

**St. John the Baptist Church**  
**Leadership Team Report to Commissions**

December 14, 2021

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**Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor**

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Welcome to the first Leadership Team Report to Commissions! Each month our team members will offer important information in their respective areas of work to you, our parish leaders.

- **Our Leadership Team** is working with Lisa Sammon from [Lighthouse Strategic Solutions](#) to strengthen the unity of the team in our work in support of our parish mission and core values. Lisa facilitated a 360-degree feedback process to help me grow in leadership as a supervisor and as a pastor, and our team has grown through focused discussions. We all agree that being aligned together with our skills and energies will best facilitate St. John's being Restored to Life this year. I am encouraged by the team's work with Lisa this year.
- **Fr. Andrew Jaspers, Parochial Administrator.** Many of you will certainly remember Fr. Andrew Jaspers, who served as associate pastor at St. John's from 2014 to 2016. Fr. Jaspers was here during Fr. Skluzacek's sabbatical in 2015 and served as parochial administrator during that time. I am happy to announce that Fr. Jaspers has again been assigned as our parochial administrator while I am on my sabbatical, from January to March 2022. Fr. Jaspers will continue in his role as chaplain of North Memorial Medical Center in Minneapolis, but will be spending time at St. John's celebrating Mass, meeting with staff and parishioners, and attending commission meetings. We are delighted and grateful to welcome Fr. Jaspers back to St. John's to help us during this time! Please note – this is not an associate pastor role, and Fr. Jaspers will only serve as parochial administrator during my sabbatical.
- **Christmas Liturgies.** For your reference I will include a summary of our Christmas Mass schedule here.

**Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24**

4:00 p.m.	No incense, no social distanced sections Livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook and broadcast on CTV 15 & 859
6:00 p.m.	No incense
10:30 p.m.	Incense, no social distanced sections

**Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25**

8:30 a.m.	No incense
10:30 a.m.	Incense, no social distanced sections

St. Joseph Hall will be set up for overflow seating for all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Please let me or one of our team members know if you have questions or input in any area of our church and school life together. Thank you!

**Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life**

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On Tuesday, December 7, we were fortunate enough to bring to St. John's André Lesperance, a consultant from [Evangelical Catholic](#). He took the day to introduce the church and school staff to Evangelical Catholic's materials and mission process. He spent time with our staff, learning and praying together as a team. He also met with the Leadership Team to discuss our parish mission and core values and how the evangelization process could be implemented parish wide. He then offered a session for parishioners that evening and unpacked "tools for the holidays"—how we can share our faith stories in love and generosity this Christmas season! Father Paul will be

heading to the Evangelical Catholic office in Madison, Wisconsin during his sabbatical to receive additional formation and training as we continue to align our parish life to our mission to GO. MAKE. TEACH.

Our [Reach More](#) small groups are an outreach model from Evangelical Catholic, so St. John's is already benefitting from the work of this organization. You will hear more about Evangelical Catholic in the coming months and year as we continue to learn from them about making disciples and fulfilling our mission.

### **Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations**

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- **Sunday & Year End Giving.** A report on Sunday Giving for November and for the months July – November appeared in the December 12 bulletin. Giving dipped below budget in November but remains just above budget for the fiscal year to date. Considering that we budgeted a 5.6% increase in Sunday Giving over 2020/21 actual giving, that shows a great generosity among our parishioners. Please check the [2021 Wish List](#) and upcoming bulletins for opportunities and information on how you can support St. John the Baptist in this final month of 2021. Thank you for your ongoing generous spirit!
- **Core Commitment 2022: Restored to Life!** As you know, November 20/21 was commitment weekend for our Core Commitment Renewal campaign. As of this writing we have received 320 response forms pledging commitments to our core values. 267 have been entered thus far, with financial commitments for 2022 totaling \$646,810. (For 2021 we received 380 response forms, pledging \$1,054,153.) Many of these same responses also include pledges for our core values of Reliance on Prayer and Willingness to Grow, for which we are also grateful. Our parishioners are committing to lives of prayer and an ongoing willingness to learn and grow in their faith. We are also sending thank you postcards to those who have made pledges, including a note about the Christmas book giveaway. We are grateful to God for his many blessings and we ask him to restore us to life now and in 2022. If you have not already done so, please join us in this prayer and commitment! More information can be found [here](#) on our website, including an [online pledge form](#) and an [electronic giving link and form](#). Be restored with us! Thank you all!
- **Projects at St. John's.** We have been blessed over the past year with the ability to add to our capital reserves, which allows us to meet either planned or unforeseen building, mechanical and other needs. With the guidance of several commissions and proper approvals, we are planning several projects and reviewing the need and priority of others. In process or scheduled at this point are the following: HVAC control replacement, a heat exchanger to separate the church's in-floor heat from the larger system, adding glycol to our heating system and adding two new spotlights over the church altar. Larger projects under review are church windows, cleaning the church ceiling, and a public address system in our school (see Principal Laird's note on this). Planning in earnest will soon begin on the renovation of the Chapel of Angels, which we hope to begin in the spring of 2022. Commission review and input will help guide these projects and decisions, for which we are grateful.
- **St. John the Baptist Cemetery.** Mark Hammer, Cemetery Committee member and member of the Parish Development Commission, will present the Cemetery Committee's annual report to the Pastoral Leadership Council at tonight's meeting. His report will be posted alongside this Leadership Team report on our parish website.

### **Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal**

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- During this year we are being Restored to Life at St. John the Baptist School in many ways. Here are just a few examples:
  - The annual **Christmas Concert** is coming up Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the church. This concert is sure to get us all in the Christmas spirit!

- Our **Advent Service Project** this year focused on sharing our treasure with those in need in our local community. For this we chose to collect toys and money to give to Sharing and Caring Hands, as we did last year. This is one way we can remind our students that there are children in need right here in our own community.
  - Our annual **Wines to Wishes** is in the early planning stages. We plan to be in person in St. Joseph's Hall this year. Mark your calendars for fun and fellowship on Saturday, February 5! This year's Fund-a-Need will focus on raising money for a new public address system in our school.
  - Over the last couple of years we have been experiencing an increase in our enrollment and we look forward to that trend continuing. **Enrollment for 2022-2023** school year begins early January with our Kindergarten Information Night on January 20. The School Advisory Commission will be discussing tuition rates for 2022-23 at tonight's meeting.
  - Several school families have sought to **learn more about the Catholic faith** and deepen their relationship with God through RCIC and RCIA. We pray for them as they embark upon this journey and look forward to growing with them in our beautiful Catholic faith!
- **Support our school with AmazonSmile!** AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support St. John the Baptist School every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. AmazonSmile is the same as Amazon, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice - St. John's! On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you will be asked to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Please choose St. John the Baptist School. Thank you!

A blessed and joyous Advent and Christmas to all of you and your families!  
Thank you all for your reliance on prayer, your willingness to grow, and your generous spirit!

The St. John the Baptist Leadership Team  
Fr. Paul Shovelain, Jessica Balzarini, Mark Dittman, Ann Laird

**Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life:  
GO. MAKE. TEACH.**