

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

May 16, 2023

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

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- **Survey.** Our Weekend Experience Survey brought in over 800 responses! While a majority were positive and affirmed the good work of staff and volunteers, many also have insightful feedback and suggestions. I will share an overview of the findings at this month's Commission night and then disseminate the feedback to the various responsible parties to evaluate and implement the feedback.
- **Chapel of the Angels.** The project is getting closer to being finished! The main items to finish at this point are the sanctuary floor, livestream camera and statues. I would like to return the celebration of daily Mass to the chapel during the summer but that will need to wait until the livestream camera is installed.
- **Synod Evangelization Team (SET).** On April 29, I met with our Synod Evangelization Team and we discerned how to further our small group ministry at SJB. This week we are commissioning the team with the prayer from the Archdiocese as participants in the work of evangelization at St. John's. This fall the SET team will be helping coordinate a seven-week training for small group leaders. I encourage all commission members to pray about taking part in the training and discerning how the Lord is calling you to put your faith in to action.

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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- **Safe Environment.** As we continue to create safe and healthy environments here at St. John's we begin our parish audit season. For those who work children, youth and vulnerable adults there is a rigorous process of checks and training in order to volunteer in the education, formation and pastoral care of our parishioners. Each year the Archdiocese conducts an audit of our work to be sure every parish is in compliance with national and local requirements.
- **Night of Gratitude.** The Office of Discipleship and Mission staff partnered with Development Associate Mary May for the Night of Gratitude on April 28. The evening's dinner and program was offered as a way of saying thank you all those who work alongside our staff to provide our amazing programming and events, all of which help St. John's live its mission to *Bear Witness to Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. Go. Make. Teach.* We also invited key stakeholders and benefactors who support our mission so they could see how lives have been changed here at St. John's. We heard four powerful testimonies about what God is doing in the hearts and lives of our people, because of the work and opportunities we provide at here at St. John the Baptist. Thank you all who help make this happen!

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **Year to Date Sunday Giving.** Our Sunday Giving through Week 45 (May 7) is \$93,098 below budget, a difference of 4.5%. Our Development Associate Mary May is working up a new Ways to Give summary for our parishioners, to share as a reference guide. An online summary of the various ways our parishioners can financially support St. John's can be found on our website

[here](#). We are grateful for the continuing generosity of our parishioners and invite any additional gifts that will enable us to catch up to our budget as we close out the fiscal year on June 30.

Thank you all!

- **2023/24 Budget Approved.** At the April 18 meeting the Finance Commission recommended approval of the proposed budget for next year. The budget is now subject to a final review and any necessary revisions before Fr. Paul's approval makes it final. I am grateful to our school and church department leaders and the members of the Finance Commission, all of whom contribute to creating the complex but very useful planning tool that is our operating budget.
- **Cemetery Clean Up Day.** This Saturday, May 20, is Cemetery Clean Up Day! For those able and interested, please join us at the cemetery this coming Saturday from 9:30 am until 12:00 pm (noon) to rake, trim, pick up, bag, water, plant, wash – whatever needs doing and will beautify our cemetery. The event will end at 12:00 pm with snacks and a light lunch provided at the cemetery! Please dress appropriately, including gloves to protect your hands, and bring yard tools (rakes, trowels, etc.) if you have them. Cemetery Committee member Mary Karls and Cemetery Caretaker Jeff Bauer will direct the work of our volunteers that morning. Please RSVP to Maureen Owusu at 651-633-8333, ext. 1255 or owusum@stjohnnyb.org. Please also indicate if you wish to join us for lunch at the cemetery.

Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis

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- **Sacramental Celebrations.** Children enrolled in our First Sacraments celebrated their First Communion the weekend of May 6-7 as well as an alternate date of May 14 for our 53 students. Confirmation celebration for our students will be Tuesday, May 23 at 7:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Paul for our 38 students.
- **Youth Room Renovation.** The youth room will be closed starting May 10 to start the timeline of Phase 1 renovation this summer which includes painting, new flooring, a breakfast bar and new furniture.
- **Summer Youth Programming.** Summer camps for our middle school and high school youth are full with more events being offered with the help of Sarah Wilder, our Coordinator of Discipleship for Middle School Youth & Young Adult Ministry. Students will participate in Catholic Youth Summer Camp (CYSC) in June, Steubenville in St. Paul, a mission trip to Indiana and our Totus Tuus evening program here at St. John's.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **May Crowning.** On Wednesday May 10 we celebrated our May Crowning with Archbishop Hebda. It was a wonderful celebration of the Queen of Heaven and Earth and a great way to begin the final weeks of our 8th graders' SJB school years as we "give" our 8th graders to the care of our mother Mary.
- **First Communion Celebration.** At our school Mass this week, we will be celebrating our 2nd graders who celebrated their First Communion this year. Please join us at the 8:30 Mass on May 17.

A blessed and joyous Easter and spring 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.**