

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

February 15, 2022

Fr. Andrew Jaspers, Parochial Administrator

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- **Chapel & Church Renovation.** Please see Mark Dittman's report below for an update on renovation plans for our Chapel of the Angels. I am happy to be a part of this project, and also to serve on the committee that is looking at improvements in our church interior. The Church Interior Committee met for the first time on February 10. We are exploring options around updating the main church ceiling, HVAC, and sound system. These tasks presuppose the fixing or replacement of the church windows. We are beginning the process of identifying a firm that will lead the design and planning process due to the many interrelated factors involved in improving our church interior.
- **Financial Peace University.** This program begins on Thursday, February 24. [Financial Peace University](#) is for all who struggle with great debt or financial instability. It can be a path to sharing in the freedom that our Lord promises. Contact the parish office (651) 633-8333, or sjb@stjohnnyb.org for more information or to register.
- **Ash Wednesday.** Lent is coming! It begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of fast and abstinence, on March 2. Our liturgies that day are a 6:30 a.m. Word Service, 8:30 a.m. Mass, 12:00 Noon Word Service, and then 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Masses. Please join us!

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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- **Local Synod Process.** We are in the Parish Synod Leadership Team Consultation (PSLT) stage of the synod process. Our 10 PSLT representatives are currently signing up for Orientation Training and then will be given Theological Papers to consult before gathering with Fr. Jaspers and Process Manager Jill Fink at St. John's on March 5. At this gathering the team will consider one topic from each of three Focus Areas chosen by the Pastor. These three areas will be discussed in several ways: What is the Holy Spirit calling us to prioritize? How might the specific wording of the propositions be improved? How might one of the propositions be brought to life in your parish? At present there are 50+ draft synod propositions which will be looked at before the next step which is the Synod Assembly on June 3-5. Two representatives from St. John's will attend this assembly. Please visit the St. John's website [here](#) for more information.
- **Reach More.** Our Reach More movement of evangelization is gearing up for two areas of ministry right now: another Training Group small group and Lent Small Groups. The Reach More Training Group material gives disciples of Jesus Christ an opportunity to more deeply follow Jesus, providing excellent spiritual formation and practical training in relational evangelization (loving others and sharing Jesus with them through authentic friendships). This formation and training equips them to impact the world in their own circle of influence. The Lent Season of Small Group will have 19 Small Groups meeting on a variety of days and times. We have seven new leaders who will be starting an evangelizing small group for the first time—please pray for them. Our current leaders will be continuing with their existing groups and adding new people as they have the capacity. Everyone looks forward to connecting more with Sunday readings and one another as they discuss faith and life, reflect on God's word, apply the readings to daily life, seek God together, and pray with and for one another. See our website [here](#) for more information.

- **NET Ministries Update.** Since we have not yet received word that NET Ministries has an available team or partial team for St. John's next year, we are continuing to include in our budget planning an additional Coordinator of Discipleship for Youth. Right now Mikayla Anderson is working with our NET team to provide good ministry to our teens and to raise up our volunteer parish team to work alongside NET and then transition to summer activity in our youth group. As we have discussed, one of our defining objectives this year is Restoring Ministries at St. John's. Developing a volunteer parish team and creating a new youth ministry position can help us to restore and build our youth ministry program.

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **Chapel of the Angels Renovation.** The Chapel Renovation Committee met on February 1 with liturgical designer Nick Vasko, owner of Logos Liturgical Design. Nick reviewed with the committee a design proposal he had provided. After discussion the committee recommended that we move forward with the direction Nick was proposing. Our next steps are to sign a design services agreement with Nick and work with him to create a detailed plan for the chapel renovation. In this design phase of the project, we intend to enhance the beauty and utility of the chapel. We plan to present a complete design and plan to the parish in April. The committee meets next on March 1.
- **2022/23 Budget planning process.** At this month's Finance Commission meeting the budget planning process begins in earnest with the commission being presented a preliminary budget.
- **Livestreaming of Masses.** After several weeks of adjusting settings and reviewing Internet service options, the parish has decided to upgrade its service to Comcast fiber, which has guaranteed download and upload speeds. The installation of this new service will take 3-4 months, however, and for the interim we have more than doubled our broadband download and upload service. Our upload speed tests as of this writing tell us that we should be able to resume livestreaming of the 4:30 Saturday Mass to YouTube and Facebook, and then also to the NineNorth cable channels 15 and 859. We will also resume livestreaming the weekday 8:30 Masses as well. This new service will increase our ongoing costs, but we believe livestreaming is an important way for our parishioners to stay connected to St. John's. Thank you to the staff and volunteers who helped resolve this issue, and who serve to maintain this ministry offering!
- **Catholic Services Appeal.** The kick-off for this year's [Catholic Services Appeal](#) (CSA) is this coming weekend, February 19/20. St. John's goal for 2022 is \$109,052. Our parish also benefits from this appeal because when we meet our goal, as we have consistently done for many years, we earn a parish rebate check. The more we raise, the more we benefit. The formula for the rebate has two parts: 50% above our goal is returned to parish and 25% above the prior year's results is returned to the parish. Last year we raised over \$164,000 and our goal was \$103,595, so we were \$60,400 over goal. Our first rebate check totaled \$27,959, and we may receive another smaller amount later this month for donations received by the CSA at year-end. Please be generous to the Appeal this year, as you always have been! Thank you.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **Wines to Wishes 2022.** Thank you to everyone who supported the school at our February 5 fun-and fund-raising event! It was a great night, and we are so grateful to all who planned, participated and donated to it. A special thank you to Michelle Barsness and everyone who volunteered to make the evening flow so well. There will be information regarding the financial success of the event next month.

- **Registration for the 2022-2023 school year** is now open. Information and a registration link can be found [here](#). If you know of any families who are interested in St. John's please encourage them to apply.
- **NWEA MAP testing.** We are currently in the middle of taking our winter NWEA MAP tests which we take three times a year to measure student growth in Math and Reading each year from fall to spring. This winter testing information will provide us good midyear information regarding student academic growth and how we can adjust our instruction for a particular student or groups of students to make sure they are growing.
- **The budget planning process for 2022/23 has begun.** I will be working with Mark Dittman and a small committee to develop the school budget. We are planning for some possible shared positions with other departments in the school. We are grateful for the financial support the parish provides to our school so that we can continue to strive for excellence!

A blessed winter season 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. Andrew Jaspers, Jessica Balzarini, Mark Dittman, Ann Laird

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