

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions
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November 14, 2023

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

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- **Restore to Gather. The weekend of November 11/12th is our public launch, and we are over 25% of the way to our goal of \$5 million.** I will give a more in-depth report at the meeting about the campaign.
- **Small Group Leader Training.** We are finishing up our small group leader training and our participants have been very excited about the Evangelical Catholic content. We are hoping to grow our small group offerings as well as our ministry offering by Lent 2024.

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!

Fr. Joseph Nguyễn, Parochial Vicar

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- **Adoration in the Chapel of the Angels.** This past month we trained our staff and schoolteachers how to do group adoration in the Chapel of the Angels. The hope is that our staff and schoolteachers can be empowered to bring those they work with to encounter Christ, even when we as priest are not able to be present.
- **Gathering to Witness.** We have had many events to bring the parish together this past month. From the All Saints Party to the Burial of Cremated Remains and the Living Rosary. This month we will be having an Anointing Mass for those in need of the sacrament.

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **Sunday Giving.** Our Sunday Giving numbers through October are encouraging, especially since our 2023/24 budget calls for an increase for the year of 3.6% over the prior year. We are 1% ahead of budget year to date through October. Thank you for your ongoing generous spirit! Watch for a Sunday Giving report for the month of October in an upcoming bulletin.
- **Church Interior & School Project Update.** Members of the Administrative Services & Worship Commissions continue to meet with contractors to review options and discern the best path forward for our church interior needs. As shared previously, the main improvements we are considering are: exterior improvements (masonry & windows), addressing our ceiling and sound system, upgrades to our HVAC systems and pew refinishing. While we have initial budget numbers on these items, we are reviewing the scope of work for cost and effectiveness. Church and school leaders are also actively designing and planning our school restroom improvements, in addition to carpeting and our playground surface. Watch parish publications as our plans develop. And, please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we make these important decisions.

Jill Fink, Director of Discipleship

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- **Evangelization Events for Young Families: All Saints and Pumpkin Walk.** Our annual onsite **All Saints Party** continues to grow in participation and volunteers. We had almost 200 children and parents dressed as saints and approximately 275 children overall. We also saw a growth in volunteers with the event and hosting ministry tables for the trick or treaters by 7 newly hosted tables. A new event this year was to host a trunk or treat at the New Brighton City hosted **Pumpkin Walk** on Saturday, November 21 at VETS park. The theme was All Saints with statues as decoration. We gave out baggies with a piece of candy and a sticker that say, “Shine God’s Light-St. John the Baptist Catholic Church”. About 800 families participated in this event for us to share about our church.
- **Rite of Acceptance and Welcome for adults and confirmation students. Becoming Catholic RCIA Rite of Welcome & Acceptance** will be celebrated on Saturday, November 18 at the 4:30pm Mass for adults. At this Rite, the catechumens (unbaptized) and candidates (baptized seeking full communion) publicly declare their intention to continue their journey toward full communion with the Catholic Church. Members of the parish community should affirm that they are ready to help and support the participants seeking to follow Christ by prayer and example. This year we are adding the **Rite of Welcome** for our confirmation students on Sunday, November 19 at 5:30pm Mass followed by a large group presentation for students, sponsors and parents. Keep in your prayers all who are entering the period of the catechumenate where they will learn about the power of the sacraments and the moral life of a disciple.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **Parent Teacher Conferences.** We are gearing up for our parent teacher conferences on Monday, November 20th and Tuesday, November 21st. Conferences will begin following a half day of school.
- **Literati Book Fair.** We will have our annual bookfair during parent teacher conferences. This year we are trying a new book fair vendor, Literati. Literati books fairs are not only easy to set up but focus on picking books for our students that they will want to read. We are excited to get these books into the hands of our SJB students.

Jim Martin, Director of Community Life

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- **Young Adult Group:** We are building a Core Team to take the lead on planning for the Young Adult Group. The first effort will be to have them handle the details for the Friendsgiving event slated for November 18 (hosted at the home of a SJB parishioner). Following this, we will work with them to discern future events, content, small group integration and potentially working with other parishes.
- **Marriage Ministry:** Ministry to marriage continues to be a main focus with the Cana Dinner Core Team coming together for planning meetings this month with an eye toward the dinner event on February 17, 2024. Potential speakers for the evening have been identified and will be invited to discern making the presentation. We expect that the event will largely follow the model of the previous Cana Dinners with a few tweaks to the evening.
- Contact me with questions or comments.

A joyous and peaceful fall 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, Fr. Joseph Nguyễn, Mark Dittman, Jill Fink, Ann Laird, Jim Martin

**Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life:
GO. MAKE. TEACH.**
