

Saint John the Baptist

Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

Date:	December 13, 2022	Chair	Emily Carlberg	Staff Liaison	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: January 17, 2023, 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	X
Emily Carlberg (Chair)	X	Jodie Wolla (recorder)	
Erin Hardy	X		
Jackie King	X	Guest: Sarah Wilder	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.

- III. Ongoing Monthly Agenda Items
 - A. Update from previous month’s PLC – See Written Report
 - B. Review of Written Reports – Any Questions
 - C. Live Report – Sarah Wilder, Coordinator for Discipleship for Middle School and Young Adults

Introduction – Divine Mercy in Faribault, grew up going to EFC, served with NET studied Theology and Evangelization at Benedictine College, worked as a Damascus summer missionary, taught MS science and religion for two years.

Philosophy of the Middle Schooler

- The middle schooler commonly underestimated
- They are developing and growing at an incredible rate and need coaching as they grow into their bodies, minds and hearts
 - o As the child grows, the capacity to know, love and serve God grows

Saint John the Baptist

Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

- It is appropriate to help a child develop a variety of prayer skills such as thanksgiving, mediation, reflection, conversation, petition

Focus Area 1: Middle School Faith Formation

- 34 registered – Dec 7th attendance 28/34 (+1)
 - 3 Students registered in Nov
 - 1 came on Dec 7th to check it out and registered the next week
- Students are starting to build community within their small groups
- Core Team is growing and developing and has been asking what else they can get involved with—some have helped with RCIC lessons and youth group nights, others offered to do service projects for the YG.

Focus Area 2: SJB School Ministry

- Sarah has been visiting SJB school regularly (before and after school, during advisory, lunch)
- ...is continuing to build relationships with students, learning names and making connections
- ...attended field trip to FMSC – great relational opportunity
- ...helped lead an advent retreat for the middle school – three dimensions of advent – high participation
- Open Youth Room has 15-20 kids attending weekly
 - Adults present weekly: 3-4
 - Sarah has changed the flow: snack/check-in, prayer, games
 - Students have expressed that they are growing in prayer
- D-Groups
 - I am hoping to start a few d-groups in January
 - I have recruited a about half of the necessary volunteers
 - The initial response to the idea is positive among students who attend on Tuesdays and parents of these students.

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.
 - Attendance: 18

Saint John the Baptist

Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

- November Theme: Eucharist means Thanksgiving
 - Objective: Students will grow in their understanding of the deeper meaning of the mass and have the opportunity to offer their lives to Jesus in communion with the saints.
 - Attendance: 11 (there was a lot of illness the first few weeks of Nov)
 - December Theme: Mary's YES at the Annunciation
 - Objective: Students will reflect on the impact of Mary's YES and respond by desiring to say YES to God with their own lives.
 - Attendance: 24
 - Many students nodding their heads when invited to say YES to whatever God is asking them to do
- Attendance: at Youth Group:
- 18 kids at 1st Youth Group
 - 18 Kids at 2nd Youth Group
 - 24 kids at the December Youth Group
 - Open Youth Room attracts ~25% of kids who are currently non-Catholic

Focus Area 4: Young Adult Ministry

- Overview
 - Sarah has been meeting with various young adults to get to know them more and understand their desires for this ministry.
 - Sarah has discovered that there are many young adults who are new to the parish who are not already connected to one another
 - Sarah desires to find ways to build community around a core group, but that core group does not yet exist or has not revealed itself
- Young Adult Friendsgiving – Thur Nov 17th 6-8pm at the Rectory
 - The Community of the Lamb in Kansas City
 - 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.
- Young Adult Gospel Reflection
 - Goal: To have an open small group in which we go deeper in community and in prayer.
 - We have met 3 times now. The first week we had 4. This Sunday we had 7 (4m and 3f).
 - Most of the young adults who have been coming to things do not already know each other, so we are working on building a community from scratch! I am hoping this bible study/reflection creates a semi-consistent group that is open to others

IV. Business

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission
Minutes

- A. Approve Goals and objectives
 - 1. See Goals Sheet
 - 1. Prioritize goals
 - 2. Approve Goals
 - 3. Assign each member with one goal to lead on
 - 4. Set steps to accomplish first goal.

- V. Long Term Planning
 - A. Host Hospitality Weekend – D& M weekend is ~~1/28/23 & 1/29/23~~ (date not open)
 - a. **December 18th after 10:30 mass**
 - B. Journey to the Inn – January 7, 2023
 - C. SJBC Women’s Retreat – January 13-15th, 2023
 - D. Cana Dinner February 18
 - E. Egg Hunt – April 8
 - F. Night of Gratitude – April 28
 - G. SJBC Men’s Retreat – March 3-5
 - H. Catholic Youth Summer Camp – June 25-June 30
 - I. Potential Totus Tuus date - July 22-29

- VI. Review of Events
 - A. Past Events for Review and Feedback
 - 1. Last Month’s Events and Ongoing Ministry:
 - 1. Ongoing Ministries
 - 2. Marriage Morning of Reflection- very successful event – 64 people attended
 - 3. Flannel and Frost – New Member Reception – December 3 had 10 families
 - B. Upcoming Calendar of Events and Volunteers Needs:
 - 1. Journey to the Inn – January 7
 - 2. Watchmen January 12
 - 3. Devoted – Feb 15th
 - 4. **Still need childcare help – brainstorm ideas**

- VII. Ending Prayer

- VIII. Adjourn

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission
Minutes

Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families

Childcare – In addition to our regular programs that we provide childcare for, we also provided childcare for the Grill and Chill event and the Frost and Flannel event for new parishioners.

Sunday School – Each family received an Advent activity book to do at home called Mystery in the Manger with devotions and detective work for Advent and Christmas. We are practicing for our Sunday School Christmas program which takes place on December 18th. We also began working on our Christmas ornaments that the kids will get at the program to give to their parents.

Catholic Kids Bulletins – We are printing 80 Catholic Kids Bulletins every weekend. We will increase that amount for the Christmas Masses. We also resumed having the Mass bags out for families to use.

Family Formation – We added a student to Family Formation in November and may be adding one in December. We are waiting to see if they will register him. If he does register, that will bring our total to 109. Our topic for the month is Building Your Domestic Church. We are meeting at 5:30pm for the Vigil Mass of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We will then have dinner, followed by the parent talk by Fr. Paul and the kids in their classrooms.

Early Advent Service Project – Together, Sunday School Family Formation and Michelle Stori's Reach More Small Group all donated towards the Boxes of Joy Advent Service Project.

We donated a total of 80 Boxes of Joy as well as the \$720 needed to ship them.

The boxes were delivered to St. Timothy's Catholic Church where they were picked up to be sent out.

Journey to the Inn –

4:30pm Mass

5:30pm Dinner provided by Knights of Columbus (Mostaccioli, salad and bread) GF and vegetarian available. Meals are \$7/person and \$30/family (kids plus 2 adults only)

6:15pm Bible reading and songs in the church followed by a caroling procession with the Wise Men to the manger. Living manger scene with live animals. Hot chocolate and cookies in St. Joe's Hall to follow.

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

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission
Minutes

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

Live report tonight. See section III – C to read the live report

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

***No report**

Written Report – Michael Lane, Sacramental Records Coordinator

- **Baptisms in December:**
3 on December 18, 2022

- **Weddings in December:**
No weddings for December

Written Report – Claire Brostrom, Reach More Coordinator

The Reach More training group completes lesson 9 of 12 this week and begins to discern personal apostolates for mission. We are beginning invites for the next session which will likely begin Thursday, January 12th. The Young Married Social was a success with 9 couples attending, and several exhibiting interest in small group and additional formation for couples and parents.

Written Report – Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life

SJB Women's Retreat *Awaken* is underway. Fr. Paul Shovelain and Jessica Balzarini will be leading with a team of women from the parish. We will be meeting January 13-15 at the Franciscan Retreat and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake. Fr. Paul has 2 objectives, building community and offering a place to encounter the Truth we truly long for.

Cana Marriage Ministry is expanding it's team. We welcome Bradley Barker, a licensed Marriage and Family therapist. The hope is to expand offerings to celebrate and build healthy and holy marriages. The Cana Marriage Retreat was held November 19 was well received and served 30 married couples. Pat and Kenna Millea offered practical tools to begin a new communication cycle to resolve conflicts.

New Parishioner Welcome hosted another meet and greet, *Flannel and Frost*, at Pier 153 in the rectory basement and then dinner in St. Joseph's Hall. Another great opportunity to gather new parishioner can help them connect to Fr. Paul, each other. and veteran parishioners.

Saint John the Baptist

Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

Rejoice A Pilgrimage into Sacred Scripture is our small group offering this Advent Season. We have several small groups using the materials including some doing a home study as well as one parish staff group. It's a beautiful journey of personal prayer that comes together in community to talk about what the Lord is doing in the one another's lives.

Written Report – Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis

Baptism: Class on Dec. 12 is full with 6 couples. Jill is working with a family of 3 older children in the school who will be baptized on Dec. 18.

First Sacraments: Parents are working through their December Home Lessons. Check Point for November Home lessons was Dec. 4 after the Masses with an Advent Calendar gift. The December classroom lesson was Mon., Dec. 5 for the school and Wed., Dec. 7 for Family Formation on the process of conversion/reconciliation with Zacchaeus and the steps to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Parents are picking their First Communion Mass time. The First Reconciliation Retreat is Sunday, January 22 with an altering start of 2:00pm or 2:45pm. The retreat will have individual time for parent/child to work through some review materials and tour of the confessional as well as large group time with Jill Fink and Fr. Paul.

RCIC: We have 9 children enrolled in RCIC. The next Family Meeting is Sunday, December 11 at 9:30-10:15 for check in, review of Sacraments and preparation for Sacrament of Reconciliation for baptized students on Sun., Dec. 18 at 3:30pm at the Advent Reconciliation Service.

Becoming Catholic RCIA: Started into the Catechumenate. Several couples who need to have their marriage blessed. A plan for meetings with priests, mentor couples, group dinner and convalidation has been determined. They will be using the Witness to Love Marriage Blessing curriculum.

Formation Parent Program: Fr. Paul was the Parent Speaker at our December Formation Night on Wed., Dec. 7 on the topic of Building Your Domestic Church. Shortened time with parents and students in the classroom due to 5:30pm Vigil Mass and dinner until 6:45pm. Families continue to work through the Faith Plan. January Formation Night is January 11 on the topic of The Bible: Our Family's Story. Pat Millea will be presenting the Parent Program. He will also encourage families on their Faith Plan with his series from Synod at Home.

Marriage Ministry: Jill and Deacon met with Deacons on the new flow and orientation of materials for Marriage Preparation – Intake and Formation. Another meeting will be set up to go through the pilot of Witness to Love.

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission
Minutes

Adult Ministry: Jill lead a staff Advent Rejoice small group. 6 people in the church and school participated.