

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission
Minutes

Date:	October 18, 2022	Chair	Melanie Dowell	Staff Liaison	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **November 15, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.**

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

- I. Opening Prayer – Steven

- II. Mission Statements (Recite 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. Opening Comments
 - A. Welcome and Introduce visitors – None
 - B. Time to discuss Fr. Paul’s opening remarks
 - 1. We loved Fr. Paul talked on “month of Mary.” A big thank you for doing that.
 - 2. Mary was the observant one, discussion was around Mary saying, “Do whatever your Father tells you.”
 - 3. Do not be stuck in fear.

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

- II. Business
 - A. Choose Hospitality dates:
 - 1. December 18 – we are extra help for 10:30 am mass (Sunday School Program)
 - 2. D & M needed to choose another weekend to host hospitality: majority were interested in **1/28/2022-1/29/2022** after 4:30 & Sunday am masses.
 - B. All Saints Party planning
 - 1. Table theme and décor

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- a) John 1:4-5 “Light of Men”
2. Who will sit at the table to hand out items?
 - a) Steven & Melanie, Jackie assigned on the FF table potentially
3. We have glow in the dark bracelets that say *You have light from the Lord so live as people of the light Eph. 5:8*

C. Setting Goals

1. See Goals Sheet
2. Create Objectives to accomplish goal and decide on timeline, who needs to be involved, etc.
3. Prioritize goals, where do we want to start?
 - a) Discussion are Fall Fest and opportunity to “Be Called Forth”
 - a. Jessica in effect created very effective “evangelization field teams” who worked the festival by walking up and inviting in.
 - b. Some team members had a hard time getting started.
 - c. Members proposed continuing this work, ways to practice including evangelizing at hospitality by working at tables, other test runs and extend opportunities.
 - d. The fall fest training had a modest turnout but excellent outcomes.
 - e. We do have impressive events and people come, is that an opportunity?
 - f. Fall fest had great results, can it be expanded. It was noted that there was a strong turnout from non-SJBC members. Parishioners had personally invited neighbors, friends, family etc.
 - g. This topic was discussed twice tonight, after Fr. Paul’s talk on Mary and being “Called Forth” and again during the goals discussion.
 - b) Use the commissions and the commission members to emphasize the importance of being and training as disciples. Potentially we should train all commissions and have them lead in “going forth” as a field team member.
 - c) Karl made a motion for the below goal this year and Steven seconded the motion:
 - a. Dive deeper into the breakdown of parishioners vs. non parishioners who register for our parish programs (FF, TT, VBS, Sacraments etc.) including adult studies, marriage enrichment, RCIA, RCIC etc.
 - b. Include data from the past five years.
 - d) Steven also asked for follow – up and progress related to Youth Ministry and creating our own type of NET team. D&M worked most of the year on this and would like to see the outcome and progress of those goals around youth

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ministry from last year. Should we include a goal(s) this year from the NET team goals from last year?

III. Long Term Planning

A. Host Hospitality Weekend – Proposed 1/28/2022-1/29/2022

B. All Saints Party – October 26

C. Journey to the Inn – January 7

D. Egg Hunt – April 8

E. Catholic Youth Summer Camp – June 25-June 30

F. Potential Totus Tuus date - July 22-29

IV. Review of Events

A. Past Events for Review and Feedback

1. Last Month's Events and Ministry Start Ups:

- a) Fall fest
- b) Fall fest Field Team
- c) Blessing of Catechists/Group leaders and families at Mass
- d) Butter braid Fundraiser
- e) Sunday School
- f) Family Formation
- g) Middle School Faith Formation
- h) 1st Sacraments Prep
- i) Confirmation Prep
- j) Open Youth Room - SJBS
- k) MS Youth Group
- l) Sister Clarinda's Sunday Scripture, Small Group Study
- m) RCIA

B. Upcoming Calendar of Events and Volunteers Needs:

1. Watchmen November 10
2. Devoted – November 16 – more like a retreat
3. Marriage Morning of Reflection – November 19
4. All Saints Party – November 26

V. Ending Prayer-Karl

VI. Adjourn: 8:00 p.m.

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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 were not 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. Many 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 becoming an employee in 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

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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

Focus Area 1: Middle School Faith Formation

- MSFF is changing from monthly to weekly
- Volunteers are great, committed, learning a lot and jumping right in!
- 32 registered
 - Increase from 22 last month, new students coming each week
 - 7 students attend Catholic School at SJB, Hill Murry, St. Agnes, St. O's
 - More SJB school kids asking about it, showing interest
- The topic this year is *Journey Through the Old Testament – Jeff Cavin's*
 - We finished Introductory Lessons
 - We are beginning Early World (Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel)
- Feedback from students and parents is positive
- Students still warming up to each other and to the new program

Focus Area 2: SJB School Ministry

- Sarah has been visiting SJB school regularly (before and after school, during advisory)
- ...is continuing to build relationships with students, learning names and making connections
- ...attended 7th grade family social and met several invested families
- ...attended school marathon fundraiser and chatted with kids, staff, and parents
- ...is continuing conversations with religion teachers about giving lessons on prayer to students
 - ...has attended 1 religion lesson per class (6a, 6b, 7a, 8)
 - ...plans to start teaching lessons on prayer or providing prayer experiences a 1-3 times per month per grade
- ...plans to attend school field trips Nov 7 (social studies) and Dec 7th (Feed My Starving Children)

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
- A small CORE Team has been assembled. Still looking for more volunteers

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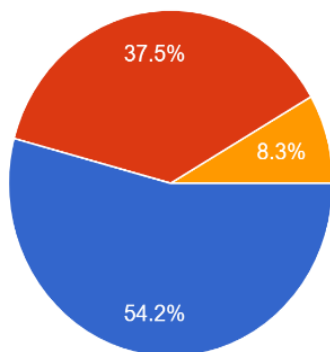
- MSYG will try to connect themes to the seasons and liturgical themes of the parish community
- MSYG will include games, themed message, prayer, snacks etc.
- October Theme: Sainthood (in preparation for All Saints Day)
 - Purpose of theme– to help students better understand what a saint is, become familiar with more saints, and recognize their call to sainthood.

Focus Area 4: Young Adult Ministry

- Overview
 - Sarah is seeking to understand the young adults of the parish, their needs, and interests
 - After hearing feedback from YA, Sarah will discern a direction for the group
 - Leaning toward occasional large group social events and small group bible studies
 - Sarah hopes to meet with several invested YA to generate ideas and give input
- First Young Adult Event – Casual Dinner at the Rectory Oct 9th
 - 20+ attended
 - Chili for dinner, bonfire, introductions, decade of the rosary
 - Opportunity for Sarah to meet YA and get a sense of who they are and what they need
- Survey
 - YA are encouraged to fill out a brief survey sharing what they hope SJB YA can offer
 - Currently 24 responses, survey still active
 - Analyzing data to help discern direction. See below.

How do you feel about SJB young adults?

24 responses



- I am hoping the young adult community will grow at SJB and want to be a part of it
- I am looking for community somewhere and wondering if SJB will be a good fit
- I am not sure if I want to be involved in SJB young adult things
- I don't really think I'll get involved at all in SJB community

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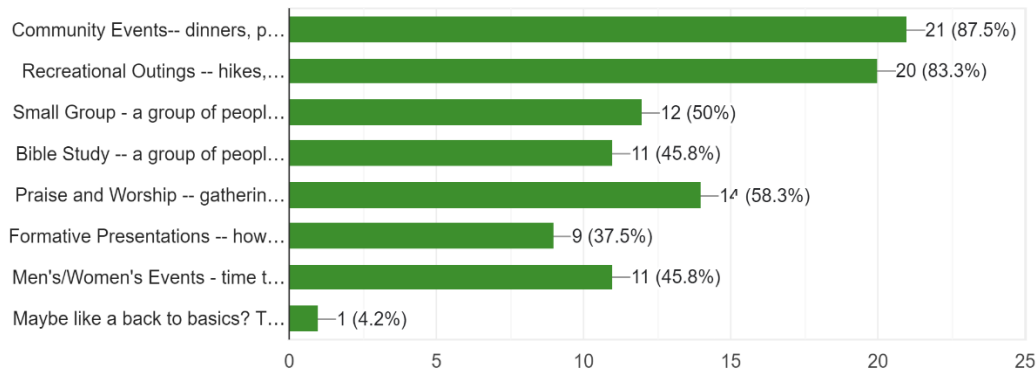
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Blue = 13 Responses Red = 9 Responses Yellow = 2 Responses Green = 0 Responses

What kinds of opportunities would most bless you in this season of your life?

24 responses



Are you interested in helping to make these opportunities possible?

23 responses



Thank you for your prayers and support!

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

- We are underway with high school youth group this year. We have had a good start so far. We have been talking about stress, healthy relationships, academics, and drugs/alcohol. Sarah and I are also planning on a fun youth group with high school and middle school together on October 19th from 7-9pm. We typically have a nerf gun fight this night, but as our youth ministry grows, it got to be too big for our space – so that is totally a plus!
- We do have one small group that is going this year.
- We have 36 students for confirmation and have all our leaders. So far, so good! We are using a new format this year, and it is going to serve our youth well! Our confirmation retreat is

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November 11-13th and we are doing it with 2 other parishes this year. (St. Michael in Farmington and All Saints in Lakeville)

Written Report – Michael Lane, Sacramental Records Coordinator

Baptisms in October:

- 1 Completed October 8
- 3 upcoming on October 18⁶

Weddings in October:

None

ODM Programs Registrants Year to Date Comparison

RCIA	2021-2022	2022-2023
	5	12
RCIC	2021-2022	2022-2023
	9	4
First Sacraments	2021-2022	2022-2023
	62	52
Middle School Faith Formation	2021-2022	2022-2023
	30	30
Confirmation 9th-12th	2021-2022	2022-2023
	42	38
Family Formation	2021-2022	2022-2023
	69	94
Sunday School	2021-2022	2022-2023
	37	37
Adult Scripture – Sr. Clarinda	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
	40	71

Updated as of Tuesday, November 8, 2022

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Written Report – Claire Brostrom, Reach More Coordinator

Reach More began the fall Mission Training this past Monday evening, October 10th. There are 5 parishioners participating in the 12-week training. We are approaching our November leader Huddle. Point people continue to shepherd existing leaders via quarterly one-on-ones.

Written Report – Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life

- **The Fall Fest Field Team was a great success!** Many on the team spoke about how it was difficult to get started and a little discouraging if the conversations did not take off, but everyone had stories of connection. Some conversations went deep allowing for God to work powerfully. There was some friendly interaction with and interest from people who have not been around church for some time. Lots of doors opened at Fall fest. We received 9 contact cards with seven new names connected to emails lists and ministries.
- **All Saint's Party** is right around the corner. We are asking all parish groups and ministries to host a Trick or Treat Table. You can decorate your table and pass out candy or items for 350 children. It is an opportunity to get your ministry seen by young families. Many ministries hand out candy to the children and flyers to the parents. Contact Jodie Wolla wollaj@stjohnnyb.org to reserve your space.
- The **Archdiocesan Synod** is taking its next step in the renewal of our Archdiocese. It will be exciting to receive Archbishop Hebda's Pastoral Letter, which is to be released in November. In preparation for the release 2 staff representatives parish will attend an information and training day in October and will prayerfully consider how to implement the key focus areas here at St. John's: forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization; forming missionary disciples who know Jesus' love and respond to his call; and forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young.

Written Report – Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis

Baptism: Baptism Preparation Class enhancements and retreat for Baptism Teaching Couples is Monday, October 17 to look at enhancements. Baptism Assistants will be the next step to invite more people into the ministry.

First Sacraments: Parent Orientation Meeting for Parents was Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30pm in St. Joseph Hall. We have 52 families enrolled. Several have baptism for the children before first Reconciliation.

RCIC: First monthly meeting will be Sunday, October 16 at 9:15am in room 206 for all families that are interested. Registrations are still coming in from the individual meetings. A new Sacrament class was formed for students in grade 3, 4, 5 and Sarah Wilder will do 3 Reconciliation lessons with grades 6, 7, 8 this fall. On the School side, Ms. Fink will lead the 3 Reconciliation lessons for grades 5, 6, 7. It is shaping up to be 3 school families and 3 faith formation families.

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Becoming Catholic RCIA: The Becoming Catholic RCIA classes are in full swing. We have 11 candidates and 2 catechumens (unbaptized). We have an adult auditing the class. We need 2 more sponsors: a male and a female. 7 of the candidates are from the school.

Family Formation Parent Program: Parent program part is incorporating more intentional small group creation and dialog. The new format was welcomed. Synod at Home Faith Plan is being introduced and worked with parents until February. Creator is Pat Millea who will be on site in January which should be an added help for parents. November speaker is Jessica Balzarini on Jesus: My Friend and Savior

Marriage Ministry: Continue to roll out to deacons Marriage Ministry procedures. 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: Called Forth in Scripture offering was cancelled due to low interest and upon Megan Kruger moving.

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. Synod Implementation Team will be constructed and training to begin this winter. More details will be available at the October 27 at the Archdiocesan Synod Staff Day.