office.

The proceeds from this dinner will support parish ministries.

Curious about faith?

At Alpha, you can ask anything
it's a safe space to question life, faith, and meaning.

Everyone is welcome.



Starts January 19th

Mondays | 6:30-8:00 PM

**Location: St John the Baptist,
25810 156th Ave SE, Covington, WA
McMullen Bld. Multipurpose Room**

What is ALPHA?

- A free program to explore life's big questions.
- Includes a meal, short video, and honest discussions
- First 3 sessions are "Come & See"



“

*I feel a renewed sense
of purpose after
each meeting.*
- past Alpha Attendee

”

**Learn more
& Register**



Questions or need help registering?
Email Dave Richardson, dlr32543@comcast.net
or Brenda Fincher, BFincher@holyspiritkent.org



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THE EPIPHANY: JOURNEYING WITH EMPTY HANDS

On the Solemnity of the Epiphany, we celebrate the journey of the Magi, wise seekers who followed a star to adore the newborn King. Their pilgrimage reveals a central truth of our faith:

God allows Himself to be found by those who seek sincerely. The Magi represent all humanity, drawn from distant places into the light of Christ, discovering that God's power is revealed not through force, but through humility.

During a silent retreat, while praying with this Gospel, God revealed to me a simple but profound truth: the greatest gift we can offer Christ is not what we bring, but our willingness to come with **empty hands**.

In prayer, I imagined myself following the Magi across moonlit desert sands. We arrived at a humble dwelling, where Mary sat holding the child Jesus. One by one, the Magi knelt and presented their gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Suddenly, I realized it was my turn.

I searched my pockets in panic, but I had nothing. Embarrassed, I said to Mary, "I'm sorry, I don't have anything to offer." She smiled and placed the baby Jesus into my arms, saying, "**Your empty hands are the perfect gift. That is exactly what He wants, so that you can hold Him.**"

There was no heavenly glow or dramatic sign, just a fragile infant. I felt nervous and unworthy. How could the all-powerful God trust Himself to me? Yet, as I looked down at Him, a deep and unexpected peace filled my heart.

This is the mystery of Epiphany: God reveals Himself not through domination, but through **vulnerability**.

Throughout that retreat, I noticed a pattern. I kept looking for God in grand signs and complex answers, yet God spoke through simplicity. I had always imagined God as distant and unapproachable, but here He was, small enough to be held.

The Magi followed a star, but the true light was found in poverty and tenderness. Epiphany teaches us that God is not a rival or a threat. He comes disarmed. A baby has no power to control or intimidate, only the power to soften hearts. Even the strongest among us become gentle when holding a newborn.

As we begin a **new year** filled with uncertainty, Epiphany invites us to hold onto what truly matters. When we come to Christ with honesty, weakness, and trust, He places Himself into our hands. Hope becomes visible again, in our families, our children, and our care for one another.

This feast asks us a simple question: **What do you bring to Christ?** The answer may feel small. But when we come with empty hands, God gives us everything.

As a community, let's approach the new year in this way together. Kneel with the Magi. Offer what you have. Hold the Savior who first chose to be held by us.

P. Juan Carlos O.

SPANISH ON REVERSE



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



LA EPIFANÍA: VIAJANDO CON LAS MANOS VACÍAS

En la Solemnidad de la Epifanía, celebramos el viaje de los Reyes Magos, sabios buscadores que siguieron una estrella para adorar al Rey recién nacido. Su peregrinación revela una verdad central de nuestra fe:

Dios se deja encontrar por quienes lo buscan con sinceridad. Los Reyes Magos representan a toda la humanidad, atraída desde lugares lejanos hacia la luz de Cristo, descubriendo que el poder de Dios no se revela a través de la fuerza, sino a través de la humildad.

Durante un retiro en silencio, mientras oraba con este Evangelio, Dios me reveló una verdad simple pero profunda: **el mayor regalo que podemos ofrecer a Cristo no es lo que traemos, sino nuestra disposición a ir con las manos vacías.**

Mientras rezaba, me imaginé siguiendo a los Reyes Magos por las arenas del desierto, iluminadas por la luna. Llegamos a una humilde morada, donde María estaba sentada sosteniendo al niño Jesús. Uno a uno, los Reyes Magos se arrodillaron y ofrecieron sus ofrendas: oro, incienso y mirra. De repente, me di cuenta de que era mi turno.

Rebusqué en mis bolsillos presa del pánico, pero no encontré nada. Avergonzada, le dije a María: «Lo siento, no tengo nada que ofrecer». Ella sonrió y puso al niño Jesús en mis brazos, diciendo: **«Tus manos vacías son el regalo perfecto. Eso es exactamente lo que Él quiere, para que puedas abrazarlo».**

No había ningún resplandor celestial ni señal dramática, solo un frágil bebé. Me sentía nervioso e indigno. ¿Cómo podía el Dios todopoderoso confiarse a mí? Sin embargo, al mirarlo, una paz profunda e inesperada llenó mi corazón. Este es el misterio de la Epifanía: Dios se revela no a través del dominio, sino a través de la **vulnerabilidad**.

A lo largo de ese retiro, noté algo. Seguía buscando a Dios en grandes señales y respuestas complejas, pero Dios me hablaba con sencillez. Siempre lo había imaginado distante e inaccesible, pero allí estaba, tan pequeño que podía abrazarlo.

Los Reyes Magos siguieron una estrella, pero la verdadera luz se encontró en la pobreza y la ternura. La Epifanía nos enseña que Dios no es un rival ni una amenaza. Viene desarmado. Un bebé no tiene poder para controlar ni intimidar, solo el poder de ablandar corazones. Incluso los más fuertes entre nosotros se vuelven tiernos al sostener a un recién nacido.

Al comenzar un **nuevo año** lleno de incertidumbre, la Epifanía nos invita a aferrarnos a lo que realmente importa. Cuando nos acercamos a Cristo con honestidad, debilidad y confianza, Él se pone en nuestras manos. La esperanza se hace visible de nuevo en nuestras familias, nuestros hijos y en nuestro cuidado mutuo.

Esta fiesta nos plantea una pregunta sencilla: **¿Qué le aportas a Cristo?** La respuesta puede parecer pequeña. Pero cuando venimos con las manos vacías, Dios nos lo da todo.

Arrodíllate con los Reyes Magos. Ofrece lo que tienes. Abraza al Salvador que primero eligió ser sostenido por nosotros.

En Cristo,



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations
as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body.
(Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

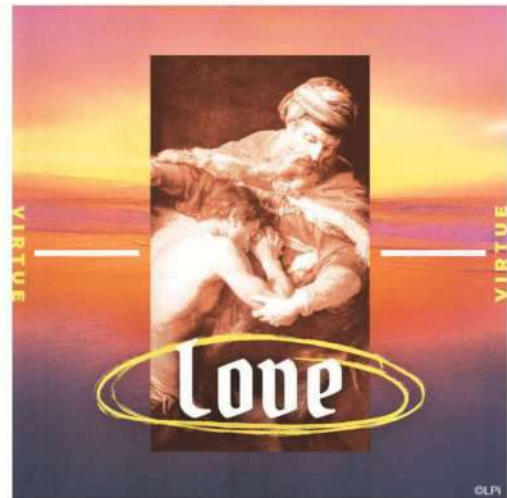
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The journey of the Magi reflects how treacherous our Christian life on earth can be. Always, evil works against us — Satan lays traps. He sows confusion. May we, like the Magi, recognize the will of God as our guiding star.

Observances for the week of January 4, 2026

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord
Monday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Tuesday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Wednesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord



Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of love seeks the good of the other, a reflection of the love of God who created us for this very purpose. In practicing this virtue, we express the fullness of our identities as sons and daughters of God. In true Christian love, we find freedom.

Epiphany Blessing

Dear God,
It was You who inspired the Magi to follow the star to find You.
Inspire us to seek You, as well.
Bless our homes and families this season, make them places where we can encounter You through prayer and community.
Amen.

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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