

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

January 18, 2022

Fr. Andrew Jaspers, Parochial Administrator

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- **Serving at St. John's.** It is a gift to serve as your parochial administrator during Fr. Paul's sabbatical, which ends April 6. It is a joy every day to catch up with old friends here at SJB! I am happily doing birthday calls when possible. And I'm overseeing our chapel renovation with the help of our committee.
- **New Program Offerings.** I'm eager to offer some enrichment programs that I have been trained in through my Air Force chaplaincy: namely, a program called [Prep 8.0](#) that fosters relational intelligence for couples through new communication strategies. I also hope to find someone who can offer a series on [Financial Peace University](#) for our parishioners who struggle with large debt. Please let me know if you are interested in either of these opportunities!

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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- **Sunday Theme: Restored to Wholeness.** In this new year as a parish, we continue to be Restored to Life. Our Advent resources were fruitful in the lives of our parishioners. We focused ourselves on being Restored to Joy with Chris Stefanick, either with his new book [Living Joy](#) or his [online retreat](#) with the same title. Stefanick offers so much wisdom and practical help. During the Christmas season we were Restored to Life through our encounter with Jesus. God's great love for us is most deeply experienced through his son Jesus. In January we enter Ordinary Time in our liturgical year. Ordinary time is where God continues to work in our lives in the most extraordinary ways. The Lord works most often and with the greatest power in the common places we spend our time, Restoring us to Life through the ordinary things of daily living. He desires to bring his life to every aspect of our lives and Restore us to Wholeness.
- **NET Team Transition.** Our Coordinator of Discipleship for Youth is working diligently in bringing the NET team back onsite this week. As they transition back into ministry the focus is for the team to continue to be providing good ministry to our youth through weekly and monthly Youth Group, Discipleship Small Groups, and 1 on 1 Discipleship Mentoring. The NET Team continues to walk alongside our parish team for Confirmation Preparation for 9th graders. This winter and spring the NET Team's focus will shift a bit from direct contact with teens to a partnership approach as Mikayla recruits our parish team. The parish team will begin to minister alongside the NET Team for a smooth transition in May. Clear recommendations have been made to our parish Leadership Team regarding staffing for the upcoming budget process.
- **Restoring Ministry.** One of our defining objectives this year is Restoring Ministries at St. John's. This objective helps us be Restored to Life. Most recently, Liturgy and Pastoral Care have been working diligently to restore ministry. Both Pastoral Care and Liturgy have been intentional in their invitation to parishioners to engage in assisting with Sunday liturgical ministries and bringing Communion to the elderly and homebound. Both Lee and Mary continue to onboard new volunteers and improve the quality of those ministries.

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **Fiscal Year 2021/22: Six Month Report.** Our six-month financials are just out. Watch for a report in a near future bulletin. Our Sunday Giving through December 31 is 2% below budget, but is 3% ahead of last

year's actual, to date. The report will provide more information and comparisons to budget and prior year. Thank you for your ongoing generous spirit!

- **Core Commitment 2022: Restored to Life!** As of this writing we have received 358 response forms pledging commitments to our core values. The financial pledges in these responses total \$906,683. (For 2021 we received 380 response forms in total, pledging \$1,054,153.) Many of these 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 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! We are happy to report that [electronic giving](#) numbers increased due to the Core Commitment campaign, and we received notice of three new [Legacy Society](#) members. Be restored with us! Thank you all!
- **Chapel of the Angels Renovation.** The Chapel Renovation Committee met on January 11 and has identified the various components of this project and set a timeline. The plan is to have a final design proposal with associated costs by April, with a spring/summer start. The committee will engage a liturgical designer to draw up sketches and possibly create an overall design for the chapel.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **Wines to Wishes 2022** is just a short time away! Save the date for Saturday, February 5. Registrations are currently being taken at www.winestowishes.com. This is a wonderful adult-only evening of fun and fellowship along with some fundraising for the school. We are still in need of donations. Please look at the [wish lists](#) or contact [Michelle Barsness](mailto:barsnessm@stjohnnyb.org) (barsnessm@stjohnnyb.org) if there is something you can donate. We look forward to seeing you there!
- **The Preschool and Kindergarten Parent Information Night** will be held on Thursday, January 20 from 6:00-7:30 pm. The night will begin at 6:00 pm with a short presentation in St. Joseph Hall followed by tours and more grade-specific information with the kindergarten and preschool teachers. Please spread the word to friends and family that may be interested!
- **Registration for the 2022-2023 school year** will be open for current and new families on January 21, 2022. Information and a registration link can be found [here](#).
- **Catholic Schools Week** begins on Sunday, January 30 and ends with Wines to Wishes on February 5. We will celebrate with the St. John's Parish community at 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, January 30 followed by an Open House in the school until 12:30 pm. The week will be filled with fun activities and dress days for the students. Watch church and school publications for more information about this weeklong celebration of St. John the Baptist Catholic School!

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.**