

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

April 26, 2022

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

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- **Holy Week & Easter 2022.** I am feeling very restored to life after just completing Holy Week! It was a beautiful week, and I am grateful to have prayed with you all at those liturgies. I missed you all during my sabbatical and it is good to be back home! Seeing five adults come into the Church at the Easter Vigil and nine children receive the Sacraments of Initiation on Divine Mercy Sunday is very encouraging. Please pray for all those who have received sacraments recently and all those about to receive them.
- **Mass Attendance & Participation.** Palm Sunday Mass attendance was very strong; in fact it was our biggest weekend in 2022, until Easter that is! Our Easter weekend attendance was up about 20% over last year. It is very good to see those numbers increasing. We had about 2,200 people that celebrated Mass with us in person and another 438 views on YouTube and 641 participants on Facebook. While our in-person numbers are still down compared to 2019 and before, we know that we are bringing Christ to others virtually now as well. As we continue to be Restored to Life this year, the Lord is calling us forth to share the Good News and reach more people to invite them into a deeper relationship with him.
- **Chapel of Angels Renovation.** My main capital project priority for the coming year is the renovation of our Chapel of the Angels. We had several events in the chapel during the Triduum and I believe all those events would have been greatly enhanced by the renovation. I am going to meet with the designer and a few staff to discuss our options this week. We will then discern how to move forward with it. I am grateful for the feedback that the chapel sub-committee and the commissions shared, which was forwarded to me by Fr. Jaspers and our PLC leaders.

I am hopeful to have some decisions made about this project by June 19, which is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). This celebration is the kickoff of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's Eucharistic Revival. Renovating our chapel will help us meet the goal of the revival as it will allow for greater accessibility to our Lord in the Eucharist. Teachers will be able to bring their entire classroom of students to adoration. Parish groups will be able to spend time before or after their meeting together in adoration. The realignment of pews will allow us to have a clearer focus for the liturgy with everyone facing the same direction. I believe this project will help all those who come through our doors to powerfully encounter the Lord in the Eucharist. The renovation will also allow us to livestream events from the chapel. And, the renovation will include needed physical plant improvements such as fixing the ventilation system and the crack in the floor. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and guide this process as we strive to help others be Restored to Life through the Eucharist.
- **Clergy Assistance.** With Fr. Ebert's new assignment, I no longer have a priest designated to assist me here at SJB. However, I am hopeful that we will have another priest assigned to our parish in June. Until then Fr. Jaspers will be helping with Mass here on occasion. (I let him keep his keys and spot in the garage!) Please pray for all men discerning their vocation and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood.

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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- **NET Team Transition.** Our three-year agreement with NET ministries is coming to a close in mid-May. We are grateful for the work they have done—for all the time and attention invested in the lives of our youth. It has a spiritual impact hard to calculate. Their work has been like lighter fluid on the embers of a bonfire and the Lord will faithfully continue his work in the upcoming years by continuing to build a thriving youth ministry. We are also grateful to each of the team as they have impacted our entire community. There will be many opportunities in the upcoming weeks to show your appreciation and say goodbye: on May 3 we are planning a Night of Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the church and on May 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the west parking lot. And as always you will see them here for weekend Masses on weekends through May 7/8.

Mikayla Anderson, our Coordinator of Discipleship for Youth, has been working diligently on a transition plan. She has been meeting with, recruiting and securing our volunteer parish team for a smooth transition to our summer youth discipleship schedule. As part of this transition plan it has been approved for a part time position to help with summer youth group and events such as Catholic Youth Summer Camp (formerly Extreme Faith Camp). Another item proposed and approved for the upcoming budget is an additional Coordinator of Discipleship. Mikayla will be working directly with our senior high teens, developing comprehensive youth programming including leadership teams for peer ministry, mission and other areas. She will also be building a strong ministry to young adults in the parish as well.

These plans include St. John's seeking a full time Coordinator of Discipleship for Middle School Youth. This position will care for families with middle schoolers, develop some campus ministry within our SJB middle school, and take leadership for our current 9th grade confirmation preparation program.

- **Closing the Year in Formation & Youth Programs.** New this year is an end of the program year celebration inviting parish families to attend the Saint Paul Saints game on June 8 with transportation provided. Contact Mikayla Anderson at andersonm@stjohnnyb.org or 651-633-8333, ext. 1218 for more information.
- **Archdiocesan Synod.** Beth Robertson and Rob Jensen will be St. John's representatives at the June 3-5 Synod Assembly. Pat Rother will serve as our alternate. We are grateful to these parish leaders for serving in this way. The Synod Representatives will have a retreat, review theological documents and receive training before the assembly. St. John the Baptist is hosting one of the retreat options on May 18.

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **Year-to-Date Sunday Giving.** Thank you for your continued financial generosity! As of Week 42 (Easter Sunday, April 17) in our fiscal year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) we are \$31,557, or 1.6%, below our year-to-date actual projected budget in Sunday Giving. However, we are \$48,259, or 4%, above our year-to-date total through the same weekend a year ago. Easter is a time of great generosity, as we pour out our gratitude to our Risen Lord! I have seen so much generosity at St. John's, and I am hopeful that we will catch up to our projections through the 50 days of Easter. Please check the May 1 bulletin for a nine-month fiscal year financial report. Thank you all for your generosity!
- **2022/23 Budget Planning Process.** At tonight's Finance Commission meeting I plan to present what could be the final version of the 2022/23 church and school budget. Your generosity enables us to continue to build our ministries and our shared life in Christ. Please pray for the staff and volunteer leaders who guide this process and make decisions about our future together.

- **Summer Capital Improvement.** For tonight's meetings I am building a list of summer capital improvement projects that will continue to maintain and improve our campus for our many ministries. Among the items we are reviewing for cost and priority are: a school window that leaks, a new sidewalk along our playground, Parish Center restroom upgrades & bottle filling stations, rectory garage insulation & heat, SJ Hall camera completion, and routing the church's internet into the rectory to save on monthly fees. We are also planning several summer maintenance projects in the school.
- **Church Renovation.** Several committee members have met with and discussed options for the church interior with a construction firm that specializes in design/build and project planning. Because of the many variables at play in upgrading our church interior, a project facilitator such as this can be very helpful in guiding effective decisions and planning.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **Registration for the 2022-2023 school year** is still open! Information and a registration link can be found [here](#). Enrollment for next year is strong. We currently have a total of 410 Preschool-8th grade students enrolled.
- **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.** We are preparing to begin our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program in our preschool. Items are being collected for our atrium and Bri McCaffrey is heading up this program for us. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins including ways you can get involved.
- **Families Helping Families.** Thank you to everyone who donated or assisted with our Families Helping Families event at the end of February. Over 100 children and parents joined us for this wonderful night of service, fellowship, and prayer.
- **Holy Week 2022.** Our students participated in our annual Holy Week Retreat as we prepared ourselves for the Lord's passion and resurrection. Here are some of things our students took part in: a Seder Meal, washing of the feet, veneration of the cross, and praise and worship adoration.
- **First Holy Communion.** On April 30 and May 1 our students will be receiving their First Holy Communion. We will honor these students and celebrate this important step with our school community on May 4. Please pray for all those receiving our Lord in this sacrament.
- **Sacraments of Initiation.** We have had eight students from our school, ranging from grades K-7, who have received some combination of their first sacraments: Baptism, Confession and First Communion, or Confession and First Communion. We are so grateful to see how the Lord is working in their hearts and ask that you continue to pray for these wonderful students!
- **Family Fun Night** is Friday, May 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- **May Crowning.** Wednesday, May 11 is our annual May Crowning Mass, which kicks off the 8th grade celebratory events. Is it wonderful to begin marking the achievements of these students by honoring our Blessed Mother!

A blessed Easter 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.**