

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

February 21, 2023

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

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- **Called Forth in Lent.** Ash Wednesday is February 22 and we are hopeful this Lenten season will give many people the opportunity to take the next step on our Journey of Faith. Once again this year we are adding Friday evening Masses at 5:30 pm. We are also adding Saturday morning Masses at 9:30 am; please note the different time. This is to accommodate the Men's small groups and the Synod Evangelization Team training that are both happening on Saturday mornings.
- **Men's Small Groups.** This Lent Fr. Joseph and I will be hosting about 30 men on Monday nights and another 30 men on Saturday mornings for fellowship and small groups. We will gather for a half hour of socializing at the rectory and then break into four small groups and reflect upon the upcoming Sunday scripture readings. We focused on inviting young married men from SJB into these small groups as a way of strengthening our community and fostering them as leaders in the faith for their families. Please pray for all the men involved.
- **Capital Campaign.** As we continue to discuss and refine the Church Interior project, we are preparing to launch a capital campaign to cover the cost and help us sustain the growth in our programs. We will be interviewing three firms that we are considering partnering with to help us reach our goals. We are still discerning the total amount and the exact items that we will fundraising for, but the majority is the various capital improvements that we need to complete to maintain our campus and sustain the vital ministries that are happening here at SJB.

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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- **Lent Small Groups.** We are excited to see our fourth season of Lenten Small Groups begin next week. We currently we have 28 leaders and over 200 participants with registrations continuing to trickle in. We have given our groups many options to choose from for content: With Jesus to the Cross from Word Among Us, No Greater Love from Ascension Press, the Seven Last Words of Christ by Word Among Us, In Her Sandals by Kelly Walquist, and Restore Lent Study by Sr. Miriam James Heidland.
- **Cana Dinner.** St. John's is continuing to expand our Marriage Enrichment offerings to build strong, healthy, and holy marriages. The Cana Dinner has been an anchor event for over 20 years. This event offers an elegant evening at St. John's celebrating marriage. Cana Dinner offers couples a catered dinner, a marriage blessing, and a beautiful message about the beauty and goodness of the vocation of marriage. It is a wonderful opportunity for growth! For this year's event on February 18 thirty couples were registered and there was a large crew to help serve the event.

- **Summer Planning.** The discipleship staff is busy sustaining their ministries but also looking forward to summer ministry offerings. Registrations will open for Vacation Bible School (June 20-24) and Totus Tuus (July 23-28) the first weekend in March. Watch for more information and registration links in just a couple of weeks!

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **2023/24 Budget Planning Process.** At this month's Finance Commission meeting the budget planning process begins in earnest with the commission being presented a preliminary budget. The budget will be reviewed and revised based on Finance Commission input and other information over the next two months, such as our actual revenue and expense as we move closer to the end of the current fiscal year.
- **Chapel of the Angels Renovation.** We are now about a week into this project! Our general contractor Steve Arndorfer is working in the chapel, implementing the first steps involved in reorienting the room and preparing for the installation of new features. For safety, please note that the chapel is closed until further notice.
- **Church Interior & School Improvements.** We are in the process of refining the project scope of our improvements in both the church and the school. Much more communication will follow once these decisions are made, but right now we are focusing on some masonry work on the church roof, resetting the windows over the baptismal font (due to frequent leaking), stripping and painting the church ceiling, upgrading the church's original mechanical systems, adding a new sound system and renovating our school's restrooms. Our parish leaders have been actively discerning priorities among the many things we can do to improve our campus, to continue to be good stewards of our physical plant and the many gifts of our parishioners. Please pray for success in this process!
- **Catholic Services Appeal.** The kick-off for this year's Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) is this coming weekend, February 25/26. St. John's goal for 2023 is \$113,996. Our parish also benefits from this Appeal because when we meet our goal, as we have consistently done for many years, we earn a parish rebate check. The more we raise, the more we benefit. The formula for the rebate has two parts: 50% above our goal is returned to the parish and 25% above the prior year's results is returned to the parish. Last year we raised over \$172,055 and our goal was \$109,052, so we were \$63,003 over goal. Our first rebate check totaled \$22,674, and we should receive another smaller amount later this spring for donations received by the CSA at year-end. Please be generous to the Appeal this year, as you always have been! Thank you.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **2023-2024 School Year.** Planning is underway. School registration began in mid-January and is going strong. Although we do not have an exact enrollment number to share at this time we do expect an increase in enrollment for next year.
- **2023 Wines to Wishes.** Thank you for all your prayers and support for our Wines to Wishes event. This year we sold over 500 tickets and more than 400 people attended the event! As we tie up things in the upcoming weeks we will share more information about its success when we are able. THANK YOU!

Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis

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- **Sacramental Preparation Update.** Sacramental preparation is in full swing toward celebrations in April/May. The St. John's community is invited to join their lenten disciplines toward the purification and enlightenment of our candidates.
- **Youth365.** The weekend of March 4/5 we'll hear from teen testimonies and our youth ministers Sarah Wilder (Middle School Youth Minister) and Mikayla Anderson (Senior High Youth Minister) on the growth in our programs and conversion in the lives of our youth. Our SJB community will have the opportunity to continue to support our youth ministries with their prayers, volunteering and financial contributions.
- **New Senior High Summer Opportunities.** Registrations are launching for two new senior high summer opportunities: Mission Trip with Catholic Heart Camp and the Steubenville Conference in St. Paul in July. Senior high youth can also participate in CYSC, Totus Tuus and youth group.
- **Catholic Youth Summer Camp (CYSC)** registration is almost full for middle school youth. CYSC will be the last week in June.

A blessed Lenten journey 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.**