

**Saint John the Baptist**  
**Discipleship and Mission Commission**  
**Minutes**

<b>Date:</b>	April 19, 2022	<b>Chair</b>	Melanie Dowell	<b>Staff Liaison</b>	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **May 17th at 5:30 p.m.**

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

- I. Opening Prayer – Melanie
- II. Mission Statements – Read Aloud
- I. Monthly Agenda Items
  - A. Welcome and introduce any visitors – no comments
  - B. Time to discuss Fr. Paul’s opening remarks/answer questions
    1. Fr. Paul has a new attitude, seems refreshed and rested.
    2. We loved how nature weaved its way in and out of Fr.’s restoration, appreciated the story of how Fr. Paul’s relationship was restored with his brother. It showed his human side.
  - C. Update from previous month’s PLC – no comments
  - D. Review of Written Reports – Any questions regarding written reports? No comments on reports sent out
    1. Mikayla, youth ministry report was reviewed at the meeting,
    2. Members feedback regarding the new Youth Ministry position, “the new position was suggested by the D & M commission members, and we are very proud that it has come to fruition.”
  - E. Live Report – Jessica– Changes to the ODM programs
    1. New position was posted today for to hire a Coordinator for the Discipleship for Middle School.
      1. This position will have a campus ministry role in the school with the teachers & middle school students. *Member question was asked: “Is there a plan for the teachers input with the campus ministry role?”*
      2. MS position will be accountable for private, public, and homeschooled MS students.
      3. Establishing groups such as pro-life group etc.
      4. Confirmation because it is an effect bridge from MS to Confirmation. Our diocese does public and private together.
      5. MS students will go to HS youth group, and we will not have a MS Family Formation component next year.
    2. Mikayla will keep Senior High School and Young adult ministry. Her title will be Coordinator for Discipleship of HS & Young Adults.
    3. Family Formation (FF) potential changes for 2022-2023 year
      1. Family formation traditionally is on Wednesday evenings with mass at 5:30 p.m., FF dinner at 6:00 p.m. and formation begins at 6:30p.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m. for pre-school to 6<sup>th</sup> grader and family.
      2. Proposals include:
        - a. Keeping FF on Wednesday evenings, shifting the start time earlier to 6:00 p.m. and no dinner before and ending at 7:30 p.m. for pre-school to 5<sup>th</sup> graders and family.
        - b. Keeping FF on Wednesday evenings, shifting the start time earlier to have dinner before at 5:30 p.m. formation start at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. for pre-school to 5<sup>th</sup> graders and family.
        - c. Summary – propose to start earlier with or without dinner and program goes from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening. We will continue with the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month.
        - d. Feedback included:

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- i.* It is a great idea to shift the start and end time earlier! This was majority vote of commission members.
- ii.* The meal is nice, so you do not get fast food again. But not necessary.
- iii.* No food during mass at 5:30 p.m. so what are the options for mass? Can the day change to another weeknight?
- iv.* Many members said they could feed their children before 6 p.m. and some said it would be a stretch, but they would “make it work”.
- v.* The earlier time has been evaluated out, we did early time during covid, which 95% of the families came to. If people want to make it happen, it is our opinion that they will.
- e.* There will be no changes to the program fees for 2022-2023 year.
- f.* The new marriage group trainings have started.
- g.* New next year we will be having both a Men’s retreat in January and Women’s retreat in March open to SJBC parishioners only.
- h.* We will be looking to do outreach in our local community with prayer and a Eucharistic revival.

#### I. New Business

##### A. Updates on Youth Ministry Plan

- 1. Review SMART Goals and timelines- Updates
- 2. Members asked this question: “*Is Mikayla still going to post volunteer positions?*”
  - 1. She has been making personal invites.
  - 2. This year High School youth group members have stepped up and lead youth events so the need has not been the same as it will be in the NET Team’s absence.

##### B. Review New Member Welcome

- 1. Review of internal and external processes were reviewed. We moved to discussion on what is best for SJBC.
- 2. Outside parish welcome processes was reviewed in March. Feedback documented below.
  - 1. Commission members assigned parishes to contact to ask about their welcome process
  - 2. Members put the feedback from outside parishes on post-it notes, next members separated the feedback into three categories:
    - a. Pre-Planning for New Member
      - i.* Feedback included: online forms which prompted staff to send a welcome letter and a welcome gift box, paper registration process, form into a google sheet, personal invite &/or welcome letter , registration online or paper and a welcome email from Priest inviting to refreshments or lunch etc., a new member webpage with information and online registration, new member registration after masses, booklet including information about church & programs, volunteering and a gift such as a mug etc. given out, register online via website then personal call from staff i.e. an intake, be sure to ask if they are new to Catholicism, transferring parishes or returning to church, may be beneficial to ask how involved would they like to be or undecided.
    - b. Orientation for New Members
      - i.* Feedback included: creating a welcome team, hosting a new member brunch/lunch/meet & greet after mass quarterly or every six months to bring new members together and include a couple of ministries, the pre-school & school, priest. Next, create an exceptionally good packet or book with information for new members.
    - c. SJBC New Member Packets Reviewed
      - i.* Feedback included:

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1. Watchmen needs a new brochure –has been updated since the meeting
  2. Really like the magnets
  - d. Jessica handed out questions to complete prior to the next meeting and bring thoughts back for discussion
  - e. Follow-up on New Members posed in March.
    - i. Feedback included: use the “my parish app
    - ii. Questions asked by commission members:
      1. How many attends mass at SJBC who are not registered parishioners? Can we get any data on this?
      2. Why are parishioners attending mass at SJBC, yet not joining?
      3. How long did you attend mass at SJBC before your joined?
3. New for the April meeting the commission reviewed **“the best ideas to put in place at SJBC.”**
- I. First Contact:
    - a. Picnic for new members and one for the new housing to bring members in is a desired way in.
    - b. An online form to register, get involved is most common and easy to complete. A staff member reaches out and helps person/family to get linked in and registered.
    - c. We can also offer an orientation for people/families to come in and get the form.
    - d. People are coming to SJBC
    - e. Question was posed, Why become a member at SJBC? Member feedback included:
      - i. TOP 3 REASONS brought forth were:
        1. EVENTS: *Journey to the Inn, Egg Hunt, All Saints Party, and the liturgy is amazing, all the fellowship opportunities provided.*
        2. Quoted ACTS 242

*Other general discussion was around the following ideas:*

- ii. To receive communication, also available online
- iii. To receive giving envelopes although this can be done online
- iv. Stronger sense of being in a community, fellowship, raise kids, grow with Christ with a foundation for family.
- v. To give back and support the community through volunteering, monetary, fellowship, feel obligated to do your part to give back.
- vi. School events personal invitations to parents, grandparents and relatives create a wonderful close relationship with the school student, the school & church and community. This draws people to come the SJB and stay.
- vii. Join church as a young person or engaged couple to be priority on the school waiting list, if wait list is first based on length of membership at the parish then others or marriage requirement (6-month member requirement prior to a marriage). Many members agreed this motivates young people, engaged or expectant families to get registered.
- viii. A welcoming environment, train “Greeters” to welcome/walk people in & out (Exiters). Challenges: How to train? Engage people to volunteer for this ministry
- ix. At big events such as egg hunt or summer programs, need a way to capture attendees’ information such as names, addresses, emails so we can further invite and engage non parishioners to come and be welcomed at SJBC.

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- f.* People value some type of orientation being offered.
- g.* Exceptionally good to have two ways to complete the form, online and in-person.
- h.* The “essential” elements in an orientation include:
  - i.* To ask new parishioners what they want to know.
  - ii.* More listening and less talking to new parishioners.
  - iii.* New member volunteers need to know our community and FAITH ASPECTS, be familiar with our groups, programs, school and be people who can relate to any demographic.
  - iv.* We need to send personal invites for the areas, groups programs etc.
  - v.* What are ways to engage send invites monthly to new parishioners for 1 year.
    - 1.* Examples include:
      - a.* fall fest with couple free tickets to try a food/drink, a game such as bingo, grill the priest.
      - b.* Devoted or Watchmen invites
      - c.* All Saints Party, Journey, Egg Hunt
      - d.* Adoration
      - e.* RM small groups
      - f.* Summer activities
      - g.* Try out a volunteer opportunity
    - 2.* How do we get a mailing list?

#### C. Review Commission Member Terms and Ministry List

- 1. Make recommended changes to PLC
- 2. Make invites for upcoming open positions

#### D. Ongoing: 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. (Not able to do yet as we do not have data from the diocese)
- 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. Devoted April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- B. First Eucharist April 30/May 1st
- C. Net Goodbye Bonfire Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- D. ODM Volunteer Appreciation Dinner May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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- III. Review of Events
  - A. Past Events for Review and Feedback
    - 1. RM Lenten Sm. Groups/Celebration
    - 2. Egg Hunt
    - 3. Youth Ministry Appreciation Dinner
- IV. Ending Prayer-Steve
- V. Adjourn- 8:00 p.m.

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**Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families**

**Sunday School** – The last Sunday school was April 24, 2022.

**Family Formation** – Last family formation is May 4<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker is Jessica Balzarini. The topic is “The Trinity.”

**Childcare** – We are currently providing childcare for Baptism Prep class, a Reach More small group, Family Formation, First Sacraments, RCIA and Circle of Women. We have a new volunteer childcare person to cover the Reach More small group. Michelle Molenaar is back to work.

**First Sacraments** –The First Eucharist practices are scheduled for April 25, 26, 27<sup>th</sup>. First Eucharist will be the weekend of April 30-May1st during the 4:30 pm, 8:30am and 10:30 am masses.

**Egg Hunt** – We had an estimated 296 children attending the Egg Hunt this year. We gave away goodie bags, refreshments, games, and fun for all. This year we had the egg hunt outside, and all other parts were inside. We have determined that the hallways and plaza is not enough space to accommodate this number of children and their families.

**Summer - VBS** dates are June 14-16 from 9-12. Totus Tuus dates are Sunday, July 31 – Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> for 7-12<sup>th</sup> and Monday, August 1 - Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> for 1-6<sup>th</sup> grades. Registrations are out and we are almost full for Totus Tuus. As of writing this, each age group has single digits spots left.

**Sunday Fundays:**

**Pentecost Sunday Funday:** June 5<sup>th</sup>, Pancake Breakfast, service projects, play games and pray the Rosary. This event may or may not happen due to Fr. Paul’s schedule. Watch for updates regarding this event.

**Meet the Tutus Tuus Sunday Funday:** July 31<sup>st</sup>, games and pray the Rosary

**Backpack Blessing Sunday Funday:** August 21<sup>st</sup>, keychain giveaway, games and pray the Rosary

**Revivals:**

June 25<sup>th</sup> - Feast of St. John the Baptist Revival – Mass, Dinner, and DJ

July 27<sup>th</sup> – Feed My Starving Children Revival

August 21<sup>st</sup> – Rosary and Bonfire Revival

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**Written Report – Mikayla Anderson, Coordinator for Discipleship for Youth**

We are wrapping up our school year things in the next couple of weeks! The NET team leaves SJB May 7<sup>th</sup>, so that is also when we end our programming for the school year. We will return once school gets out!

This week our seniors are leading the second to last youth group. They are going to be talking about the Eucharist and we will have small groups! Our last youth group is on May 4<sup>th</sup>, where we will pray over the NET team and end out the year!

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We also have our last Middle School night on Friday – a Hawaiian Party! We will also talk about how to live fully alive through Christ and then celebrate the year. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome to see what youth group all is about – especially those coming to camp!

The sacrament of Confirmation is on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral of St. Paul – so I am busy preparing for that as well! We already had our last small group, and this Sunday we will have our last large group about coordination and praying for our candidates.

These last two weeks of the NET team and programming are busy around here, ensuring that we close out the year well.

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#### **Written Report – Jill Fink, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship**

**Becoming Catholic RCIA:** five candidates will be received into the fullness of the catholic faith and be confirmed at the Vigil Mass is Saturday, April 16 at 8:30pm with a reception following. Two couples will have a convalidation of marriage on Holy Thursday in a joint ceremony. The RCIA classes will continue in Mystogogy into May.

**Synod:** Beth Robertson and Rob Jensen will be our St. John's Representatives at the June -5 Synod Assembly. Pat Rother will serve as our alternate. The Synod Representatives will have a retreat, theological documents, and training before the Synod. St. John the Baptist is hosting one of the retreat options on May 18.

**Baptism:** The Longnecker children Emma, Avery, and Ruby as well as the Stenzel family with Bridger will be baptized on May 15. Jill will be going into the preschool with Emma, Avery, and Bridger's classes to do the CGS baptism presentation and advertising for other preschool families who may be interested in having their children baptized.

**RCIC:** Sun., April 24 is the Mass of Celebration for our students involved in RCIC. Lily and Cullen Cisneros will be baptized and receive their First Communion. Betsy and Kris Rewald came onboard for home catechesis with the family. Emma Bernston from St. John's school will receive her First Communion. Madeleine Fink, our new middle school teacher partnered with Jill to develop curriculum and lessons for students in the school. Lexadrea Morados, Macie, Mariah and Mat Solamillo as well as Kent Supena and Emman Veronique, members of the Sunday morning class with Sr. Ruth, will all make their First Communion. A reception in conjunction with the pancake breakfast will follow in St. Joseph Hall.

**Marriage Ministry:** An invitation from Fr. Paul will be sent to couples to discern the ministry of marriage mentor has gone out. A training is set for May 24. We are currently working with 16 couples toward Marriage this coming summer/fall.

**Adult Lifelong Learning Studies:** Megan Kruse, a licensed spiritual director will lead a 9-week course entitled Introduction to Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola for up to twelve participants on Thursdays starting April 12 in SJB Library. Jill will be presenting a 7 week study this summer on Wednesday evenings entitled Search. The program explores the larger questions of who God is and how we can know Him. The study will be casual and a drop in feel. It is a great study to invite others who are interested in Christianity and understanding the bigger questions in light of our faith. The study is also found on formed.org if anyone needs to miss. The study begins in June.

**Family Formation Parent Program:** Speaker for April was Deacon Michael Lane on the topic of O Holy Week followed by the families praying the stations of the cross. May speaker is Jessica Balzarini on The Trinity: Now That is a Mystery.

**First Sacraments:** Practices and celebrations are forthcoming the end of April and first weekend in May.

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**Written Report – Michael Lane**

**Baptisms:** 4 scheduled.

**Weddings:** No weddings scheduled.

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**Written Report – Jessica Balzarini**

**Reach More Training Group 5 beginning this week!**

Currently we have six adults in the Reach More Mission Training. We are halfway through the material currently. By the end of our time together each participant will be given the opportunity to discern where God might be calling them to enter more deeply into relationships with other people and being intentional in accompanying others in the journey of faith.

Our Lent Season of Small Group had nineteen small groups that met and worked through Lenten materials with about 150 participants.

**devoted**

The devoted gathering in April will mark its 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! This month we will celebrate in a special way the great gift and blessing this opportunity has been for the women at St. John's and the many women who have visited us during that time. One key reminder of our success is the many parishes who have been inspired to bring a similar gathering to their home parishes.

This month we welcome Megan Kruger as our speaker. "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Lk 1:47) Do you want to magnify joy? Mary, our Mother, is the greatest exemplar of feminine joy. She is a joyful mother. She is a joyful wife. As Devoted Women we can learn a lot from her. Megan will share stories of magnifying joy from her own life and share musings about how the Saints, Scripture, Sorrows, and Sacraments express a joy filled life. The evening will also include prayer, wine, chocolate, and conversation.

Megan has a missionary zeal and evangelist's heart. She is a graduate of Franciscan University, the Pope John Paul II Institute, and the University of Divinity with a master's in arts in theology.



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