

# Saint John the Baptist

## Discipleship and Mission Commission

### Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	May 16, 2023	<b>Chair</b>	Emily Carlberg	<b>Staff Liaison</b>	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **June 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**

Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Melanie Dowell (PLC REP)	Absent	Deb Marsh	Absent
Jessica Balzarini	X	Neil Steffl (Acting Chair May)	X
Steven Broszko	Absent	Mike Uzelac	X
Emily Carlberg (Chair)	Absent	Jodie Wolla (recorder)	Absent
Erin Hardy	Absent	Karl Zabinski	Absent
Jackie King	X	<b>Guest:</b> 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.
    1. Welcome Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis who will be transitioning to leading the D&M commission next year 2023-24. Jessica will be transitioning to leading the Synod Evangelization Team with Fr. Paul for St. John the Baptist church this upcoming year.
  - B. 5 minutes, to the following question during our commission time. *What can we do to further our goal as a commission as we think about next year’s theme, “Gather to Witness”?*
    1. Synod Letter – how do we live it out at SJB and how can we introduce more people to it.
    2. Gather as a specific demographic groups. Many have great guilt and mourn their children and grandchildren not practicing the faith, maybe they can gather to pray for kids, talk about tools they can use. Also encouragement to reach out to people sitting alone.
    3. Testimonies, tools, snippets to get the entire community thinking and talking about Eucharist “what are you thinking when you go up for communion?”
- I. Ongoing Monthly Agenda Items
  - A. Update from previous month’s PLC – See Written Report
    1. Things to note chapel is almost done, open for masses, statues arrive in August.
  - B. Goal 1a: Review of Written Reports –
    1. Comment regarding the middle school family formation bible timeline, could this be taught to younger kids?
  - C. Goal 1b: Live Report – No live report tonight

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#### II. Business

A. Review past events – Skip to Section IV in agenda.

B. End of year accomplishments for June meetings

C. Goal 2a: – Discuss Synod Document Section 3 A & B

1. **Action: Read Section III The Upper Room Part B “The Mystery of the Eucharist”.** The Mystery of the Eucharist #'s 28-36 and be prepared to finish the discussion on A and B.
2. **Action: Plan to give feedback** (feedback packet was handed out previously and attached to the April email). We will be working through 3 A/B & 4 A/B. Be ready to share: **3 items we do well and 3 items we should recommend from #3A and B and #4 A and B to the SET team.**
3. You can access the entire Pastoral Letter and the Audio Version of the Pastoral Letter here: <https://www.archspm.org/synod/>
4. Questions for SECTION III – THE UPPER ROOM
  - **Why does Archbishop say that the phrase “the love is in the food” could be said about the Eucharist? (29)**
  - **How is Christ’s gift of himself in the Eucharist connected not just with the cross, but also his Resurrection? (31)**
  - **Have you sought to deepen your devotion to our Lord in the Eucharist? What is one step you may take during the National Eucharistic Revival? See ideas at <https://www.archspm.org/eucharisticrevival/> (32)**
  - **How have you experienced beauty in the Mass? Or what can parishes do to make liturgies “dignified and beautiful”? (34)**
  - **What struck you about the story of the woman who called the Eucharist her “most daily endeavor”? (36)**

5. **Final report on feedback on 3 items we do well at SJBC**

▪ **Section 1B: Feedback**

1. Small Groups – examples: RM, circle of women, Sr. Clarinda’s scripture studies, etc.
2. Welcoming community and fellowship -example of large parish events- Egg hunt, Fall fest, All Saint’s Party, New Parishioner Welcome, hospitality, etc.

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3. Sacramental prep over the years has been very good.

#### **Continued feedback what we do well at SJB**

- **Section 2A and B:**
    1. Retreats – examples All parish men’s & women’s, the one-day retreats put on by Jessica/Father Paul. pilgrimages
    2. Small groups ex. RM & CGS
    3. Catholic identity, strong stance on personal holiness

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  - **Section 3A: Feedback Top 3**
    1. Greeting at Mass & hospitality after Mass
    2. Live streaming and social media
    3. Getting the youth involved and engaged
  - **Section 3B: Feedback Top 3**
    1. Clear communications: bulletin
    2. Joy and adoration
    3. Inviting personally and pulpit announcements
  - **Section 4A: Feedback Top 3**
    1. Reverence and silence during liturgies
    2. Liturgical seasons done well
    3. Daily confession times
  - **Section 4B: Feedback Top 3**
    1. Consistently offering adult bible studies and the variety of studies offered
    2. Loved NET and young witnesses
    3. Collections for food, socks, Christmas, baby bush...
- 6. Top 3 items Recommend to “SET TEAM”**
- **Section 1B:**
    1. More praise and worship church and school

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#### **Continued Recommendation to “SET TEAM”**

2. More opportunities for the elderly and to involve the elderly plus a plan to make personal invites to our inactive parishioners.
  3. Greater emphasis on and involvement from youth
  4. More opportunities for adoration and growth in personal prayer
  5. More opportunities for catechesis
- **Section 2A and B:**
    1. Mentorships/Spiritual Directors
    2. Target groups for outreach examples singles, grow young adults’ group, divorced, loss etc.
    3. Campaign to keep Sunday Holy
  - **Section 3A: Feedback Top 3**
    1. Zero entry events and including the neighborhood.
    2. Service to get to know each other.
    3. Teaching to be friendly, take steps of faith, smile and create a warm environment.
  - **Section 3B: Feedback Top 3**
    1. Business directory
    2. Invite the use of Charisms – make asks based on charisms
    3. Hear other voices in invitations
  - **Section 4A: Feedback Top 3**
    1. Offer confessions during Mass
    2. Teach aspects of the Mass
    - 3.
  - **Section 4B: Feedback Top 3**
    1. Billboard

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2. A NET team: maybe smaller team for more 1:1 discipleship and/or younger age and connecting

- III. Long Term Planning
- A. Devoted May 24 and Watchmen May 11
  - B. VBS June 20-22 – Registration is FULL
  - C. St. John's Feast Day Celebration ~~June 24~~ Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023
  - D. Catholic Youth Summer Camp – June 25-June 30 - Full
  - E. Catholic Heart Workcamp Mission Trip to Indiana – registration is closed total at 8 of 25 & 4 adults.
  - F. Steubenville Youth Conference July 28-30– 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders – closed with a total of 11 of 25 registered.
  - G. CYSC – 12 high school students registered as camp leaders.
  - H. Totus Tuus date - July 22-29
    - 1. Grades 1-5 - full at 80 total
    - 2. Grades 6-12 – 10 registered and still taking registrations.
  - I. Mission Training Group – to begin in ~~May~~ June.
- IV. Review of Events
- A. Past Events for Review and Feedback
    - 1. Devoted 5-year anniversary April 26th
    - 2. ODM Volunteers Night of Gratitude – April 28
      - Feedback: it was a nice evening, beautiful small details, wine was a nice touch, great evening, testimonies were great.
    - 3. Family Formation May 3
    - 4. First Communion Retreat April 23 & First Communion May 6 & 7
    - 5. Synod Evangelization Team (SET) School of Discipleship
  - B. Upcoming Calendar of Events and Volunteers Needs:
    - 1. VBS and Tutus Tuus Volunteers
    - 2. Still need childcare help
- V. Ending Prayer
- VI. Adjourn

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#### **Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families**

**Childcare** – We provided childcare for the First Communion Retreat and the three practices for First Communion. We also provided childcare for the Reach More Small Group Celebration. We finished childcare for Circle of Women for the year. They typically have a session once during the summer, but we have not received dates yet for that. The Reach More Small Group that meets on Wednesday mornings will be finished.

**Sunday School** – We finished up our last weeks of Sunday School with the readings of Jesus after His resurrection. On our last day we read about the Ascension and Pentecost. The students made headbands with the flame of the Holy Spirit on them. Fr. Paul visited the 10:30am class and took a picture with the students. The students got a book with all the coloring pages and Bible stories that we read over the year so they can go back and read stories and finish coloring the pictures. Students also received a little end of the year goody bag including a prayer bear.

**Catholic Kids Bulletins** – I will be putting 120 Catholic Kids Bulletins out each weekend in May and then I will re-evaluate to see once summer gets into full swing if that is too many.

**Family Formation** – The May Family Formation had a good the best turnout we have probably ever had in May! Instead of a speaker we had testimonies from participants. It is always a challenge with the warm weather and the beginning of lots of summer sports. We began the evening with a nacho bar for dinner. Kids had a shortened class time then gathered with their prayer partners to play Easter Bingo. The kids were able to choose from saint magnets or saint blocks as prizes. We also had WOG log raffle using all the WOG logs turned in for the whole year. We gave out 10 Dairy Queen \$5 gift cards. At the end of the night, we had Dilly Bars for an end of the year treat! Parents took students into the church for a short teaching on Miraculous Medal. The students received a blessed Miraculous Medal and prayed some Marian prayers. They all went downstairs to the Youth Room to see the Middle Schoolers present on the Old Testament Bible timeline. It was a very fun end of year and many families stayed late to socialize.

**Vacation Bible School** – VBS is June 20-22 from 9-noon. We have a waiting list with about 15 kids on it so far. I am waiting to see if Preschool will be bringing one or two classrooms of students to VBS before we decide if we will open more spots. We will be using the 2 preschool classrooms in the basement. The class of preschoolers attending the summer program will stay in their classroom. I am looking into using the second preschool room for our 4<sup>th</sup> classroom. Preschool has that currently reserved for a second summer classroom.

**Totus Tuus** - Totus Tuus is July 24-28 for the grade school program. We have 81 students signed up and we are closed for the day program.

**First Communion** – I assisted Jill with the First Communion retreat as well as the First Communion Masses.

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**Night of Gratitude** – was a great evening with a lot of powerful testimonies.

**Anniversary Celebration** – of the dedication of the church will be Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will be a great event to invite all the VBS participants to since we will have our last day and water event that afternoon. We will have a daily Mass at 5:30pm, dinner, ice cream treats and a DJ out in the parking lot.

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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

- Finished our Journey through the Old Testament
- Students presented their timeline to the families on parent night.
- Seeing lots of growth and engagement from students.
- 5-6 8<sup>th</sup> graders have signed up for the optional summer study on Jesus.
- Pushing early bird registration

##### 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 prayer time.

##### Open Youth Room

- Adults present weekly: 2-3
- Students have expressed that they are growing in prayer.
- lower attendance due to spring sports and activities
- The core group loves OYR and has shared their appreciation for it.

##### D-Groups

- 8 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls are in the d-group which will break for the summer and resume in the fall.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade summer study
- hoping to rope in the current 5<sup>th</sup> graders for d-groups next year.

##### Grade Level Retreats

- I am collaborating with the religion teachers to plan a retreat for each grade (6-8th)
- The 6th grade went well! It was a big hit with the 6th graders and many parents were able to help! The theme was God the Father.
- The 7th grade retreat went well. The theme was Jesus Messiah. Their parent volunteers were very excited and did great. Student engagement was mixed.
- The 8th grade retreat was great. Teachers reported 8<sup>th</sup> graders had a change in mood after the retreat.

##### Focus Area 3: Middle School Youth Group

- Jesus' night was on April 21st from 7-9. 100ish 5th-8th graders from across the metro for games, a message, and adoration with worship. We had about 30 students from SJB in attendance. They really enjoyed the adoration of live music.

##### Focus Area 4: Young Adult Ministry

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- Take And Eat – A Young Adult Gathering is taking a break for the summer.
- We will do more social events for the summer to build our population base.
- Monthly bonfire at the Schmidt home
- Monthly game nights
- encouraging them to interact outside of our group, members of the group have begun to take more initiative in planning events.
- in conversation with some of the men about starting a men's group (high interest)

#### **CYSC**

- 68 campers
- 14 high schoolers
- 12 adults/youth ministers
- 2 priests

#### **Summer plans**

- optional volunteer formation series on the gospel
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade summer study on the gospel
- a few "Middle School Open Patio" Dates TBD
- CYSC
- Totus Tuus
- Youth Room Updates
- Professional Development

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

**Confirmation** – We had our last Confirmation small group, and we had students shared graces from the year. It was awesome to hear about the different ways the Lord had worked. He was doing a lot of silent work this year as many of our students said that the retreat was the most impactful part of confirmation preparation, but on the retreat, there was not a big response. I am so grateful to our leaders this year and to our students! They have put in a lot of work, and I do believe that they are prepared for the sacrament on May 23<sup>rd</sup>!

**High School Youth Group** - Our last High School Youth Group was on May 10<sup>th</sup>! We had a bonfire in the rectory back yard! We will be on a break for a little bit – or until school is over with for high school youth group. We will have high school youth group in the summer, but we are still working on our schedule as I am gone for a good part of the summer with camp and a mission trip and personal vacation, so we are coming up with a schedule with our volunteers to who is planning each night and if they will be weekly rather than a couple big events.

**Summer Things** – We will have 8 students and 4 adults come on the mission trip to Indiana. We will have 11 students and 4 adults for Steubenville! We also have 12 students attending the camp as leaders!



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#### **Written Report – Michael Lane, Sacramental Records Coordinator**

##### **Baptisms in May:**

1 on May 14, 2023

6 on May 21, 2023

##### **Weddings in May:**

One wedding on May 20, 2023

Steven Fetting and Mary Picard

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#### **Written Report – Claire Brostrom, Reach More Coordinator**

- No report this month – on maternity leave.
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#### **Written Report – Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life**

**Reach More Mission Training:** There will be summer Reach More Mission Training offered on Thursday evenings beginning in June. It is a 12-week training for those who are ready to take the next step in their relationship with Jesus and have a desire to help others have a relationship with Jesus and the Church. Each session wrestles with the Church's call to evangelize and the essential part of every Christian's lived faith life. Each session consists of growing in personal prayer, being equipped with practical skills necessary to invite others and share faith, as well as sound church teaching on what Catholic evangelization is and isn't. All who have participated have experienced personal growth.

**Synod Implementation:** Our Synod Evangelization Team (SET) has its first Visioning Day at the end of April. It was a good day filled with direction and formation from Archbishop Hebda and Bishop Williams. The team put together a plan for our Implementation of the Archbishops 1<sup>st</sup> Year Priority – Beginning Small Groups. We found in our discussion that St. John's is ahead of the game when it comes to small groups, but the Holy Spirit was leading us in ways to plan to expand this essential method of growing in our relationship with Jesus and each other. We have seen first-hand its effectiveness. Small Groups will become the backbone of the way we evangelize and catechize here at St. John's. SET members will be making invitations to parishioners to go through the fall training throughout the summer. Begin to seek the Holy Spirit if you are called to do the training!

**Cana Marriage Ministry:** Cana Marriage Ministry has completed 2 Marriage Minute sessions aiding couples in handling conflict and staying united as a couple. The plan is to offer monthly sessions on differing topics again next ministry year.

When couples were surveyed on needs, they have, social gatherings to meet more people at St. John's was very high on the list. We will be offering a Bunco night for married couples with childcare provided on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

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**Night of Gratitude:** The Office of Discipleship and Mission staff partnered with Mary May, Development Associate for the Night of Gratitude. The evening was spent saying thank you all those who work alongside our staff to provide our amazing programming and events to 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 asked some donors to attend as well so they could hear the powerful testimonies of four of our parishioners. They spoke about what God is doing in the hearts and lives because of the work the opportunities we provide at SJB.

**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 to volunteer in the education, formation, and pastoral care of the groups. Each year the Archdiocese does an audit of our work to be sure every parish follows national and local requirements.

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#### **Written Report – Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis**

**Baptism:** Working with four families to have their older child baptized. Letter to grade 1 students in the parish explaining First Sacraments program and any baptism needs to connect this summer.

**First Sacraments:** First Communion celebrations on Saturday, May 6 at 4:30pm, Sunday, May 7 at 8:30am and 10:30am for 50 students. Three children celebrated on the alternative date of Sunday, May 14 at the 8:30am Mass. Registration is open for next year at the early rate. Letter sent to grade 1 students in the school. Parents informed at Family Formation of the program and registration open.

**RCIC:** Families interested in next year's sacramental needs should contact Jill.

**Becoming Catholic RCIA:** Mystagogy classes will run until Pentecost. Several people attended the RCIA Information Meeting on Sunday, April 30 at 9:30am in St. Joseph Hall.

**Formation Parent Program:** Our final Formation Night was Wed., May 3. The topic of Family Faith is Forever had parents reflecting on how God worked in their lives and called them forth in faith. Parents had an exercise to share, and three parents gave testimony. In addition to the final class, there will be a social and tour of youth room where the middle school students will present their salvation timeline periods. Registration is out for next year.

**Marriage Ministry:** All our mentor couples are engaged couples. Several couples are preparing for convalidation. A new program of Beloved is being piloted.

**Adult Ministry:** Plans are being made for a summer series on The Chosen.