

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission
Minutes

Date:	December 14, 2021	Chair	Melanie Dowell	Staff Liaison	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **January 18, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.**

Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Melanie Dowell (<i>Chair/PLC REP</i>)	X	Jean Koslowski	
Jessica Balzarini		Neil Steffl	X
Steven Broszko	X	Karl Zabinski	X
Emily Carlberg	X	Jodie Wolla (<i>recorder</i>)	X
Erin Hardy	X	Guest: Mike Uzelac	X
Jackie King	X	Guest:	

- I. Opening Prayer – Steven

- II. Mission Statements -Read Aloud
 - A. Parish Mission Statement: Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life: GO. MAKE. TEACH.
 - B. DMC Mission Statement – *“Inspiring and Leading all at St. John’s to become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ through evangelization and faith formation within the heart of the Catholic Church.”*

- II. Monthly Agenda Items
 - A. Welcome and introduce any visitors
 - B. Time to discuss Fr. Paul’s opening remarks/answer questions
 - C. Update from previous month’s PLC
 - D. Review of Written Reports – Any Questions
 - E. Live Report – Mikayla

- I. New Business
 - A. Review Ministry Plan for Youth Ministry
 - 1. Review SMART Goals and timelines- Updates
 - 2. Review and edit volunteer job descriptions
 - 3. Review and edit recommendation for structure and positions both volunteer and paid
 - 4. The following information was requested by the commission:
 - 1. A few samples of the NET team schedules and what they do and consider when planning their schedules.
 - 2. The YM Christmas wish list 2021 and what if anything was donated to date over the holidays?
 - 3. Any updates or feedback on the volunteer JD?
 - 4. Reminder: YM JD’s were tabled – will these be coming in January?
 - 5. Update on the NET vs. YM positions for next year, what was the feedback from PLC & Fr. Paul after the 3 proposals were presented to PLC in December meeting?
 - 6. Was Mark Dittman able to provide you with the total budget for you NET/YM positions? Provide update on this question.
 - 7. Update/feedback on your presentation to Mark B. of NET in consideration of a ½ of a NET team?
 - 8. What are the next steps in the timeline for January-February?
 - B. Review tasks for hosting Hospitality on Sunday, December 19
 - 1. Arrive at 9:15 am ready to host for 8:30 am mass, wear purple and Santa hat if have one
 - 2. Clean up and be ready for 10:30 am mass, D&M promo materials out

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3. Attend 10:30 am mass
 4. Come to hall right after communion to be ready for crowds
 5. Clean up after 10:30 am mass crowd
 - C. Review Commission and Ministry List
 1. Make recommended changes to PLC
 - D. Review Goals for Goal Sheet and Create SMART goals for each
 1. Fr. Paul's goal for us: To review the feedback forms from the Synod and make recommendations to the parish.
 1. F/U: Melanie will review with Jessica.
 2. Fostering Connectedness
 1. Pursue Hospitality as a means for groups/demographics can get together to meet and get to know each other.
 2. Connecting with families not enrolled in our school for parish programming
 - a. Via postcard
 - b. Follow up phone call
 3. Connect with all children registered in the parish with Birthday postcard
 4. Connect with your new neighbors with a Welcome to the neighborhood gift bag from SJB
 3. Review New Member Orientation Process
 1. Evaluate current process
 2. Create a new follow up to the process
 4. Closing out the year of St. Joseph
 1. Possible Indulgence with Meditation on the Our Father
 5. Review and Organize Ministries to Core Values
- II. **Upcoming Events & Volunteer** needs specific for Commission members
- A. **Host Hospitality Weekend – December 19th after Masses**
 - B. **Journey to the Inn – January 8 – *Volunteers Needed***
 - C. Sister Clarinda's Scripture Series – Angels -registration is open class begins Jan 12th
 - D. The Eucharist in Scripture Study – 3 Saturdays in January starting Jan. 8
 - E. **Egg Hunt – April 16 – *Volunteers Needed***
- III. Review of Events
- A. Past Events for Review and Feedback
 1. Synod Group Feedback
 2. Tour of the kitchen in preparation for hospitality
- IV. Other:
- A. Cana Dinner Update by Karl
 1. Date is January 12th
 2. Speakers are secured and we are looking for a caterer
 - B. Treats for January:
 1. Bring your own mug
 2. Hot chocolate – Jodie
 3. I. Cream – Jackie
 4. Other components - Neil
- V. Closing Prayer: Karl | 7:55 p.m.

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Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families

Sunday Nursery - Sunday nursery has been utilizing our new Confirmation volunteers. We will be offering nursery every Sunday in December except December 26th.

Sunday School – Sunday school has also been utilizing Confirmation students. We have been reading the story of Christmas broken down each week. We made a Christmas ornament/craft that tells the story of Christmas. We will be working on a special ornament for kids to give their parents at the Sunday School Christmas Program. The Sunday School Christmas Program takes place on December 19th after the 10:30 Mass in St. Joseph's Hall. If anyone is crafty, we could use help with improving the drums the kids will use for the Little Drummer Boy song.

Family Formation – December We had an Advent prayer reflection at the end of Family Formation with a decade of the Joyful Mysteries using the website www.rosarycenter.org. The 7th and 8th graders helped lead the decade. Our January meeting will be January 12th instead of the first Wednesday of the month. The topic is "A Match Made in Heaven".

Childcare – We are currently providing childcare for Baptism Prep class, a Reach Smaller group, Family Formation, First Sacraments and RCIA is moving to the same time as Circle of Women.

Advent Activities - We offered Advent Activities during hospitality after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses on December 5th for individuals and families of the parish. We had several stations including one to make cards for homebound parishioners, a Jesse Tree station, December saints' stations and a station with all the Advent reading programs we offered. Children received a St. Nicholas treat bag as well. The response was very positive, and families did activities onsite and took things home to do as well.

First Sacraments – During the Advent Activities Event at hospitality families could bring in their Reconciliation books to show that they have completed the first 7 lessons and receive an Advent calendar and a candy cane. It was a little incentive to help motivate families to get caught up and we had very excited kids and grateful parents. Many parents commented that it was just what they needed to get the lessons completed!

Journey to the Inn – Journey to the Inn will take place on January 8th after the 4:30pm Mass. The Knights of Columbus will be providing a meal for a cost as a fundraiser. The program will start at 6:15pm. We will read the Bible Story of the Wise Men setting out to find the baby Jesus. We will have a candlelight procession outside to the manger singing Christmas carols. We will arrive at the living manger with animals (weather permitting). We will end with hot cocoa and cookies back in St. Joseph's Hall.

Parish Epiphany Blessing – I have started preparing for the parish Epiphany blessing bags that are available for people to take to bless their homes January 1st and 2nd.

Written Report – Mikayla Anderson, Coordinator for Discipleship for Youth

- Live report tonight: **updates in green below.**

Goal: Formalize SJB Youth Ministry Strategy

- Prepare Strategy by 11.1.21
- Present to SJB Parents for feedback on 11.9.21
- Present to ODM Commission for feedback on 11.16.21

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- Present final strategy to Leadership team before 12.15.21

Goal: Build Volunteer Team for YM to Transition NET Team

Using the numbers from EFC the past year, create a layout of what is needed by each role and create job descriptions for each of them by 1.1.22 – [Updates provided](#)

- MSYG - 7-8 people, 6:00-7:30pm Wednesday Evening
- HSYG - 6-7 people, 8-9:30pm Wednesday Evening
- OYR - 4-5 people, 2:30-4pm Thursday after school
- Confirmation - 8 people, 6:30-8pm, Sunday Evening & Weekend Retreat
- EFC Leaders - 1 week in the summer
- Discipleship Group Leaders - varies depending on the number of students invested in D-groups, 1.5 hours leading small groups weekly/bi-weekly.
- Informational YM Meeting for whole parish before 1.31.22
 - [parish wide YM & EFC meeting scheduled for January 11, 2022](#)
- January 2022- February 2022 - Make Invitations into Youth Ministry to fill jobs roles
 - [Brainstorm volunteers for Mikayla to invite/ask](#)
- March 2022 - onboard volunteers through training, working alongside the NET team, observing programming, etc.
- April 2022 - volunteers feel equipped to run youth group without the assistance from NET team

Goal: Expand Youth Minister Team

- Define additional roles needed, create job descriptions and skills needed
 - Worship Leader needed, hopeful PT Leader
 - [Review YM JD's](#)
- Create business case for roles approval
- Look into college internship programming through discussing with colleges & other parishes who have seen this work.
- Present to Leadership Team by 4.30.22 to then have hiring posted by 5.31.22 or sooner, so that new hire could attend EFC [June 19-24th 2022 \(registration opens December 15th, 2021, for MS & February 2022 for HS\)](#)

Goal: Generate Marketing Campaign for Youth Programs

- Identify SJB demographics to find target audience (parents & youth grades 6-12, young adults)
- Define marketing strategy & collateral
- Secure funding for marketing collateral
- *Host bi-annual parent & youth programs to generate excitement – align timing with Extreme Faith Camp Registration*

Goal: Come up with a 6-year plan for formation with our young people so that they leave SJB youth ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Written Report – Jill Fink, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship

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Becoming Catholic RCIA: The **Rite of Acceptance and Welcome** will be celebrated on Saturday, December 11 at the 4:30pm Mass with a reception to follow on the catechumen and candidates that are ready to move into the catechumenate stage. We have 6 candidates that will be celebrating the Rite. 2 other members will continue in RCIA.

Synod: Jill presented to the Councils on the initial, written in feedback from our 150 participants in the small group parish consultation this fall. We are awaiting when parishes can access their information electronically. Invites from our pastor went out to 10 Deanery Representatives from our parish. They will participate in the Deanery meeting on Saturday, February 19 hosted here at St. John's. The names are Louie and Socchie Fondevilla, Beth Robertson, Pat Rother, Stephanie Waite, Joe Jensen, Don Grant, Rob Jensen, Jane Heinks and Molly Feiker. This is the next step in the Synod process.

Baptism: Baptism Prep Class needed to be cancelled for December due to teaching couple conflicts. The three school families with older children will be receiving sacraments of baptism in November and December. One grade 2 child will be baptized during a school Mass on Wed., December 15. A few more families are coming forward to begin looking at the possibility for baptism for their children as they are being engaged in the preschool and school community.

RCIC: The 4 families continue to meet with Sr. Ruth on Sunday morning for their catechesis and attend Mass together. Jill will be working with a few families with middle school children toward the sacraments.

Marriage Ministry: Cana Dinner will be Saturday, February 12 in St. Joseph's Hall. Advertising to save the date is going out now with full publicity by Christmas. Our title is: Marriage: The Good Soil He's Planted You In: *Trusting God through the many seasons of marriage*. Our speakers are Mark and Julie Rose who serve as ministry consultants for the Evangelical Catholic (EC). Review of Pre-Cana materials is underway with the goal of inviting more mentor couples for training.

Known by God: Retreat for Women Experiencing the Loss of a Child due to Miscarriage or Stillbirth was a positive experience for our 18 participants.

January Studies: Sr. Clarinda will have a 7-week study on **Angels** on Wednesday morning. There will be 2 studies on the Eucharist: **The Eucharist in Scripture** by Scott Hahn led by David Tucci and other Men's Fellowship on Saturday morning from 9-11am for three weeks: Jan. 8, 15, 22. This is a condensed study in the 2-hour time frame. Jill Fink will be leading the second study entitled **Presence Eucharist Study** on five Thursday evenings from 6:30-8pm beginning January 27. This study is from the Augustine Institute and can be accessed on Formed. Org. Parents in our First Sacraments program will be invited to attend either in person or give the opportunity for small groups to form around the study from Formed.

Family Formation Parent Program: Speaker for December was Fr. Paul Shovelain on God Keeps His Promises. The January topic is Sacrament of Marriage: A Match Made in Heaven. The speakers will be new parishioners Steve and Chrissy Broszko who have been involved in ministry.

First Sacraments: Parents are engaging their students in the Home Lessons. About a third of the parents connected in with Jen and Jill for their incentive prize at the Advent Activities. January 23 is the Reconciliation Retreat from 2-5pm. Reconciliation Celebration is January 29 beginning at 9am in the church.

Written Report – Michael Lane

Baptisms: Five scheduled for December.

Weddings: No weddings scheduled.

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Written Report – Jessica Balzarini

Reach More We are currently training 7 new Missionary Disciples with the Reach More Formation and Training session. We just finished our section on staying connected to Christ and sharing how God has worked in our life. Each participant is also meeting 1 on 1 with the point persons to grow in the habits of their own discipleship.

We were fortunate enough to bring in Andre Lesparance, a consultant from Evangelical Catholic. He took the day to introduce the wider parish to Evangelical Catholic's materials and mission process. He spoke with our parish and school staff, giving us time to learn and pray as a team. He spent time with the Leadership Team and discussed how the mission process could be implemented across the parish. And then he offered a session for parishioners on how easily we can share our story of faith with others. It's a great way to evangelize. Fr. Paul will be heading to EC in Madison, WI during his sabbatical to receive additional formation and training as we continue to align our parish life to our mission to Go. Make. Teach.

devoted is on break until our February session. Planning is underway for our gatherings.