

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

March 19, 2024

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

651-633-8333, ext. 1214

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- **Lent.** It has been a blessing to journey through Lent in small groups. I have been edified by the insights of the men in my small groups as well grateful for their openness. It is beautiful to see our parishioners connecting both with each other and the Lord. Archbishop Hebda's vision of boosting small group ministry across the Archdiocese is bearing fruit at SJB and many other parishes.
- **Star of the North Eucharistic Congress.** I will be attending the Star of the North Eucharistic Congress in May which concludes with a Mass at the Headwaters of the Mississippi in Lake Itasca State Park on May 19. I encourage all to attend as it will be a powerful Mass. There is also a two-day conference in Bemiji on May 17 and 18. For more information please go to the [Congress website](#).

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

651-633-8333, ext. 1213

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- **Mass during the Summer.** We are looking at what our options are for having Mass when the church is closed for renovation. One option we recently looked at is St. Joseph Hall. A trial set up of the hall shows that roughly 450 people can fit in the hall at one time. Watch for more information on this in the coming weeks and months.
- **Relocating Events this Summer.** As our project and ministry planning continues, we are gaining a better understanding of what our summer will look like. Some events, especially those involving the church space, such as weddings, may be relocated to other churches. We are working with those who will be impacted to ensure any changes will go smoothly.

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

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- **Year-to-Date Sunday Giving.** Our mission is enabled by so many of our parishioners who live out of a generous spirit with their financial support. As of Week 37 (March 10) in our fiscal year (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) we are \$17,009, or 1%, above our year-to-date projected budget in Sunday Giving. This is significant considering that we budgeted a 3.6% increase in Sunday Giving this year over fiscal 2022/23. Your generosity is making that happen! Thank you!
- **Church Interior Projects.** We have signed the contract with JT Egner Construction to spray the ceiling, upgrade our HVAC, refinish our pews, install a new sound system and clean our terrazzo floor, all set to begin the week of May 6. We are also continuing to refine the school projects and hope to sign a contract for those in the coming weeks. Watch for a more detailed update on the projects in a mid-April bulletin. St. John's is grateful to the Administrative Services Commission, the Worship and Finance Commissions, our School Advisory Commission, the Pastoral Leadership Council and other church and school leaders who have significantly assisted in our planning to this point. SJB is blessed with many good leaders! Thank you!

Jill Fink, Director of Discipleship

651-633-1540 ext. 1280

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- **Easter Egg Hunt.** This year we are planning for over 300 children to attend our annual Easter Egg Hunt. As always it takes many hands to make this event happen. Contact Jen Livermont if you can help. The event begins at 10:00 am on Holy Saturday, March 30 with a blessing from Fr. Paul in the west parking lot. The Little and Big Kid Egg Hunts are outside and all other activities will be in St. Paul Plaza and St. Joseph Hall. It's a great outreach event—bring your children, grandchildren and your neighbors too!
- **Nursery Care.** This year we've seen an increase in our need for nursery care for our programming and small group ministry. If you are interested in volunteering for nursery care contact Jen Livermont for us to keep this ministry strong and available so that all ages can participate in our ministry options.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

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- **Lent 2024.** St. John the Baptist School has been “stepping up close to Jesus” during our Lenten journey through weekly Mass and stations of the cross as well as sacrament of reconciliation. We are preparing ourselves for our Holy Week retreat where we walk with Jesus during his last days.
- **Enrollment 2024-2025.** We are continuing to enroll 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 at barsnessm@stjohnnyb.org or 651-633-1522, ext. 1114.

Jim Martin, Director of Community Life

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- **Engaged/Marriage Ministry.** “[Marriage Minute](#)” is a Marriage Enrichment opportunity for couples to explore relationship topics through a series of short sessions. Marriage Minute will be directed by parishioner Brad Barker, a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor. These 45-minute sessions, held between the Sunday morning Masses, will also give us the opportunity to gauge future marriage enrichment topics that demand more attention. Also, six new couples will be training in the Engaged Couple Mentoring process after Easter.
- **Spring Retreat.** Plans for RISE, the all-parish retreat, are in full swing! [Registration](#) is live and attendees are beginning to roll in. [Retreat information](#) can be found online, small group leaders have been personally invited and postcards for small group participants have gone out.

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.**