

St. John the Baptist Church
Report to Commissions
Mark Dittman, Parish Business Administrator

March 12, 2019

1. **Pledges for Sunday Giving.** This past fall 499 households pledged \$895,991 in Sunday giving support for our parish operations. This was down 56 households and \$150,000 from the prior year's pledge numbers. Of course, many households give without pledging, and our parish is grateful for all gifts of whatever size. I am happy to say that 135 of those who did pledge increased their pledge by 10% or more! We have many dedicated staff and committed parish leaders who will do what they can to keep our parish financially healthy and maintain our many ministries. Thank you all for sharing your gifts as you do!
2. **Budgeting for 2019/20.** I will be presenting a version 2 of a preliminary budget for next fiscal year to the Finance Commission on March 12. Our goal each year is a balanced budget, and the process includes input from department heads, our school principal, the Finance Commission and the Leadership Team. I can't say this enough: thank you to the many generous people who share so much of their time, expertise and financial gifts for St. John the Baptist!
3. **Our debt balance** continues to shrink, thanks to your generosity! It now stands at \$131,620. Our goal is to pay this debt off by June, when our year of celebration of the 50th anniversary of our church edifice comes to a close. If you have a portion of your pledge outstanding, please consider donating sooner rather than later. Your pledge and your fulfillment of it will ensure that we will free our parish community from this debt! As we said five years ago when beginning this campaign, we have particular ministries to support with the proceeds of pledges, post-debt, some of which we have already begun. Thank you!
4. **St. John the Baptist Cemetery.** The Cemetery Committee has approved a design, a type of stone and the finishes for an infant section monument. This monument will denote the section of the cemetery that we have reserved for the burial of children ages two years and under. We plan to have the monument installed before Memorial Day, and to have a blessing ceremony at the cemetery on Sunday, August 11, at 12:00 noon. Burying the dead is a corporal work of mercy, and all of our work for the cemetery honors those who are buried there.
5. **Spring Formation Day.** *Being Holy as God is Holy: Sabbath Time and Growing Holy in the Church.* Featuring: Fr. Michael Joncas, Dr. Christine Luna Munger and Dr. Michael Naughton. Thursday, May 9, 2019. St. Joseph of the Lakes, Lino Lakes, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. All parish clergy, staff members, and parish and school leadership are invited! The parish is willing to sponsor the \$25 cost for parish leaders who want to attend. [Register online](#) if you wish to attend.

Thank you for your service to St. John the Baptist!

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