

PARISH SURVEY SUMMARY

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey over the summer related to the essential qualities of parish life: The Eucharist, Catechesis, Formation, Evangelization and Stewardship. We had hoped to have the results processed more quickly and we apologize for the delay. On October 24, Pastoral Council members reviewed the surveys and summarized consistent themes and suggestions. The entire survey summary for each area of parish life listed above can be accessed on the website. In addition to the objective portion of the survey, there were seven subjective questions, which were reviewed and summarized by Pastoral Council.

OBJECTIVE SURVEY QUESTIONS: 288 respondents

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS: Number of respondents varied for each question. See number in parenthesis.

What could our parish do to grow in vibrancy? (140 respondents)

- Results indicate that evangelization is very important, especially *within* our parishes.
- Many suggestions for activities that already exist – we need to promote them better and encourage more participation. We need to implement new ways (beyond the bulletin and website) to publicize and promote activities, classes, events.
- Address the need to reach youth and young adults
- Work on helping people to feel welcome when attending Mass in other Churches in our grouping

How can our parish help parishioners with what matters in their lives? (128 respondents)

- Offer more volunteer opportunities such as “Habitat for Humanity”
- Bring back monthly Holy Hour and Benediction
- More adult education opportunities
- Assistance navigating resources in the parish

If our parish offered more adult education programs to help people live their faith well in the contemporary world, what topics or issues should be addressed? (125 total respondents)

- Everyday current issues; Liturgy; understanding the Faith; prayer; more daytime programs

When asked about her own fidelity, Mother Teresa said: “It is simply a matter of living my faith one day at a time with one person at a time.” What can our parish do to encourage people to put their faith in action? (113 total respondents)

- Live faith by action and sharing gifts and talents
- Better inform parishioners about opportunities and resources that are available
- People expressed the desire to know of specific ways they can volunteer as well as how they can help others (i.e., electricians, carpenters, artists, database specialists), rather than a general call for volunteers.
- People want to volunteer, but not necessarily join groups or attend meetings. We can provide opportunities and make parishioners aware of how they can serve on an individual basis (i.e., visit nursing homes, shut-ins, etc.).

If you could change one thing about our parish, what would it be? (182 respondents)

- While many recognize that there is a problem in society in general with getting people involved, we need to work more on improving participation in activities and volunteering.
- Practice forgiveness
- Be more welcoming
- Be available and open
- We all need to take ownership in creating a more vibrant faith community.

What could your parish do to encourage non-practicing Catholics to attend Mass more regularly? (133 total respondents)

- More opportunities for service and reaching out to the community
- Personal witness and lives of faith
- More education related to our Catholic Faith
- Help people to feel welcome
- On the survey, there were several questions for those who do not attend Mass regularly. The following data was noted:
 - The majority of respondents said they would attend Mass more regularly if the parish had more social activities.
 - For the majority of respondents, Mass time did not influence whether or not they attended Mass.

If you wish, please share other thoughts and ideas on how our parish can become an even more vibrant faith community? (102 total respondents)

- Enthusiasm and vibrancy are contagious.
- More education on the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, which is the heart of our faith
- Help parishioners recognize their gifts and talents and provide opportunities for them to put these into action
- Continue to reach out to youth and young adults; support young adults and families through engaging programs and offering childcare
- Continue to support and equip parents as the primary educators of faith formation for their children
- Assist Catholics how to talk to non-Catholics about the faith
- Continue to provide classes and opportunities for people to come together and be united