

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

January 16, 2024

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

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- **Christmas 2023.** Our Christmas liturgies were well attended again this year. We had almost the exact same attendance this year, 2,850, as last year, 2,855. Our parishioners were again financially generous as well, contributing virtually the same amount for the Christmas collection as they did for Christmas 2022. Overall our Sunday Giving through December 31, which includes Christmas, is 2.3% below budget. However, our expenses through December 31 are also below budget, so I am confident that we are still in a strong financial position. Watch a near future bulletin for a financial report on the first six-months of the fiscal year.
- **Restore to Gather.** We are in the final weeks of our Restore to Gather pledge drive. We are working to meet our \$200,000 match opportunity to get us closer to the goal. I will have an updated number for you on Commission night.

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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- **Children's Choir.** The Children's Choir led our parish in prayer at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass. The children had a great time and parishioners had many positive comments about the choir. Lee Trembl and I are looking into starting an ongoing Children's Choir to give our children more opportunities to participate at Mass.
- **Filling the Chapel of the Angels.** The statues of the Archangels Michael and Raphael arrived during the Christmas season and we had a special Mass to bless the images of the Archangels on January 6. With that the renovation Chapel of the Angels is substantially complete and we can better see the invisible reality of the angels being present with us in adoring and worshipping our Lord. If you have not done so, please visit the chapel—it is a beautiful space for both private prayer and liturgical celebrations.

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **Church Interior & School Restrooms.** The Administrative Services Commission and several lead staff continue to refine our plans for the church interior and school restroom renovations. We are making plans to clean the church ducts and air diffusers, address the church ceiling, upgrade key HVAC components, refinish our pews and address other parts of the project. We will be putting together revised budget summaries and share that information with the parish in the near future. Thank you all for your amazing generosity to our Restore to Gather campaign, which will assure that these needed improvements happen!
- **Ways to Give to St. John the Baptist Church & School.** There are many ways to financially support St. John's! Please find information on our website [here](#). Contact Mary May, Director of Development, or me for more information. As always, our parish is grateful for the generous spirit shown by our parish and school families!

Jill Fink, Director of Discipleship

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- **Journey to the Inn.** What a huge success and the weather was perfect! Thank you to the Knights of Columbus who served over 350 people dinner within one hour. We had additional families and groups join us for the Journey with about 400 people who followed the Wisemen to the live nativity scene with chickens, goats, calves, a donkey and a dog. Thanks to Lee Treml and members of the choir for leading us in song and finally to all who served for the cookies and cocoa at the end of the night. Thanks to Jen Livermont and the ODM staff team for hosting another great G.M.T. event!
- **First Sacraments.** January is a busy month for our children and their parents enrolled in our First Sacraments program. The month culminates the First Reconciliation preparation with a retreat on Sunday, January 21 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm followed by First Reconciliation Celebration on Saturday, January 27 from 9:00 – 11:00 am in the church. We then pivot with a First Eucharist Kick-off meeting on Wednesday, January 31 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm giving parents the tools to start preparing their children for their First Eucharist. We have 56 children enrolled in our First Sacraments program.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **2024-2025 Enrollment.** We begin our 2024-2025 school year enrollment on Friday, January 19! We encourage anyone interested in enrolling in preschool or kindergarten to attend our PS/K Parent Information Night on Thursday, January 18 at 6:00 pm. Please see our [school website](#) for more information regarding enrollment or contact the school office for more information.
- **Catholic Schools Week & Wines to Wishes.** Catholic Schools Week begins Sunday, January 28 with our Sunday SJB School Mass at 10:30 am. We will have a fun week celebrating our great Catholic school which will end with our annual [Wines to Wishes](#) event on Saturday, February 3. We are so grateful for all those who have and continue to support our school and mission. Without your prayers and support we would not be the wonderful school we are. Thank you!

Jim Martin, Director of Community Life

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- **Small Groups.** During Advent, we had 115 participants in groups (about 35 of these were newly trained leaders using “Rejoice!” as content. “Upper Room” gatherings for small group leaders will be held on January 11 and 15. Small groups for Lent are being formed with sign-up available through the [SJB website](#) with plans for video testimonies and access to demographic and topical small group categories on the website. Future small group leader training is targeted for the fall of 2024.
- **Youth Ministry.** We have several Discipleship Groups (D-Groups) for our youth. Middle school has three groups of girls (25 girls total) and one group of boys (10 boys total). High school has one boys group (12 boys total) and one girls group (8 girls total) made up of mostly seniors. In addition, the Wednesday evening middle school Bible Study has 42 students registered with an average of 25 in attendance each week. There is a need for 3 additional adults to be co-leaders at the middle school Bible Study – contact [Sarah Wilder](#) for details.

A joyous and peaceful winter 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.**