

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

February 20, 2024

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

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- **Rectory Small Groups.** Once again this year I am working with Fr. Joseph and other trained small group leaders to bring men together at the rectory during Lent for fellowship and small group. We have over 80 men signed up which is a tremendous grace. I am grateful to the strong response of parishioners—we have around 400 participants in small group this Lent!
- **Restore to Gather.** We are now in the redemption phase of the campaign and we are grateful for all of your pledges, which total nearly \$4.6 million! We are now in the middle of the first Restore to Gather project: the cleaning of the church's air ducts. It is wonderful to already see progress in the church!

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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- **Staff Retreat Day.** February 16 was our annual staff retreat day. Both church and school staff read and reflected on *This is My Body* by Bishop Robert Barron which will aid us as we prepare for our archdiocesan year on the Eucharist.
- **Winter Faith Camp.** This past weekend, we brought seven of our high schoolers to Winter Faith Camp which usually happens on President's Day weekend. Our students are using their time off school to grow in their faith and to meet other high schoolers from other parishes around the archdiocese who also have the same desire to grow in holiness.

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **2024/25 Budget Planning Process.** At this month's Finance Commission meeting the budget planning process begins in earnest with the commission being presented a preliminary budget. The budget will be reviewed and revised based on Finance Commission input and other information over the next two months, such as our actual revenue and expense as we move closer to the end of the current fiscal year.
- **Catholic Services Appeal.** The kick-off for this year's Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) is February 17/18. St. John's goal for 2024 is \$113,734. Our parish benefits from this Appeal because when we meet our goal, as we have consistently done for many years, we earn a parish rebate check. The more we raise, the more we benefit. The formula for the rebate has two parts: 50% above our goal is returned to the parish and 25% above the prior year's results is returned to the parish. In 2023 we raised \$168,211 and our goal was \$113,996, so we were \$54,215 over goal. Our first rebate check totaled \$27,108, and we should receive another smaller amount later this spring for later donations received by the CSA. Please be generous to the Appeal this year, as you always have been! Thank you.

Jill Fink, Director of Discipleship

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- **Sacraments.** Our numbers in sacramental formation this year continue to increase. There are 57 children in First Sacraments; seven youth in OCIC; 40 students in Confirmation; and OCIA has one Elect and 14 Candidates. The Easter Vigil for OCIA is on Saturday, March 30. OCIC will celebrate the sacraments on Sunday, April 7 at the 10:30 am Mass. Confirmation is Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Paul and First Communion Masses are the weekend of May 4 & 5 at the 4:30 pm, 8:30 am and 10:30 am Masses here at St. John's. Please keep our Elect and Candidates in your Lenten prayers.
- **Parent Program.** Parents attending our once-a-month Parent Program have children enrolled in our Family Formation program and Middle School Formation. Parents gather in small groups by table and our format has been adjusted to have small group discussion before and after our speaker. This year we have focused on how the Holy Spirit makes actual what Jesus makes possible. We have been inviting the Holy Spirit to pray with us through the Mass, seeking to understand and ask for His gifts and charisms and to understand how the Holy Spirit acts in the sacraments of healing. We will round out the year by inviting the Holy Spirit in through adoration and worship. A Parent Core Team was recently created and consulted to assist in the formation and execution of this program.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **W2W 2024.** Thank you all for your support of our 2024 Wines to Wishes fundraising event! It was a wonderful evening and a great time to gather. A thank you to our sponsors for their support. And a special thank you to our volunteers and Michelle Barsness who helped make this event a success. Without them we could not have Wines to Wishes!
- **Lent 2024.** SJB school is looking forward to beginning Lent. A time for us to slow down, reflect on our lives, choices, and relationship with Jesus, and pray. Our theme this year us Step Up Close to Jesus to reflect, repent, and start anew our relationship with him. We will be thinking about what we can do each week to step closer to Jesus during this Lent.
- **Enrollment 2024-2025.** We are now enrolling students for the 2024-2025 school year. Some classes are full and have waiting lists. If you or someone you know is interested in coming to SJB school, please contact the school office or reach out to Michelle Barness.

Jim Martin, Director of Community Life

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- **Small Groups.** We have been blessed with a significant increase in participation in small groups! For Lent, we have just over 400 people participating in 46 (or so) small groups – these numbers are constantly changing, trending upward. Many (22) of our newly trained small group leaders are leading or co-leading small groups. There are small groups of many shapes and sizes reflecting the demographic of our parish community. Some meet outside of SJB and others meet here.
- **Marriage Ministry.** Development of a more robust marriage ministry has been made a priority, including a revised Engage Couple Mentor ministry description, additional mentor couples, ongoing training of new and existing mentor couples and marriage enrichment opportunities. The Engaged Couple Mentor ministry description includes an accompaniment element that explores the practice where mentor couples remain in contact with newly married couples to help integrate and welcome them into our community.

A joyous and peaceful Lent 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.**