

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

May 17, 2022

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

651-633-8333, ext. 1214

frshovelain@stjohnnyb.org

- **Restored to Life Through the Sacraments.** From the time I returned from sabbatical until our May commission meeting, we will have celebrated 13 baptisms, 74 First Communions, and 47 Confirmations. We have also celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony three times as well as six funeral Masses. Through all those sacraments people have been Restored to Life by the Risen Christ! Most of those restorations took place here on earth but we have hope as well for those six individuals whose funeral Masses we celebrated, that they be forgiven of their sins and restored to eternal life in heaven.
- **Priestly Ordination.** We are looking forward to the ordination of five men to the priesthood on May 28 for our Archdiocese. We anticipate with the ordination of these men, we will receive a parochial vicar on June 15. Please pray for this process and that the Holy Spirit guides those making the decision of who we will have assigned to us. We pray also for our Teaching Parish Seminarian, Deacon Ben Snyder, who will be ordained a priest on June 4 and will serve in his home diocese of Davenport, Iowa.
- **120th Anniversary of St. John the Baptist.** July 16, 2022 will be our 120th anniversary as a parish. To mark that occasion, we invited Archbishop Hebda and we just learned that he will join us for Mass that Saturday evening at 4:30 pm as well as a reception afterwards. Watch other parish communications for more information about this monumental occasion.
- **Chapel of Angels Renovation.** We are getting closer to a final plan for the chapel renovation project. See the other pictures and the FAQ sheet in this email for more information. We are hoping to finalize the design by the end of May and roll it out to the parish as we kick off the Eucharistic Revival, organized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, June 18 and 19. We plan to discuss the design at the May commission night meeting.
- **Archdiocesan Synod.** I will be attending the Archdiocesan Synod, June 4-6, with two other parishioners and two staff members. We will pray and discern with Archbishop Hebda how the Holy Spirit is leading our archdiocese. Please pray for the synod and all those involved in this very important moment for our local church.
- **Restored to Life in 2021-22.** As we look to next year, the Lord is calling us forth, having been Restored to Life. I will present on the new theme for next year at our commission meeting and invite you to share at your commission meetings ways that your commissions and the groups under your commission have helped others be Restored to Life this past year. We will also begin to pray and discern how the Lord is calling us forth this next year to further our mission to GMT (GO. MAKE. TEACH.) and build up his kingdom in New Brighton and beyond.

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

651-633-8333, ext. 1228

balzarinij@stjohnnyb.org

- **Discipleship & Mission Staff.** As we end our formation year, the discipleship staff at St. John's has accomplished its main goal for the year, Restoring our ministries back to Life. We sought to bring our ministries, programs, events, and activities back onsite and re-establish what we do for adults, families, children, and youth post-covid. It was a year of rebuilding structures and onboarding new staff in order to support growth in our existing ministries and not necessarily building anything new. The numbers of parishioners who participated consistently in discipleship

formation this year has increased, and the attendees we served in our parish family events such as the All Saints Party and Egg Hunt were up in the flourishing range once again. We added more children, youth, and adults to our reception of the Sacraments as well. Watch for more information on the numbers of people we helped Restore to Life at St. John the Baptist next month in our annual GMT Report.

- **Summer Opportunities and Planning for Next Year.** Our discipleship staff is currently working diligently to close out this ministry year and continuing to prepare for our summer opportunities. Catholic Youth Summer Camp and Totus Tuus filled quickly and our adult teams are preparing for those life changing and continued growth opportunities for children and youth. There will be a few things that meet more regularly this summer, a Play Date in the Park, Summer Youth Group, adult study on The Search and others. We will be offering our 3-part Summer Revival series as well!

With such great growth over the past several years there is a need to expand our structures to accommodate it. This next year under Fr. Paul's leadership we will be offering St. John's Men's (March 3-5) and Women's (January 13-15) retreats. This will be an opportunity to get away "retreat" from the busyness of life and have time away with the Lord. We will also be offering some additional opportunities that help parishioners live the core values!

At St. John's we want to Reach More hearts for the Lord and give them a place to encounter the Lord and choose to live as his disciples. As previously reported, we will be hiring a new Coordinator of Discipleship for Middle School families serving both our church and school families with middle schoolers. We also hope to add additional staff to help with growth in our Reach More Small Groups and the preschool-grade 5 program.

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

651-633-8333, ext. 1215

dittmanm@stjohnnyb.org

- **Year-to-Date Sunday Giving.** Thank you for your continued financial generosity! As of Week 45 (Sunday, May 8) in our fiscal year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) we are \$16,455, or about 1%, below our year-to-date actual projected budget in Sunday Giving. However, we are \$75,921, or 3.8%, above our year-to-date total through the same weekend a year ago. I am hopeful that we will catch up to our projections through the 50 days of Easter. Thank you all for your generosity!
- **2022/23 Budget Approved.** At the April 26 meeting the Finance Commission recommended approval of the proposed budget for next year. The budget is now subject to a final review and any necessary revisions before Fr. Paul's approval makes it final. I am grateful to our school and church department leaders and the members of the Finance Commission, all of whom contribute to creating the complex but very useful planning tool that is our operating budget.
- **Summer Capital Improvements.** At the April meeting the Finance Commission also recommended approval of several capital projects to be completed in the coming summer. In addition to several ongoing maintenance activities, we will be repairing a leaking school window, adding a sidewalk to the west side of our playground, upgrading the sinks and countertops in the upper and lower Parish Center restrooms (including built-in step-ups and soap dispensers for our little ones), adding bottle filling stations to our drinking fountain locations, completing the functionality of our St. Joseph's Hall camera and connecting our rectory to our church internet. These improvements will be paid for out of capital reserves.
- **Cemetery Clean Up, Pricing, Benches & Communal Cremation Burial.** As is often true, there is a lot going on at our cemetery! This Saturday, May 21 is Spring Cleanup Day—see notice in the weekend bulletin. Please note that our cemetery prices for in-ground graves (full body and cremation) and for our columbaria niches will be going up July 1. Please watch the bulletin for more information and buy now to beat the increase! We have a memorial bench program available. Information can be obtained from Maureen Owusu in the parish office at 651-633-8333, ext. 1255 or owusum@stjohnnyb.org. Finally, we are planning a Communal Cremation Burial ministry program as a Corporal Work of Mercy. People can bring in the cremated remains

of loved ones that have not been buried for burial in a communal vault on October 22, 2022.
Please contact Mark Dittman for more information on this opportunity.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

651-633-1522

lairda@stjohnnyb.org

- **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.
- **School Improvement Plan.** This year we have been working on the following items from our School Improvement Plan. They are as follows:
 - The Communications Committee is working on ways to make parent/teacher communication more effective.
 - The Catholic Identity Committee is working on how we can encourage school families to become more engaged in the life of our parish.
 - The School Advisory Commission (SAC) has reviewed the current and future community building events and how they fit into our mission.
 - We are researching various salary models for educators which will be discussed by SAC at the upcoming meeting.
 - We are reviewing our current marketing strategies and plan to determine areas that are effective and where to improve.
- **2022/23 at SJB School.** We are busy preparing for next school year. This includes developing our marketing plan and our professional development, curriculum and Catholic identity goals. We are also continuing to grow our school and preschool and look forward to implementing our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program in our preschool.
- **Thank you** as always for your prayers and support for St. John the Baptist School!

A blessed Easter 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. 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.**