

St. John the Baptist Church
Leadership Team Report to Commissions

April 23, 2024

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor

651-633-8333, ext. 1214

frshovelain@stjohnnyb.org

- **Jesus is alive!** The Easter season has been incredibly blessed at SJB as we have gathered together and witnessed Christ's presence in so many ways! We had the best attendance at our Easter liturgies since 2019. We had a grace filled All Parish Rise Retreat with 126 participants. We had 15 people receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil and we had 40 that received the sacrament of confirmation! God is pouring Himself out to us, and it beautiful to see our parishioners openness to receiving Him.
- **Certificate in Church Administration.** This May I am starting a graduate certificate program at the Catholic University of America. I believe this program will help me serve as pastor more effectively at SJB. The two classes I am taking this summer are Finance and Asset Management and Organization and Strategic Leadership. I plan to complete the program in summer of 2025.

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

frnguyen@stjohnnyb.org

- **Lenten Small Groups.** We had another good year of Lenten small groups. There were about 400 participants this year and this past Palm Sunday we were able to celebrate with the Archbishop wearing "I Gathered to Witness at SJB" stickers. It was wonderful to see our small group ministry grow and to share it with the Archbishop!
- **Youth 365.** On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7, the parish offered a Resurrection Feast in support of our youth. We were able to bring together many different groups in the parish to help serve a variety of foods and invite support of our youth ministry programs. Thank you to all who prepared and served the food and to all who donated toward Youth 365!

Mark Dittman, Director of Business Operations

651-633-8333, ext. 1215

dittmanm@stjohnnyb.org

- **Church Interior Planning.** We continue to refine the schedule for the work to be done in the church. In order to expedite the pew refinishing we may pull the pews from the St. John's section just east of the sanctuary the first week of June rather than wait until Phase III for that section. Other east-side sections may not be reinstalled until later in September or October, however. Please watch the weekly bulletin and parish email for updates as they are available, and remember to look forward to gathering in our restored church interior this coming fall!
- **St. John the Baptist Cemetery Clean Up.** Spring is the time to clean. With the passing of winter and the joy of Easter, comes new life, even in our cemetery! For those able and interested, please join us at the cemetery on Saturday, May 18, from 9:30 am until 12:00 noon to rake, trim, pick up, bag, water, plant, wash – whatever needs doing and will beautify our cemetery. The event will end at 12:00 noon with snacks and a light lunch provided at the cemetery. Please dress appropriately, including gloves to protect your hands, and bring yard tools (rakes, trowels, etc.) if you have them. Please RSVP to Trina Brinda at 651-633-8333, ext. 1255 or brindat@stjohnnyb.org. Thank you!

Jill Fink, Director of Discipleship

651-633-1540 ext. 1280

Finkj@stjohnnyb.org

- **Sacramental Celebration.** The Easter season brings celebration of the sacraments after a yearlong preparation. At the Easter Vigil we welcomed one adult in baptism and 15 for confirmation and first Communion. We also welcomed the son of one of our candidates for his first Communion. On Sunday, April 7, at the 10:30 am Mass we celebrated two baptisms and six first Communion for our older students enrolled in RCIC. On Tuesday, April 16, 40 of our students enrolled in our confirmation program received the sacrament at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. The weekend of May 4/5 we will welcome 55 of our second graders to their first Communion.
- **Peer Mentor Learning.** At our May Formation Night on Wednesday, May 1, the last half of our evening will be a sharing from our middle school students presenting to the elementary children on what they have learned throughout the year. Grade 6 will make mini presentations on times in salvation history and grades 7-8 will lead the children through the mysteries of the rosary. This peer mentoring learning has become a highlight for our different age groups, enabling them to teach one another. The elementary ages learn from the older students and the middle school students practice leadership skills while relaying what they have learned to the younger students.

Ann Laird, St. John the Baptist School Principal

651-633-1522

lairda@stjohnnyb.org

- **Wines to Wishes Update.** Thank you to everyone who supported our school's Wine to Wishes event in February. We raised \$125,000 for the school! The money raised will go towards Middle School lockers, upgraded technology for staff and other school needs. Any remainder of the money goes to support our endowments or tuition assistance. Thank you again for all your support!
- **Upcoming School Events.** As we enter the last month of school, there are a number of events that are coming up which are important milestones in the life of our students and community. We will begin May with our May Crowning Mass on Wednesday, May 1 followed by our celebration of our second graders' first Communion on Wednesday, May 8. This year we will be graduating 48 8th graders on May 30.

Jim Martin, Director of Community Life

651-633-8333, ext. 1228

martinj@stjohnnyb.org

- **Marriage Ministry.** Two additional Engaged Couple Mentors have been added to the marriage prep ministry with four more soon to come (two by May 1 and two more in June). These new mentors have accepted engaged couples to mentor in the preparation process. Marriage Minute, a marriage enrichment program, will happen on the third Sunday of the month between the morning Masses beginning in May. The first sessions include: May: Rituals of Connection, June: The Emotional Bank Account and July: Admiration.
- **Pastoral Care.** Training for the Ministry of Consolation came off successfully with 10 people trained at this session with an additional six to be trained later. Some of the attendees are part of other pastoral care ministries (including two from Wounded Heart, a trauma ministry) who found that this training was applicable and foundational to other ministries.

A joyous and peaceful Easter season 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.**