SAINT JOHN VIANNEY PARISH



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD | DECEMBER 25, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES Saturday|5:00pm Sunday|9:00am & 11:00am

WEEKDAY MASSES Wednesday-Friday | 9:00am

RECONCILIATION Saturday|3:30-4:30pm Or By Appointment

ADORATION CHAPEL Monday-Friday | 8:30am-4:30pm

CLERGY

FR. BRAD HAGELIN

FR. VAL PARK

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DONATE



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR FR. BRAD HAGELIN

My dear Kirkland Catholics and guests,

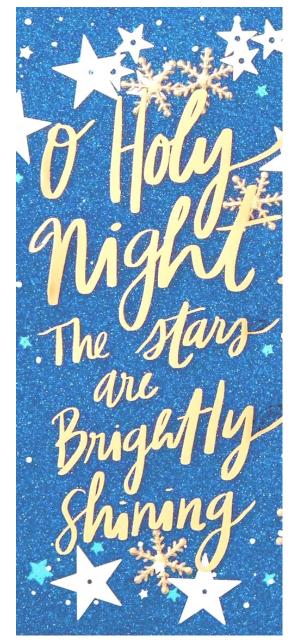
Merry Christmas to you all! When I think Christmas, my nostalgia kicks in as I remember traveling to Pilchuck Secret Valley to identify and cut our Christmas tree and then sipping (*way too*) *hot* cider as we watched the tree-bailers work; or Frederick & Nelson "Santa Breakfasts" downtown; or heading up to Olympic Manor in Ballard to drive through and see the amazing Christmas lights; or driving over to Spokane to do Christmas with my mom's parents (and often extended family). I remember going to Christmas Eve Mass and thinking "I cannot wait until this is over so we can get back and hang stockings."

Nostalgia in relation to childhood may not be a bad thing; but if I'm honest and reflect back on my childhood (or read my journals) I remember how often bored and restless I was. Nostalgia is a selective memory that may trick us into thinking there really were "good old days" and can keep us from living in the present. I am far less bored and restless now that I am an adult, and also I *usually* do not now think "I cannot wait until Mass is over!" In relation to Christmas, the memories of sneaking into the living room to check out the presents under the tree in the early morning brings that nostalgic feeling and a smile to my face, but the memory doesn't give me joy or peace by itself.

Long preamble to a point that might seem trite but is of real significance. Only Jesus gives true peace and joy. We only receive peace and joy by living in the present. And Jesus conveys that to us in *this* life, not just the life to come. If you have felt bored (or medicate your boredom with your phone, etc.) or restless, or fearful take courage and know that Jesus is calling you deeper. If you've been irregular in the practice of the Faith, I (actually Jesus) invite(s) you back. It is not an immediate fix to all restlessness and anxiety at once, but over time one will notice a tangible sense of deeper peace and grounded-ness in life. May this New Calendar Year upcoming be one of good resolutions, peace, joy and blessings to you and yours.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Brad



WELCOME FROM OUR PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR RON PETRUSHA

Welcome to St. John Vianney Catholic Church! We are pleased that you have chosen to join us to worship our God and to celebrate the birth of our Lord during this Christmas season. We also hope that you enjoy joining in song with our wonderful choir, which has long been a hallmark of Masses at SJV.

Ours is a culturally and ethnically diverse church that includes parishioners from almost all countries in which Catholicism is represented. Along with Western and Eastern Europe, our parishioners come from the Middle East, East and South Asia, the Pacific Islands, Mexico, and Central and South America. In September, we hold our annual parish picnic that features food and entertainment reflecting the various ethnic traditions of our parish.

Along with a strong sense of community, our parish emphasizes both service and education. To mention just a few of the numerous ministries at SJV, our local St. Vincent de Paul chapter provides short-term assistance for "neighbors" in need, most of whom are non-Catholic. It strives to reflect our church's mission to be a light of Christ on Finn Hill for all peoples. Our local Knights of Columbus chapter hosts an annual Crab Feed and an Octoberfest celebration to support various charities, as well as to award scholarships to deserving students. And to deepen our knowledge and our faith, our Adult Faith Formation program offers ongoing classes in the Bible, Church History, and theology, our Young Adults are meeting Tuesday evenings for studies, and we have numerous children's programs including a preschool and Vacation Bible Camp. We invite you to join us in our programs.

Thank you for being part of our Christmas liturgy!



Outreach

Our Impact on the Community

ST VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY

Our St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) chapter at SJV helps our neighbors in need within the local community. Every weekday, families or individuals in Kirkland and Kenmore contact the church to request assistance for rent, utilities, food, clothing, gasoline, and other essential needs. The parish relies on our SVDP group to provide help and hope to these neighbors.

SVDP also coordinates the Christmas Basket program for needy families. Being a "Vincentian" is a rewarding activity that brings the love of Christ to others, while giving us peace and joy. Thank you for your generous support of our Christmas basket program this season. Last year we were able to provide 83 families, distributing over 230 boxes of food! Our goal is to serve 100 families this year.



"We have been helping Andrea (name changed to protect our neighbor's privacy) over the last few years as an unhoused



individual, assisting with gas, groceries, sleeping bags and warm gear, as well as stays at the Motel 6 during the cold winter months. Occasionally she's able to spend some time with her teenage daughter and son. She has been looking for employment but not able to find any. A few months ago, during one of her requests and visits. Andrea let us know that she was 8 months pregnant, due this Christmas. We were able to provide additional help from Fred Meyer and are helping her prepare for the new life soon to come into the world, with items from the PREPARES Ministry. She is now staying with a friend in St. Brendan's boundaries, and we have partnered with St. Brendan's PREPARES Ministry and have also secured donations from our Vincentian team to get everything that is needed for the arrival of the new little one. Andrea and her children will also receive SVDP Christmas Baskets. Your donations help to change lives in so many ways. We can't do it without you." - Larry Pomada

YOUTH MIGRANT PROJECT

Our middle and high school students and parent chaperones support the Tri-Parish Food Bank at St Charles Church in Burlington in preparing and distributing food for hundreds of families in the Skagit Valley on Saturday day trips throughout the year. Our most major effort is supporting their Thanksgiving food distribution. This year we were a group of 16 volunteers and served nearly 800 families. In the words of one of our high schoolers, Naya, "It was a good day to reflect on all that we have."

In a thank you note from the Tri-Parish Food Bank director, Lilia Ortiz, she noted that with the help of our participation, in the month of November, they "distributed over 268,880 lbs. of food to over 3100 of our brothers and sisters in need."





HIGH SCHOOL ESPERANZA MISSION TREK EXPERIENCE

Thank you so much for all your tremendous support of our High School Esperanza Mission Trekkers through our Christmas Tree and Bake sales fundraisers. Your generosity goes a long way to make possible our trip to Tijuana this summer to build houses with our brothers and sisters across the border. Our high school trek experience takes place throughout the school year and includes meetings, team building, fundraisers, a retreat, and culminates in our 12-day trip to Mexico at the end of June.

"I believe that our Esperanza Mission Trek brings us closer to God because we are all working together for the greater good. It creates bonds between us and makes it much easier to see Jesus among us as we work in unity." - Nick Culver, Youth Leader, 3rd year participant

"This mission trek to Mexico is always an eye-opening experience, and I enjoy being able to make an impact in these families' lives. Many families are very emotional about us building a new house for them. This experience has impacted my faith because we get to witness these families' prayers being answered. It is always very humbling to go down to Mexico and help improve living conditions of those who are less fortunate than us." – Elizabeth Vanden Brook, Youth Leader, 3rd year participant



BRIDGE MINISTRY CHRISTMAS DINNER

St. John Vianney is blessed to host this wonderful, joy-filled event each December which celebrates the dignity of every human person. Thank you to our amazing team of volunteers who made this event possible, including Boy Scout Troop 565 who has participated annually.

"Last year, my daughter, Lucia, and I volunteered at the Bridge Ministry Christmas Party, and it turned out to be such a rewarding experience for both of us. I wasn't sure what to expect or if she would enjoy it, but I thought it could be a meaningful way for us to connect and share the joy of Christmas with adults with disabilities. My youngest daughter, Ellie, has Down syndrome, and our family's hope is that she will grow up to be an independent, valued, and connected member of society.

We saw how much guests look forward to events like this, how many of them work and live independently, how in some cases they have been roommates for 10+ years, and learned so much more. This year, Lucia joined one of the tables with ladies we met the previous year, and they remembered both of us. That moment reminded me how opportunities like this reflect what we want most for Ellie—a world where she feels included, appreciated, and surrounded by community. It's been a joy to serve together and to see how acts of kindness can ripple out, not only impacting others but also shaping how we view the possibilities for Ellie's future." - Gabriela Bayardo



The Light of God's Love Shining

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

"Losing my first born son Joshua, I felt like my world was ripped from under me. I wasn't sure how I was going to navigate such incredible, unimaginable loss and I knew I couldn't do it alone. I gravitated toward others who had experienced great loss and felt a comfort in being in the presence of another person who was experiencing great pain but were able to continue living and even finding joy again. This is the inspiration behind our St. John Vianney Grief ministry - knowing I am not alone in my suffering somehow makes it more bearable. I truly believe that "grief shared is easier to carry." - Dana Wick, SJV Grief Support Group Leader



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

"To hear the cry of the poor (Proverbs 21:13) is a Biblical mandate. So too, as Pope Francis has pointed out, is to hear the cry of our earth (*Laudato Si*, 49). The Social Justice Committee at St. John Vianney focuses on both as we attempt to express our love of our neighbors and for God's creation.

The committee has sponsored a wide variety of events and activities, ranging from gardening (to introduce indigenous plants and trees, as well as to provide vegetables for local food banks), to hosting an Advent story-telling event in celebration of the Christmas traditions of the cultures represented in our parish, to holding a meatless barbeque that featured alternatives to factory farming, to honoring St. Francis on his Feast Day and sponsoring the Blessing of the Animals, and much, much more.

We are always eager to explore new ideas and suggestions as we attempt to deepen our appreciation for Catholic social teaching and to answer God's call to hear the cry of the poor and the oppressed." - Ron Petrusha



To all people of good will who are working for social justice: never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity!

— Pope Francis —

"Participating in the Social Justice ministry has been spiritually energizing for me! Through prayer, retreats, and group reading/discussion, our group has been exploring the Church's profound teaching on social justice and putting it into practice in our communities. As a result, I feel like I am putting faith into action, and making a difference in the world, in ways I haven't been able to before." - Evan Wipf

To learn more about the work of this committee, please visit <u>sjvkirkland.org/outreach/#social-justice</u> All are welcome to join us.

HELPING TO FEED OUR FRIENDS

Our team of gardeners had a wonderful inaugural year planting 4 beds alongside the preschool bed with herbs and vegetables. Their efforts yielded 336 pounds of produce which was donated to Hopelink for distribution to those experiencing food insecurity. Our gardeners are excited to announce they received a grant for \$5,540 from the St. Joseph Foundation of the Archdiocese of Seattle, as well as \$1,000 from Catholic Community Services Rice Bowl Program to fund expansion of the garden and increase production for this coming year. Many volunteers will be needed! Please contact Susan, <u>sweaver@sjvkirkland.org</u>, if you would like to be a part of this fun and rewarding project.



"Early one fall morning during a delivery of SJV garden produce to Hopelink, I came upon an elderly woman searching in a dumpster. After checking on her safety, she explained she was looking for food to feed her family. How happy I was to share with her the car full of our garden harvest. She reached for a tomato and said, "Thank you." I quickly assembled a box of vegetables for her and her face lit up and she smiled. She shared with me that the produce would feed many - all of whom she prepared a daily lunch for. My day was made - we were able to ease her struggles, feed her family and make her smile!" - Kathleen McCaffrey, Garden Committee Lead

FUNERAL HOSPITALITY



"We feel that Volunteering for various SJV needs is our way of serving God in our community. By participating in the funeral program, we find it both meaningful for the families and ourselves. We feel our service helps define the meaning of the SJV motto of 'A Light on Finn Hill.' The relationships that we have gained while volunteering have helped us grow in our faith in God and appreciation of our community." - Laurie and Emmett Sullivan

MUSIC MINISTRY CHOIR

"My faith was becoming stale until I found the power and renewed faith, joy and peace in the music ministry at SJV. We were looking for a new spiritual home during covid. I was welcomed with open arms from the first day we walked in the door! In the music ministry I am encouraged to try harder, love more, to trust and work as a team, supporting one another in prayer and service. It is a true labor of love to sing at 9am mass. Music is praying twice and we



leave mass with a song in our heart. We are so blessed at SJV to have a truly vital music style. Singing familiar hymns and new, challenging selections, chosen for each season and liturgical time. I am blessed to call SJV my home!" - Marie Hedden

YOUTH PRAISE & WORSHIP BAND

"One thing I was taught was that music is another form of prayer. In my daily life, I feel that there is little opportunity, if any, to celebrate my faith with people my age in ways we can actively engage in. The SJV Youth Band has been an opportunity to do so, and is a way for fellow young Catholics to engage with one another and have fun in the religious space. I feel like attending Church is often viewed by teenagers as something they have to sit through and get very little out of. But through



the band, I've felt more integrated into the Church community and the Mass experience. It's an opportunity that abounds in what you put into it, as I've noticed I feel more engaged at Mass even from playing at them just once monthly. I believe that outlets such as this are important for giving youth other ways to celebrate and praise the Lord, because every Catholic's faith and faith life will look different, so we should be able to connect with God through whatever is most meaningful. I know that music has certainly been part of that for me."

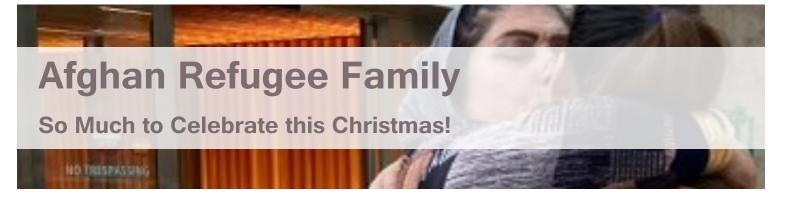
- Neena Mercado

VOLUNTEER

"My family and I joined St. John Vianney Church in 1975. Over the years, I discovered that volunteering was the best way to give back to the church that has been so generous to me and my family. I've been involved in Bible study classes, the synodal team, the funeral ministry, Sonshine ministry, and the parish council.

My journey didn't happen all at once. Taking Bible study classes helped me to learn more about my Catholic faith and allowed me to connect with people in small-group settings. The more I became involved and deepened my faith, the more I felt compelled to give back.

I recall being asked to become a Eucharistic Minister. My initial thought was, 'I don't know enough to do that.' But by saying 'Yes,' I grew into the role. This pattern continued with each ministry I joined. Volunteering has been the best way to give back to our community while enriching my own life." - Mary Torbenson



Shamila and her children were reunited with husband/father Bilal the day before Thanksgiving! It was perfect timing as the children had 5 days off school and could just be together after 3 years and 98 days of separation. They've had lots of visits with family in the area and have enjoyed introducing Bilal to their favorite places. He has accompanied the children to the dentist, met their school staffs, accompanied Shamila to the doctor, completed applications to be added to family accounts, has his appointment for social security, is studying to get his driver's license, and even picked a sick child up from school. He is finally able to be present as a father, which is priceless. Now that Bilal is here, Shamila will start the process of applying for permanent residency (green card). She will continue to work downtown for the foreseeable future as Bilal gains English and seeks work as a mechanic or a driver. The children are all settled into another year of school, enjoying friends and learning. The eldest, Osman, is into his second quarter of middle school and thrilled to have PE this term. He plans to try out for the school soccer team next year!

Nabila was a year ahead of her sister receiving asylum and so is well into the process of applying for residency. Farhad and their 4-year-old, who arrived last April, will start their applications soon. The triplets (born at UW) turned three this November! They were able to join their older sister in ECEAP Preschool through Mukilteo School District the week after their 3rd birthday. Nabila walks all four children the 15 minutes to school each afternoon (holding hands with too-big backpacks on!). In just a few weeks it is remarkable to see the changes in their eye contact and awareness of English during visits and they have new English words every day! Farhad is in month 7 at a seafood distributor and Nabila is enjoying her work part time at a subacute nursing facility. She continues her English studies (balancing part time work and parenting) and is now in "level 3." Farhad, who studied English during college in Kabul, is hoping to start English classes and to get on a path to college here in the US while balancing work and family obligations.

Adding to the wonderful news for this extended family, the Grandparents arrived October 30, reunified with their youngest daughter Sheila now 18. She arrived with Nabila and Shamila when they joined their elder sister Shabnan and family in the US in 2021. Despite having sisters with her, Sheila was a minor with no legal guardian, so qualified to apply for reunification

with her parents. The Grandparents are still beaming, surrounded now by four daughters, three sons-in-law and twelve grandchildren between 3 and 13. It is worth mentioning that they left their eldest daughter, sonin-law and 5 grandchildren in Kabul along with two sons and their young families; a third son is in Germany.

This is a family system, led by the Grandfather who values education. He saw that all 8 of his children (5 girls and 3 boys) had accessed schooling to the maximum extent possible given their age and what was available in Kabul. Nabila (#5 of 8) completed the most education including high school and college with an Afghan law degree. It is emotional for this family to see their children, particularly their girls attending school here. Among the 12 grandchildren plus youngest aunt, Sheila, there are six girls receiving an education – something that is impossible in Afghanistan.

Nabila and Shamila's families have now experienced employment in the US long enough to experience successes as well as the barriers of limited English, along with the cycles of high-times and downturns of essential workers. Shamila and Farhad are the full-time workers in their respective families and clearly see now that there is a 3-4 month slow season between November to February in their fields. Budgeting across a year is extraordinarily challenging when your housing costs are 60-85% of your take home pay and food costs have escalated. Of course, this experience is repeated across our region for so many families, including recently arrived immigrants and refugees. Our St. John Vianney community, Outreach ministry, and the St. Vincent de Paul ministry offer a critical safety net through prayer and practical supports. It makes an impact. Nabila and Shamila are grateful for the support and prayers from the SJV community over the past three years and extend their blessings during this Advent season.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PARISHIONERS FOR PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE BEAUTIFUL FLORAL DISPLAY FOR CHRISTMAS

The Anani Family Peggy Arians The Batingal Family The Dalusag Family The DeLeon Family The Edwards Family The Francisco Family The Gessner Family

George Gillespie The Jurgenson Family The Kaltenbach Family The Lambert Family The Lund Family The Madayag Family The Pham Family Susan Rhode

The Seiler Family The Terashima Family The Tien Tran Family Terri Wilson The Wipf Family The Woodrell Family The Zaccaria Family

- **Carmelita Aranas** in memory of Bennie Aranas, Clemencia and Felix Rosales, Candido and Rosa Torres, Epifanio and Lutgarda Malabanan
- Angela Bartz in memory of Ouranea Katsaros, Timilyn Katsaros, Alexander Katsaros, Katherine Kobasa, and Stefan Kobasa
- **Gloria Basilio** in memory of Jose Basilio, Marianito Basilio, Geraldine Basilio, Beata Siazon, and Pedro Siazon

Lowell and Aimee Bassett in memory of Octavia A. Bassett, Aimee L. Emmert, and Aimee Christine Barrett

Eli and Celi Bucu in memory of Arturo Bingcang and Remedios Bucu

Paul and Neena Byrum in memory of Joanne Biggs and Donald Byrum

Vicky Corporal in memory of Nenita C. Labradores

Ellen Dashiell in honor of the Rudolph and Veith families

Tony and Rose Frandanisa for prayers answered

Linda Harkins in memory of Francis Wallerich, Mary Wallerich, Lawrence Harkins, and Virginia Harkins

Roberta Hatfield in memory of Margaret White, R.L. White, Patricia Taylor, Eileen Deane, and Ed Deane

Gary and Christina Irvine in memory of Ray and Aurora Guardiano, Felix and Nicolasa Tamayao, and Vic and Helen Elizalde

Cuong Khong and Huong Tran in memory of Khoi Khong

Bill and Tina Lamb in memory of Jude R. Lamb, Maura Jones (Lamb), Jenifer Sanislo, Bill and Hattie Knudsen, and Pat Patterson

Mario and Bing Lapurga in memory of Marie Agoaoki, Boy Santa Cruz, Mila Santa Cruz, and Tacing Santa Cruz

Ben and Flor Legaspi in memory of Marina Agustin, and Josefina Agustin

Lolita Ocsan in memory of Alberto Ocsan, Roberto Ocsan Sr., Maria Mendoza, Jesus Reyes, Norma Reyes, Leticia Reyes, Edgardo Santiago Sr., Hermogenes Sebastian

Michael and Grace Olson in memory of Deogracias L. Patalate, Reynaldo Palacpac, Julieta delos Santos, Joshua Calderon, and Amante Naravreta

Colin and Leoni Radford in thanksgiving for their kids and grandchildren



St. John Vianney Catholic Preschool was established in 2011. We are blessed with an incredible teaching staff, low teacher/ child ratio and wonderful families. Our community welcomes all faith backgrounds.

If you are looking for a loving, fun-filled, play and faith-based preschool for your little ones please reach out to Annette Schwientek (Preschool Director) at <u>aschwientek@sjvkirkland.org</u> to set up a tour to see our joyful learning environment. Registration for the 25/26 school year begins January 6.

For more information, monthly calendars, as well as parent letters, please visit our website at sivkirkland.org/preschool.

"They say kids learn best through play. Each time we ask our SJV preschooler what she worked on at school, she insists, 'We don't work at school. We ONLY play!' It is such a delight to hear. Somehow in the last year, she has learned how to write her name, she knows all of her letters, and she can count higher than any of her siblings could at her age... all through the power of play and the inspiring sweetness of her fabulous, creative teachers. She also hears about God's love for her at school, reinforcing the message she hears at home. We are so pleased with our school experience this year and wish we could go back in time to send all of her big siblings to SJV too." - Bethany Cook



"The warmth, support and care the teachers at SJV show our children fills my heart with joy. My children have cherished their days learning and playing, while I have found a loving and caring community. We are so grateful for the immeasurable good this small school has brought into our lives." - Amie Thomson



"We're so grateful for the amazing experience our son had at SJV. The teachers and staff are not only fantastic educators, but they also taught him the importance of being a kind and responsible person. They helped him develop great manners, learn about right and wrong, and understand

why following rules is important. When it was time to start kindergarten, we were impressed by how well-prepared he was both academically and socially. We attribute this success to the preschool's warm and nurturing environment, which allowed our son to grow into a confident and compassionate individual." - Hughes Family

"Our second child is currently attending SJV Preschool, and we could not be more thrilled for him to get to experience the love and compassion that goes into the educational experience there. The teachers create an engaging curriculum that the students get excited about, and they are amazing at fostering an environment where each child can grow individually as well as grow socially with their peers. Most importantly the teachers LOVE our kids! I love at school drop-off how the teachers speak to the students first, saying hello and asking about what they've been up to in their time apart. They show genuine care for our kids and it's very heartwarming to witness the excitement in my son when he gets to give Mrs. Parpart the full update



from the weekend. Along with wonderful classroom teachers, we adore Mrs. Annette! She is a wonderful leader in this community and her passion for this role is evident each and every day." - Mary Ruddy

"SJV preschool has been one of the best

decisions we have made for our family. Each of our 3 children have started their educational journey here under the loving, supportive, and nurturing guidance of the incredible teachers. The small, family-like, school meets all children at their level and works to guide and enrich their academic, social, and spiritual development. THANK YOU St. John Vianney Preschool!" - Jennifer Danielson





CATHOLIC KIDS' CATECHISM CLUB

HAVING FUN AND LEARNING A LOT!

Our Preschool kids are learning about the Mass. They set up a small table with things that are used in mass and learn about walking slowly and reverently in church. They are learning to put their hand in the Holy Water and make the sign of the cross. Each week they hear an age appropriate version of the Gospel story from our amazing clubhouse leaders.



First Graders have learned the story of creation and listed over 100 things that God created. They have been learning their Common Catholic Prayers and the Nativity Story. One of the most important things they have learned is that God is Love and they have been taking turns taking the "Lamb" of God home to see love at their house!



Our Second Graders have been learning all about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They have learned about the Story of the Prodigal Son and the difference between a sin, an accident, and a mistake. They also have learned about how Mickey Mouse and the Giant in Mickey and the Bean Stalk would have gone to their first confession.

Our Third Graders have been busy learning about the Saints, and putting together a church made of Legos! They also have learned about the liturgical year! They are a very busy group, with very patient Clubhouse leaders!

Our Fourth Graders learn all about the 10 commandments and commit them to memory along with taking a 10 commandments photo shoot! They have recently been learning about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. So many ways to serve and make wise choices.

Our Fifth Graders are learning all about the Sacraments this year and have covered Baptism and Reconciliation so far with photo scavenger hunts! We have lots of fun at Catholic Kids Catechism Club!

Some members of our group visited Calvary Cemetery and placed flags on the graves of Veteran's for Veteran's day. We also celebrated All Saint's Day with a scavenger hunt, which is a real favorite!



We also have a prayer wall this year filled with prayers that the kids wrote and we pray for kids to write their prayers on. There are some beautiful prayers written on our wall!



Catholic Kids' Catechism Club is open to new members all year long! Please contact Laura Stanger, <u>Lstanger@sjvkirkland.org</u>, if you are interested in joining us!

"Attending Catholic Kids' Catechism Club with my son is always a beautiful experience. It is amazing to see how the kids learn to love Jesus and understand His mercy and love. The insights that the kids share about their lessons are incredibly meaningful. The challenges they face during class are enjoyable, and the children learn a great deal from them. It's wonderful to see them engage in activities like running a small business and learning about their faith during the Super Bowl Challenge. They had fun creating the liturgical calendar and learning about the significance of the colors used in the church. Additionally, the opportunity to work on bags for the homeless has been meaningful for the children. It teaches them that even small actions can bring a smile to someone in need and help them understand that others face struggles. As helpers, we enjoy the experience just as much as the children do because we witness firsthand how they are learning about our faith." - Rosario Garcia



YOUTH MINISTRY

This Fall the youth at SJV had a blast participating in two retreats! The middle schoolers joined St. Madeline Sophie and Holy Family where they had the opportunity to grow in their relationship with Jesus and learn how important family is in our faith. The high schoolers joined Holy Family up at Hope Lodge at Stevens Pass this fall, where they learned about how in the searching we do in life, Jesus is always the answer. All youth have enjoyed getting to meet other young Catholics from our neighboring parishes. Come join us on Sunday nights from 5:00-6:30pm as we, the youth of the parish, have fun creating relationships with each other through games and learning and sharing our faith.

"I like youth group because it's a fun, chill space. We play games and connect it to our faith." - Max Mijares

"Youth group at SJV is such a fun space to be in. Whenever I come in I immediately feel welcome by our awesome youth leaders, and the delicious snacks they bring. My favorite part is the games we play like Sardines around the church, along with games where we get to know each other better." - Aubrey Klepper

"I enjoy youth group because you gain more friendships and play fun games while learning about God." - Avary Mijares



FAITH & BREW (21 +)

SJV Faith & Brew is a group of adults who enjoy faith sharing and socializing. We are enthusiastic active parishioners who desire to better learn the Catholic faith, value spiritual growth, and help each other lead holier lives. Come join us on the first Friday of the month at 7pm for the Rosary Procession followed by food drinks and faith sharing in room 12 at 8pm.

"I attended my first *Faith and Brew* meeting on a whim, after a last-minute invitation. Now I can see that God led me there so I could find a support community that was sorely needed in the lowest time in my life. At *Faith & Brew*, we often pray for each other, through many of life's tumultuous moments. It is a unique blend of a faith-sharing and socializing group, with meetings both at the Church (bible studies, reflections and prayer, discussions and discourse) as well as plenty of outings and adventures together (hiking, theater, restaurants, dancing, and more). Lifelong friendships are formed here, deeply anchored in our faith, and all are welcome."

YOUNG ADULTS (18 - 39)

We have started the year collaborating with HFK on our young adult programs. The young adults attended the parish auction taking up two tables. We have run two swing dances this fall, both with an attendance of about 40 people. As we are growing our young adult community here at this parish we would like to welcome anyone who is 18-39 to join us for faith, fun, and fellowship.

"What I've liked so far with Young Adult Group events at SJV and Holy Family is how welcoming it feels to meet and talk to new people. I enjoy the events put on like swing dancing and the dinners every month. I also like how tight knit the group feels." - Tim Goodale





FIRST EUCHARIST/FIRST RECONCILIATION

Kids who are over the age of 7 and have been Baptized in the Catholic Church are invited to join us in preparation for two more amazing Sacraments, First Eucharist and First Reconciliation! Our sessions begin on Friday, February 28 at 7:00pm or Saturday, March 1 at 10:00am. Parents and Children are asked to attend our sessions together. Please check out the parish website for details, dates, and times for our sessions. Contact Laura Stanger if you have questions, L<u>stanger@sjvkirkland.org</u>.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Would you like to be part of the Catholic Church? If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church and are considering becoming Catholic, and were either not Baptized or were Baptized in another faith tradition, please email Laura, Lstanger@sjvkirkland.org.

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation registration is now live and we officially have our confirmation date! We will have our confirmation Mass with Holy Family here at Saint John Vianney on May 14 at 6:30pm. If interested in getting confirmed in the Spring please email Daniel at <u>dhartmannn@sjvkirkland.org</u>.



Upcoming

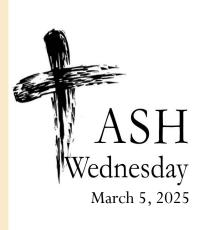
JOIN OUR SJV ADULT MISSION TREK to MEXICO May 17 - 24, 2025

All are welcome to join us as we work with Esperanza, Int., to build homes with families across the border.

Approximate cost is \$800 per person excluding airfare.

Informational meeting Sunday, January 19, 12pm, in the SJV Social Hall.







"I love leading and being a part of the SJV Hiking Club because it brings my love of community and nature together while showing glory to God. If you haven't already, join us for a future hike!" - Tina Petrusha, SJV Hiking Club Leader



Our Celebration of Cultures parish picnic celebrated all the best things about our parish! A reminder that we truly are a Holy "Catholic" church made up of many beautiful, wonderful parts!



St John Vianney hosts a Styrofoam Recycling event twice a year to help keep Styrofoam out of our landfills. In September, together with Holy Family Church, we delivered a full 21' truck to Styro Recycle in Kent where the Styrofoam is broken down into blocks and distributed for repurposing.





Meet & greets with Fr. Brad and Fr. Val began in homes of members of our Parish Family so we could get to know our priests, as well as others in our community. More meet & greet spaces are available in February and onward. Scan the QR code to sign up.



With Holy Family, we celebrated a Parish Family Welcome Mass on September 15 at Bastyr Chapel (St. John Vianney's original location). Fr. Gary Zender presided as it was also the Installation of Fr. Brad Hagelin as the Pastor of our Parish Family.



It was a delightful blessing to join in the community and see all our little ones dressed up in their costumes at our Trunk-or-Treat. During a season that reminds us to be a light in the darkness, these kids shined their joy-filled light on the world!



We had a joyous Masquerade and Gala Auction, and together we grossed just over \$100,000 including ~\$31,000 for the Fund-a-Need.

