

Corpus Christi COVID-19 Effects Survey

October 2021

Question 1

On a scale of 0- 100, how difficult was it for you to stop attending Mass on Sundays when the pandemic hit? In other words, did you miss going to Mass?

Mean: 76

Median: 86

Mode: 100

- Most parishioners who filled out the survey value Mass and missed it during the pandemic.

Question 2

Why do you think you felt that way?

- There was an overwhelming sense of longing for the Eucharist during the pandemic. The biggest reason parishioners missed Mass was because they were unable to receive the Eucharist. There were also many parishioners who felt attending Mass was an important part of their life that they missed when it was no longer possible to attend.
- A fair amount of parishioners also missed the sense of community they felt at Corpus Christi and wished they could have celebrated Mass with the community during the pandemic. Others simply felt being present in the Mass makes a difference and could not be replaced by live streaming.
- However, some other parishioners felt Mass could be replaced by watching it on TV and were not bothered by restrictions. Some families, especially those personally affected by COVID-19, for example, had deaths in the family, felt more concerned about getting sick than missing Mass.
- A handful of parishioners mentioned they felt they didn't have to miss Mass very much because Father Mike was great about making Mass available and safe.

Question 3

What did you miss most about not coming to our parish during lock down?

- Corpus Christi greatly missed the community of the parish family during the pandemic. This community feel comes from gathering as the Body of Christ together for Mass each Sunday, as well as daily Mass and in different ministries and groups the parish offers. Community was missed more than anything else by the parishioners who filled out the survey.
- The Eucharist was also dearly missed by the majority of parishioners, and those that expressed missing the Eucharist felt very strongly about how difficult it was to be without

it. Receiving the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity is very important to many Corpus Christi parishioners, which is very beautiful!

- Other than community and the Eucharist, other things mentioned included the beauty of the Mass and the peace received from being there in person, blessings, holy water, and other sacraments like Confession.

Question 4

How did you celebrate Sundays during the lockdown? What did you enjoy the most about praying at home with your family?

- Almost every parishioner who filled out the survey watched Mass either online/through the live stream Masses at Corpus Christi. Most of them tuned in on Sundays, and some also watched daily Masses. A few people also mentioned other Zoom opportunities through the parish like RCIA classes. Many people expressed a feeling of it not being the same, but some did say they enjoyed some elements of it such as getting to “visit” different parishes by watching Mass at other churches and feeling a greater sense of the worldwide Body of Christ.
- For those living with their family, thoughts on the experience of Mass at home were split. Some felt it made life easier to not have to drive to Mass, it provided an opportunity for the growth of the domestic Church. However, some families expressed opposite sentiments, saying their children couldn’t focus on a screen and needed to be physically present.
- For those that live alone, there was an overwhelming sadness felt during the pandemic. There was no prayer community, and many had nothing to say that was enjoyable about watching Mass at home. Community was dearly missed by our single and older parishioners.

Question 5

Did you use any of the resources that the parish or diocese provided during that time? Did you use other resources?

- About a sixth of the parishioners who filled out the survey said no, they did not use any resources during the pandemic.
- Of those who did, many different resources were named. At the parish level, the most utilized resources were the livestreamed Masses at Corpus Christi. Parishioners also used Dynamic Catholic resources and books, Formed, parish emails, Father Michael’s talks, and drive throughs that happened during Lent and Easter.
- Parishioners also mentioned using diocese resources and other Catholic resources like Father Mike Schmitz Bible in a Year podcast and Word on Fire by Bishop Barron.

Question 6

How strong is your belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist?

Mean: 97

Median: 100

Mode: 100

- Of the parishioners who filled out the survey, there is a strong understanding of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. This belief affected how much parishioners missed Mass during the pandemic. There were only a few parishioners who filled out the survey who did not feel strongly about the Real Presence, and while they still seemed to understand some significance behind the Eucharist, they felt it was either only a symbol, or that Jesus can be found everywhere, therefore making the Eucharist less special.

Question 7

How did the lockdown affect this belief?

- About half of the parishioners felt the lockdown made their belief in the Real Presence stronger. The other half felt the lockdown had no effect at all.

Question 8

Why do you think this was?

- For the parishioners who felt that the lockdown strengthened their belief, they attributed this mostly to the fact that they truly missed the Eucharist and felt different when they could not receive it. Some also explained how the pandemic gave them more time to reflect and pray and made their faith more their own.
- For those who felt the pandemic had no effect on their belief, there seemed to be two different reasons. Some felt there was no effect because their belief in the Real Presence was already so strong, the lockdown did not change this. For others who are less convinced by the Real Presence, their beliefs didn't change because they did not miss the Eucharist and felt satisfied by online Mass.

Question 9

How often do you attend Mass currently? Why?

- The majority of parishioners who filled out the survey go to Mass weekly on Sunday. A handful said they go to Mass twice or three times a week, and even a few said they go to Mass daily. Reasons why parishioners go to Mass are mostly to keep the Sabbath day holy and the need for receiving the Eucharist. Four respondents said they still do not feel comfortable going to Mass due to the pandemic.

Question 10

With the understanding that hindsight is 20/20, what do you wish your parish did differently during the lockdown?

- The vast majority of parishioners felt that Corpus Christi did a great job, and there was nothing they could think of that they wished was done differently.
- Of those who did have suggestions, they included more drive through opportunities to receive Communion, having the Church open more or offering more outdoor Masses, and more calls home to parishioners. A couple parishioners also mentioned Corpus Christi could have continued mask mandates and restrictions for longer.

Question 11

How can our parish serve you better today?

- Many parishioners had nothing specific to request.
- The biggest general need was wanting more community growth and friendships among parishioners, which the parish can help foster through events, groups, and ministries. There is a hunger for community and a want to a full return to normalcy. However, there are also still some parishioners in fear who requested continued reduced capacity Masses and online options.
- Another need mentioned a couple times was more Confession times, specifically on Sundays.

Question 12

What is your biggest need as a family? How can the parish help you with this?

- Once again, many responded with no specific needs.
- Continuing community events and ministering specifically to families is important to parishioners, as well as simply praying for them and offering our support when they are in times of need.
- Something that came up a handful of times was asking for resources, advice, or prayers on dealing with religiously diverse families, and how to grow in the faith when your family is not Catholic or how to bring your family to the Catholic faith.

Question 13

In what area is our parish doing a good job of supporting you?

- Many different areas were named, the most often mentioned being Masses, communication through both paper and online bulletins and Flocknotes, and community events like Parish Appreciation Day and Trunk or Treat.
- Other things mentioned included priest availability, receptiveness of staff and phone support, Dynamic Catholic books, weekend retreats, being greeted at Mass, and the good treatment of kids/families.

Question 14

From what you have heard from friends and family, what are some reasons that people have not returned to Mass? What do you think is needed to encourage their return?

- Most people who are still not coming to Mass are simply still afraid of infection.
- Some have fallen out of the habit of attending Mass or feel watching it online is a good enough substitute to going in person.

Question 15

Is there anything else you would like to share?

- Many parishioners are very happy and grateful for the community and priests at Corpus Christi!
- Other ideas included more work for social justice and keeping parishioners better informed, and having Adoration in-between Masses on Sundays, and even offered up the idea of turning the cry room into an Adoration chapel.