

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

January 17, 2023

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

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- **Christmas Recap.** We celebrated our Christmas Masses with about 2,855 people this year, which is up 19% over last year. We are still down from 2019 and before, but our online option was not available then. Through our live-streaming we reached 551 views on YouTube and 1,019 on Facebook, with many more on television as we broadcast on NineNorth Cable. Thank you to all who helped us be *Called Forth* through our Christmas Masses!
- **Synod Evangelization Team.** The team is made up of staff and parishioners who will focus on the pastoral letter from Archbishop Hebda and helping us implement the synod priorities. The priority for 2023-2024 will be small groups. The synod team is made up of staff members Ann Laird, Claire Brostrom, Deacon John Belian, Emily Perez, Fr. Joseph Nguyễn, Jessica Balzarini, Jill Fink, Sarah Wilder and me. The parishioners on the team are Annie Reddy, Beth Robertson, Bob Gabler, Catherine Floeder, Matt Smaron, Naomi Hard, Neil Steffl, Rob Jensen, Socchie Fondevilla, Louie Fondevilla, Steve Godmare and Betsy Godmare. We will be attending the kickoff event in January and begin the School of Discipleship in February.
- **Fishing with Father Event.** Saturday, January 21, we will host a Fishing with Father tournament as a way of bringing people together for some fun and also calling them forth to other events at SJB. Click [here](#) to register. Let me know if you have any questions or would like to help with the event.

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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- **Journey to the Inn.** What a huge success! Thank you to the Knights of Columbus who served over 400 people dinner within one hour. We had additional families and groups join us for the journey with about 330 people who followed the Wisemen to the live nativity scene. It was our largest crowd yet. We had a miniature donkey which was a fun new addition to our animals this year. Thanks to Lee Treml and the choir for adding some beautiful Christmas carols in St. Joseph's Hall while about 550 of us enjoyed cookies and cocoa at the end of the night. Many parishioners invited friends and family to join them. Thanks to Jen Livermont and her team as they hosted another great G.M.T. event!
- **SJB Retreats for Men and Women Awaken.** The Women's retreat is this coming weekend, January 13-15. We are completely full. Please keep our 40 participants and the retreat team of 10 in your prayers this weekend as they encounter the the Lord more deeply and build community with each other. The Men's Core Team has begun planning the March 3-5 retreat and praying for those called to attend.

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **Fiscal Year 2022/23.** Our six-month financial reports are being completed as I type this. Watch for a report in a near future bulletin. Our Sunday Giving through December 31 is about 1% over budget—we made budget in Sunday Giving thanks to your generosity! The report will provide more information and comparisons to budget and prior year. Thank you for your ongoing generous spirit!
- **Chapel of the Angels Renovation.** Since we announced our plans to the parish in June 2022, we have refined the details and put together a scope of project with a budget of \$200,000. We anticipate receiving Archdiocesan approvals by the end of January, and plan to begin the project shortly after that.
- **Church Interior Improvements.** The Worship & Administrative Services Commissions met jointly on December 13 to review information provided by JT Egner Construction regarding five categories of potential improvements to our church interior: masonry & windows, the sanctuary ceiling, HVAC upgrades, the sound system and pew refinishing. After a thoughtful discussion of these topics a list of questions was generated for Josh Egner, President of JT Egner. Josh's responses to these questions and other information will be shared with these commissions at tonight's meetings. As recommendations are formulated and considered by the parish, one or more open meetings will be offered for church and school families to learn more about possible changes to our worship space. As a part of a project of this scope, we will consider prioritized improvements in our school building as well.
- **Core Commitment 2023 Campaign.** Our Development Associate Mary May provides an update on our Core Commitment 2023 campaign in the [January 15, 2023 bulletin](#). Our parishioners' commitment to our core values, both in response to this campaign and in practice day after day and each week is encouraging. Thank you all!
- **Bulletin Updates.** Please note that there is more information on the above three topics—the Chapel Renovation, the Church Interior and our Core Commitment 2023 campaign in the [January 15, 2023 bulletin](#). Please pick up a copy of the bulletin at church or via the website.
- **Wish List 2022.** Ten items on our Wish List were fully funded, and two items received partial funding. In addition we received two undesignated Wish List gifts. All of these gifts totalled \$21,800. We are grateful for such a generous response from our parishioners! You can view the [Wish List](#) on our website, which has been updated to note which gifts have been received. Thank you!

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **Catholic Schools Week (CSW).** Sunday, January 29 is the kick off of Catholic Schools Week at the 10:30 am Mass, with the week ending with Wines to Wishes on Saturday, February 4. CSW is a time for us to celebrate our school and thank all those who have supported us! We would especially like to thank all the parishioners who started and continue to sustain our school. We are extremely grateful for all your support and prayers!

- **Preschool and Kindergarten Parent Information Night.** Thursday, January 19 is our Preschool and Kindergarten Parent Information Night in St. Joseph's Hall from 6:00-7:30 pm. If there is anyone you know who might be interested, please encourage them to come find out why St. John's is a great fit for their family!
- **Wines to Wishes.** Our school's largest fundraiser is on Saturday, February 4. Join for us for fun, food, games, live and silent auction, and all around good time as we go Back to the '80s! To register and find out more about the event, please visit our website: <http://www.winestowishes.com/>.

Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis

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- **First Sacraments - Reconciliation.** Our 2nd graders and their families will have their Reconciliation Retreat on Sunday, January 22 followed by a Sacrament of Reconciliation Celebration on Saturday, January 28 in the morning. We have 53 students. In February then we will shift our focus to preparation for First Eucharist.
- **Confirmation.** January 20-22 is the second retreat offering for our confirmation students. January 29 is the second Sponsor/Candidate night with Pat Millea speaking on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- **Young Adult Ministry.** A new ministry at St. John's! Sarah Wilder has established a Drop-In Scripture Reflection every Sunday at 4:30 pm followed by attending the 5:30 pm Mass. About 8-10 young adults have attended these to learn and grow with the Scriptures. This month will also feature dinner at the rectory with Fr. Joseph on January 15.

A blessed and joyous month 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.**