

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

April 18, 2023

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**Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor**

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- **Easter.** Jesus Christ is Risen! He is alive and in our midst! We see Him providing for us in this Season of Sacraments. Please pray for all those receiving the sacraments at SJB. See below for more information about those receiving at SJB. We had the Ordination of Bishop Michael Izen on April 11. It was a joyous celebration and we are grateful to have him working with Archbishop Hebda and Bishop Williams to serve the people of our archdiocese well.
- **Capital Campaign.** We are waiting on some more bids for the bathrooms in the school as well as fine tuning some of the church projects. We are doing the preparation work for the pre-planning study that is set to begin at the beginning of July. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us in the descions we make in preparation for this important time in the life of our parish.
- **Chapel of the Angels.** The majority of the Chapel of Angels renovation is nearly completed. The woodwork has been installed. The altar, presider chair and ambo have all been moved. The floor is completed. They are working on final parts in the next couple of weeks. It is looking very beautiful! The statues will be delivered in late August or early September. My hope is to return to Daily Mass in the chapel this summer.

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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- **Annual Egg Hunt.** The Annual Easter Egg Hunt has grown again this year! We served 400 younger and older children and their families during this all-parish community event. The goodie bag always contains a religious book about Easter and fun treats and trinkets. Games, food, and crafts were also available to families. And, who could forget the cutest baby fainting goat! The teen and adult volunteer participation and staff support was amazing this year—we couldn't do something this large without all the different hands and feet of Jesus to make it possible. A special thanks to Jen Livermont for her excellent leadership at all our parish family community events!
- **Synod Evangelization Team.** Fr. Paul has called together his Synod Evangelization Team and the entire team is currently in formation through the Catechetical Institute's *School of Discipleship*. This team of 20 is made up of both staff and parishioners from both our church and school. We look forward to our Visioning day later this month as we pray, learn, and listen to the Holy Spirit as we create our plan to implement the First Year Synod Priorities. The focus this first year is on small groups, and we expect to grow our already established small group ministry.

**Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations**

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- **Year-to-Date Sunday Giving.** Our mission is enabled by so many of our parishioners who live out of a generous spirit by supporting the parish financially. As of Week 41 (April 9) in our fiscal year (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) we are \$62,122, or 3.3%, below our year-to-date projected budget in Sunday Giving. Looking at year-to-date actuals, we are \$40,461, or 2.2%, below our year-to-date total through the same weekend a year ago. I have seen so much generosity at St.

John's, and I am hopeful that we will catch up to our projections through Easter and into early summer. Thank you all for your generosity!

- **St. John the Baptist Cemetery.** This year St. John the Baptist Cemetery will be planning for and implementing two significant improvements and offering a new ministry. Last year we lost many ash trees to disease and we will now plan for and plant new trees. We received donations through the 2022 Wish List for this purpose—thank you! We also received a gift from the Wish List to replace the decorative landscaping curb around our central garden that greets visitors at our entrance. That work will happen in May. And, on October 14 we will be offering something new – a communal burial opportunity for cremated remains. Watch parish publications for more information on this new ministry offering. Please remember to pray for our beloved dead and those who mourn them.

**Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal**

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- **Holy Week Retreat.** During Holy Week our students were engaged in a school wide retreat which centered on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Resurrection. Besides going to Mass we venerated the cross and praised the Lord during adoration. This was a great preparation for the Triduum for our students.
- **May Events.** May 6 and 7 is First Communion for our second graders. Please pray for them as they prepare for this sacrament. Wednesday, May 10 is our May Crowning Celebration with Archbishop Hebda joining us to celebrate Mass at 8:30 am. Please join us!
- **2023-24 Enrollment Update.** K-8 Enrollment is at 387 students and we have 63 Preschool students enrolled for a total of 450 students. We are grateful for the growth in our school!

**Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis**

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- **Sacramental Celebration.** This Easter season brings celebration of the sacraments from our yearlong preparation. At the Easter Vigil we welcomed two adults and two youth in baptism, nine for the profession of faith, 14 for Confirmation and 15 for First Holy Communion. On Sunday, April 16 at the 10:30 am Mass we will celebrate First Holy Communion for nine of our older students. The weekend of May 6 and 7 we will welcome 54 of our second graders into Holy Communion. Our confirmation class of 38 will journey to the Cathedral of St. Paul for the Sacrament of Confirmation on the evening of Tuesday, May 23.
- **Youth Ministry Summer Camp Registration.** Our CYSC camp is full. Final preparations are being made for the Mission Trip and [Steubenville North Conference](#). [Totus Tuus](#) Registration is currently available for middle school and high school youth for their evening program.

A blessed and joyous Easter 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.**