

## St. John the Baptist Church Leadership Team Report to Congregation

December 4, 2025

### **Fr. Paul Shovelain, Pastor**

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- **Advent and Christmas.** I hope your Advent is off to a great start. I am leading a small group of young dads that are newer to SJB. I am grateful for the opportunity to grow closer to them and the Lord in this season. We have additional opportunities to rely on prayer this Advent with Saturday morning Mass at 8:30am as well as Morning Prayer on Friday mornings after Mass.
- **Growth.** We have seen stronger than average participation in our men's and women's programming as well as weekend Mass attendance over the last few months. It is very encouraging to see that and let's keep that momentum going by inviting people into relationship with the Lord. I especially encourage you to reach out to someone to invite them to Mass at SJB this Christmas.

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!

### **Beth Robertson, Director of Business Operations**

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- **Sunday Giving.** Our Sunday Giving numbers through November are 6% more than last year and 2.6% over this year's budget. 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!
- **Restore to Gather.** We have received over \$3.97 Million in donations for the campaign through November, which is 79.5% of the \$5 Million pledged. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Jill Fink, Director of Discipleship**

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- **Advent Small Groups.** Groups are in full swing through the Advent season with book reflection **Waiting Well** by Fr. Mike Schmidt. Our numbers continue to increase as last year for Advent we had 130 people participating and this year we have 220 with 30 people starting a small group for the first time.
- **Journey to the Inn** is Saturday, January 3. 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 active at church.

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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.

- **Christmas Book Giveaway/January Parish Engagement. Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy** is the Christmas Book Giveaway this year by Matthew Kelly. It captures the essence of our Reclaim theme with chapters on the problem of living a busy/hurried life; what is needed for human flourishing; what did God desire and design for leisure, rest and Sunday worship. St. John's will roll out the content during the month of January encouraging our parish daily with the chapter readings at the 3pm prayer, encouraging small groups to discuss and Sunday connections.
- **Matt Weingartz, St. John the Baptist School Principal**  
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[Weingartzm@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:Weingartzm@stjohnnyb.org)
- **Advent Preparations.** As we enter the Advent season, we are praying and preparing ourselves for the birth of Jesus. The 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes are starting a new program called "The Shepherd on the Search" during Advent, and the whole school will be participating in "Mary's Mantel". Both of these programs are to help the students prepare in hopeful anticipation for the birth of Christ.
- **Christmas Concerts.** We are looking forward to our Annual school Christmas concerts coming up in December on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. The Preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> grade concert will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1pm, Grades 3-8 will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, and our Band concert will be on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- **Preschool Playground.** We had a slight delay in the project completion of the preschool playground. The canopy for the sandbox was not the correct one and needed to be re-ordered by the construction company. We are hoping that this project will be completed very soon so that our preschool students can start enjoying this space. experienced a slight delay in completing the preschool playground project

A joyous and peaceful Advent 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, Beth Robertson, Jill Fink, and Matt Weingartz

**Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life: GO. MAKE. TEACH.**