

**St. John the Baptist Church**  
**Leadership Team Report to Commissions**

September 20, 2022

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**Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor**

651-633-8333, ext. 1214

[frshovelain@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:frshovelain@stjohnnyb.org)

- **Called Forth to St. John the Baptist.** We have worked to be more intentional in calling people forth to SJB through our communications and our outreach. We gave out postcards to parishioners to distribute at National Night Out on August 2. We also gave out postcards at the Stockyard Days Parade. We are creating a new postcard to hand out at FallFest and invite our guests back to SJB for more ministry opportunity.
- **Called Forth to Connect.** Fr. Joseph, Principal Ann Laird and I hosted two meet and greets at the rectory for all incoming kindergarten families. It was a chance for us to share with them the many opportunities that SJB provides to grow in relationship with the Lord. Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis and Sarah Wilder, our Middle School Campus Minister, presented at our Middle School Parent Night to share with our middle school parents the many opportunities our youth have to grow in their faith. Our Director of Parish Life, Jessica Balzarini, organized a New Member Welcome Dinner for over 60 people to help them connect and become more established at St. John's. With so many new people coming through our doors, we are working on being intentional about Calling them Forth in relationship with God through our parish ministries.
- **Called Forth to Vote.** With the midterm elections approaching, we hosted a private event on September 7 for the Minnesota Catholic Conference that focused on creating a society that upholds our Catholic values. In attendance were many pro-life leaders, including 5 bishops from the state of Minnesota. We are also hosting an event called "Principles over Politics" on September 27 at 7:00 pm. Tim Staples of Catholic Answers will be here to present on the Catholic principles that we must keep in mind when we vote. John Helmberger from Minnesota Family Council will be here to present information regarding the candidates in the various local elections and where they stand on various issues. This is an educational event open to the public. Please join us!

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](mailto:balzarinij@stjohnnyb.org)

- This year at FallFest 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.

**Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations**

651-633-8333, ext. 1215

[dittmanm@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:dittmanm@stjohnnyb.org)

- **Fiscal Year 2021-22 Financial Report.** The financial report on the 2021/22 fiscal year and the budget for the new year will be published in an upcoming bulletin. I am happy to report that we

ended the fiscal year in the black. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners our Sunday Giving increased by 4.5% over the prior year, though it was just below budgeted for the year. Eleven weeks into the new fiscal year (2022/23) we are about 7% below budget for Sunday Giving. Please watch for the financial report for more information. Thank you for your ongoing faithfulness and generosity in support of our mission and core values.

- **Summer 2022 Capital Projects.** This has been a full summer at St. John the Baptist! In addition to ministry planning, staffing changes and other priorities, we have continued or taken on several significant capital projects this summer.

Here is a list of items, some of which were initiated previously but continued into this summer.

- HVAC controls. Started in 2021 but still being refined with the integration of new systems.
- Heat exchanger. Separating the church and chapel's in-floor heating from the rest of our closed heating system allows us to operate more efficiently and save cost.
- Adding 25 – 55-gallon drums of glycol into the church, parish center and school heating system. Our glycol, which prevents freezing and bacteria build up, has been below recommended levels for several years.
- School public address system. The Fund a Need at Wines to Wishes in February was designated for a new public address system in our school. The current system at that time was old and limited in functionality. The new system is in place and will significantly improve our office to room and hallway communication and enhance our school's security as well.
- Sidewalk on west side of school playground. This new sidewalk will increase the safety of our students and their families during pick up and drop off, as they will no longer need to walk on the street, especially if the snow covers the curbside area.
- Restroom upgrades. The Parish Center lower level and upper level restrooms were upgraded with new countertops, sinks and touch-free faucets, to match the same upgrades on the main level in 2021. Several of these restrooms serve our preschool and K-8 students. The preschool is also scheduled to have upgraded sinks and countertops.
- To accommodate continued growth in our Preschool, the Band Room in the lower level of the Parish Center was converted to an additional Preschool Room, with Band being relocated to the main school building.

Additionally, we have done the following: added or plan to add wi-fi access points to the rectory, the church narthex and the west parking lot; caulking several windows on the church roof; added water bottle filling stations; installed dry wells to improve drainage on our grounds; various repairs and replacements to our aging mechanicals, at both the church and rectory; and new carpeting in Room 106 in the school, our third grade room.

Our planning efforts are continuing on the renovation of the Chapel of Angels and our church interior. Watch our parish publications for updates!

These projects were funded by FallFest 2021 proceeds, Wines to Wishes, parish capital reserves and a grant from the Filia Foundation. We are grateful for all of these gifts, which allow us to maintain and enhance our campus, in support of our school and our many other ministries. Thanks be to God, and to all who so generously support our efforts at St. John's!

- **FallFest 2022: September 23, 24 & 25.** It's FallFest week! Please come to the festival and bring your family and friends! Also, [please click here](#) to sign up to volunteer to help our festival run smoothly.
- **Commissions Wanted to Host Hospitality.** Our Hospitality Coordinator Melissa Berg is inviting commissions to rotate hosting one weekend's hospitality per month—the Saturday night Mass and the two Sunday morning Masses. Commission members will have an opportunity to serve fellow parishioners, promote their commission with signage and information, and further the parish's core values and mission to Go. Make. Teach. Commission chairs or staff liaisons,

please contact Melissa for more information and to schedule a weekend to host at [bergm@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:bergm@stjohnnyb.org) or 651-633-8333, ext. 1227.

**Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal**

651-633-1522

[lairda@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:lairda@stjohnnyb.org)

- **2022-2023 Enrollment.** K-8 = 347 students; Preschool-8 = 442. Our retention rate is once again over 90%. We have added another preschool room which has allowed us to grow our preschool to over 80 students.
- **Catechesis of Good Sheperd (CGS).** Our CGS program will begin lessons in October for our 3-year-old preschool class. This is a pilot year for us. We will have an open house during Fallfest weekend. For more information please contact Bri McCaffery at [mccaffreyb@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:mccaffreyb@stjohnnyb.org).
- **New Public Address System.** Our new PA system was put in over the summer and all is working well. Thank you to all who contributed to the project that was funded through our Wines to Wishes Fund-a-Need money and a grant from the Filia Foundation.
- **New Sidewalk.** A new sidewalk was put in along the playground on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. This has helped with morning drop off and safety of our students who can now walk on the sidewalk and not in the street. Thank you to all who helped make this possible.
- **Non-Public School Marathon** has begun. This year our goal is \$60,000. The Marathon takes place on Saturday, October 1 at Central Park in Roseville.

**Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis**

651-633-1540 ext. 1280

[Finkj@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:Finkj@stjohnnyb.org)

- **Synod.** Awaiting the Pastoral Letter coming on the Feast of Christ the King, November 27. An initial conversation with parishes was held regarding the post-synod Pastoral Implementation Plan, which is being developed.
- **Youth Ministry.** Sarah Wilder was hired this summer as our Coordinator of Discipleship for Middle School Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Mikayla Anderson's new position is Coordinator of Discipleship for High School Youth and Confirmation. Core Teams are being created, catechists are being secured for Middle School Faith Formation and Confirmation. Middle School Faith Formation will incorporate grade 6 to serve all three grades of 6, 7, 8 and meet weekly on Wednesday evenings with the curriculum of Journey Through the Old Testament.
- **Sacraments Update.** Registration process for First Sacraments, RCIC, Becoming Catholic RCIA and Confirmation are underway with programs starting in the next few weeks. RCIA sessions are on Thursday evenings.
- **All Staff Day.** Staff of St. John's Church, Preschool and School gathered on August 30 for a time of prayer, preparation and fun. Staff attended Mass followed by a series of presentations by Pat Millea, speaker and founder of This Whole Life podcast. Pat encouraged staff to be Called Forth on Identity and Mission. After lunch our staff traveled to Flaherty's Bowling for some team building and fun.

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.**