

Saint John the Baptist

Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

Date:	September 20, 2022	Chair	Melanie Dowell	Staff Liaison	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **October 18, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.**

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

- I. Opening Prayer – Neil

- II. Mission Statements – Read Aloud
 - A. Parish Mission Statement: Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life: GO. MAKE. TEACH.
 - B. DMC Mission Statement – *“Inspiring and Leading all at St. John’s to become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ through evangelization and faith formation within the heart of the Catholic Church.”*

- II. Topics for Discussion
 - A. Welcome and Introduce visitors
 1. No new members or guests
 2. Jessica called committee members to discern 1 additional member possibly parent of kids in youth group.
 - B. Time to discuss Fr. Paul’s opening remarks
 1. Great introduction & orientation to commissions
 2. We see definite intentionality in Fr.’s goals this year. We like it written down. We see the intention from top down.
 3. We would like to have Fr. Paul’s goal/objective for D&M commission in advance.
 4. D&M committee members appreciate the ODM staff written reports monthly, get a good idea of what is going on. Maybe other parish staff could also do monthly reports?
 5. We support and would like to see more school/parish events and coordinated school/parish functions.
 6. Question asked: What is the goal for our big events examples, Egg Hunt, All Saints Party etc. as they get larger every year. Is it the number of people hosted, access to church, community, etc.? What is Fr.’s goal? And how do we measure long term goals, logistically and efficiently track the results back to our large events?
 1. The challenge is collecting the data, evaluating the impact effectively and efficiently in a meaningful way.

- I. Ongoing Monthly Agenda Items
 - A. Update from previous month’s PLC – no report this month
 - B. Review of Written Reports – Any Questions
 - C. Live Report -no live report

- II. New Business
 - A. Discuss accomplishments from last year

Things accomplished:

To restore Discipleship Ministries

 1. Continue our large community events with no social distancing (All Saints Party, Journey, Egg Hunt)
 2. Onboard new staff and new responsibilities
 3. 3. Sustain current discipleship ministries through participation, leadership, and advice

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Help Youth Ministry Create a Transition Plan as NET leaves this spring

1. Review and give feedback to Youth Ministry Plan, volunteer job descriptions, and recommendations to PLC and LT
2. make recommendations to the parish for other gaps in ministry as NET team Leaves

Review New Member Process

1. Evaluate current process
2. Talk to other parishes about their process
3. update/create new content as needed - script for new member orientation
4. Suggest process of onboarding/perks for 1st year as a parishioner
5. Review entrance spaces for easy access to needed information - Plaza, Website, etc.

Evaluate Feedback from Synod Small Groups – date TBD

1. Jill Fink to present information to the entire PLC
2. create process for all commissions to evaluate feedback as it pertains to their area of parish life
3. D & M Commission look at Feedback -available 1st Sunday in Advent
4. process feedback
5. make recommendations for parish moving forward

B. Review Guiding Documents

C. Fostering Connections

1. Outreach to families not yet registered
2. Welcome Bags for New Homes
3. Monthly Birthday Cards to kids/youth
4. Continue some version of the we miss you ministry – calling elderly parishioners
5. Invite new parishioners to host hospitality with D&M Commission members, invite. Mock this with other demographics and see if we can continue to intentionally invite other to go forth.

D. Called Forth theme:

1. One main goal: To support and guide discipleship programming to sustain flourishing and effective ministry at SJB

III. Volunteer needs specific for Commission members

- A. **Host Hospitality Weekend** – we will choose the Sunday in December, the SS program date.
- B. **All Saints Party – October 26** -commission table again
- C. **Journey to the Inn – January 7**
- D. **Egg Hunt – April 8**

IV. Review of Events

A. Past Events for Review and Feedback

1. Summer Events:

- a) Summer Revivals
 - a. loved feed my starving children- advertise for families
 - b. Saints game was great, seats were great, advertise for families, good opportunity to evangelize
- b) Sunday Fundays -Keep kickball with the priests a part of this event!!
- c) Totus Tuus/VBS – very successful!
- d) Extreme Faith Camp
- e) Summer Youth Group and Events – more advertising and much earlier communication would be nice.

B. Fall Events

1. September
2. 9/15 – 10/17 ODM fundraiser, Butter Braid Sales Started
3. 9/15 Sister's Scripture Class started

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4. 9/18-9/19 Blessing of Catechists and Families
5. 9/20 Sister's Alive in the Word – Peace Study starts

C. Upcoming Calendar of Events and Volunteers Needs:

1. 9/21 Youth Group Begins
2. 9/24-9/26 Fall Fest
3. First week of October Start For
 - a) Sunday School
 - b) Confirmation Prep
 - c) Family Formation
4. 10/12 Devoted

V. Old Business – none

VI. Ending Prayer

VII. Adjourn: 8:06p.m.

- Oct Meeting: Emily Snacks, Mike will do prayer, live speaker is Sarah Wilder.

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Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families

Sunday School – Registration is at 30 for SS as opposed to 37 last year. We have Sunday School Orientation on Sunday at 9:30 and 11:30am. Sunday School begins on October 2nd. We could use another volunteer or two for Sunday School.

Family Formation – We have made several changes We just had our first catechist training on Wednesday. We have quite a few changes this year:

- We will be starting dinner at 5:30pm at the same time as Mass based upon feedback from families that FF ran too late. The program will run from 6-7:30pm.
- We changed the September Orientation to a Kickoff event from 6:30-7:30pm with kids. Often the new families weren't registering until after the Orientation happened so we feel that making it a Kickoff instead will bring in more attendance because we will have the kids attend. We will also take care of the "First Day of School" business at that event to free up class time in October.
- We are piloting a new Family Formation curriculum called Family Formation Foundations.
- We have moved 6th grade out of Family Formation and into the Middle School Formation program.
- We have added a second 2nd grade class. We will be using a separate First Sacraments curriculum for the 2nd grade class.
- We have added 4 new volunteers to FF.

We have 39 families registered with 55 children. Taking the kids eligible to be in Family Formation from last year's list we are missing approximately 10 kids. A lot of families have the beginning of October in their mind as the beginning of Family Formation so we will continue to send targeted emails to the families that have not registered yet.

Childcare – We will be providing childcare for Baptism Prep class, a Reach More small group, Family Formation, First Sacraments, and Circle of Women. We have a new volunteer childcare person to cover the Reach More small group. I will be covering one of the childcare positions for Circle of Women. Please let me know if you know anyone who would be interested in volunteering or being hired to do childcare for Circle of Women or as a sub, since I am also the only available sub for the RM small group.

All Saints Party – Planning has begun for the All-Saints Party on Wednesday, October 26th. We will be asking all the Commissions as well as all the Ministry Groups to participate in the event by hosting a trick-or-treating table. They are also encouraged to have the people giving out candy dressed as saints. We will have raffles for adults dressed as saints as well as raffles for kids dressed as saints. St. John's 8th graders will be selling pizza and beverages to raise money for their D.C. trip. We will also have a blessing and picture with Fr. Paul in church, games, a photo booth and estimating jars. We had 300 kids last year, so we are planning for 350.

Written Report – Sarah Wilder, Coordinator for Discipleship for Middle School Youth and Young Adults

- New position – Start date: Aug 15th

Recruiting Volunteers -updated 9/20/22

- Sarah has reached out to 25+ potential volunteers recommended by Mikayla, Jill, Jen, Fr Paul
- Sarah has been meeting people at the church and school and inviting them to consider volunteering
- Volunteers Status Update
 - Middle School Faith Formation Volunteers – Needs 4-6
 - Confirmed Volunteers: 6
 - Starts next week (Sept 21st)
 - Middle School Youth Group CORE Team – Needs 5+
 - 3 people who have expressed openness/interest in MSYG CORE Team
 - 2+ potential

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- Starts Oct 14th
- Open Youth Room Volunteers – Need 2-4 each week
 - Fr. Joseph and Sarah weekly
 - 2 have committed to 1/mo.
 - Started Sept 14th

Preparing the Youth Room for Programing (in conjunction with Mikayla)

The “office” has been converted to a small group meeting space

New small group meeting spaces have been added in two locations and removed in one

Furniture has been rearranged to better utilize the space

New Bibles have been purchased

Working on Programming

Sarah has been planning a curriculum scope and sequence

MSFF will feature a dynamic mix of large and small group activity, scripture study, prayer.

Focus Area 1: Middle School Faith Formation

- MSFF is changing from monthly to weekly
- Kick-Off is Sept 21st
- There are currently 22 MS students registered
- The topic this year is *Journey Through the Old Testament*
 - The curriculum will follow the Great Adventure Timeline from Jeff Cavins.
 - Each month will focus on a different period of salvation history.

Focus Area 2: SJB School Ministry

- Sarah has been visiting SJB school regularly (before and after school, during advisory)
- ...has established positive relationships with the middle school staff
- ...is building relationships with students
 - 1st open youth room was Sept 13th, 2022 – 13 attended 3 female, 10 male
- ...is in conversation with religion teachers about giving lessons on prayer to students
 - ...hopes to attend school field trips

Focus Area 3: Middle School Youth Group

- Dates set for 2nd Friday of the month
 - Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 24
- Conversations started with potential core members

Written Report – Mikayla Anderson, Coordinator for Discipleship for High School Youth and Confirmation

- *Report added 9/20/22*

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- HSYG – starts on September 21st – we are starting with a trivia night, praise, and worship. Later in the year we are going to be talking about the things that are placing stress on our students. We are using LifeTeen, which is a youth ministry resources. We'll have it every Wednesday from 8-9:30. We have about 8 volunteers helping with youth group this year.
- Confirmation starts on October 2nd. We are currently looking for 2 more male catechists. As of 9/18 we have 28 students registered but are expecting 10 more at least. It will be weekly on Sunday evenings, and we are also using LifeTeens's purpose series.

Written Report – Michael Lane, Sacramental Records Coordinator

Baptisms in June: 6

Weddings in June: 3

Baptisms in July: 6

Weddings in July: 2

Baptisms in August: 5

Weddings in August: 1

Baptisms in September:

6 upcoming on September 18

Weddings in September:

2 Completed

1 upcoming on September 30

Written Report – Claire Brostrom, Reach More Coordinator

Reach More Training Group will pick back up beginning October 3rd from 7-9pm and run for 12 weeks. We are currently in the process of making invites for this session. Our goals this year include better shepherding current leaders with both 1 on 1 meetings and monthly "Mission Community" events where they can give and receive support from fellow leaders.

Written Report – Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life

September 2022

This year at Fall Fest we want more people to be prepared to **make simple introductions, have relaxed conversations, and be more intentional with inviting others into our life in Christ at St. John's**. Many of us personally know the impact St. John's has had on our personal lives. St. John's can be a big place and tough for some to get connected. We want to make that bridge into St. John's easier. Contact me for more information.

We welcome Claire Brostrom as the new Reach More Coordinator. She will be the point person for this expanding ministry, leading 2 Mission Training Groups this year, shepherding our leaders, and helping leaders with small group logistics.

SJB had the second gathering of new members since Fr. Paul became pastor. We rebranded the event this year, *Grill and Chill*. It included time to socialize through a happy hour and dinner. We offered childcare for families with children for the happy hour portion of the event. We gathered in Fr. Paul's courtyard for happy hour due to the large response. We invited 147 households and 24 families attended. There were staff and volunteers planted at the gathering to help encourage conversation and help them feel welcomed.

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Adult Studies – Sister Clarinda has about 40 participants in her Fall Scripture Study and about 20 participants in her new Alive in the Word Series on Peace.

Written Report – Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis

Baptism: Jill has been working on enhancing the Baptism Preparation Class. She will meet with our 4 Baptism Preparation Couples to go over the changes. They include Reborn video clips to help with transitioning the information and facilitate discussion, a piece on parent spirituality, parents as first educators of their children, Rite of Baptism pictures and explanation from our Baptism Celebration and more discussion on parish life encouraging our young parents root into belonging in our parish.

First Sacraments: Registration is currently open to families. We should have about 50 children. Parent Orientation Meeting for Parents is Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30pm in St. Joseph Hall. Childcare will be available.

RCIC: Working with several families on a plan for their older children. No formal class on Sunday mornings this year. Instead, a new accompaniment model is desired. The goal of having Family Mentors to walk beside the families with catholic curriculum and monthly check in meetings on Sunday with Jill followed by attending Mass together. Family Mentors are needed.

Becoming Catholic RCIA: The Becoming Catholic RCIA classes start on Thursday, September 22 at 7-9pm in room 206. RCIA Team Members are Steve Broszko and Abby Donohoo. We have about 12 people who are currently considering beginning.

Family Formation Parent Program: We will pilot from The Church of St. Paul a new year cycle entitled Family Foundations. Jill and Jen received orientation this summer. The parent program part will incorporate more intentional small group creation. The night will begin with discussion on the topic, a short video, 20-minute talk, then discussion following. Synod at Home program will also be introduced as a resource.

Marriage Ministry: Marriage Ministry procedures were approved this summer with orientation on this process being communicated to clergy and ministers. Witness to Love marriage formation program is currently being piloted to be an option alongside the Prepare and Enrich Mentor Couples.

Adult Lifelong Learning Studies: Megan Kruse, a licensed spiritual director is offering again a 9-week course entitled Called Forth in Scripture on Monday mornings 9:30-11am in the Library.

Staff professional development opportunity this summer was encouraging to attend the two-year Catechetical Institute. Two staff members are currently signed up. Several others are interested in the future.

Synod: An initial Synod implementation plan was delivered to gather input and feedback from clergy and parish staff. We are currently awaiting any further instructions and Archbishop Hebda's Pastoral Plan to be delivered on the Feast of Christ the King in November.