

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

December 12, 2023

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

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- **A Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!** As we journey through Advent, know of my gratitude for your leadership. Your dedication to following Christ as His disciples makes our parish vibrant and dynamic. Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones in this holy season and always.
- **Restore to Gather.** “Whoa-oh, we’re halfway there, whoa-oh, livin’ on a prayer!” We are halfway to our goal and I am grateful to our team that has helped with the campaign. We are close to \$2.7 million in pledges. If you have not done so, please pray about what the Lord is calling you to do and fill out a pledge. You can return it to the parish office or place it in the collection basket. Thank you!

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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- **Advent Series.** Once again this Advent we have a series on the Mass to help our parishioners enter into the Mass. This year we are focusing on the physical aspects that particularly draw out the “witnessing” parts of Mass. As we gather at Mass, we witness, that is we show, reverence and respect to our Lord who is present in the Word and the Eucharist.
- **Learning Liturgy.** As part of my learning here at SJB, Fr. Paul has assigned me to oversee liturgy. I am supervising Lee Trembl, our Director of Worship, and learning how to support our Liturgy team. Sometimes it means stepping in to cover and that has led me to the role of Children’s Choir Director. I will be leading the Children’s Choir for the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. If you have a child in grade 2 or above that would like to sing in the choir, please reach out to me. The more the merrier, especially at Christmas!

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **Sunday Giving.** Our Sunday Giving numbers through November continue to be encouraging, especially since our 2023/24 budget calls for an increase for the year of 3.6% over the prior year. We are right on budget for Sunday Giving year to date through November! Learn more about how you can support St. John the Baptist [here](#), including a variety of [Ways to Give](#) to SJB and information on our [Restore to Gather](#) campaign! Thank you for your ongoing generous spirit!
- **Cemetery Report to the Pastoral Leadership Council.** At tonight’s PLC meeting Cemetery Committee member Mark Hammer will be presenting the Committee’s annual report. The report is a financial summary of the past fiscal year and includes burial numbers and sales for full body graves, cremation graves and columbarium niches. The report will be included in the PLC meeting minutes when they are posted on our website [here](#). Information about our cemetery can be found on our website [here](#). Please remember to pray for our beloved dead and if you have not visited our cemetery lately, you are invited to walk and pray among those who have gone before us. It is a beautiful, peaceful place.

Jill Fink, Director of Discipleship

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- **Children's Ministry.** Our families recently sent 55 Boxes of Joy through Cross Catholic Outreach. Our Sunday School Program is coming up on Sunday, December 17 after the 10:30 am Mass in St. Joseph Hall. Enrollment, which is open to all, has increased to 45 children.
- **Journey to the Inn** is Saturday, January 6. Our Knights of Columbus will provide dinner after the 4:30 pm Mass followed by a prayer service and pilgrimage to our live nativity scene in the north parking lot. We will have farm animals to fill out our manger around baby Jesus and His parents! This is a great opportunity to invite neighbors or friends that may not be as active at church. A social of hot chocolate and cookies will follow in St. Joseph Hall. This year our field ministers will be present to connect participants with our various ministries.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **Preparing for the birth of Christ.** Our students are preparing for the birth of Christ in several ways this year: Advent confessions, the Advent Challenge, and Christmas concerts. Our Preschool – 2nd grade concert is on Friday, December 15 at 12:45 pm and our 3rd-8th grade concert is on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 pm.
- **Advent Challenge.** We are bringing back the Advent Challenge for our students and families to prepare for Christmas. As part of the challenge we added opportunities for our students to be witnesses of the faith through acts of service and prayer, and most importantly telling others about the birth of Christ.

Jim Martin, Director of Community Life

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- **Recovery Group.** A recovery group based on “Catholic in Recovery” programming and materials will start as a pilot program at St. John the Baptist. The focus of this group will be on recovery from addiction to alcohol and will be led by a parishioner with oversight from Jim Martin.
- **Small Group Interest.** We have begun to see interest in small groups at large group activities. A list has been established to track those who are interested, their area of interest and other demographic information. A communication strategy and online registration is being developed to engage and invite these people to opportunities as they are offered.

A joyous and peaceful Advent & Christmas 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.**