

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

October 18, 2022

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

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- **Called Forth to Commit.** We are working on our Core Commitment Campaign for 2022-2023 and building on the fishing theme from last year. We are working on producing three short videos that will be sent out three weeks in a row beginning October 27. Once again we are highlighting three St. John's households that live out our core values as a way of showing the beauty and fruits of our parish ministry. Please watch for the videos and share them with others! The Core Commitment form will be sent out in early November and the Core Commitment Weekend is November 19 & 20, the Feast of Christ the King. At St. John the Baptist we desire to serve the King in New Brighton and beyond!
- **Called Forth to Grow.** This past weekend we welcomed our new teaching parish seminarian Peter Romens. He is preparing to serve as a priest in our Archdiocese in four years. He will be focusing this semester on understanding the basics of parish life. Please pray for him and all those discerning the call to the priesthood.

Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life

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- **The FallFest 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 didn't 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 haven't been around church for some time. New connections were made at FallFest! We received nine contact cards with seven new names connected to emails lists and ministries.
- **All Saints 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 up to 350 children. It's 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 at 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 two staff representatives of the 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.

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **FallFest 2022.** The numbers are in, and they are good! An upcoming weekend bulletin will feature a financial report on our festival. Without all expenses in, our current net is approximately \$77,000. For comparison, our net in 2021 was just over \$91,000, and in 2020 we netted \$81,222. The weather was damp this year, but the community spirit was strong and, as always, a lot of people had a great time celebrating St. John the Baptist and beyond! Thank you to all who

contributed to the success of FallFest 2022! \$20,000 of our proceeds will support our operating budget and the balance will help build our capital reserves.

- **Sunday Giving.** Our Sunday Giving numbers through September are 11.5% under budget. Our 2022/23 budget calls for an increase for the year of 2.5% over prior year. Our numbers for October show that we are beginning to close the gap toward the budgeted amount. Thank you for your ongoing generous spirit! Watch for a first quarter (July–September) financial report in a near future bulletin.
- **Cemetery Trees.** We have decided to remove all ash trees from St. John the Baptist Cemetery. The City of New Brighton has identified four trees to remove by November 1, but all of our ash trees (13 in total) have various stages of the ash borer disease. The Cemetery Committee will be developing a tree replacement plan for 2023. Donations toward replacing these trees are welcome! Please note that the Cemetery Committee will soon be advertising for additional members. The Cemetery Committee will be making its annual report to the Pastoral Leadership Council in December.
- **Chapel Renovation and Church Interior Projects.** We are still gathering information, but should have more to share soon. The chapel project could begin this fall—thus far we have received donations and a grant totaling \$153,175 for this renovation. Please watch our parish publications for more information and join me in praying for our parish leaders and the contractors who are gathering important information. These projects will call forth the best of our planning to maintain and beautify these sacred spaces!

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **New Staff Members.** We are excited to inform everyone that we have hired a PE teacher/Athletic Director, Cole Van Beusekom and J-Care Coordinator, Katie Adams. They are great additions to our staff and we are pleased to have them as part of our community.
- **Catechesis of Good Shepherd (CGS) Update.** We began our CGS lessons this month for our 3-year-old preschool class. While this is a pilot year for us, we are already thinking about the future of the program and expansion to our other preschool classes next year. For more information please contact Bri McCaffery at mccaffreyb@stjohnnyb.org.
- **Adoration.** As we are called forth to deepen our relationship with Jesus, all of our K-8 students have the opportunity to go to adoration every month and spend some time in the presence of the Lord. We are grateful for Father Joseph's assistance in helping facilitate this opportunity for us.
- **Non-Public School Marathon** took place on Saturday, October 1 at Central Park in Roseville. It was a great day that officially began with a prayer by Father Paul. The weather was wonderful and it provided a great opportunity for all families to connect. I am pleased to announce that we exceeded our goal of \$60,000 so we will have February 17 as a day off of school!

Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis

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- **Youth Ministry.** Middle School Faith Formation and Confirmation programs are in full swing with 32 and 36 students respectively. Catechists were recruited, trained and the year is starting off well. Senior High Youth Ministry is meeting with the newly created core team on Wednesday evenings. The first Middle School Youth Group was this past Friday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. Sarah Wilder has been getting to know students and working with the middle school religion teachers for classroom teaching and an upcoming retreat. Open Youth Room meets weekly on Tuesdays after school.
- **Sacraments Update.** The registration process for First Sacraments, RCIC, Becoming Catholic RCIA and Confirmation is completed. First Sacraments has 52 children and begins with an

orientation meeting. RCIC families are in the process of registering now. Age level curriculum and classes are being crafted to accommodate our larger interest as well as monthly Sunday gatherings to connect the families to the Catholic faith. Becoming Catholic RCIA has 13 members.

- **Young Adult Ministry.** An initial, informal meal to gather interested young adults in parish was held on Sunday, October 9 with over 20 young adults attending. A survey for future programming was given and Sarah Wilder will follow up based on the feedback.

A blessed and peaceful fall 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.**