

Saint John the Baptist

Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

Date:	February 21, 2023	Chair	Emily Carlberg	Staff Liaison	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **March 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**

Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Melanie Dowell (PLC REP)	-	Deb Marsh -attendee	-
Jessica Balzarini	X	Neil Steffl	X
Steven Broszko	-	Mike Uzelac	X
Emily Carlberg (Chair)	X	Jodie Wolla (recorder)	X
Erin Hardy	-	Karl Zabinski	-
Jackie King	X	Guest: Jill fink	X

- I. Opening Prayer

- II. Mission Statements -Read 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. Welcome Jill Fink who presented the live program report tonight.
 - B. Time to discuss Ann’s teaching – No question for review this month.

- I. Ongoing Monthly Agenda Items
 - A. Update from previous month’s PLC – No questions.
 - B. Goal 1a: Review of Written Reports – No questions.
 - C. Goal 1b: Live Report – Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis
 1. Presentation on 1st Sacrament and RCIC programs
 2. 53 children in 1st Sacraments this year.
 3. 3 handouts –
 - 1. First Sacrament Curriculum Mapping 2022-23, *exhibit #1 at end of minutes*
 - a. This mapping is also used for RCIC grades 3-8
 - b. Jill reported she has workbook check points at various parish events to keep the families on track, a craft was provided or children who finished their assignments.

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- c. Commission members shared feedback on the first Sacrament program.
- d. RCIC class has two classes due to the larger number of students in grades 3-5 during the family formation program which is one time per month from September to May.
- 2. First Sacrament Calendar for 2022-23 – *exhibit #2 at end of minutes*
 - a. Commission Members shared feedback regarding their experience with the First Sacrament Program including: clear communication in a timely manner, clear email and reminders, clear lesson plans, positive experience with the small groups and staying in the same small group which allows the groups to get to know each other so much better.
- 3. RCIC Rite of Christian Initiation of Children overview and schedule, *exhibit #3 at end of minutes*
 - a. Highlights included:
 - The Sacramental Celebration on Sunday, April 16 at 10:30 m Mass is a celebration of Baptism and First Eucharist
 - 2nd Grade RCIC may make a Solemn Communion with their classmates on one of the First Communion times.
 - If a child is ages 15-18, they will make the Confirmation with the parish class on Tuesday, May 23 at St. Paul's Cathedral. If the student needs other sacraments before Confirmation, Jill teaches the RCIC components, and a youth coordinator teaches Confirmation portion.
 - Discussion regarding the Sacramental Class Schedule including Formation Families and School Families. See second page of RCIC Rite of Christian Initiation of Children at the end of these minutes for reference.

II. Business

- A. Fits in Goal 1: Review of area churches program fee structure and scholarship policy. Information submitted by Commission members is currently being reviewed by Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life.
 - 1. Commission members were assigned parishes to contact after the January 2023. This information included: checking websites and gathering information on Family Formation (grade school, middle school, and high school), First Sacraments, Confirmation, Retreats

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for confirmation, RCIA/RCIC, Vacation Bible School, Totus Tuus to gather information on fee structures and scholarships.

2. Review Data

- B. Goal 3a: – Discussion started on Synod Document Section 1 and 2
 - 1. **Read Introduction, Section 1 and 2 before the meeting (link to report sent in email)**
https://archspmmainite.s3.amazonaws.com/Synod/Synod_pastoral+letter_112222.pdf
 - 2. Discussion lead by Steve Broszko
- C. Goal 3a: Review Parishioner Feedback look at feedback from Question 1B (attached in email & hard copies will be provided at commission meeting) -to be reviewed.
 - 1. What 3 areas do we do well at SJB?
 - 2. What are 3 suggestions from the list?
- D. Goal 2C: Begin looking at the details for the Night of Gratitude -not discussed.

III. Long Term Planning

- A. Cana Dinner February 18
- B. SJBC Men's Retreat – March 3-5
- C. ODM Summer Events Promo Weekend – March 3-5
- D. Egg Hunt – April 8
- E. Night of Gratitude – April 28**
- F. VBS June 20-22
- G. St. John's Feast Day Celebration June 24
- H. Catholic Youth Summer Camp – June 25-June 30
- I. 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:
 - Ongoing Ministries
- B. Upcoming Calendar of Events and Volunteers Needs:
 - 1. Synod Evangelization Team to begin Training Tuesday, February 7.
 - 2. Wines to Wishes – February 4th.
 - 3. February Commissions – February 14th
 - 4. Devoted – February 15th and Watchmen February 9
 - 5. Cana Dinner February 18
 - 6. Alive in the Word – Mary Magdalene starts February 21st.

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7. ODM summer program kick-off March 4 & 5th.

8. Still need childcare help – brainstorm ideas

V. Ending Prayer

VI. Adjourn

Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families

Childcare – In addition to our regular programs that we provide childcare for, we will also provide childcare for the First Communion Kickoff in February. In March we will be adding childcare for RCIA couples who are meeting with the priests before convalidation of their marriages.

Sunday School – We learned about St. Valentine and all the kids received a St. Valentine card and candy. We talked about Ash Wednesday early because we will be off on the Sunday of President's Weekend. The kids learned that the palm branches from Palm Sunday are burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Everyone was able to touch the ash to see that it is not hot and they were able to draw a cross on their forehead or hand. There is always some apprehension and fear at Ash Wednesday, so it helps when we can demystify the ashes. Everyone will receive a Lenten book on the first Sunday of Lent.

Catholic Kids Bulletins – We have been printing 100 Catholic Kids Bulletins every weekend. This is a good amount most weeks. We will cut back starting with Memorial Weekend.

Family Formation – Family Formation went well in February. We had a smaller group this month. Fr. Joseph spoke about the Holy Spirit with the parents. Deb Marsh, our third grade catechist, came up with a fun idea for teaching about the Holy Spirit based upon one of the ideas in the curriculum. We lit a three wick candle in the classroom and talked about how the three wicks represent the three persons of the Holy Trinity all within the one body of the candle. After the scented candle was lit for a few minutes the scent (which the kids could not see) filled the room, just as the Holy Spirit does not usually have a physical presence but can be experienced in different ways. This was a great, concrete concept that even the preschoolers understood and were excited about. The Holy Spirit can be with us and all around us even if we can't see Him!

Fr. Paul will be speaking in March to the parents and we will have 8 priests here to do confession for the eligible students and parents. What a fantastic opportunity in Lent! This has been incredibly fruitful for the students and parents in the past few years. Many people who don't normally go to confession went to confession last year.

First Communion Kick-off – I assisted Jill with the student portion of the First Communion Kickoff event. I facilitated the church scavenger hunt and First Communion bingo with Fr. Paul. The kids loved both activities! They worked very diligently to find all the elements of the church and Mass for the scavenger hunt. They really enjoyed being able to investigate the sanctuary space up close!

Vacation Bible School – Registration will open the first weekend of March on the website. VBS is June 20-22 from 9-noon.

Totus Tuus - Registration will open the first weekend of March on the website. Totus Tuus is July 24-28 for the grade school program.

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

Focus Area 1: Middle School Faith Formation

- Continuing our journey through the Old Testament.
- Seeing lots of growth and engagement from students.

Focus Area 2: SJB School Ministry

- Sarah has been visiting SJB school regularly (before and after school, during advisory, lunch)
- ...is working with staff to lead meditations for the monthly adoration
- Open Youth Room has 15-20 kids attending weekly.
 - Adults present weekly: 3-4
 - Students have expressed that they are growing in prayer.
- D-Groups
 - 1 girls d-group is currently forming for 6th graders.
- Grade Level Retreats
 - I am collaborating with the religion teachers to plan a retreat for each grade (6-8th)
 - The 6th grade retreat will be on February 27th, and we have about 10 parents who are volunteering.

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
- MSYG will include games, themed message, prayer, snacks etc.
- February youth group was Gaga Ball and a Rosary
- Presidents' Day we are having a day packed with fun including snow tubing.

Focus Area 4: Young Adult Ministry

- Take And Eat – A Young Adult Gathering
 - We are rebranding our young adult's group.
 - It is a "three course meal" in which we
 - 4:00 chew on the word
 - 5:30 receive we Eucharist at mass.
 - 6:30 go out for dinner.
 - Attendance is usually 5-7 young adults- they are really feeling "fed."

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

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- No Report

Written Report – Michael Lane, Sacramental Records Coordinator

- **Baptisms in February:**

5 on February 19, 2023

- **Weddings in February:**

One wedding on February 18, 2023

Written Report – Claire Brostrom, Reach More Coordinator

The Reach More Mission Training Group meets for its 4th week. We had a very fruitful last session sharing personal testimonies. Over 60 men have registered for Fr. Paul's men's Lenten groups, and 41 parishioners have registered for a Lenten group via the website/fliers. We are looking at 30 small groups meeting for the 7 weeks of the Lenten season!

Written Report – Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life

Cana Marriage Ministry: St. John's is continuing to expand our Marriage Enrichment offerings to build strong, healthy, and holy marriages. Cana Dinner has been an anchor event for over 20 years, This event offers an elegant evening at St. John's celebrating marriage. It offers the couple a catered dinner, marriage blessing, and a beautiful message about the beauty and goodness of marriage. It is a place for growth. 30 couples will be in attendance with a large crew to help execute the event.

We will also be offering a new series called Cana Marriage Minute. An opportunity for couples to work together to better their marriage. March we will offer a 2-part series that will give couples tools to improve communication and effectively navigate through conflict, remaining united verses divided. This month will be led by parishioner, Bradley Barker a licensed professional clinical counselor who is passionate about the emotional and spiritual health of the modern family and desires to help each individual move from surviving to thriving.

Men's Retreat *Awaken*: Retreat will be March 3-5. The retreat offers time for getting to know other men in the parish through great talks and small group times. Learn new forms of prayer and take advantage of Confession, Adoration and Mass. There are 9 spots still open.

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Written Report – Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis

***Live report tonight | Handouts/Exhibits 1-3 at end of these minutes**

Baptism: Class on February 13 with 6 couples.

First Sacraments: The First Reconciliation Retreat was Sunday, January 22 with an altering start of 2:00pm or 2:45pm. Parent/child worked through some review materials and tour of the confessional as well as large group time with Jill Fink and Fr. Paul. First Reconciliation Celebration was Saturday, January 28 at 9am in the church with several priests available to hear confessions for the children and families. Several children had the stomach flu, so several made their first reconciliation the following Wednesday and a few to still reschedule. Parents and children kicked off their First Eucharist preparation on Saturday, February 11 at 1pm with a time of prayer/adoration, parent orientation on First Communion Home Lessons and announcements while the children enjoyed a liturgical scavenger hunt and first communion bingo with Fr. Paul.

RCIC: Families will meet on February 5 for their Monthly Family Meeting wrapping up the pillars of faith from their Faith Fusion book. February 26 starts the preparation for their First Eucharist. The students continue to meet with their age groups as well.

Becoming Catholic RCIA: Candidates who feel ready to come into the church this Easter Vigil will celebrate the Rite of Sending and Rite of Election on Sunday, February 26 at the 10:30am Mass and then travel to the Cathedral later in the afternoon. Candidates will enter the period of Lent: purification and enlightenment where we'll break open the Gospels and celebrate the Penitential Rite for the baptized making their first reconciliation on March 5 at the 8:30am Mass followed by Scrutinies for our Elect the following three Sundays, rotating through the Mass schedules.

Formation Parent Program: February Formation Night was February 1 with Fr. Joseph presenting on The Holy Spirit: Power and Strength for the Family. Families gathered together for a time of prayer led by Sarah Wilder to invite the Holy Spirit into the space of their lives to bring His power and strength. March Family Formation Night is March 1. The topic is The Church and Our Journey to Heaven with Fr. Paul presenting and the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Marriage Ministry: Our four couples in RCIA piloting the Witness to Love Convalidation curriculum will have a joint Marriage Blessing on Sunday, March 26 after the 10:30am Mass. We've had an influx of engaged couples and all priests and deacons, including Deacon Tom and wife Judy, are joining in the preparation for them.

Adult Ministry: Jill will be serving on the Synod Evangelization Team with the School of Discipleship

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LIVE REPORT EXHIBIT 1

First Sacraments Curriculum Mapping 2022-23

Fall – Preparation for [First Reconciliation](#)

Winter – Retreat and Celebration of First Reconciliation

Winter/Spring – Preparation for [First Eucharist](#)

Spring – Retreat and Celebration of First Eucharist

Classroom Lessons – these dovetail the [Home Lessons for Parents](#)

Source: Family Formation First Reconciliation and First Communion Curriculum plus Catechesis of the Good Shepherd additions.

October Lesson (90 minutes)

To review the Kerygma

To experience Jesus as I AM the Light of the World (CGS presentation)

To review Sacraments, sanctifying and actual grace, First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

To understand the 5 gifts given in the Sacrament of Baptism (CGS presentation)

[First Sacraments Parent Orientation](#)

[Home Lessons: Chapter 1-4 + Review](#)

November Lesson (60 minutes) Incorporate the 30 minutes of PCYI Lesson

To experience Jesus as I AM the Good Shepherd

To understand the desire to follow God's plan and know God's Will

To understand the 10 Commandments (10 C's Bingo)

[Home Lessons: Chapter 5-7 + Review](#)

December Lesson (45 minutes)

To experience Jesus as I AM the Way, Truth, and Life

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To learn the steps of conversion/repentance through Zacchaeus (Saying I Am Sorry, God Erases Sin, Practicing Reconciliation)

Home Lessons: Chapter 8-10 + Review

January Lesson (60 minutes)

To experience Jesus in the Parable of the Forgiving Father

To understand how to make a good confession (Video 35 minutes, Sac. of Rec. game, Examination of Conscience heart lacing).

Reconciliation Retreat and Celebration of Reconciliation

February Lesson (60 minutes)

To review with students their experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

To link the Sacrament of Reconciliation to the Sacrament of Eucharist and Mass

To experience Jesus as I AM the Bread of Life (Cennacle presentation CGS, Jesus is the Bread of Life, Bread of Life Activity)

First Eucharist Parent/Child Orientation

Home Lessons: Memory Verse: *"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."* John 6:35

Chapter 1-3 plus Memory Verse: *"Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deed and glorify your heavenly Father."* Matthew 5:16

March Lesson (60 minutes + 30 minutes for confession)

To experience Jesus in the Mass

To understand the prayer of the Mass

To learn the names of the sacred vessels and sacred vestments (Altar I, II, III CGS)

To understand the Liturgy of the Eucharist (Gestures CGS, Preparation of the Chalice CGS)

To tour the sacristy

Home Lessons: Chapter 4-6 + Memory Verse: *"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to ... The breaking of the bread and to the prayers."* Acts 2:42

April Lesson (60 minutes)

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To experience Jesus in the Emmaus story of encountering Him in the breaking of the bread

To understand the concept of Transubstantiation

To learn and practice how to receive Holy Communion (Booklet, Video 35 min)

Home Lessons: Chapter 7-9 + Memory Verse: *"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body." 1 Corinthians 12:13a*

First Eucharist Retreat, First Eucharist Practice

May Lesson (60 minutes)

To experience Jesus as I AM the Resurrection and the Life

To prepare to encounter Jesus in the Mass through Holy Communion

To understand Adoration

To learn about Eucharistic Feasts and Celebrations

Celebration of First Eucharist

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LIVE REPORT EXHIBIT 2

1st Sacraments Calendar 2022-2023

First Sacraments Parent Orientation Meeting (Parents Only)

Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 6:30-8:00 PM- St. Joseph Hall * NOTE, this is a change from an earlier posted date.

* All other events will be Parent with the Child. One parent is required but both parents are welcome to attend. Nursery care will be available.

First Reconciliation Retreat Times

Sunday, January 22, 2023 2:00-4:00 PM or 2:45-4:45 – St. Joseph's Hall

First Reconciliation Celebration

Saturday, January 28, 2023, 9:00-11:00 AM – Church

First Eucharist Kick-off

Saturday, February 11, 2023 1:00-2:30 PM – St. Joseph's Hall

First Eucharist Retreat

Sunday, April 23, 2022 2:00-5:00 PM – St. Joseph's Hall

First Eucharist Practice for May 6th 4:30 Mass

Monday, May 1, 2023, 6:30-8:00 PM – Church

First Eucharist Practice for MAY 7th 8:30 Mass

Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 6:30-8:00 PM – Church

First Eucharist Practice for MAY 7th 10:30 Mass

Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:30-8:00 PM – Church



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First Eucharist Celebration Masses

Saturday, May 6, 2023 4:30 PM Mass

Sunday, May 7, 2023, 8:30 AM Mass

Sunday, May 7, 2023 10:30 AM Mass



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Jill Fink

Director of Catechesis

The Office of Discipleship and Mission

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LIVE REPORT EXHIBIT 3

RCIC Rite of Christian Initiation of Children

Families with students in grades 3-8 who desire the sacraments of Baptism/First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (Holy Communion) enter the wonderful process/journey called Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC). The church instructs that a child at this age can make a response of faith, with proper catechesis and formation, and so, the church prepares them with their parent's partnership for the initiating sacraments according to their age. If children are age 15 or older, we prepare within the Confirmation program but with all sacramental preparation and celebration.

Preparation is threefold:

Enrolled in our age-appropriate programs in either **St. John the Baptist Catholic School** or **St. John's Family Formation (grade 2-5)** or **Middle School Faith Formation (grades 6-8)** or **Confirmation (grades 9-12)** programs.

Attend a monthly **Family Sunday Meeting** once a month on Sunday morning at 9:30-10:15am in room 211 with Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis. These sessions are to check in with the families and insert other catholic teachings such as liturgical calendar and sacramental preparation of all the sacraments. Families are invited to sit together at Mass either before the class at the 8:30am Mass or at the 10:30am Mass to build community.

Children attend **Sacramental Class** within the School or Formation program system. Children in grades 3-5 attend the Sacrament Class during Family Formation sessions. Youth in MS FF program will meet 3 sessions for Reconciliation and 3 sessions for Eucharist with Sarah Wilder, MS Youth Minister. Children at St. John's School will attend 3 sessions for Reconciliation and 3 sessions for Eucharist with Ms. Fink after school. See additional schedules.

Optional:

Accompaniment of Catholic Faith Overview. Find a family to work with you through the 20 lessons in the Faith Fusion curriculum that give an overview of the Catholic Faith. This family should be someone you know who attends St. John's each Sunday for Mass.

RCIC Family Sunday Meeting Schedule 2022-23

Sunday, October 16 Introduction, Liturgical Life/Kerygma/Baptism

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Sunday, November 13 Unit 1 The Profession of Faith/Reconciliation

Sunday, December 11 Unit 2 Celebrating the Christian Mystery/Reconciliation Retreat

Children/Youth who are baptized will celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** in December. School youth will celebrate at the Advent School Reconciliation on Wed., December 14 Reconciliation Service. Formation youth will celebrate on Sunday, December 18 at 3:30pm at the Parish Advent Communal Service. If you have a grade 2 student, you may opt for your older child to celebrate with them at the First Reconciliation Celebration on Saturday, January 28 at 9:00-11:00am in the church.

Sunday, January 8 Unit 3 The Christian Life/Eucharist

Sunday, February 5 Unit 4 Christian Prayer/Eucharist

Sunday, March 5 Sacramental Preparation

Due date for copy of birth certificate (if unbaptized), baptismal certificate (if baptized), saint name, godparent names and registration in parish.

Sunday, March 26 Sacramental Preparation

Sunday, April 2 Holy Week and Practice for Celebration

Sacramental Celebration – Sunday, April 16 at 10:30am Mass followed by a Reception in St. Joseph's Hall. Invite friends and relatives to attend. Godparents will need to be present. Celebration of Baptism and First Eucharist.

NOTE: Students in Grade 2 may make a Solemn Communion with their classmates on one of the First Communion times. They would need to attend the First Communion Retreat and attend the First Eucharist Practice on the night pertaining to the chosen First Communion Celebration.

NOTE: If your child is age 15, they will make their Confirmation with the parish class on Tuesday, May 23 at 7pm at St. Paul's Cathedral in St. Paul. If your child is unbaptized, you can receive all three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil on Sat., April 8 at 8pm. Practice is at 9:00am that morning.

Sacramental Class Schedule:

Formation Families:

Grades 3, 4, 5 attend Sacrament Class on Wednesdays at 6-7:30pm: Sept. 21, Oct. 5, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 12, May 3

Grades 6, 7, 8 attend RCIC Sacrament Class with Sarah Wilder, MS Youth Minister. Schedule TBD. 3 Reconciliation Classes in Oct. – Nov. – Dec. 3 Eucharist Classes in Jan. – Feb. – Mar.

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School Families:

Grades 3-8 attend RCIC Sacrament Class with Miss Fink, Teacher after school at 2:45-3:45pm Thursdays. Reconciliation Sessions. Thurs., Nov. 3, 17 and December 1. Eucharist Sessions. Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 9.

Overall Check List for Parents:

Meeting with Director:

___ Family Sunday Meetings and attend Mass

Enrollment in Programs:

___ Enroll in either St. John the Baptist Catholic School or Formation Programs (Family Formation, MS Faith Formation and/or Confirmation)

___ RCIC program

___ Register as parishioner at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Forms:

___ Request a newly issued copy of child's baptismal certificate from their baptismal church of origin. Due Nov. 13.

___ Choose a Saint Name for Confirmation by March 5

___ Choose a Sponsor for Baptism and/or Confirmation by March 5

Contact Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis at finkj@stjohnnyb.org or 651.633.1540 extension 1280.