

St. John the Baptist Church

Report to Commissions Mark Dittman, Parish Business Administrator

November 20, 2018

1. **You are invited to Fall Formation Day 2018!** *A Durable Hope: Sustaining Faith in a Time of Darkness.* Featuring: Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Dr. Catherine Cory. Thursday, November 29, 2018, Guardian Angels Church, Oakdale, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. All church and school staff and parish leaders are invited! This Formation Day will be a time of reflection for parish leaders to consider situations of turmoil and division in the Church, and where we find faith and hope. How can parish leaders be ministers of reconciliation to seek hope and healing in times of darkness? You may register online and if you wish you may submit your fee to the parish for reimbursement. Cost: \$35. Registration closes November 26.
2. **One Spirit ~ Many Gifts Sunday Giving Renewal.** As you know, November 10/11 was commitment weekend for our OSMG Sunday Giving Renewal. I am happy to report that as of this writing we have received 374 response forms, with more coming in. (Last year we received 581 response forms in total.) Thanks to all who responded, and who continue to give so generously to support our parish ministries and operations! We will continue to accept pledge forms, so please complete yours if you have not yet done so.
3. **Safety & Security.** As many of you know, our parish, in cooperation with the Archdiocese, has in place safeguards to protect children in our many programs (codes of conduct, background checks, safe environment training). As we also know by watching the news, faith communities have been targets of violence. We are in the process of developing a Safety & Security Committee made up of staff and parish leaders to address the safety and security of our people and our buildings. We have had safety procedures and protocols in place for some years now, but it is a good exercise for our parish community for a dedicated group of people to be intentional about this issue and suggest improvements and increase our community's awareness.
4. **Church website.** We are in the final stage prior to launch. The site will be up and running by Advent, and possibly sooner. We will "soft launch" the site when it is ready. Links to the existing site will simply route to the new site once it is live. Once it is active, we will consider it a work in progress and will continually improve it.
5. **Amazing Parish: Milwaukee.** Father Skluzacek's Leadership Team traveled to Milwaukee October 17 to 19 to participate together in an Amazing Parish Conference. Father Skluzacek will share insights learned over the coming months. Please ask Father Skluzacek or any member of the team about what we learned and how we may apply it. Information on the Amazing Parish program can be found here: <https://amazingparish.org/>. The Leadership Team is comprised of Father Skluzacek, Father Paul Shovelain, Jay Hunstiger, Jessica Balzarini and Mark Dittman.
6. **Year End Giving.** Watch upcoming bulletins for guidance regarding final gifts for 2018. Remember that you can donate to St. John's with cash, stock and IRA distributions. You can give via envelopes, electronic giving and or credit or debit cards. Contact Bret Sutton, Director of Stewardship & Development, or me, with questions about any of these ways to give. Thank you for your generosity! And, remember to check the parish Wish List (to be published Thanksgiving weekend) for specific opportunities to support our ministries.

Come to 9:00 a.m. Mass Thanksgiving morning & hospitality after!
A blessed Thanksgiving holiday to all of you and your families!
Thank you for your service to St. John the Baptist.

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