

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission
Minutes

Date:	November 15, 2022	Chair	Emily Carlberg	Staff Liaison	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **December 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.**

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

- I. Opening Prayer – Mike

- 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
 - B. Time to discuss Fr. Paul’s opening remarks – and question for review.

- 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 – Mikayla Anderson, Coordinator for Discipleship for Senior High and Confirmation
 - 1. See Mikayla’s Report in written report section
 - 2. Mikayla discussed the fact the “We needed the NET team to leave, let this ministry go, so parishioners know we need help to grow this ministry.”
 - 3. Pray to intercessor St. John Bosco for strong male high school leaders, we have strong female leaders
 - 4. Youth said they would like clearer communication about events and when youth group is held so Sarah and Mikayla send communication together and re-started Instagram for SJB Youth Ministry.
 - 5. Mikayla reported MSYG started at 30 and is now only about 50% attendance now.

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6. Mikayla asked “What do high school students want to do in youth group, fun and going deep at the same time, but she doesn’t how to do this, so asked for ideas to be emailed to her? They do not want more school or school like atmosphere.”
7. There are no high school D-group transitions going after NET to now.
8. SHYG numbers are currently ~15 but should be ~40 for the number of students who come to camp and other programs.
 - a) Discussion and a suggestion to Mikayla was to create an opportunity to make youth group a habit earlier, introduce youth group to 3-5th graders so that the students choose to continue youth group in middle & high school.
 - b) Another idea was “Mystery Nights” where parent signs permission slip and kids do not know what the activity will be that night, example where’s Waldo, going to rodeo, bowling, adoration, praise and worship...
 - c) Have former students come in and speak to the current HS students to say now that they are older how youth group impacted them and what they thought was awesome about it.

II. Business

A. Setting Goals

1. See Goals Sheet
 - a) Motion to dive deeper into data regarding those who register for our programming in parish out of parish, desire data from the past 5 years – to what end?
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?
4. From minutes last month – See minutes under II. 3.
 - a) Commission Members a good place to begin with Mission Training for leadership in the parish – maybe a test group? D and M Commission first test group
 - b) Expand the field team opportunities maybe at hospitality

B. Synod Update – Jessica

1. Even if we don’t start as a parish, we could look through in house responses

III. Long Term Planning

A. Journey to the Inn – January 7

B. Host Hospitality Weekend – D& M weekend is ~~1/28/23 & 1/29/23~~ *Date unavailable*

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***NEW DATE: Sunday, Dec 18th after 10:30 am Mass -**

- C. Cana Dinner February 18**
- D. Egg Hunt – April 8**
- E. Night of Gratitude – April 28**
- F. Catholic Youth Summer Camp – June 25-June 30**
- G. Potential Totus Tuus date - July 22-29**

IV. Review of Events

A. Past Events for Review and Feedback

1. Last Month's Events and Ongoing Ministry:
 - a) Ongoing Ministries
 - b) All Saint's Party -well attended ~290 children

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. Flannel and Frost – New Member Reception – December 3 – Commission Members to help host
5. Still need childcare help – brainstorm ideas

V. Ending Prayer – Steve B

VI. Adjourn – 8:00 p.m.

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Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families

Childcare – All of our childcare programs have begun. We are in the process of interviewing a person and doing paperwork to potentially hire another childcare person.

Sunday School – Registration is now at 40 for SS which is higher than last year. We will start on our Advent activities and each family is receiving an Advent activity book to do at home called *Mystery in the Manger* with devotions and detective work for Advent and Christmas.

We will soon begin practicing for our Sunday School Christmas program which takes place on December 18th.

Catholic Kids Bulletins – We have increased the number of Catholic Kids Bulletins that we are printing because we kept running out at the Masses. We also resumed having the Mass bags out for families to use.

Family Formation – We are now up to 108 kids in Family Formation. Our topic for the month is Jesus, My Friend and Savior. Students will be looking at how they can grow in their relationship with Jesus from someone they learn about to someone that they can personally encounter and have a relationship with. Each family is receiving an Advent activity book to do at home called *Mystery in the Manger* with devotions and detective work for Advent and Christmas.

Early Advent Service Project – Sunday School and Family Formation are teaming up to do the Boxes of Joy Advent Service Project. We have also added Michelle Stori's Reach More Small Group to our roster of people helping with this activity. We have asked families to donate items to fill a "Box of Joy" for either a girl or boy that will be sent across the world through the Cross Catholic Outreach program. The boxes will be delivered along with a \$9 donation per box, to St. Timothy's Catholic Church where they will be picked up to be sent out. We have 100 boxes that we can fill. Between the two programs we have 148 students. Wednesday, November 9th we will be collecting boxes from Family Formation Families. We have already begun collecting boxes from Sunday School families and Michelle's small group.

All Saints Party – The All-Saints Party was on Wednesday, October 26th. Our sanctuary was full of saints for our group picture and blessing that kicked off the event. We had about 280 trick-or-treaters and 23 different groups or commissions that participated and gave out items. We had dinner provided by the 8th graders, raffle prizes for those dressed as saints, estimating jars, a craft, games and a photo booth. Thanks to all who participated and help make this event a huge success!

Epiphany Blessing Bags – I will begin purchasing items for our Epiphany Blessing Bags that will go out the weekend of Epiphany.

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

Focus Area 1: Middle School Faith Formation

- 30+ registered
 - There are still 1-2 new kids each week
- The topic this year is *Journey Through the Old Testament – Jeff Cavins*
 - We finished Early World (Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel)

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- Feedback from students and parents is positive
- Students are starting to build community within their small groups

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 6th grade family social and met several invested families
 - Is looking for an opportunity to plug active 6th grade girls into a discipleship group – parent and student response to idea was positive
- ...is continuing conversations with religion teachers about giving lessons on prayer to students
- ...plans to attend school field trip on Dec 7th (Feed My Starving Children)
- Open Youth Room has 15-20 kids attending weekly
 - Adults present weekly: 3-4
 - Sarah has changed the flow: snack/check-in, St. Story and discussion, prayer, games

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 open to more volunteers
- 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)
 - Objective—students will better understand what a saint is, become familiar with more saints, recognize their call to sainthood, and pray to the saints.
- November Theme: Eucharist means Thanksgiving
 - Objective: Students will grow in their understanding of the deeper meaning of the mass and can offer their lives to Jesus in communion with the saints.

Focus Area 4: Young Adult Ministry

- Overview
 - Sarah is seeking to understand the young adults of the parish, their needs and interests
 - Sarah has been meeting with various young adults to get to know them more and understand their desires for this ministry.
- Young Adult Worship with Damascus– Oct 27th
 - 20+ attended
 - Only about 8-10 were from SJB.
 - One catholic young adult who had not been attending mass at SJB heard about it at the 5:30 mass the Sunday before and I have seen her every Sunday since then – hoping she keeps getting connected
- Young Adult Friendsgiving – Thur Nov 17th 6-8pm at the Rectory
 - The Community of the Lamb in Kansas City is sending 3 brothers and 3 sisters on a mission to Minnesota. They are friends of mine and are excited to join us for dinner. I have invited them to lead a meditation on scripture.
 - Hope: This social event pulls in more young adults on the outskirts, sparks more community connection and stirs an interest in doing a bible study or small group with scripture.

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

*Live Report

Goal: Formalize SJB Youth Ministry Strategy (owner: Mikayla)

- Prepare Strategy by 11.1.21
- Present to SJB Parents for feedback on 11.9.21
- Present to ODM Commission for feedback on 11.16.21
- Present final strategy to Leadership team before 12.15.21 / Get final approval by 12.15.2021
- **This was completed last year – through leadership team and commissions.**

Goal: Build Volunteer Team for YM to Transition NET Team (owner: Mikayla)

- Build a SJB Volunteer Roles & Responsibilities that defines each role, capabilities, requirements and total number of resources to support the YM program by 1.1.22
 - Using the numbers from EFC the past year, create a layout of what is needed by each role and create job descriptions for each of them by 1.1.22
 - MSYG - 7-8 people, 6:00-7:30pm Wednesday Evening
 - HSYG - 6-7 people, 8-9:30pm Wednesday Evening
 - OYR - 4-5 people, 2:30-4pm Thursday after school
 - Confirmation - 8 people, 6:30-8pm, Sunday Evening & Weekend Retreat
 - EFC Leaders - 1 week in the summer
 - Discipleship Group Leaders - varies depending on the number of students invested in D-groups, 1.5 hours leading small groups weekly/bi-weekly.
- Informational YM Meeting for whole parish before 1.31.22
- January 2022- February 2022 - Make Invitations into Youth Ministry to fill jobs roles
 - Making Personal invites, based on recommendations made by parents already involved in youth ministry. Sending postcards, speaking at mass, hospitality, etc.
- March 2022 - onboard volunteers through training, working alongside the NET team, observing programming, etc.
- April 2022 - volunteers feel equipped to run youth group without the assistance from NET team
- **This year we have many CORE teams for different things, and we are so grateful.**
 - **Middle School Youth Group – 5 Volunteers**
 - **Middle School Faith Formation – 5 Leaders**
 - **High School Youth Group – 7 Volunteers**
 - **Confirmation – 12 Small Group Leaders**
 - **Open Youth Room for MS – 1 outside parish volunteer**
- **Many of these invitations were made in the Fall of 2022, especially with the addition of Sarah.**

Goal: Expand Youth Minister Team (owner: ???)

- Define additional roles needed, create job descriptions and skills needed by 2.1.22
 - Worship Leader needed, hopeful PT Leader
- Create business case for roles approval by 2.15.21
- Look into college internship programming through discussing with colleges & other parishes who have seen this work (Mikayla, to be completed by 1.15.22)
 - Have a sub-committee that helps put together the information that Mikayla gathers.

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- Present to Leadership Team by 3.30.22 to then have hiring posted by 4.31.22 or sooner, so that new hire could attend EFC 2022
- We do not have a worship leader – but we have found a couple people who are willing to do worship for our youth group according to their schedule, so it is not every week, but we have adjusted. Would still love someone to commit more wholeheartedly, but we are managing.
- WE HIRED SARAH!!!

Goal: Generate Marketing Campaign for Youth Programs

- Identify SJB demographics to find target audience (parents & youth grades 6-12, young adults) (add dates and owners)
- Define marketing strategy & collateral (add dates & owners)
- Secure funding for marketing collateral (add dates & owners)
- *Host bi-annual parent & youth programs to generate excitement – align timing with Extreme Faith Camp Registration*
- I do not know if we have a full marketing plan for our youth, but we consistently send our emails that are clear to parents. We also recently started re-using our Instagram because students said they wanted clearer communication about when youth groups were. We would love to continue to use these avenues to expand our programming.

Goal: Come up with a 6-year plan for formation with our young people so that they leave SJB youth ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ.

- To produce smart goals

I personally need more guidance on what this would look like. Right now, I would say in youth group, we are working toward community and accountability to ensure our kids want to come and continue to engage them and give them more ownership. Having a 6-year plan of what we teach our students is hard, when we constantly are adapting to the culture and what we need.

I know Sarah is working through the Old Testament in Middle School as we are rebuilding formation from monthly to weekly.

Written Report – Michael Lane, Sacramental Records Coordinator

Baptisms in November:

3 on November 13, 2022
6 on November 20, 2022
2 on November 27, 2022

Weddings in November:

1 completed on November 5, 2022

Written Report – Claire Brostrom, Reach More Coordinator

Reach More continues to move forward with the training of 5 new leaders this fall. We had an especially meaningful "testimony sharing" night. Last week the existing leaders gathered for a Huddle where we discussed how fall small groups are going and challenged ourselves to continually discern our personal apostolates.

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Written Report – Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life

All Saints Party: The parish family event, the All-Saints Party, was a huge success. We served about 270 children and their families. We had 25 ministries in the parish hand out items for trick or treating. Thank you to those commission members and parishioners who volunteered,

Synod Implementation Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis and Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish life attended the fall formation day for staff outlining the theological underpinnings for the Archdiocesan 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 the weekend of November 20. As a leadership team we are diligently praying about how we implement the key priorities here at St. John's.

Weekend Retreat: St. John's will begin registration this weekend for the Awaken Women's Retreat at the Franciscan Retreat and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake. All women 18+ are invited to attend January 13-15. The Awaken Men's Retreat will be March 3-5 at the same place.

Written Report – Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis

Baptism: Baptism Assistants will be the next step to invite more people into the ministry.

First Sacraments: Parents are working through their Home Lessons. About 20% of the families came to the All-Saints Day party with their completed October Home Lessons for an extra prize. Another incentive date in December for the November Home Lessons will be communicated with a fun prize. November classroom lessons focused on following the Good Shepherd, knowing God's will and the Commandments.

RCIC: We have 9 children enrolled in RCIC. The next Family Meeting is Sunday, November 13 at 9:30-10:15 for check in, review of the Creed and reminders of student meetings. Baptized children will be making their first Reconciliation in December either with the school advent service or parish reconciliation service.

Becoming Catholic RCIA: Currently in discernment of the 13 participants. Rite of Acceptance and Welcome is Saturday, November 19 at the 4:30pm Mass. It may be 2 catechumen (unbaptized) and 11 candidates. Couples needing their marriage blest will begin the process this next month.

Formation Parent Program: November speaker is Jessica Balzarini on Jesus: My Friend and Savior. Jessica will lead the parents in an opportunity to commit or recommit their lives to Jesus.

Synod at Home Faith Plan will continue to build incorporating Pillar I on prayer. Next Formation Night is December 7. Since this is the vigil of the Immaculate Conception, families are encouraged to go to the 5:30 Mass followed by Dinner, then program beginning later but ending at 7:30pm. Fr. Paul will be the Parent Speaker on the topic of Building Your Domestic Church

Marriage Ministry: Witness to Love marriage formation program is currently being piloted to be an option alongside the Prepare and Enrich Mentor Couples. Curriculums for civilly marriage couples is being evaluated.