

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

November 15, 2022

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

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- **Core Commitment 2023.** This fall we are focusing on our core values of Willingness to Grow, Reliance on Prayer, and Generous Spirit. Three videos, each featuring a parish family, illustrate these core values, showing how St. John the Baptist has made a difference in their lives. Links to the videos can be found on our [Core Commitment 2023](#) webpage. A letter inviting pledges is in homes now and parishioners are invited to return their commitment forms on Christ the King Sunday, November 19/20. We also invite parishioners to sign-up online at our Core Commitment webpage with a sign-up link that can be found [here](#).

Thank you for your participation in this campaign to be Called Forth to carry out our mission to GO. MAKE. TEACH, and build up God's kingdom in New Brighton and beyond!

- **Called Forth in Communion with Christ through the Mass.** Our next seasonal theme of Called Forth is "Called Forth into Communion with Christ." For the season of Advent we will focus on the Mass and break it open in homilies, bulletin articles and a video included in the Thursday emails. I am anticipating that the coming Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Hebda will encourage parishes to better form parishioners about the significance of the Mass. My hope is this series will help accomplish that goal as well as align with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Eucharistic Revival" theme.

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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- **All Saints Party:** Our All Saints Party on October 26, an all-parish family event, was a huge success. We served about 270 children and their families and had 25 parish ministries and our school hand out items for trick or treating. Thank you to those commission members, ministry leaders and church and school staff members who represented our ministries, including those of you who dressed up as saints!
- **Synod Implementation** Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis, and I attended the Archdiocesan Fall Formation Day for parish staff outlining the theological underpinnings for the Archdiocesan Synod Implementation Plan. We look forward to the culmination of our synod efforts with the release of Archbishop Hebda's Pastoral Letter on the Feast of Christ the King, November 19/20. Our Leadership Team is diligently praying about how best to implement at St. John's the key priorities identified by the Archbishop in his coming pastoral letter.
- **Weekend Retreat:** St. John's will begin registration the weekend of November 19/20 for the Awaken Women's Retreat at the Franciscan Retreat and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake. All adult women (18+) of the parish are invited to attend this retreat January 13-15, 2023. The Awaken Men's Retreat will be March 3-5 at the same location.

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **Sunday Giving.** As Father Paul shared in a recent homily, our Sunday Giving numbers have grown at least 5% each year since 2019. Thank you! For the current fiscal year we budgeted a Sunday Giving increase of 2.5%. Thus far in the fiscal year (July – October) we are about 5% under budget. In our Core Commitment campaign this fall we are asking our members to commit again to a generous spirit to continue to support our ministries. We are grateful to all of our generous parishioners who have sustained us and helped us to grow these past years!
- **Chapel Renovation and Church Interior Projects.** Planning for these projects continue. Meetings to review project information for contractors, staff and parish leaders are being proposed for this week – the week of our commission meetings. The chapel renovation will likely begin in January 2023, and church renovations are more likely to begin in mid to later 2023. Please watch our parish publications for more information and join me in praying for our parish leaders and the contractors who are planning these projects.
- **Maintenance Staff Changes.** We have recently made some changes in our Maintenance department. We have modified the schedules of two staff members, increasing one from part-time to 30 hours per week, which is considered full-time, and reducing the hours of a full-time employee to 30 per week. Both changes were welcomed by the staff members, since they align with their personal goals. These changes will also allow a greater flexibility in our maintenance staff's cleaning and coverage of our buildings. We welcome Adam Herriott as a new full-time maintenance staff member. Adam relocated to Minnesota earlier this year, and he is very excited to be working at St. John the Baptist!
- **Staff Organizational Chart.** Accompanying the Leadership Team Report this month is an updated staff organizational chart that illustrates the parish's corporate structure and staff reporting relationships. This past summer we had one trustee change and we made some new hires. This chart includes those changes. Please contact a Leadership Team member or me with questions about our staff or corporate structure.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **Grateful to God.** This month's virtue that we are practicing is stewardship which is returning to God the first fruits of your time, talent, and treasure. One way we are living this out is by recognizing all the things that we are grateful to God for. Please come see the Grateful to God wall outside the school office!
- **Advent: Called Forth to Prepare.** With our theme this year we will creating our own Preparing for Christ calendar where our students can earn points for completing a different spiritual or virtuous act to prepare themselves for the celebration of Christmas.
- **Advent/Christmas Concerts.** We will have three concerts this year to get us in the mood for Jesus' coming. First is our band concert on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m., followed by our Preschool to Second Grade choral concert on Friday, December 16 at 1:15 p.m., and then our Third to Eighth Grade concert on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. All concerts are in the Church, and all are invited to join us! Please come to one or all!

Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis

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- **Youth Ministry.** Middle School Faith Formation and Confirmation programs are in full swing with curriculum, core teams and catechists. Middle School Youth Group is Friday,

November 11 for this month with the theme of Thanksgiving/Eucharist. Open Youth Room meets weekly on Tuesdays after school. High School Youth Group continues to meet weekly with Mikayla Anderson and our newly created core team. Our Confirmation Sponsor meeting was Sunday, November 6, featuring Pat Millea speaking on Knowing Jesus. At this meeting sponsors obtained information and materials to begin their meetings with their candidates. Confirmation Retreat is November 11-13. Another retreat is scheduled for January 20-22, 2023.

- **Sacraments Update.** In First Sacraments the parents are working on home lessons with their children to prepare for First Reconciliation. Children are meeting monthly for an age-specific curriculum that dovetails with the parent materials. Check point incentives are added this year for parents to connect back and receive a prize for home lesson completion each month. The RCIC Family Meeting will be on Sunday, November 13. Student age-specific meetings are scheduled and have begun to meet. Baptized students will make their First Reconciliation in December. Becoming Catholic RCIA will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome on Saturday, November 19 at the 4:30 p.m. Mass. Candidates are in the discernment process but we are expecting two catechumens and 11 candidates to go into the catechumenate stage of the process.
- **Young Adult Ministry.** Survey feedback indicates a desire for gathering for social, prayer and small group experiences. On Thursday, November 17 we will host a Friendsgiving at the rectory. Sunday afternoon lectio prayer before the 5:30 p.m. Mass is also being offered. Small Group formation will be headed up by Sarah Wilder as interest and trained leaders are secured.

A blessed and joyous Thanksgiving 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, Jill Fink, Ann Laird

**Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life:
GO. MAKE. TEACH.**