

July 2019

Parish Life Survey

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
Cicero, Indiana

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Georgetown University
Washington, DC

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Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Cicero, Indiana

Executive Summary

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. Most of the questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions, with some questions designed specifically for the parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in April 2019. In all, there were 400 valid responses, with an additional 15 respondents under age 16 not included in the analysis.

Major findings can be summarized as follows:

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

- In calendar year 2019, the average age of valid respondents to the in-pew survey at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish is 60. Half are 61 or younger.
- Nearly six in ten (57%) respondents to the survey are female and 43% are male. Seventy-six percent say they are currently married or remarried. Some 8% have never married, 7% are divorced or separated, and 7% are widowed.

Religious Characteristics of Respondents

- Sixty-one percent say they have been active Catholics since birth, 23% are converts to Catholicism, and 12% identify as returned Catholics. Some 1% says they are inactive Catholics and 3% identify as non-Catholics.
- On average, respondents have attended the parish for 11 years, with half having attended seven years or more.
- Some 72% identify the parish as their primary place of worship *and* say they are registered there. Eleven percent say they regularly attend the parish but are *not* registered and another 16% were identified as visitors on the weekend of the survey.
- Fully 97% report praying or having a conversation with God at least once a month. Fifty-eight percent say they go to Reconciliation/Confession at least once a year, with 49% going to Eucharistic Adoration at least that often.

Assessment of Parish Life and Needs

- Almost all (98%) give Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish overall a positive evaluation (“good” and “excellent” combined). Some 70% rate it as “excellent.”
- When asked to write in what needs or programs the parish should most focus on in the next one to three years, respondents are particularly likely to cite needs related to better outreach to and ministry to specific groups of parishioners, faith formation, and areas of worship.
- Fifty-five percent report not being involved with any ministries or activities at the parish, 17% are involved with one, and 28% are involved with two or more. In related findings, 45% rate as “excellent” parish efforts to invite participation in parish ministries and 31% “strongly” agree that they want to be more involved in parish life.
- Roughly four in ten “strongly” agree that the parish helps them understand their baptismal responsibilities (46%) and is helping them understand the true meaning of the sacraments (39%). In a related finding, 47% agree “strongly” that they would like to learn more about their faith.
- A third to half give an “excellent” evaluation to each of these parish faith formation programs: children’s religious education programs (49%), faith formation for adults (38%), and youth ministry (32%).

Worship

- Masses and liturgies in general receive a positive evaluation from 99% of respondents. Seventy-three percent rate them as “excellent.”
- Some 79% rate the hospitality or sense of welcome at weekend Masses as “excellent.” Other areas of worship receiving “excellent” ratings from more than two-thirds of respondents include the sound clarity during Mass (89%), homilies (78%), prayerful, reverent atmosphere at Mass (76%), readers/lectors (73%), and music (68%). Fewer, just over half (54%), rate people’s participation in worship as “excellent.”
- Eighty-four percent “strongly” agree that they enjoy attending Mass at this parish, with 79% agreeing as strongly that they leave Mass at the parish feeling closer to God.
- Fully 90% “strongly” agree that at Communion they receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. An additional 7% “somewhat” agree that they do.
- Some 69% attend Mass at least once a week and another 29% attend almost every week. Mass attendance varies some by age group, with those ages 65 and older (77%) most likely to attend at least once a week and those ages 16 to 35 (56%) least likely.

- Eighty percent agree “strongly” that the Mass means a lot to them. Some 8% agree “strongly” that they attend Mass mostly out of a sense of obligation.
- More than eight in ten (84%) agree “strongly” that, if able, Catholics should attend a Sunday/Saturday vigil Mass weekly. Fifty-eight percent agree as strongly that Catholics should go to Confession at least once a year.
- Some 11% “strongly” agree that they can be good Catholics without going to Mass every week. Twenty percent agree as strongly that they can be good Catholics without going to Confession at least once a week.

Parish Communications

- Communication at the parish receives an “excellent” evaluation from 60% of respondents, with 34% rating it as “good.” Similarly, 62% agree “strongly” that they feel well informed about what goes on in the parish, with an additional 32% “somewhat” agreeing they do.
- When asked how often they access the parish’s communications, parishioners report doing the following once a month or more: reading the parish bulletin (89%), visiting the parish website (36%), and visiting the parish Facebook page (11%). Use of these means of communication vary by age group.
- Responding parishioners are particularly likely to say the following are “very” effective ways of communicating parish news to them: the Sunday bulletins (83%), announcements read at Mass (76%), and email (49%). The perceived effectiveness of the different ways the parish communicates also varies by age group.

Faith Life and Experiences of God

- Fully 96% “strongly” agree that they believe God exists, with 4% agreeing as strongly that they sometimes doubt that God exists. Some 5% agree “strongly” that they are currently questioning their faith.
- Ninety-five percent agree “strongly” that Jesus died for their sins.
- About half to two-thirds agree “strongly” that God has a plan for their lives and so all things that happen to them, happen according to God’s plan (67%) and that they feel called by God into a deeper relationship (53%).
- More than half “strongly” agree that they have felt God’s love and forgiveness when going to Confession (54%) and that they have felt the presence of God when praying (52%). A greater percentage, 81%, agree “strongly” that it is possible to have a personal encounter with God.

Catholic Faith Life and Beliefs

- More than three in four “strongly” agree that they are proud to be Catholics (88%), that they think of themselves as practicing Catholics (85%), and that sacraments are essential to their faith (77%).
- Eighty-three percent “strongly” agree that they are opposed to abortion. Less than half agree “strongly” that premarital sex is wrong (45%), that they are opposed to capital punishment (34%), and that they are opposed to artificial birth control (23%).
- Two in three agree “strongly” that their Catholic faith helps them to have more compassion for those less fortunate (68%).
- A quarter (26%) “strongly” agree that their faith in Church leaders has been shaken by the recent abuse scandal, with an additional 33% agreeing “somewhat” that it has. In a related finding, with the questions asked back-to-back, 74% “strongly” agree that they trust that God is guiding the Catholic Church, with 21% “somewhat” agreeing they trust in that.

Evangelization and Parish Outreach

- Efforts to encourage parishioners to invite others to come to a parish worship service (30%) and the parish’s outreach to Catholics who do not come Mass regularly (18%) receive an “excellent” evaluation from more than one in six respondents.
- Some 58% “strongly” agree that as Christians they have a responsibility to bring others to Christ, with an additional 36% “somewhat” agreeing they do.
- Responding parishioners were asked to write in a response to this question: *What can the parish do to encourage others to come to Mass or return to the Catholic Church?* The most common suggestions are to be more welcoming, host events and/or Masses specifically directed at welcoming newcomers to the parish, advertise the parish more, and better reach out to the local community through events and service.

Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Parish Life Survey Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Cicero, Indiana

Introduction

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Life Survey was designed by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. Most of the questions were derived from CARA's database of nationally tested questions, with some questions designed specifically for the parish. The parish distributed the questionnaire to those attending its liturgies over one weekend in April 2019. In all, there were 400 valid responses, with an additional 15 respondents under age 16 not included in the analysis. Following standard assumptions of statistical inference, a sample size of 400 provides a margin of error of approximately ± 4.8 percentage points.¹

Interpreting This Report

Most of the questions in this survey use four-point response scales (i.e., “not at all,” “only a little,” “somewhat,” “very much”; or “poor,” “fair,” “good,” “excellent”). These scales allow respondents to choose between two relatively “negative” choices (e.g., “poor” and “fair”) and two relatively “positive” choices (e.g., “good” and “excellent”). In parts of the analysis in this report, these responses are combined to allow for clearer comparisons. However, as sometimes examining the most positive response distinguishes important contrasts in level of support, those responses are presented separately.

In addition, readers may also wish to compare the difference between the two extreme responses, say “poor” and “excellent,” to compare the level of intensity with which opposing opinions are held. These comparisons and others may be drawn by referring to the actual percentage responses given in Appendix I. That appendix shows the percentage responses for each item, calculated out of 100%, as well as the percentage of all respondents that did not respond to each question, separately calculated out of 100% for clarity of comparison.

In addition to summarizing the responses to most questions for respondents as a whole, the report also compares the responses of those from selected subgroups. The first section of the report describes the characteristics of the respondents as well as the subgroups that are used in the analyses that follow. Throughout the report, the tables and charts that compare differences between

¹ Strictly speaking, it is necessary to know the total population (in this case, the total number of adult parishioners) to calculate margin of error. CARA's standard assumption for its in-pew parish surveys is that about half of parishioners are represented. For obvious reasons, those who are represented in a given in-pew survey are disproportionately more frequent Mass attenders.

and among these various subgroups are presented following the responses for parishioners as a whole in each section.

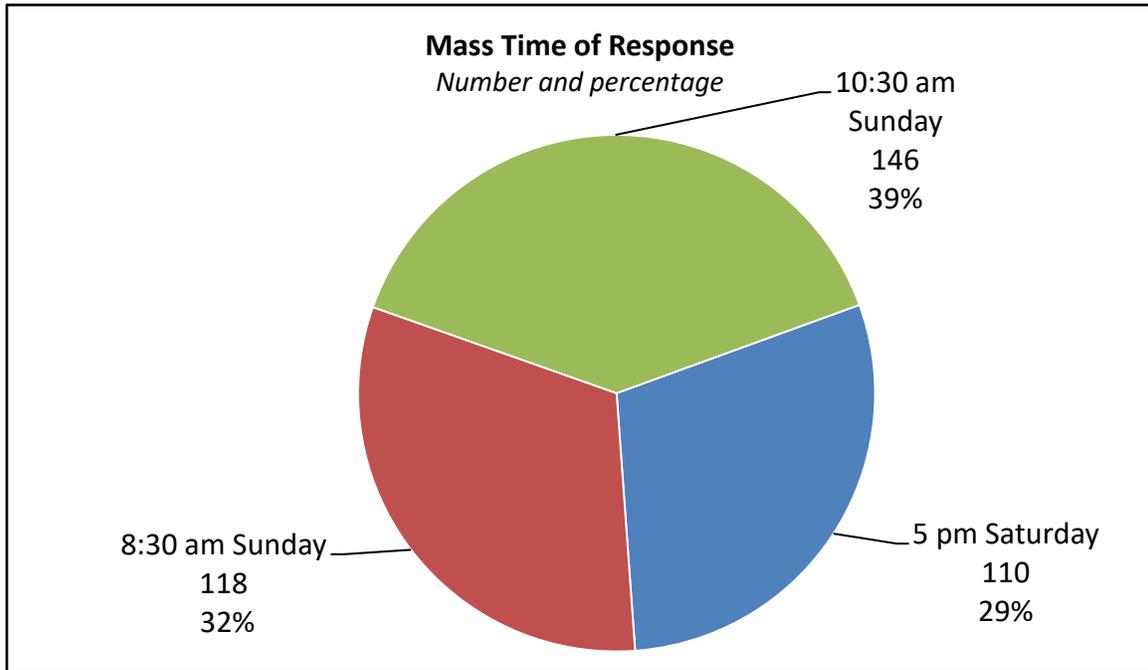
The margin of error for *differences between subgroups*, such as the differences among those of different age groups or those with different levels of involvement, depends on the size of the subgroups being compared. Unless otherwise noted, all subgroup differences described in the graphs of this report are statistically significant: that is, they pass standard tests of statistical inference and can be considered to be “real” differences. In some instances, differences between or among subgroups that are not statistically significant are also noted. These differences should be treated as merely suggestive of real differences that may exist between the subgroups under consideration.

In addition to the quantitative data analyzed in this report, two open-ended questions on the survey collected qualitative data. For these data, respondents were prompted with a question and given an open box for written comments, rather than select from a set of response options. These comments are analyzed along with the quantitative data as well as in separate sections throughout this report. While these responses are not suitable for statistical analyses, they do add depth to the data that is not attainable through closed-ended questions only. A complete transcription of these comments is presented in Appendix II.

The results of this survey fairly represent the characteristics and attitudes of people ages 16 or older who attend Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. It cannot be used to make inferences about populations outside of Mass attendees at the parish; it is not representative of those who do not attend Mass or those who are only involved in parish functions excluding Mass.

Mass Time of Response

The parish collected the surveys by Mass time of response and sent them to CARA bundled in that way. Respondents were particularly likely to have responded at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass (39%).



Where relevant throughout the rest of the report, comparisons are made among those who responded at the various Masses.

Section I: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section of the report includes demographic and other descriptive data for the 400 valid respondents to this survey. These data may be helpful in considering who responded to the survey, which populations are represented in the data, and characteristics of those attending Mass on a typical weekend at the parish.

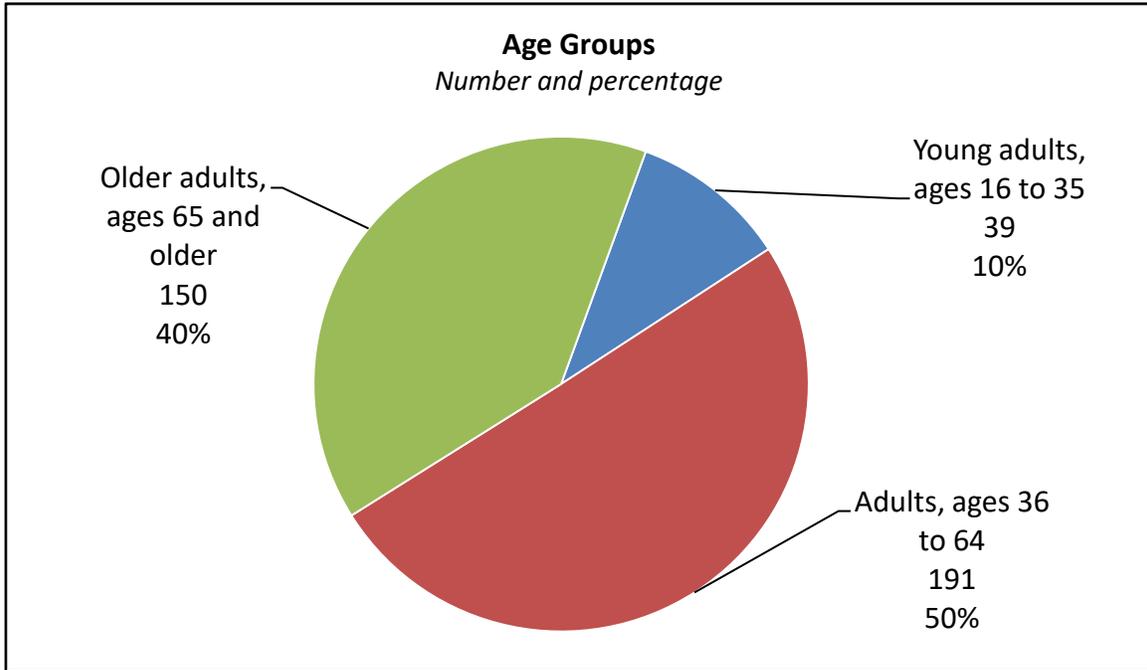
Age

Valid respondents at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish surveyed in 2019 were born between 1925 and 2003. The average age of respondents is 60, with half saying they are 61 or younger. The most common age range reported is 55 to 64.

Age in 2019	
Age Range	%
16-24	4
25-34	5
35-44	9
45-54	15
55-64	27
65-74	23
75 or older	17

Age Groups

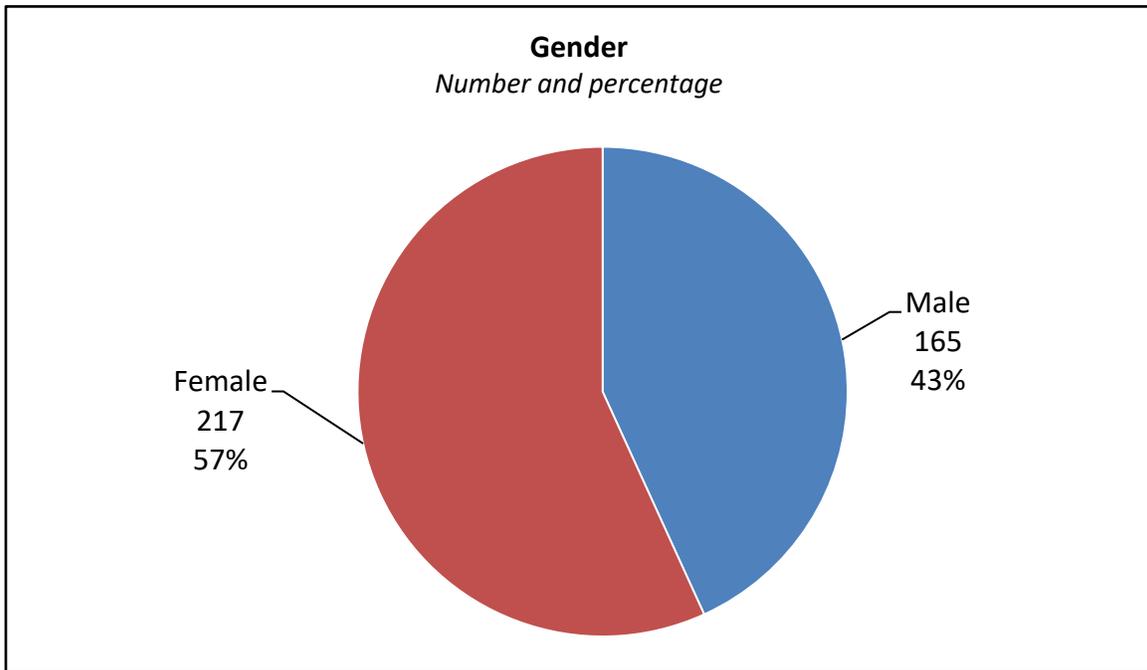
Important differences between groups in parishes are typically found among those who belong to different age groups. For the purposes of this report, CARA divides Catholics in the parish into the three age groups shown in the figure below. The most common age group is adults ages 36 to 64.



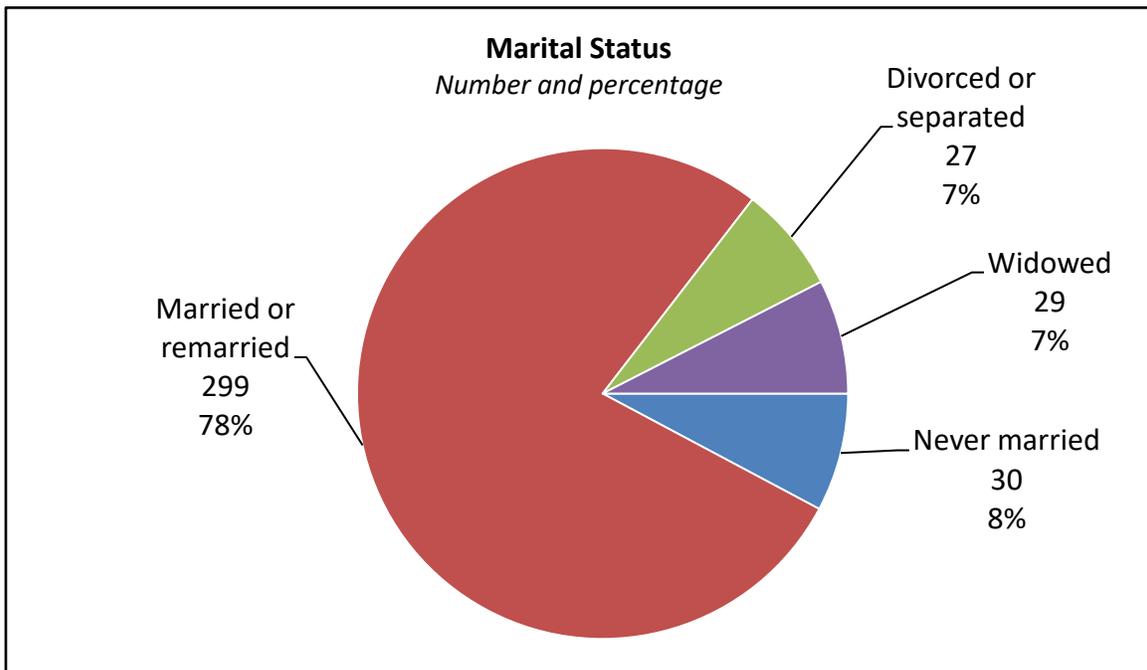
These three age groups will be used for comparisons throughout the rest of the report.

Gender and Marital Status

Fifty-seven percent of respondents identify as female and 43% as male.



Seventy-eight percent of respondents are currently married or remarried. Some 8% have never married, 7% are divorced or separated, and 7% are widowed.



Differences by Age Group

Marital status differs by age group, with 56% of those ages 16 to 35 having never married, 86% of adults ages 36 to 64 being currently married or remarried, and 18% of those ages 65 and older identifying as widowed.

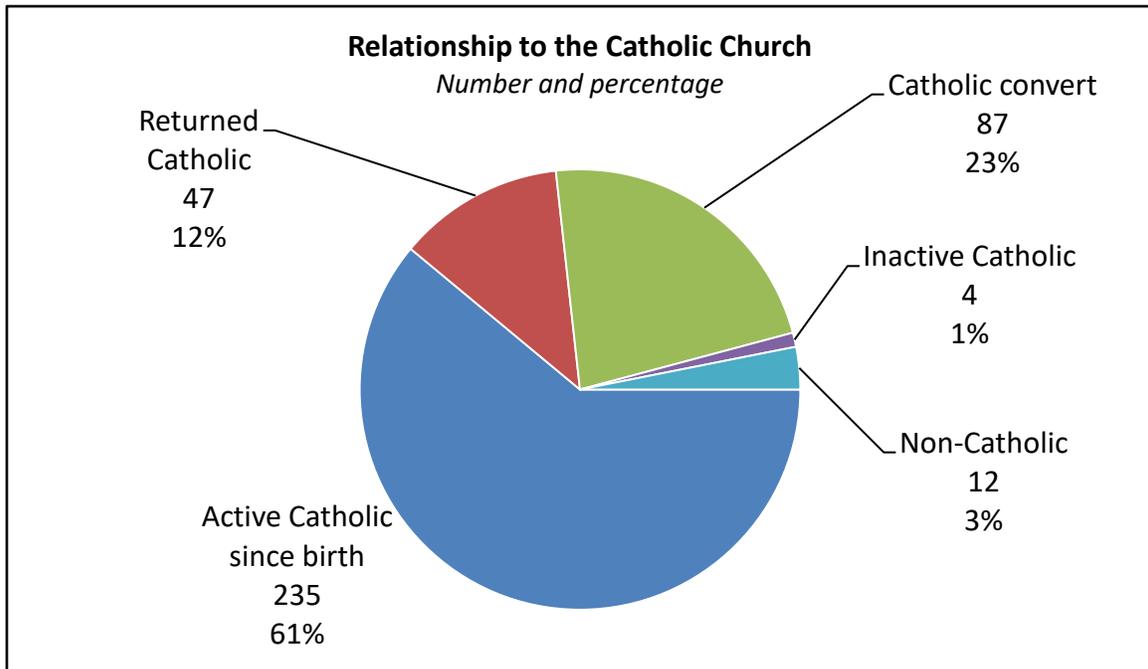
	Ages 16 to 35	Ages 36 to 64	Ages 65 and older
	%	%	%
Single, never married	56	4	1
Married or remarried	39	86	77
Divorced or separated	5	10	4
Widowed	0	1	18

Section II: Religious Characteristics of Respondents

This part of the report describes several characteristics of the 400 valid respondents to the survey that relate to their religious attributes and parish-related behaviors.

Relationship to the Catholic Church

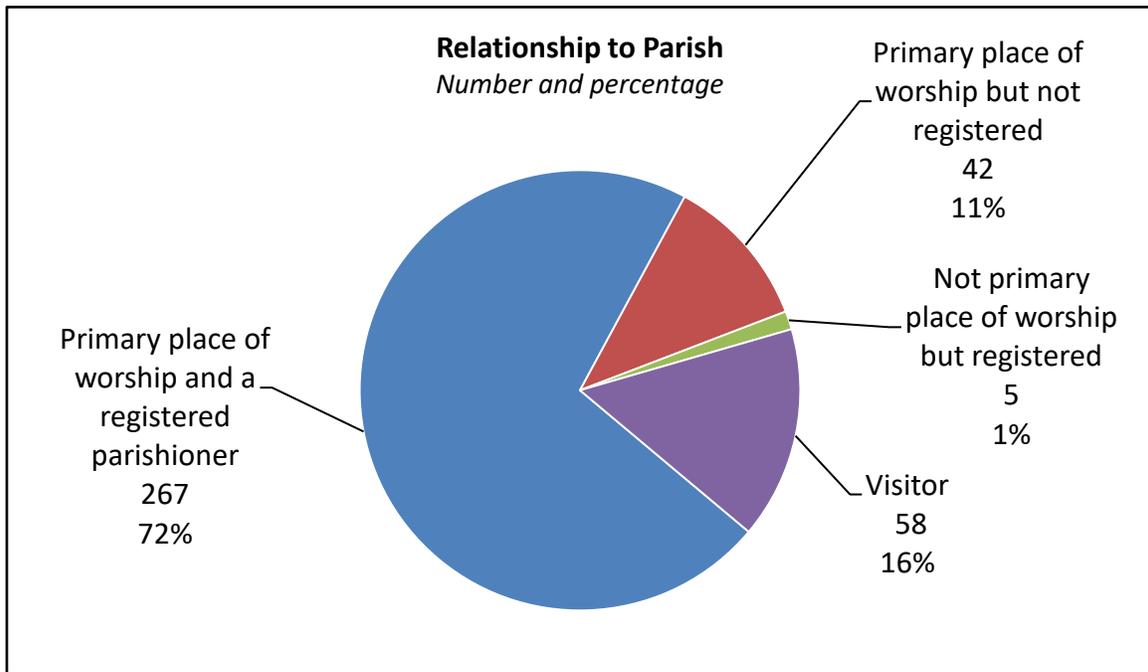
Six in ten (61%) Sacred Heart of Jesus respondents say they have been active Catholics since birth, with 12% saying they are returned Catholics and 23% identifying as converts to Catholicism. Some 1% says they are inactive Catholics and 3% are non-Catholics.



Relationship to the Parish

Among all respondents, 83% report that Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish is their primary place of worship and 73% say they are registered there.

In the figure below, those two measures are examined in relationship to one another. More than seven in ten (72%) say both that the parish is their primary place of worship *and* that they are registered there. Fewer, 11%, say the parish is their primary place of worship but that they are *not* registered there. Sixteen percent are visitors to the parish.



Years at the Parish

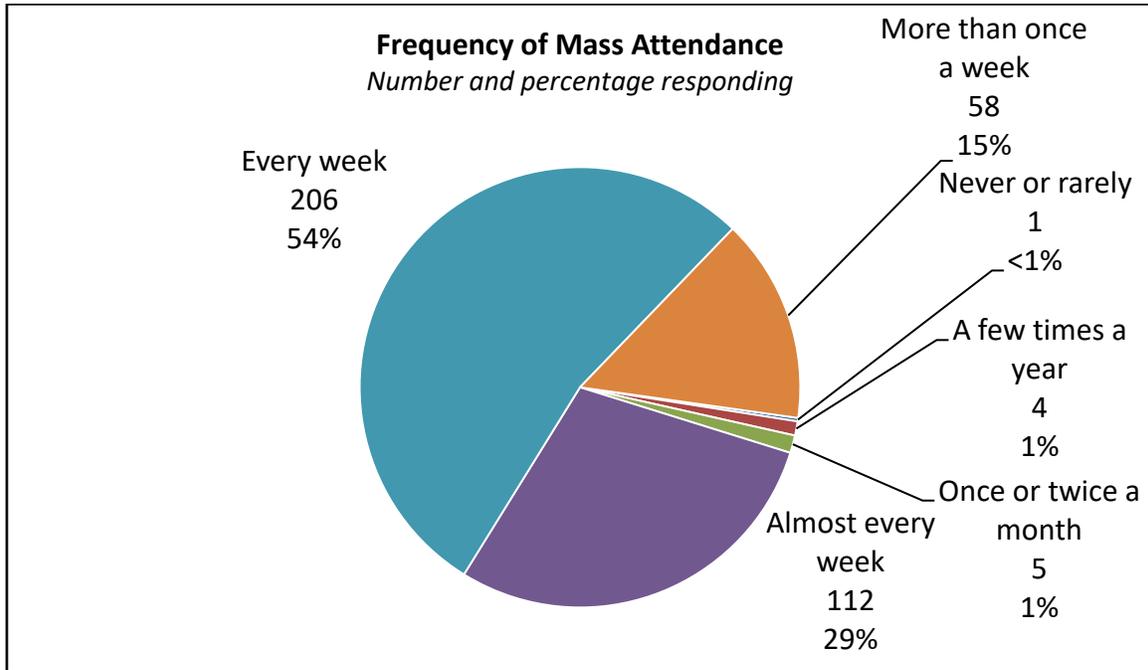
Mass attenders were asked to write in the number of years they have attended the parish. On average, respondents have attended the parish for 11 years. The median is seven years, meaning that half of respondents have attended for seven years or less.

Years at Parish*	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
	%
1 year or less	12
2-5 years	28
6-10 years	29
11-15 years	10
16-20 years	8
21-25 years	0
26-30 years	5
31-35 years	2
36-40 years	5
41 years or more	2
Average	11
Median	7
Minimum	1
Maximum	70

* Those who do not regularly attend the parish were asked to leave the question blank. Those who have attended for less than a year were instructed to write "1."

Frequency of Mass Attendance

Some 69% of respondents report attending Mass at least once a week. An additional 29% attend almost every week and 1% attend once or twice a month. One percent attends less frequently than that.



Differences by Age Group

Those ages 65 and older (77%) are most likely to attend Mass at least once a week, followed by those ages 36 to 64 (64%) and those ages 16 to 35 (56%).

Those ages 16 to 35 (39%), on the other hand, are most likely to attend Mass almost every week, followed by those ages 36 to 64 (33%) and those ages 65 and older (22%).

Frequency of Religious Behaviors

Respondents at the parish were asked how often they engage in various religious behaviors. They are most likely to report doing these behaviors *once a week or more* (or “once a week” and “more than once a week” combined): praying or having a conversation with God (85%) and having a conversation with someone about God (54%). Less than a quarter report doing the following as often: praying the rosary (23%), reading the Bible (22%), attending a parish function besides Mass (14%), going to Eucharistic Adoration (14%), participating in a Bible study group (5%), and going to Reconciliation/Confession (4%).

How often do you do the following?					
<i>Percentage responding</i>					
	More Than Once a Week %	Once a Week %	Once or Twice a Month %	Once or Twice a Year %	Never or Rarely %
Pray or have a conversation with God	59	26	12	2	1
Have a conversation with someone about God	21	33	31	11	4
Pray the rosary	12	11	18	26	33
Read the Bible	11	11	19	20	40
Attend a parish function besides Mass	5	9	26	39	21
Go to Eucharistic Adoration	4	10	11	25	51
Participate in a Bible study group	1	4	5	13	77
Go to Reconciliation/Confession	1	3	9	45	42

- Responding parishioners report doing the following *once a month or more* (the first three columns of numbers combined): praying or having a conversation with God (97%), having a conversation with someone about God (85%), praying the rosary (41%), reading the Bible (41%), attending a parish function besides Mass (40%), going to Eucharistic Adoration (25%), going to Reconciliation/Confession (13%), and participating in a Bible study (10%).
- Responding parishioners report doing the following *once a year or more* (the first four columns of numbers combined): praying or having a conversation with God (99%), having a conversation with someone about God (96%), attending a parish function besides Mass (79%), praying the rosary (67%), reading the Bible (60%), going to Reconciliation/Confession (58%), going to Eucharistic Adoration (49%), and participating in a Bible study (23%).

- More than half of respondents say they do the following “never or rarely”: participating in a Bible study (77%) and going to Eucharistic Adoration (51%).

Differences by Age Groups

The frequency of engaging in these religious behaviors is examined by age group in the table below. Those of different age groups differ most in the percentages having a conversation with someone about God and going to Reconciliation/Confession at least once a month.

Engage in These Behaviors Once a Month or More, by Age Groups			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	Ages 16 to 35	Ages 36 to 64	Ages 65 and Older
	%	%	%
Have a conversation with someone about God	100	88	78
Pray or have a conversation with God	92	98	99
Attend a parish function besides Mass	47	37	44
Read the Bible	39	45	39
Pray the rosary	35	40	44
Go to Eucharistic Adoration	21	24	27
Participate in a Bible study group	13	7	13
Go to Reconciliation/Confession	6	12	18

In addition, it is noteworthy that the different age groups do *not* differ significantly in the percentages going to Reconciliation/Confession at least *once a year*, with 63% of young adults, 59% of adults, and 57% of older adults going that frequently.

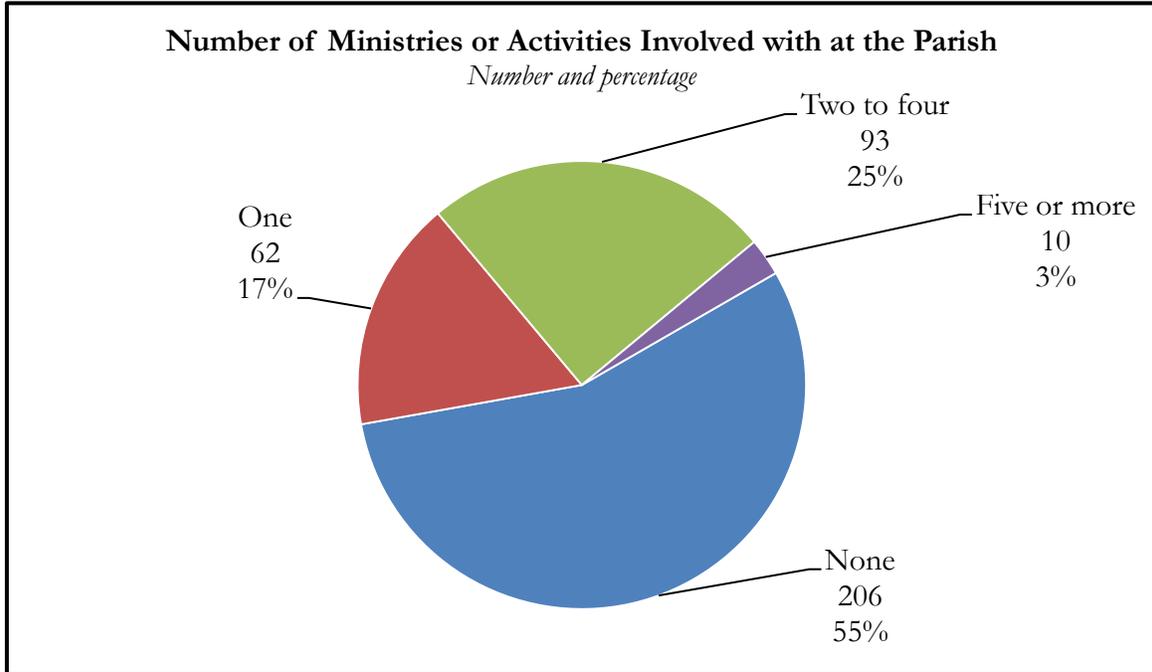
Participation in Parish Formation Programs

Respondents report the following family participation in parish formation programs:

- Twenty percent of respondents have attended adult religious education programs in the past five years at the parish.
- Some 22% have children who have attended religious education classes in the past five years.

Ministry and Activity Participation

Forty-five percent report being involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish in the past year. Some 55% are not involved with any.



In the remainder of this report comparison is made between two groups of respondents according to their involvement in parish ministries and activities:

- Those not involved in any parish ministries or activities (206 respondents or 55%)
- Those involved in at least one parish ministry or activity (165 respondents or 45%)

Section III: Assessment of Parish Life and Needs

Overall, the results of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Life Survey are very positive. Eleven particular areas were addressed in the survey instrument. These areas are featured in this section of the report, though readers are advised to consult the response frequencies in Appendix I of this document for response rates and other pertinent information about these data. The areas of parish life addressed are:

- Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life
- Evaluation of Areas of Weekend Masses
- Needed Ministries and Programs
- Frequency of Accessing Parish Communications
- Effectiveness of Ways of Communicating
- Attitudes about Parish Communications
- Attitudes about Parish Life
- Attitudes about Religious Belief
- Attitudes about Catholic Beliefs
- Attitudes about Catholic Life
- Suggestions for Drawing More Persons to the Parish

Evaluation of Aspects of Parish Life

Nearly all respondents (98%) give a positive rating (“good” and “excellent” combined) to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish overall. Some 70% rate it as “excellent.”

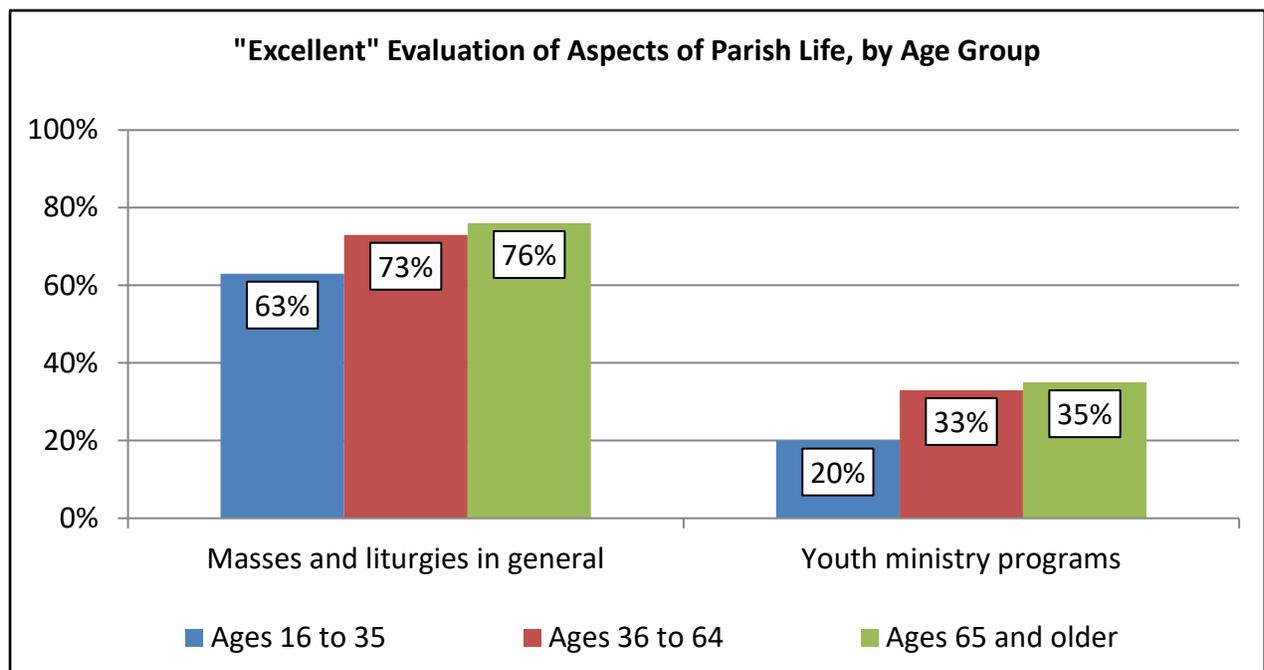
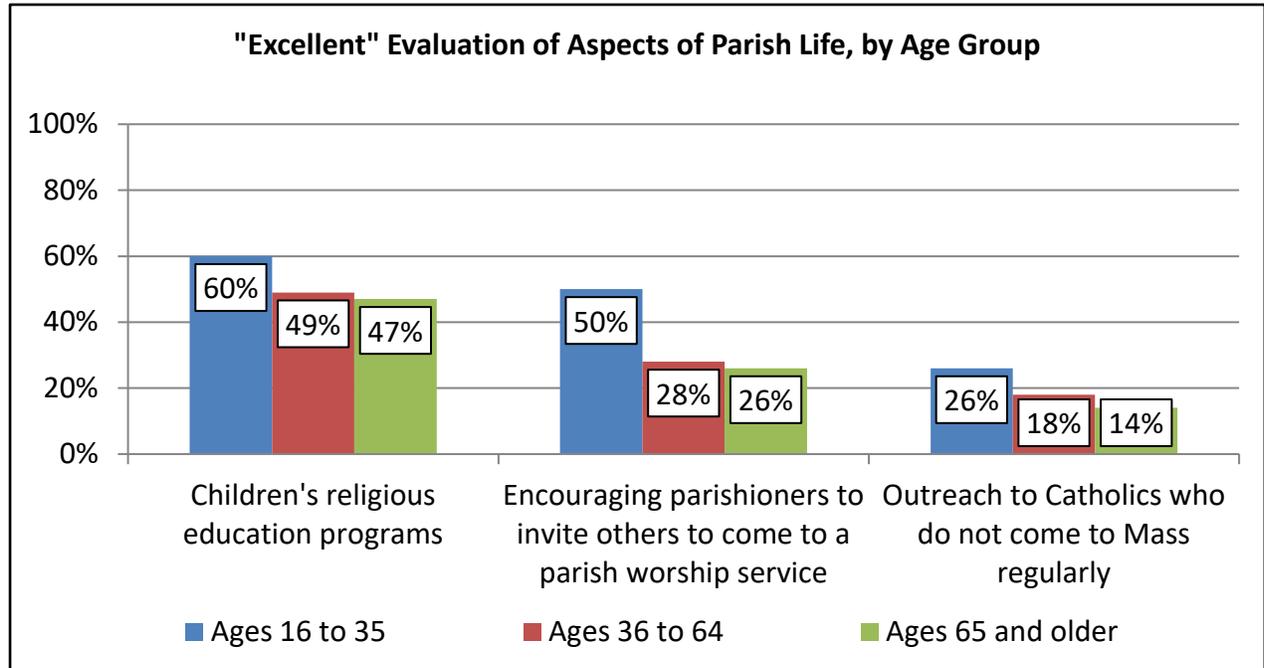
<i>Please evaluate these aspects of parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Good” or “Excellent” Combined %	“Excellent” Only %
Masses and liturgies in general	99	73
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish overall	98	70
Communication at the parish	95	60
Children’s religious education programs	92	49
Confession/Reconciliation schedule	92	49
Invitation to parishioners to participate in parish ministries	87	45
Faith formation for adults programs	87	38
Youth ministry programs	79	32
Encouraging parishioners to invite others to come to a parish worship service	72	30
Outreach to Catholics who do not come to Mass regularly	60	18

With two exceptions, about eight in ten or more give each of the aspects of parish life presented in the table above a positive evaluation. The two exceptions are evangelization-related aspects of parish life.

- More than half rate Masses and liturgies in general (73%) and communication at the parish (60%) as “excellent.”
- Children’s religious education programs receive an “excellent” evaluation from 49% of responding parishioners, with 38% and 32%, respectively, evaluating faith formation programs for adults and youth ministry programs as highly.
- The Confession/Reconciliation schedule is rated as “excellent” by 49%.
- Some 30% say the parish is “excellent” at encouraging parishioners to invite others to a parish worship service, with 18% rating the parish’s outreach to Catholics who do not come to Mass as highly.

Differences by Age Group

Those ages 16 to 35 are most likely to rate the three aspects of parish life shown in the first figure below as “excellent.” Those ages 36 and older, on the other hand, are more likely to evaluate the two aspects of parish life presented in the second figure as “excellent.”



Differences by Past Participation in Formation Programs

Those whose children have attended religious education classes at the parish in the past five years (55%) are slightly more likely than others (47%) to give an “excellent” rating to efforts to educate parishioners in the faith.²

Those who have attended adult religious education classes at the parish in the past five years do *not* differ significantly from others in how they evaluate faith formation for adults programs.

² Since this difference does *not* meet standard tests for significance, these findings should be seen as merely suggestive of real differences.

Evaluation of Areas of Weekend Masses

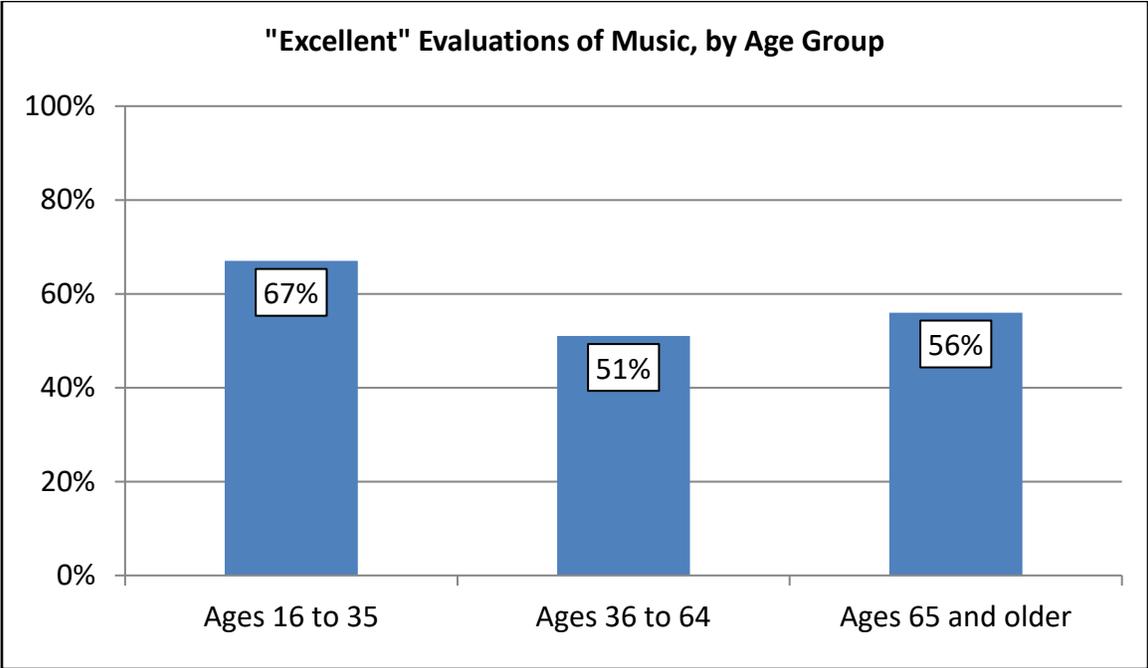
More than nine in ten give a positive evaluation to each of the areas of weekend Masses shown in the table below.

<i>Please evaluate these areas of weekend Masses for the Mass you most regularly attend</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Good” or “Excellent” Combined %	“Excellent” Only %
Sound clarity during Mass	99	89
Homilies	98	78
Prayerful, reverent atmosphere at Mass	97	76
Readers/lectors	97	73
Hospitality or sense of welcome	96	79
People’s participation in worship	95	54
Music	93	68

- Nine in ten (89%) rate the sound clarity during Mass as “excellent.”
- Roughly three in four give an “excellent” evaluation to the hospitality or sense of welcome (79%), homilies (78%), prayerful, reverent atmosphere at Mass (76%), and the readers/lectors (73%).
- The music is rated as “excellent” by 68%.
- People’s participation in worship receives an “excellent” evaluation from 54% of respondents.

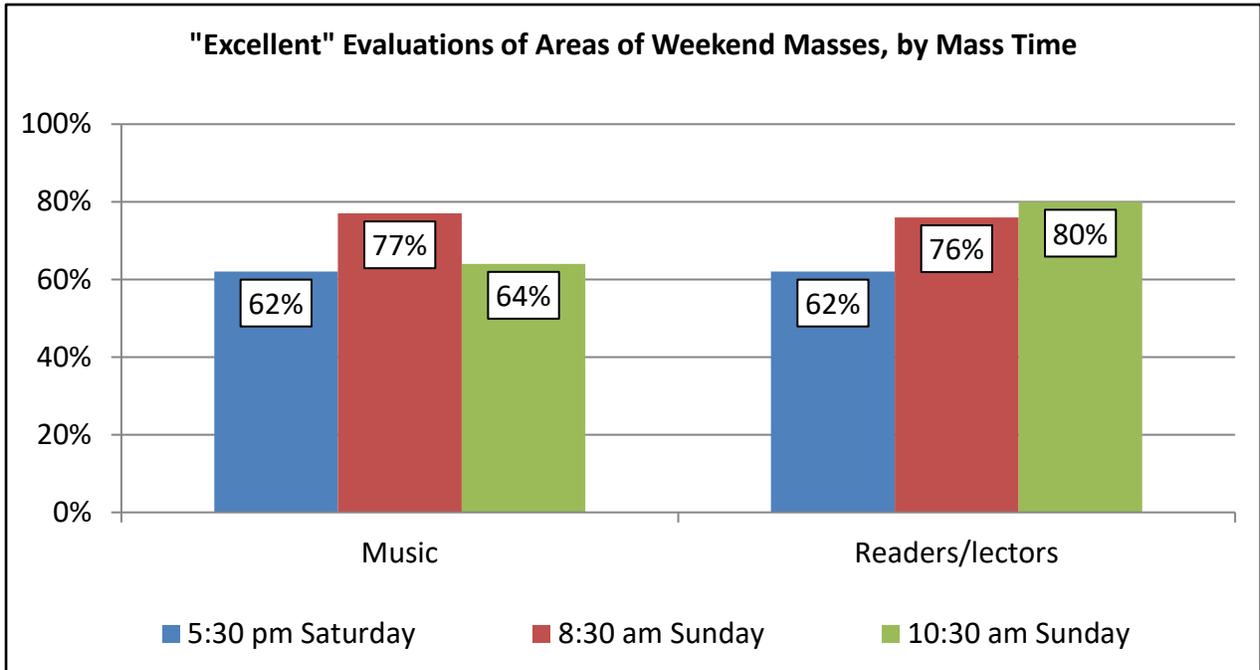
Differences by Age Groups

Those ages 16 to 35 are most likely to rate the music as “excellent.”



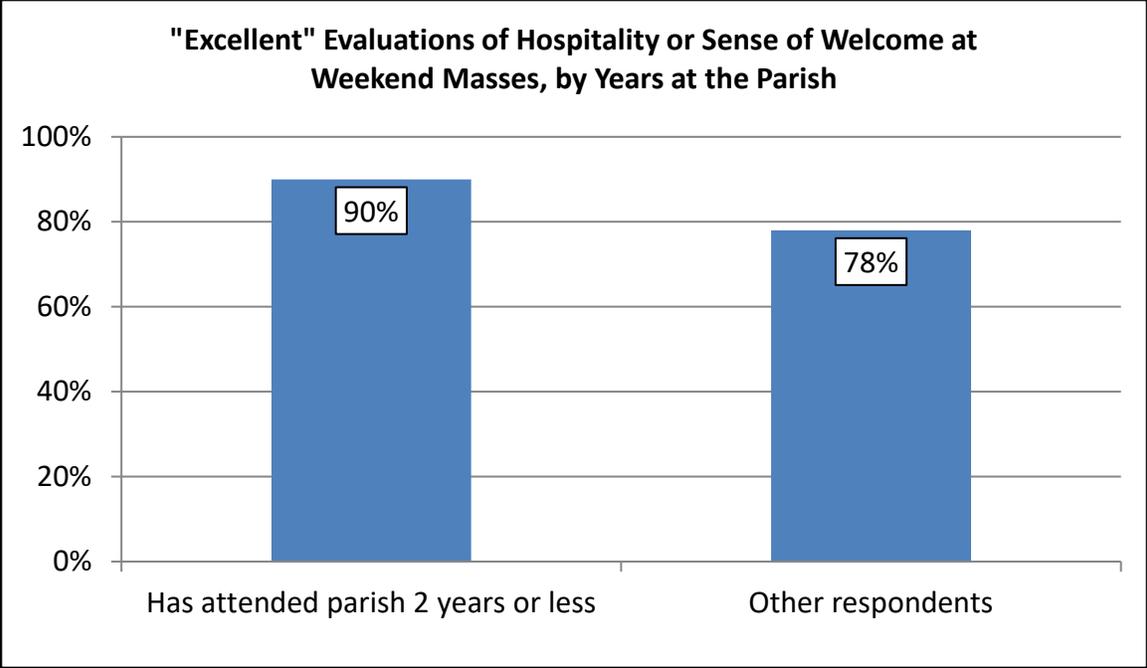
Differences by Mass of Response

Those who responded at the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass are most likely to give the music an “excellent” rating. Respondents at the two Sunday Masses are especially likely to rate the readers/lectors as “excellent.”



Differences by Years at the Parish

Newer parishioners, that is those who have attended the parish for two years or less, are more likely than others to rate the hospitality or sense of welcome at weekend Masses as “excellent.”



Needed Ministries and Programs

Respondents were asked to write a response to this question: *What is the most important need for the parish to focus on in the next one to three years?* Some 192 wrote in a response to that question, with about one in 20 saying the parish either does not need to better focus on any needs or that they do not know what the parish should focus on. Appendix II presents the complete transcription of all open-ended responses to this question.

Responses can be grouped into the six broad categories below, as well as a category to represent the miscellaneous needs expressed. A discussion of each category follows.

- Better outreach and ministry to specific groups of parishioners
- Improved faith formation
- Improvements to areas of worship
- Greater social justice efforts
- Better planning for the growth the parish is experiencing
- Improved evangelization efforts

- Other or miscellaneous needs

Better Outreach and Ministry to Specific Groups of Parishioners

About a third of respondents note that they would like the parish to focus on better outreach to and ministry to specific groups of parishioners. Groups listed include (ordered by frequency mentioned) teens/youth, families, children, and young adults. Some examples of these responses appear below.

Parish outreach.

Outreach to community.

Our small parish is a mixture of young and old. We need to participate in more activities to bring people together. Also, could do more outreach programs.

Youth group.

Keeping the youth.

I feel that we need to focus on more youth activities in the parish for all ages. I also feel as if we should have more children participating in the Parish.

I don't know much about the youth group. But I do know that you have to get the youth and young families involved in order for the church survival (i.e. Mom's day out, Easter Egg hunt, movie night, etc.).

Continue to involve families & grow our parish.

Young parent ministry.

A “parents with young children” room where parents take turns, one mass per week, to have children aged 5 and under to go to. Cursillo! Best kept secret. Needs to be discussed for everyone to know about it.

Attendance for young families seems low...very few attend Sunday School. Don't know how to fix, but looks like an issue and a need to address.

More activities available for young families. Additional activities / events related to young couples (Beyond Theology on Tap).

Bring back our preschool program. Outreach for homeschoolers. Possibly start our own school.

Ministries for children younger than school aged.

Programs for youth and adults. More book clubs, etc. Monitor size plan for a larger congregation.

Improved Faith Formation

Nearly a quarter of respondents express an interest in the parish focusing more on faith formation. The need to improve faith formation for adults is most frequently expressed, followed by efforts to improve faith formation for children and youth. Other areas mentioned include more Bible study programs and a desire for more small groups. Below are a few typical responses:

Catholic leadership for men and women, one-day Saturday Conf.

I'd like to see young adult formation. We are losing our kids and the church needs to reach out with more programs for young adults.

Adult Religious education. Future of SHJ.

Building communities or small groups.

Adult study groups.

Bible studies for adults.

Have adult education program during children's education time. Could be held in the old chapel. Would likely be well attended.

Helping us grow closer to God in our understanding of our Catholic faith.

PRE parent involvement.

Religious education after Confirmation.

To create fun groups that do fun stuff with children so that they can engage and learn. Sunday School in a fun manner instead of just sitting.

Would love to see the beginnings of a school.

Need to focus on education for young people. Need to hire a full-time paid director for education so they can grow our program. We should have a strong teen program since those are the tumultuous years in a young person's life. They need to know that their parish family supports and loves them. We need to continue educating the adults as well. We should have weekly small group meetings where people can go more in-depth with their faith. People have questions about their faith, especially as they get older. These questions need to be answered so they can grow closer to God. We need more ministries that reach out to families and welcome them into the Church. We need to pull in our young families with activities that interest them. Do a survey asking families what interests them, and what do they want to see happening at church. We need a strong Deacon who can inspire and ignite people, especially when he is teaching. I do not feel like we have that now. Homilies need to relate more to everyday life. In this way, people will better understand what the Gospel is saying and what the priest is preaching. When you tie it to everyday life, you are better able to live according to God's word. While the food pantry is a wonderful ministry, we place too much emphasis on it. There are other ministries that allow us to reach out the community.

Improvements to Areas of Worship

About one in seven participants say the parish should focus on improving the worship life of the parish, with topics mentioned including the homilies, music, increased reverence, and better Mass times. Following are a sampling of these responses:

Liturgy.

It is important to stay focused on what things are happening in the real world and how this relates to us as Christians. The Homilies have to make sense! Important to have all generations represented. Have attended Masses in Florida where they have elementary/high school students more involved on a monthly basis.

I think it is important to keep this parish as strong as it is today by sharing the homilies.

Better music.

Music choices should be songs that parishioners are familiar with so participation grows. Also could be more contemporary/upbeat.

Getting more 18-30-year-olds involved in the parish. My children don't go anymore because they say it should be a celebration to go and they just see ceremony and bored faces.

Music, ministry, involve children more on Sundays.

Participation at Mass (not just attendance).

Mass in Latin.

Making sure that people go outside the chapel after mass is over so that others can pray; focus on the scripture in the homily – avoid passing out papers or giving news.

I would like to have the option of a Sunday evening Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration more than the 1st Friday.

Greater Social Justice Efforts

Nearly one in ten wants the parish to focus more on social justice efforts. These comments include those related to helping the needy, promoting the sacredness of life, and outreach to those sick or homebound. Below are a few examples:

Community outreach for the poor and forgotten in N. Hamilton Co, visiting, bringing meals, bringing to Church.

Helping the less fortunate, food pantry.

Life issues: abortion, suicide, assisted suicide.

The homeless in our community outreach.

Tangible outreach to the poor - service opportunities.

Need women groups - small groups to support one another. Does anyone visit the sick at home or at the hospital?

Adult classes. Mission trips?

Parish more missions, adult studies, mission trip, group-parish volunteer days.

Better Planning for the Growth the Parish Is Experiencing

Almost one in ten would like the parish to better plan for managing the growth the parish has been experiencing. Following are some sample comments:

Long term planning for our growth.

Potential growth of Area and Preparedness to prepare for younger parishioners.

More ways to encourage newcomers to become more actively involved in the parish.

I know it is not possible but quit growing. I miss our small Parish. Will be transferring parishes to St. John Tipton when P.R.E is over this year.

Population growth. Children and teenagers' education.

How to handle growth and keep our community intimate.

Planning for parish growth. Social justice ministries.

Improved Evangelization Efforts

About one in 20 survey participants wishes the parish would focus on bringing more people to the parish, including efforts to create a more welcoming environment at the parish and at parish worship services. Here are some of these responses:

Evangelize Catholics, talk more about the Pope & what he believes.

Keep the warmth & positiveness.

Brining lapsed Catholics back to the Church.

Bring God back into our world.

Evangelizing the people who already come to Mass, in order to prepare them to evangelize others.

To be more inclusive so people feel welcome in participating in activities & fellowships.

Other or Miscellaneous Needs

Almost one-fifth of survey participants mentions a need that does not fit in to the categories above, but one that few respondents mentioned. The topics mentioned include needs related to leadership, greater parishioner involvement in parish life, greater attention to the sex abuse crisis both nationally and locally, building the sense of community at the parish, better stewardship efforts, and improvements to the facilities. Below is a sampling of these responses.

Just keeping an open mind.

Continued positive leadership. Leadership change can be a huge negative.

Saving money.

Strive to get more people involved. We tend to see the same 20% doing 80% of the activity. Help us see how we can help the Church through the crisis in the Church.

More parish social activities to encourage more people to participate and become part of the community.

Pro-life advocacy. The sex scandal in the church needs to be addressed locally and all the way to the Vatican.

I very strongly feel that women need to be in positions of influence in the Catholic Church as a whole. I realize that the Pope is probably who needs to take the lead on this; the early church had many women helping Jesus.

But now how many women do you think the Pope surrounds himself with as advisors in the Vatican? The sexual abuse scandal would never have occurred with women in influence. How much pain and monetary pay-outs would this have saved?

Priest and nuns should marry so they can better identify with the people. I don't think women should be ruled by a body of single men.

Pre-school/playground for kids.

Be steadfast. Catholics and Christians are under attack. Bishop Council needs to push for more acknowledgment of persecuted Christians.

Focus on human rights.

Love.

How great God is!

Frequency of Accessing Parish Communication

Responding parishioners were asked how often they engage in the behaviors below related to parish communication. Some 72% read the parish bulletin at least once a week (“more than once a week” and “once a week” combined), with an additional 17% doing so once or twice a month.

<i>How often do you do the following?</i>					
<i>Percentage responding</i>					
	More Than Once a Week %	Once a Week %	Once or Twice a Month %	Once or Twice a Year %	Never or Rarely %
Read the parish bulletin	21	51	17	5	6
Visit the parish website	2	9	25	26	39
Visit the parish Facebook page	<1	3	7	13	76

- Some 11% visit the parish website at least once a week, with an additional 25% doing so once or twice a month. Combined, 61% report doing so at least once a year (combines the first four columns).
- Ten percent report visiting the parish Facebook page at least once a month. Combined, a quarter (24%) visit the parish Facebook page at least once a year.

Differences by Age Groups

The frequency of engaging in these religious behaviors is examined by age group in the table below. Those ages 16 to 35 are least likely to have read the parish bulletin at least once a month.

Engage in These Behaviors Once a Month or More, by Age Groups			
<i>Percentage responding</i>			
	Ages 16 to 35	Ages 36 to 64	Ages 65 and Older
	%	%	%
Read the parish bulletin	75	92	92
Visit the parish website	40	36	36
Visit the parish Facebook page	15	12	8

Effectiveness of Ways of Communicating

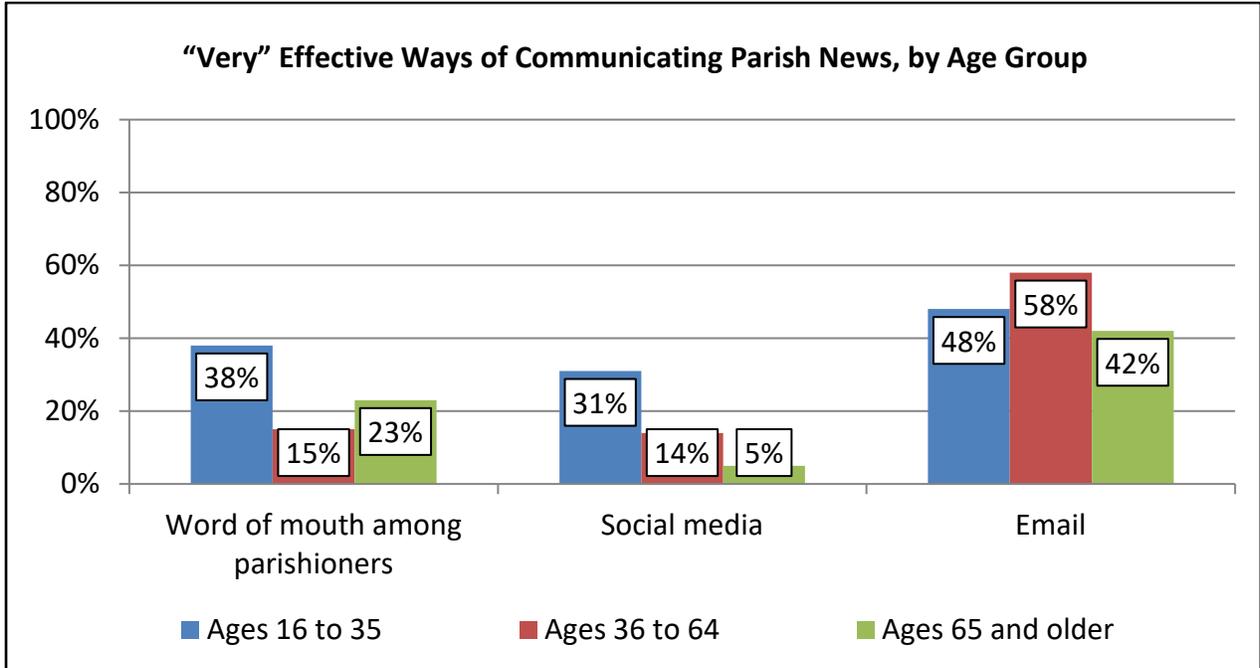
Not surprisingly as the survey was conducted in pew, the Sunday bulletins (98%) and announcements read at Mass (97%) are most likely to be listed as “somewhat” or “very” effective ways to communicate parish news to respondents. Among the other ways of communicating listed in the table below, only social media is seen as at least “somewhat” effective by less than half.

<i>How effective are these ways of communicating parish news to you?</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat ” or “Very” Combined %	“Very” Only %
Sunday bulletins	98	84
Announcements read at Mass	97	76
Email to your work or home address	76	50
Word of mouth among parishioners	61	20
Parish website	57	25
Social media (Facebook, Twitter)	35	13

- At least half say the following ways of communicating parish news to them are “very” effective: Sunday bulletins (84%), announcements read at Mass (76%), and email (50%).
- About a quarter say the parish website (25%) and word of mouth among parishioners (20%) are “very” effective.
- Social media is seen as a “very” effective way of communicating parish news by 13% of responding parishioners.

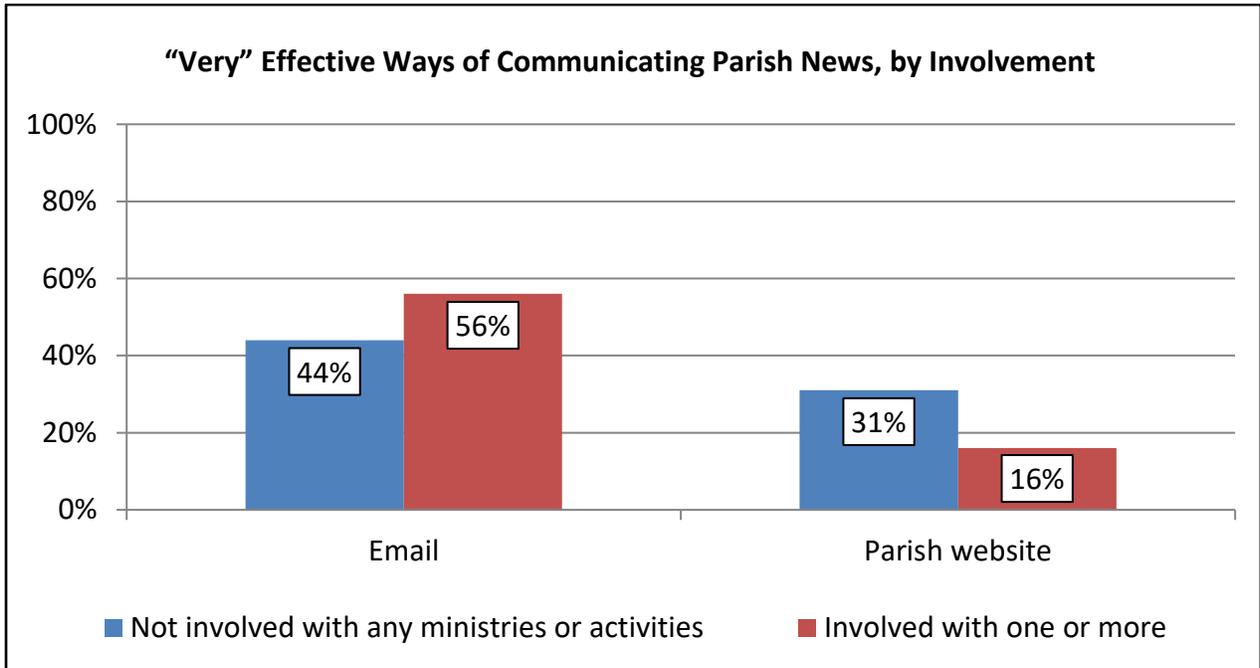
Differences by Age Groups

Those ages 16 to 35 are most likely to cite word of mouth among parishioners and social media as “very” effective ways of communicating parish news to them. Those ages 36 to 64 are most likely to say email is “very” effective.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are most likely to report that email is a “very” effective way of communicating parish news to them, with those not involved with any most likely to list the parish website.



Attitudes about Parish Communications

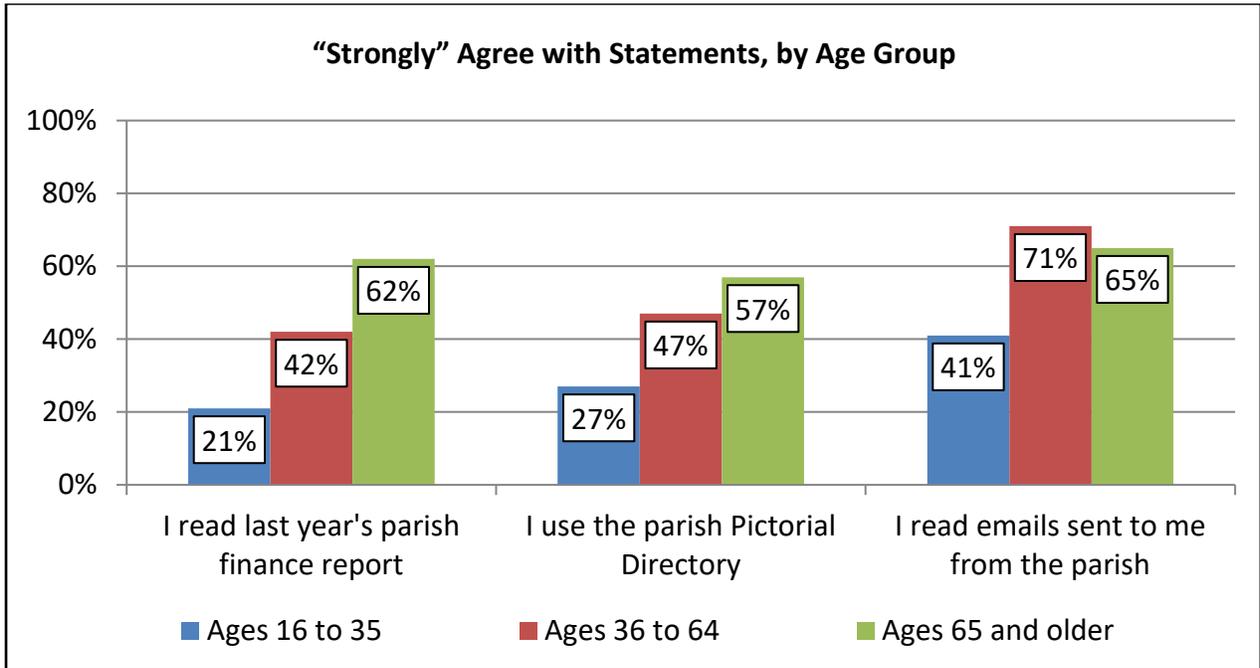
More than nine in ten (94%) at least “somewhat” agree that they feel well informed about what goes on in the parish, with 62% “strongly” agreeing they do.

<i>Please respond to these about parish communication</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree Combined %	“Strongly” Agree Only %
I listen to the announcements read at Mass	99	89
The bulletin effectively communicates issues related to parish life	97	72
I feel well informed about what goes on in this parish	94	62
I read emails sent to me from the parish	81	65
I use the parish Pictorial Directory	71	48
I read last year’s parish finance report	64	48

- Nearly all “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they listen to the announcements read at Mass (99%) and that the bulletin effectively communicates issues related to parish life (97%). Between 72% and 89% “strongly” agree with each statement.
- Eighty-one percent at least “somewhat” agree that they read emails sent to them from the parish. Some 65% “strongly” agree that they do.
- Between 64% and 71% at least “somewhat” agree that they use the parish Pictorial Directory and that they read last year’s parish finance report. Some 48% “strongly” agree with each of the statements.

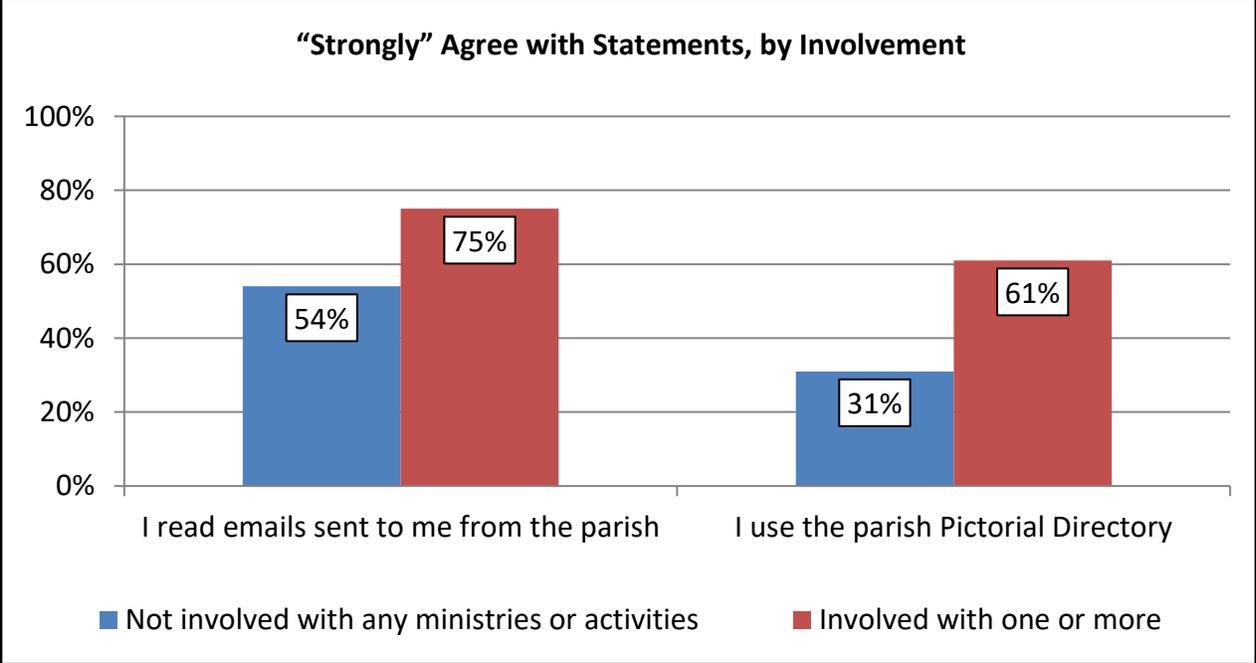
Differences by Age Group

The older the age group, the more likely its members are to “strongly” agree that they read last year’s parish finance report and that they use the parish Pictorial Directory. Those ages 16 to 35 are also *least* likely to “strongly” agree that they read the emails sent to them from the parish.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are more likely than others to “strongly” agree with the two statements presented in the figure below.



Attitudes about Parish Life

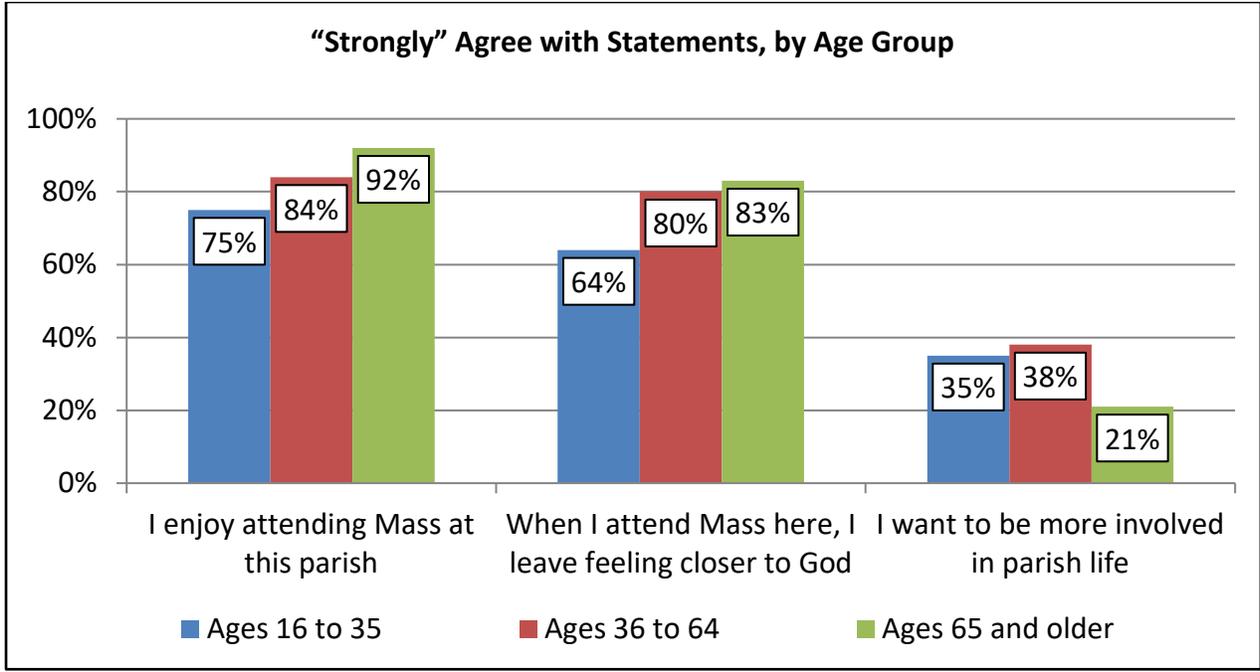
With one exception, at least 86% of respondents “somewhat” or “strongly” agree with each of the statements about parish life shown in the table below.

<i>Please respond to the following about parish life</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree Combined %	“Strongly” Agree Only %
I enjoy attending Mass at this parish	99	85
When I attend Mass here, I leave feeling closer to God	98	79
The parish helps me understand my baptismal responsibilities	90	46
The parish is helping me understand the true meaning of the sacraments	89	39
I want to be more involved in parish life	86	31
I am comfortable asking for help from the parish (such as financial help, meals, respite for caretakers)	52	25

- Eight in ten or more “strongly” agree that they enjoy attending Mass at the parish (85%) and that they leave feeling closer to God when they attend Mass there (79%).
- Four in ten or more “strongly” agree that the parish helps them understand their baptismal responsibilities (46%) and that the parish is helping them understand the true meaning of the sacraments (39%).
- Some 31% “strongly” agree that they want to be more involved in parish life.
- Twenty-five percent “strongly” agree that they are comfortable asking for help from the parish, such as financial help, meals, or respite for caretakers.

Differences by Age Group

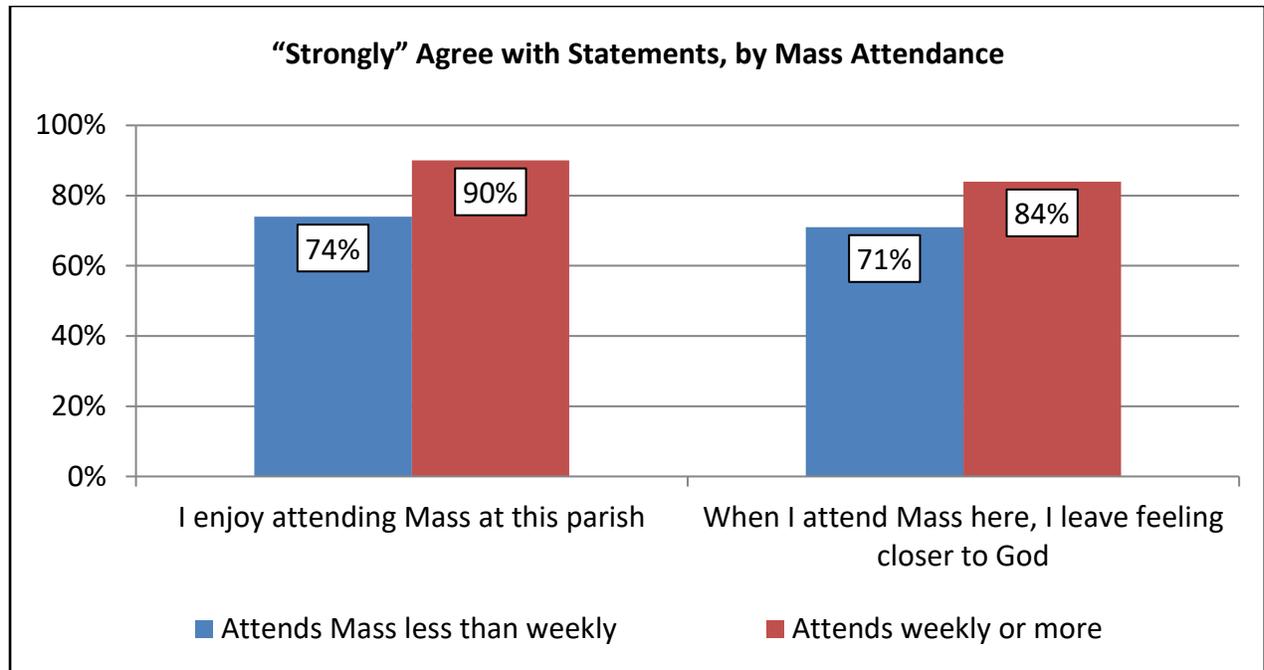
The older the age group, the more likely they are to “strongly” agree that they enjoy attending Mass at the parish.



- Those ages 36 and older are most likely to “strongly” agree that they leave feeling closer to God when they attend Mass at the parish.
- Respondents ages 65 and older are *least* likely to “strongly” agree that they want to be more involved in parish life.

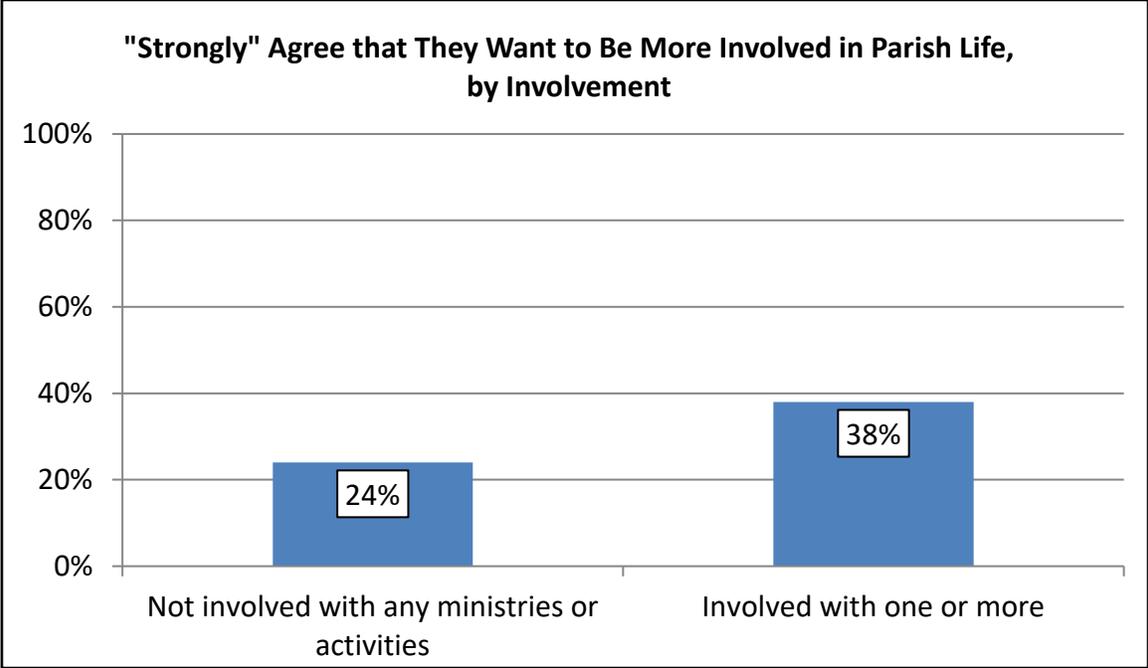
Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who attend Mass at least once a week are more likely than those attending less frequently to “strongly” agree with the two statements presented in the figure below.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are more likely than others to “strongly” agree that they want to be more involved in parish life.



Attitudes about Religious Belief

More than eight in ten at least “somewhat” agree with the first five statements presented in the table below. A quarter or less agree at least “somewhat” with each of the last three statements.

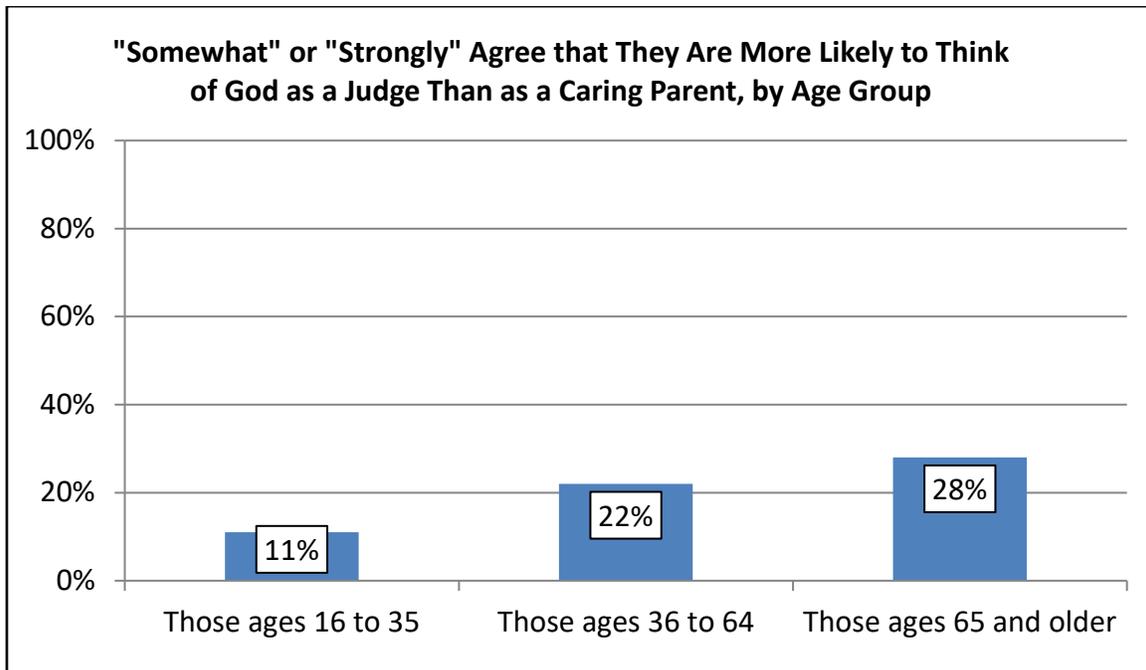
<i>Please respond to the following statements</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree Combined %	“Strongly” Agree Only %
I believe God exists	99	97
As a Christian, I have a responsibility to bring others to Christ	94	57
I would like to learn more about the faith	90	47
I have felt the presence of God when praying	89	52
I have felt God’s love and forgiveness when going to Confession	84	55
I am more likely to think of God as a judge than as a caring parent	24	4
I sometimes doubt that God exists	16	4
I am currently questioning my faith	14	4

- Some 97% “strongly” agree that God exists. Less than one in 20 agrees as strongly that sometimes they doubt that God exists (4%) and that they are currently questioning their faith (4%).
- Just under six in ten “strongly” agree that as Christians they have a responsibility to bring others to Christ (57%).
- More than half “strongly” agree that they have felt God’s love and forgiveness when going to Confession (55%) and that they have felt the presence of God when praying (52%).
- Nearly half “strongly” agree that they would like to learn more about the faith (47%).
- One in 20 agrees “strongly” that they are more likely to think of God as a judge than as a caring parent (4%).

Differences by Age Group

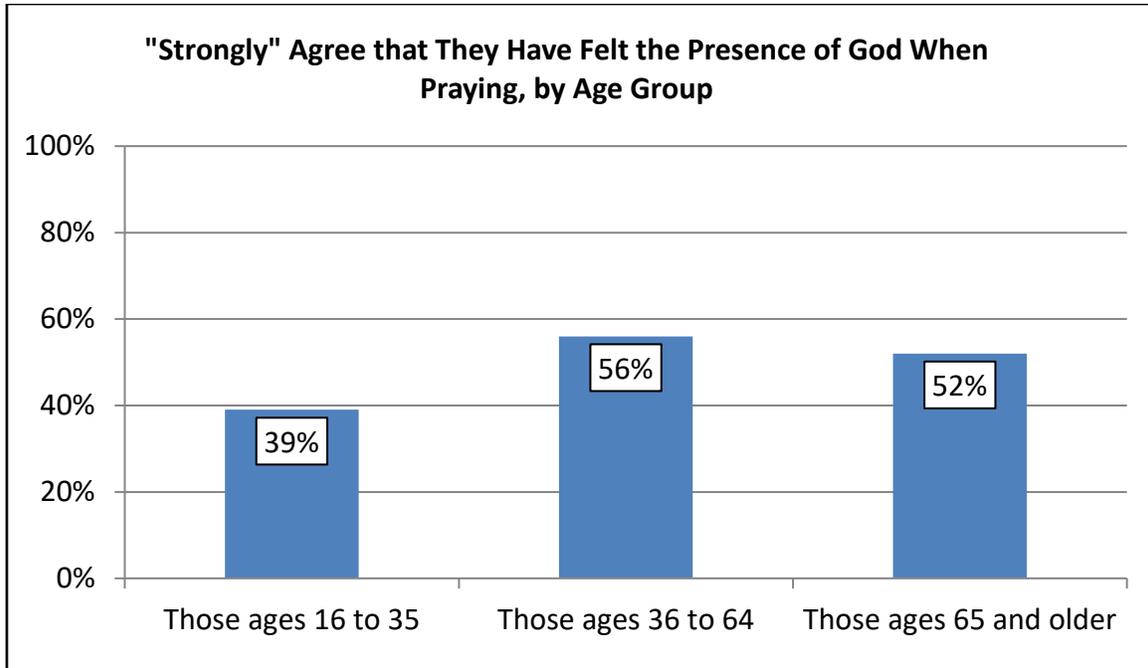
Those Who "Somewhat" or "Strongly" Agree

The older the age group, the more likely its members are to "somewhat" or "strongly" agree that they are more likely to think of God as a judge than as a caring parent.



Those Who "Strongly" Agree

Those ages 36 and older are especially likely to "strongly" agree that they have felt the presence of God when praying.



Attitudes about Catholic Beliefs

At least 90% “somewhat” or “strongly” agree with the first eight of the statements about their beliefs presented in the table below. Among the final three, more than half “strongly” agree with all but one.

<i>Please respond to the following about your beliefs</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree Combined %	“Strongly” Agree Only %
I believe Jesus died for my sins	99	96
At Communion, I receive the Body and Blood of Jesus	97	90
If able, Catholics should attend a Sunday/Saturday vigil Mass weekly	97	84
I believe it is possible to have a personal encounter with God	96	82
I am opposed to abortion	93	83
God has a plan for my life and so all things that happen to me, happen according to God’s plan	93	67
Catholics should go to Confession at least once a year	90	57
I feel personally called by God into a deeper relationship	90	53
Premarital sex is wrong	71	45
I am opposed to capital punishment (the death penalty)	61	34
I am opposed to artificial birth control	42	22

- More than eight in ten “strongly” agree with each of the following statements about their beliefs: that they believe Jesus died for their sins (96%), that at Communion they receive the Body and Blood of Jesus (90%), that if able, Catholics should attend a Sunday/Saturday vigil Mass weekly (84%), that they are opposed to abortion (83%), and that they believe it is possible to have a personal encounter with God (82%).
- About half to two-thirds “strongly” agree that God has a plan for their lives and so all things that happen to them happen according to God’s plan (67%), that Catholics should go to

Confession at least once a year (57%), and that they feel personally called by God into a deeper relationship (53%).

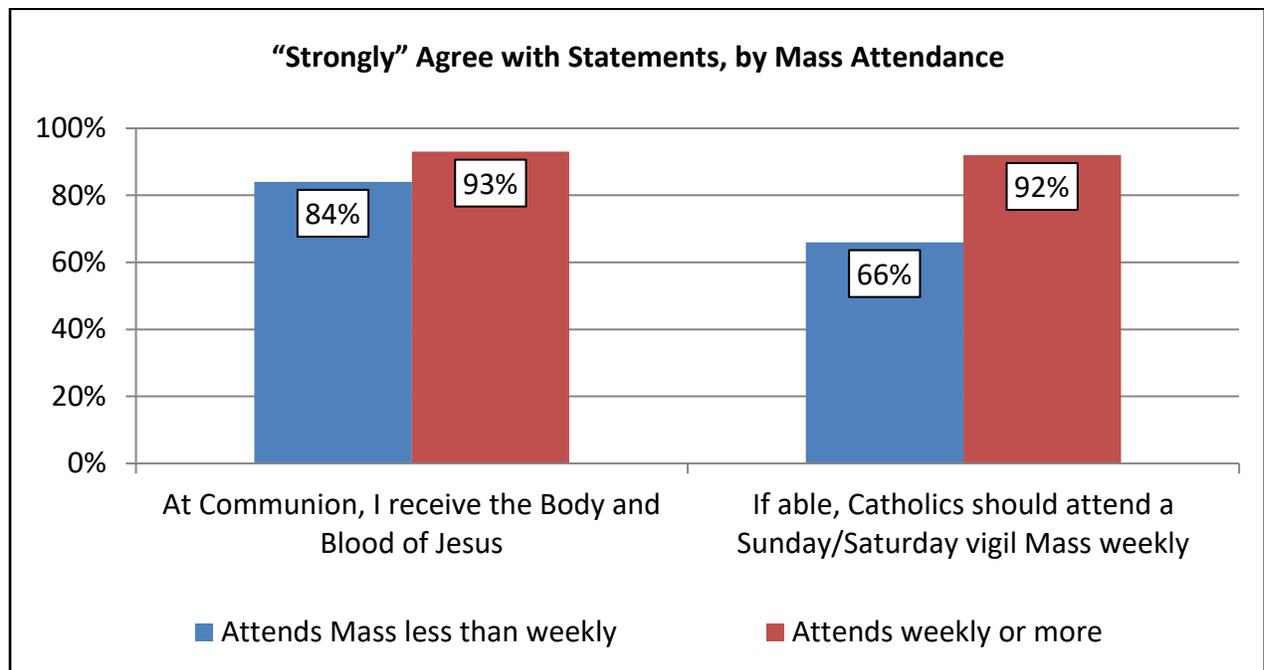
- Less than half “strongly” agree that premarital sex is wrong (45%), that they are opposed to capital punishment (34%), and that they are opposed to artificial birth control (22%).

Differences by Age Group

Respondents in the three age groups do *not* differ significantly in their agreement with any of the statements presented in this section.

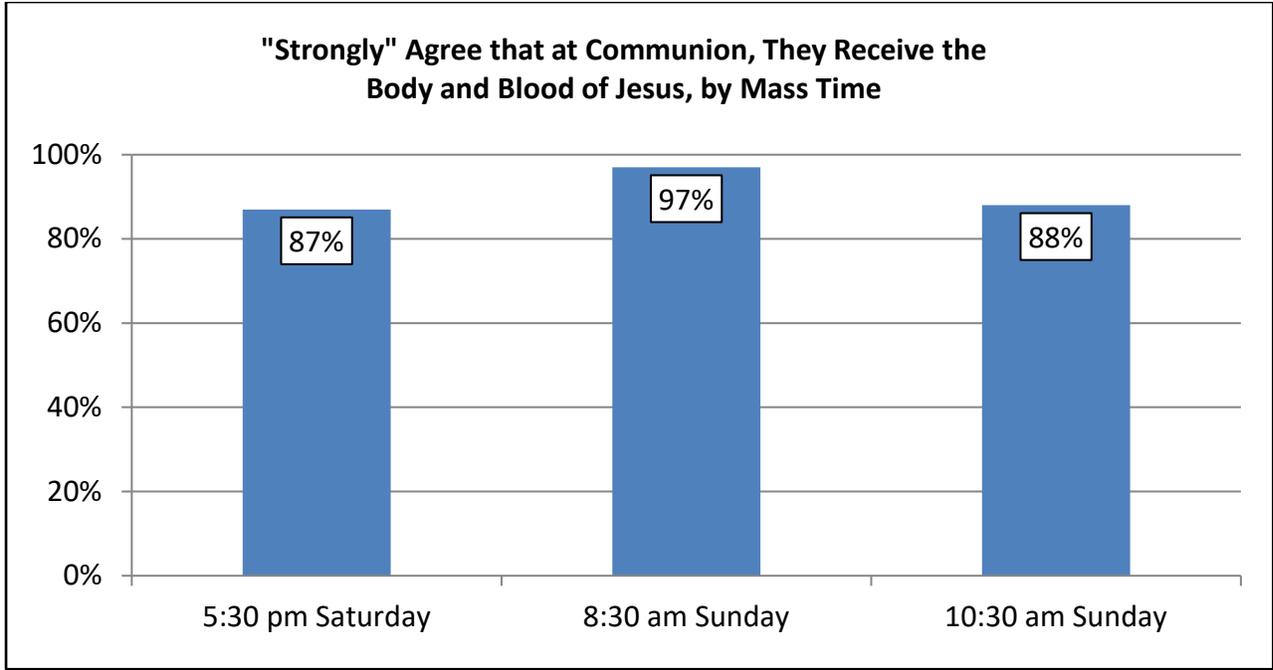
Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

Those who attend Mass at least once a week are more likely than those attending less frequently to “strongly” agree with the two statements presented in the figure below.



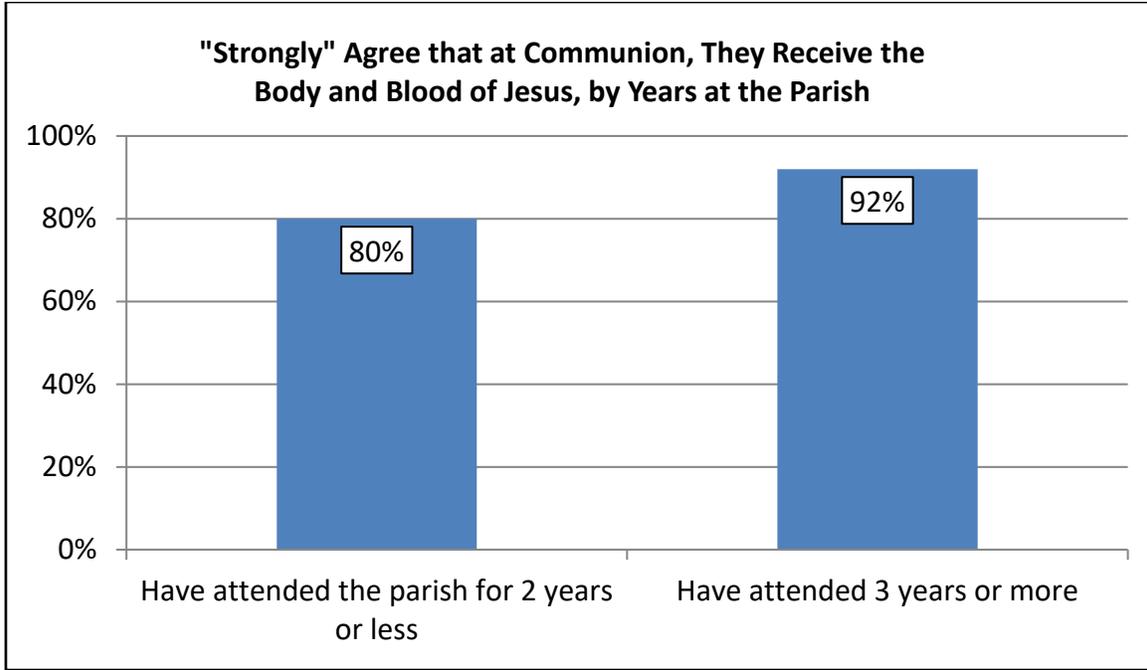
Differences by Mass of Response

Those who responded at the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass are especially likely to “strongly” agree that they receive the Body and Blood of Jesus at Communion.



Differences by Years at the Parish

Those who have attended the parish for three years or more are most likely to “strongly” agree that at Communion they receive the Body and Blood of Jesus.



Attitudes about Catholic Life

Nearly all (96% to 98%) at least “somewhat” agree with each of the first six statements in the table below about their lives as Catholics. About a third agree with the final two statements.

<i>Please respond to these about your life as a Catholic</i>		
<i>Percentage responding</i>		
	“Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree Combined	“Strongly” Agree Only
	%	%
I think of myself as a practicing Catholic	98	87
The Mass means a lot to me	98	81
I am proud to be Catholic	97	89
My Catholic faith helps me to have more compassion for those less fortunate	97	68
Sacraments are essential to my faith	96	78
I trust that God is guiding the Catholic Church	96	74
It is important to me that my parish follows Vatican directives about worship	81	35
My faith in Church leaders has been shaken by the recent abuse scandal	59	26
I can be a good Catholic without going to Confession at least once a year	51	19
I can be a good Catholic without going to Mass every week	33	10
I attend Mass mostly out of a sense of obligation	32	7

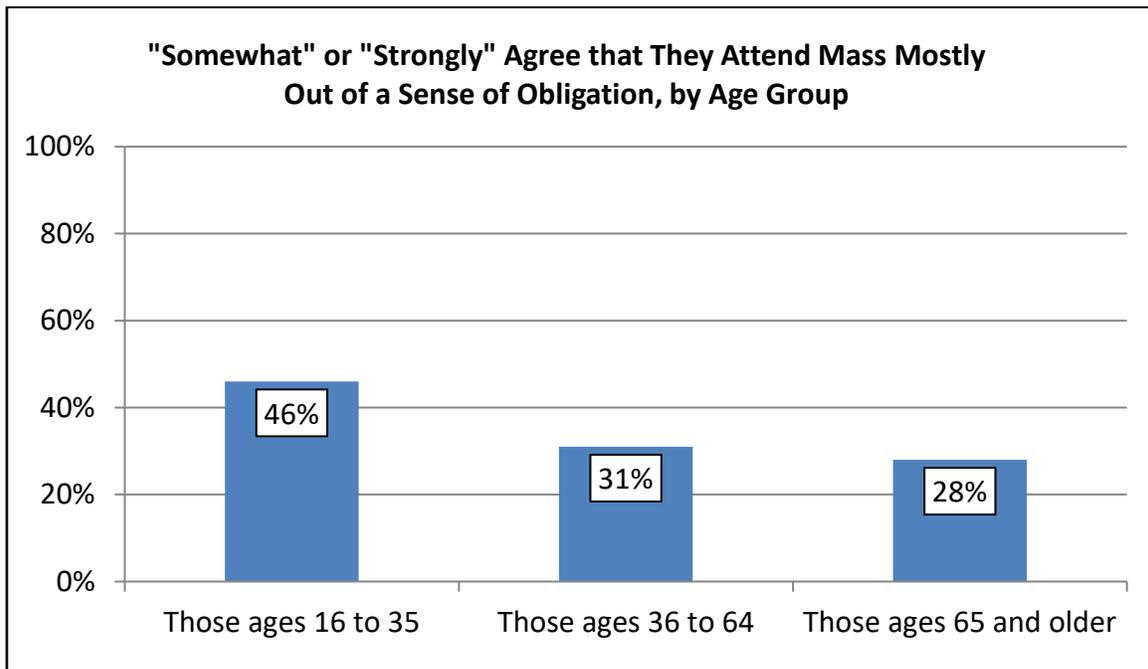
- Three-quarters to nine-tenths “strongly” agree with the following statements about their lives as Catholics: they are proud to be Catholic (89%), they think of themselves as practicing Catholics (87%), the Mass means a lot to them (81%), sacraments are essential to their faith (78%), and they trust God is guiding the Catholic Church (74%).
- Sixty-eight percent “strongly” agree that their Catholic faith helps them to have more compassion for those less fortunate.
- A quarter to a third “strongly” agree that it is important to them that the parish follows Vatican directives about worship (35%) and that their faith in Church leaders has been shaken by the recent abuse scandal (26%).

- Two-tenths or less “strongly” agree that they can be good Catholics without going to Confession at least once a year (19%), that they can be good Catholics without going to Mass every week (10%), and that they attend Mass mostly out of a sense of obligation (7%).

Differences by Age Group

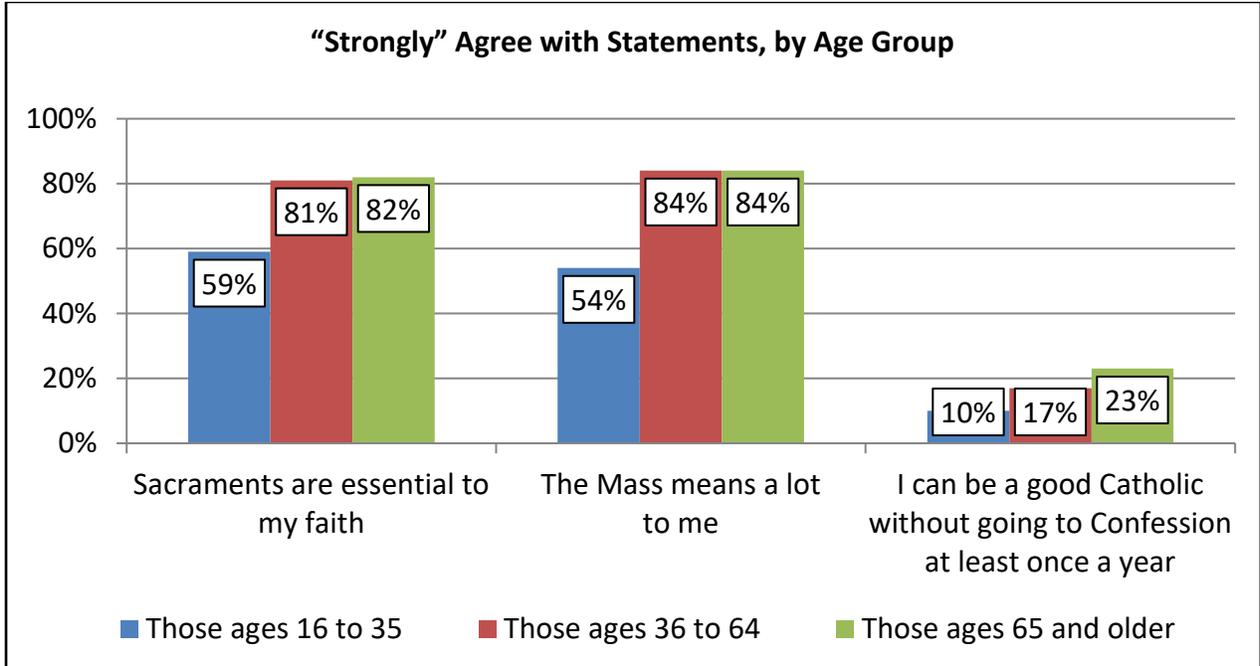
Those Who “Somewhat” or “Strongly” Agree

Those ages 16 to 35 are especially likely to “somewhat” or “strongly” agree that they attend Mass mostly out of a sense of obligation.



Those Who “Strongly” Agree

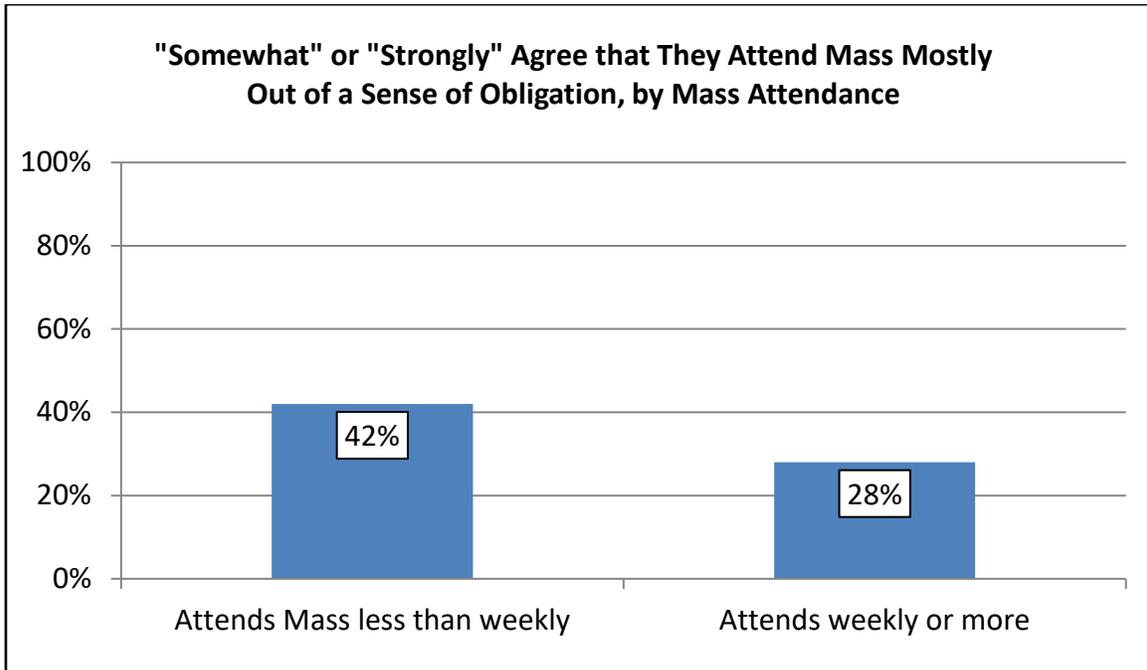
Those ages 16 to 35 are *least* likely to “strongly” agree with each of the three statements presented in the figure below.



Differences by Frequency of Mass Attendance

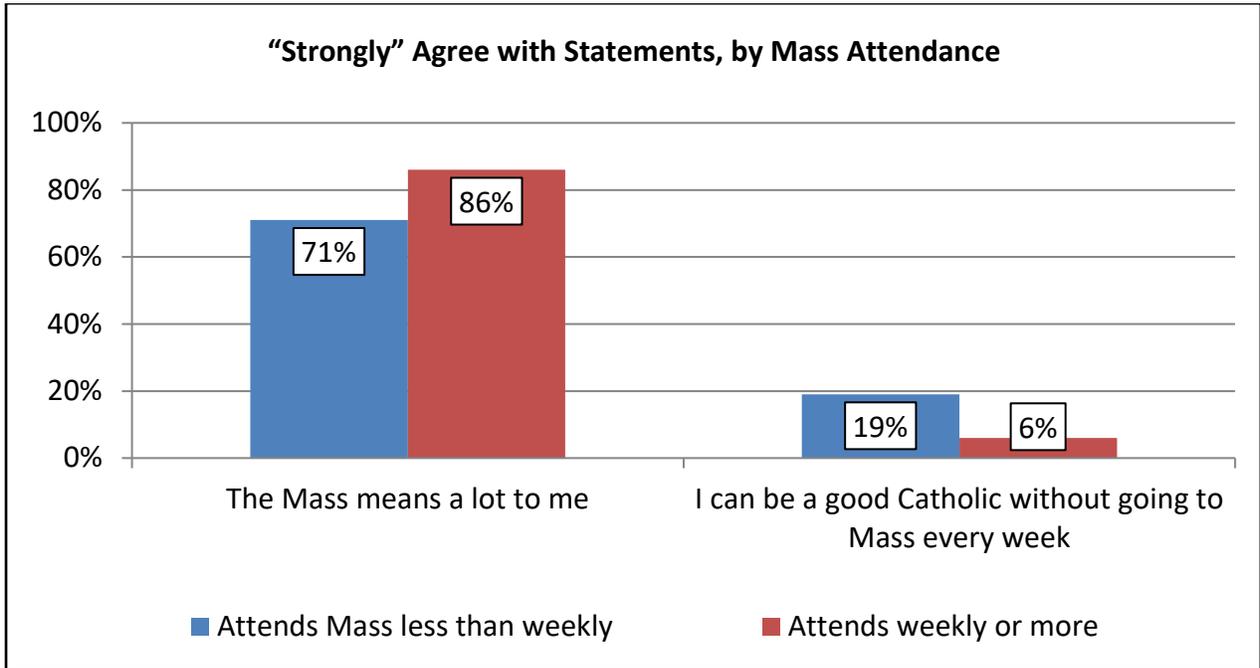
Those Who "Somewhat" or "Strongly" Agree

Those who attend Mass less than weekly are more likely than those attending more frequently to "somewhat" or "strongly" agree that they attend Mass mostly out of a sense of obligation.



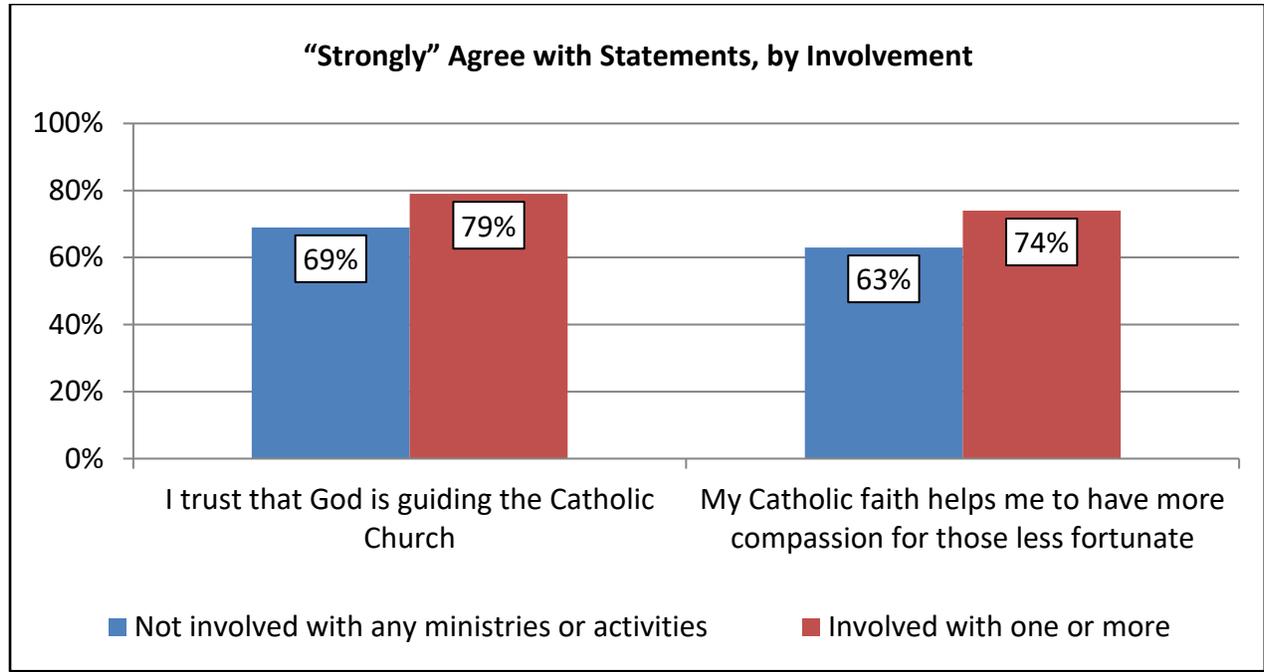
Those Who “Strongly” Agree

Those who attend Mass at least once a week are more likely to “strongly” agree that the Mass means a lot to them and are *less* likely to agree as strongly that they can be good Catholics without going to Mass every week.



Differences by Level of Involvement

Those involved with at least one ministry or activity at the parish are more likely than others to “strongly” agree with the two statements presented in the figure below.



Suggestions for Drawing More Persons to the Parish

Respondents were asked to write a response to this question: *What can our parish do to encourage others to come to Mass or return to the Catholic Church?* Some 172 wrote in a response to that question. About one in ten of the comments written is not included in the analysis below because the respondents either suggested that the parish continue what is doing as it is working or said they do not know what can be done to encourage others to return. Appendix II presents the complete transcription of all open-ended responses to this question.

Responses can be grouped into the ten broad categories below, plus one miscellaneous category. A discussion of each category follows.

- Be more welcoming
- Host events and/or Masses specifically directed at welcoming newcomers
- Advertise better
- Reach out to the local community through events and service
- More appealing worship style or expanded Mass schedule
- Parishioner outreach to inactive Catholics and non-Catholics
- Personal contact from church leaders
- Pray for the conversion of others
- Focus efforts on the youth and young adults
- Better catechesis for members

- Other suggestions

Be More Welcoming

One in seven respondents notes that they believe the best way to bring more people to the parish is by being more welcoming. Some examples of these responses appear below.

Be more inviting. Do more social activities.

Keep an open door and welcoming new or returning parishioners.

Be more welcoming and accepting of those who are different. Adapt to change on some of the older rules (i.e. birth control, divorce, priests marrying).

Continue to offer a welcoming environment.

Be sincere and welcoming. This is not always the case.

At times I felt that this church is somewhat cliquish.

Be welcoming, be engaged, pray, pray, pray. Emphasize Jesus' true presence in the Eucharist.

Unfortunately, sometimes the people who run parish ministries make people feel unwelcome because it can seem that their personal mission and satisfaction come before the mission itself.

We have a wonderful parish here at Sacred Heart. I have always felt welcomed when I entered the door. However, there is room for improvement. Some groups are very set in their ways and will not let new members participate or welcome them. Let people know if they haven't practiced their faith for a long time, that they can be forgiven. Show them how to get back to church, give them some help. Address the abuse scandal with your parish. We are angry, let us know you are angry too and want change. While you encourage us to pray about it, let's remember the victims. Praying is not only what they need now - they need the perpetrators brought to justice so they can heal. Defrock all of them, if found guilty.

Continue to be very welcoming and accepting.

Host Events and/or Masses Specifically Directed at Welcoming Newcomers

One in ten says that they believe the best way to bring more people to the parish is by hosting events and Masses that are specifically directed at evangelizing and at welcoming newcomers. Following is a sampling of these responses:

Invite others to events to learn about the Catholic Church. Host "The Catholic Faith" lectures so that people of other faiths might learn about the Catholic Church.

Look at what Protestants do; sponsor a free movie, something that the community wants to do. Offer charismatic renewal healing Masses. Many times, that brings in people. (Maybe) Everyone needs healing!

Bring in speakers.

Parish outreach to those registered but not attending. Meet and greet with those seeking faith.

I feel that our Parish could involve some more winter and outdoor summer activities, for example, bonfires and dinners in the summer and fun Christmas parties in the winter.

Those who have left the Church could be encouraged to attend a Mass, as well as those who do not go to (any) Church to see Mass in a different light.

Schedule an evening class on returning to the Church.

Continue with social activities and invite non-members.

Advertise Better

One in ten respondents suggests that they believe the best way to bring more people to the parish is through advertising, especially through social media, traditional advertising, and flyers. Below are a few typical responses:

Reach out more actively on social media, website or email.

Be more active on the Internet/ social media. I think it might encourage the younger generation to come if they see it through these avenues.

Through parish website.

Encourage website email list.

Send occasional Mass mailing saying "We miss you." Encourage those who know someone who isn't coming to mass to invite them.

Pray. Let people in the community know Mass times and that they are invited to come. Encourage parishioners to invite others to mass.

Advertising our church and welcome them to come to Mass. Use ads in the newspaper, including the Times and the Hamilton County Reporter.

Have more signs up around Cicero, Tipton, Arcadia. Things that mention theology on top and other activities that could help people learn more about God.

Reach out to the Local Community through Events and Service

One in ten participants says that they believe the best way to bring more people to the parish is by outreach to the local community through events and services. Following is a sampling of these responses:

Be more visible in our town.

Community outreach programs.

I feel the Fish Frys are a nice community event, things like that help the community to see what we represent.

Do more activities in the community and teach about faith outside the church.

Continue Fish Fry, others events, provide more and advertising for classes and Bible study.

Bigger presence in surrounding communities (i.e. Farmers, market booths, county fair, Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, Shepherd's Center. Sponsor more community events).

Larger presence in the community.

Public involvement. Welcome committee.

More Appealing Worship Style or Expanded Mass Schedule

Nearly one in ten believes the best way to bring more people to the parish is to make adaptations to the worship style or by expanding the Mass schedule. Below are a few examples:

Make the Mass a true celebration and limit "Catholic Guilt."

I read the 4 traits of a dynamic Catholic and felt inspired. Powerful sermons and less repetition with personal stories may help. Humor is also great. We had a 80 year old priest this winter in Florida who used humor and every Mass felt joyful and celebratory.

As a convert, worship in my prior churches was so upbeat and welcoming. Our church needs to let everyone know worshipping our great God can be upbeat and exciting! Our Church has a lot of young couples. We attended Harbor Shores trunk and treating yearly, and the Cicero Christian Church Easter Egg Hunt. Would love to attend our church events. More church events -- Trunk and Treatings. Easter Egg Hunts.

Keep Fr. Dale. No chanting Masses, please! Add another Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Shorter Masses.

Keep investing in music!

Make it more interesting. I have attended other churches and felt more engaged with the service, i.e., Northernview Christians Modernized services.

Parishioner Outreach to Inactive Catholics and Non-Catholics

Just over one in 20 suggests that they believe the best way to bring more people to the parish is by having parishioners reach out to the inactive Catholics and non-Catholics they know and invite them to the parish. Following are some sample comments:

Give parishioners' business cards to hand out with Parish's address, phone number, Mass schedules, confessions schedules.

By word of mouth; how great mass will make your day/week.

Pray. Let people in the community know Mass times and that they are invited to come. Encourage parishioners to invite others to mass.

Educate people on how to invite people back. Add it to the announcements each week.

I guess just bringing in to the forefront of our minds with practical ways to do it from Fr's homilies. Fr. Dale does a great job at giving us homework.

Ask our friends and neighbors.

Personal Contact from Church Leaders

Slightly more than one in 20 survey participants indicates that they believe the best way to bring more people to the parish is by having parish leaders personally contact inactive Catholics and the unchurched. Here are some responses:

Personal contact by priest.

Prayer and contact.

Seek out new faces and personally welcome them.

Face-to-face communication.

Talk to them.

Ask for them to return.

Pray for the Conversion of Others

More than one in 20 indicates that they believe the best way to bring more people to the parish is by praying for the conversion of others. Following are a sampling of these responses:

Continue to pray for them.

Ask parishioners to pray for strayed Catholics.

Have social activities and pray for them to come and return.

Pray!

Pray.

Focus Efforts on the Youth and Young Adults

Just over one in 20 say that they believe the best way to bring more people to the parish is to focus on the youth and young adults and they will bring others with them. These are a sampling of these responses:

Programs more appealing to youth.

More engaging activities for teen youth. See Our Lady of Mount Carmel youth group.

Have more entertaining activities that appeal to young parishioners.

Any kind of outreach within the schools.

Have activities for young adults in their 20s and 30s that would be enjoyable for these age groups.

Better Catechesis for Members

One in 20 responding parishioners says that they believe the best way to bring more people to the parish is through better catechesis of the current parishioners. Below are a sampling of these responses:

Open, friendly, welcoming. Refresh course on what it means to live the Catholic faith in today's world.

Better understanding - what is expected of me in today's world, where Government now does what the Church used to do (i.e. Taxes vs. taking care for others vs. social welfare).

Teach the "why" - my generation lost those teachings - we didn't get them. Many left.

I think adult Ed. classes similar to PRE would encourage those who have lost their way. A greater understanding of our faith would go a long way.

Other Suggestions

One in seven gives suggestions for how to bring more people to the parish that do not fit into any of the above categories. The themes of these suggestions are mentioned by two or less respondents. Below is a sampling of these responses:

This is such a hard question because there is such a sense of anger at all the scandals and growing population of "nones." I think the Church as a whole needs to get out of politics, get rid of bad priests, bishops, and Cardinals and just stick to Catechism.

Make things about God and not the Catholic Church. The Church tries to act as "God" and not as a path to God. The Church only cares about its power and image.

Reach out to them specifically.

Make an effort to find out why they stopped attending.

Model Jesus's behavior – be kind. Love each other fully in all our actions.

Lead by example.

Offer rides if needed. Open house.

Be attentive to their needs.

Be orthodox.

Give them a good reason to come that goes beyond generational affiliation.

Appendix I: Response Frequencies to All Questions

Please use these responses for the questions below.

1=Strongly disagree 3=Somewhat agree
2=Somewhat disagree 4=Strongly agree
Blank=Don't know or not applicable

Please **respond** to these statements about your beliefs.

1 2 3 4 NR

- <1 <1 4 96 2 54. I believe Jesus died for my sins
1 3 14 82 4 55. I believe it is possible to have a personal
encounter with God
<1 3 13 84 5 56. If able, Catholics should attend a Sunday/
Saturday vigil Mass weekly
7 13 23 57 8 57. Catholics should go to Confession at least
once a year
1 1 7 90 6 58. At Communion, I receive the Body and
Blood of Jesus
6 23 26 45 8 59. Premarital sex is wrong
16 23 27 34 9 60. I am opposed to capital punishment (the
death penalty)
3 4 10 83 6 61. I am opposed to abortion
30 29 20 22 7 62. I am opposed to artificial birth control
1 9 37 53 9 63. I feel personally called by God into a
deeper relationship
1 6 26 67 5 64. God has a plan for my life and so all things
that happen to me, happen according to
God's plan

Please **respond** to the following about parish life.

1 2 3 4 NR

- 4 10 54 31 14 65. I want to be more involved in parish life
1 11 49 39 12 66. The parish is helping me understand the
true meaning of the sacraments
1 10 44 46 12 67. The parish helps me to understand my
baptismal responsibilities
18 31 27 24 26 68. I am comfortable asking for help from the
parish (such as financial help, meals,
respite for caretakers)
1 1 14 84 6 69. I enjoy attending Mass at this parish
1 2 19 79 8 70. When I attend Mass here, I leave feeling
closer to God

Please **respond** to these about parish communication.

1 2 3 4 NR

- 1 5 32 62 37 71. I feel well informed about what goes on in
this parish
1 2 26 71 9 72. The bulletin effectively communicates
issues related to parish life
1 0 11 89 6 73. I listen to the announcements read at Mass
14 6 16 64 25 74. I read emails sent to me from the parish
22 10 22 46 23 75. I use the parish Pictorial Directory
27 10 16 47 24 76. I read last year's parish finance report

77. What *best* describes you? **Please select only one.**

- 61 1. Active Catholic since birth 1 4. Inactive Catholic
12 2. Returned Catholic 3 5. Non-Catholic
23 3. Catholic convert **NR=4**

78. About how *often* do you currently attend Mass?

- <1 1. Never or rarely 30 4. Almost every week
1 2. A few times a year 53 5. Every week
1 3. Once or twice a month 14 6. More than once a week
NR=3

79. Excluding your Mass attendance, how many ministries
or activities are you involved with at this parish?

- 54 1. None 26 3. Two to four
17 2. One 3 4. Five or more **NR=7**

AVG NR

11 32 80. Years you have attended this parish?

**Leave blank if this is not your regular
parish. Write "1" if one year or less.**

Yes No NR

- 73 27 6 81. Are you registered in this parish?
83 17 6 82. Is this parish your primary place of worship?
22 78 17 83. Have any of your children attended religious
education classes here in the past 5 years?
20 80 13 84. Have you attended adult religious education
classes here in the past 5 years?

AVG NR

1960 5 85. Year you were born: _____ (4-digit year)

86. Gender: 43 1. Male 57 2. Female **NR=4**

87. What *best* describes your current marital status?

- 8 1. Single, never married 7 3. Divorced or separated
78 2. Married or remarried 7 4. Widowed **NR=4**

88. What is the most important need for our parish to
focus on in the next one to three years?

89. What can our parish do to encourage others to
come to Mass or return to the Catholic Church?

Thank you for completing this survey.

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Appendix II: Complete Transcription of Open-ended Comments

Question 88. What is the most important need for our parish to focus on in the next one to three years?

The comments below have been lightly edited for grammar, spelling and punctuation.

5 pm Saturday Mass

Bible Study.

I love my parish, and all those that serve it do a fantastic job.

Potential growth of Area and Preparedness to prepare for younger parishioners.

Keep the great homilies, fruitful harvest is too much, create a space for babies.

It is important to stay focused on what things are happening in the real world and how this relates to us as Christians. The Homilies have to make sense! Important to have all generations represented. Have attended Masses in Florida where they have elementary/high school students more involved on a monthly basis.

Continue on the same working path! The Parish is growing.

Possibly more adoration and maybe more adult religious education. When I say "adoration" I mean Eucharistic adoration & having it available more often.

Parish more missions, adult studies, mission trip, group-parish volunteer days.

Not a member - love the Catholic Faith, but not very fond of the Catholic Church and its Hierarchy.

Keep engaged with the parishioners. Understand the needs of modern people, dual-working parents.

More ways to encourage newcomers to become more actively involved in the parish.

Long term planning for our growth.

Just keeping an open mind.

Community outreach for the poor and forgotten in N. Hamilton Co visiting, bringing meals, bringing to Church.

The body and blood of Christ.

Getting people back to Church.

Bringing others to Christ through prayers and service.

Strive to get more people involved. We tend to see the same 20% doing 80% of the activity. Help us see how we can help the Church through the crisis in the Church.

Having a workshop space for growth (for children and adults).

Continue to do what we are already doing: to pray and also increase faith.

Leadership programs for family. One day conferences.

Catholic leadership for men and women, one-day Saturday Conf.

Getting more small adult groups. Keep preaching the good word.

Add ministries.

Participation at Mass (not just attendance).

Vocations.

Growth - community is growing, and outreach. Maintain strong leadership. Expanding youth activities.

More tradition in the music and the Liturgy; they desperately need it. The music is all modern and terrible.

Devotion to faith.

Liturgy.

I'd like to see young adult formation. We are losing our kids and the church needs to reach out with more programs for young adults.

Adult education prayer.

Outreach; parishioners' involvement.

Adult Religious education. Future of SHJ.

Bring back our preschool program. Outreach for homeschoolers. Possibly start our own school.

More events for young adults.

Don't know.

Child daycare or Mother's Day Out. More parish study programs.

Life issues: abortion, suicide, assisted suicide.

Building communities or small groups.

Helping the less fortunate, food pantry.

Better music.

Outreach to young adults.

Food pantry.

Growth, participation.

Visiting for today.

I am a visitor today while traveling through.

Staying relevant to current issues.

Music choices should be songs that parishioners are familiar with so participation grows. Also could be more contemporary/upbeat.

Growth.

Stay relevant. Sermons regarding current happenings.

Peppy music.

Mass in Latin.

Family and those in religious crisis.

Outreach.

Our small parish is a mixture of young and old. We need to participate in more activities to bring people together. Also, could do more outreach programs.

I feel that we need to focus on more youth activities in the parish for all ages. I also feel as if we should have more children participating in the Parish.

Encouraging more young people to attend. Allowing some bending of some rules. Don't be so black and white.

I don't know much about the youth group. But I do know that you have to get the youth and young families involved in order for the Church survival (i.e. Mom's day out, Easter Egg hunt, movie night, etc.).

Adult formation. Young parent ministry.

Retaining our priest and deacon.

Need more youth in parish. However, I do not have any suggestions.

8 am Sunday Mass

Ministries for children younger than school aged.

Growth for families moving to the area.

More fun and engaging activities for the kids/adults. No chanting masses.

Trying to get exiting Parishioners more involved in current ministries.

The homeless in our community outreach.

Adult study groups.

Improving the image of the church nationally.

Adult education.

I think it is important to keep this parish as strong as it is today by sharing the homilies.

Making sure that people go outside the chapel after mass is over so that others can pray; focus on the scripture in the homily -- avoid passing out papers or giving news.

Renewing our Catholic Faith through education of the "why" we do things.

I would like to have the option of a Sunday evening Mass.

As far as I know it's good.

PRE parent involvement.

Growth.

Healing, prayer & human understanding of life. Father Dale is the best teacher and mentor we can have.

Youth groups that are fun and encourage kids to bring friends.

Evangelize Catholics, talk more about the Pope & what he believes.

Outreach to community.

Tangible outreach to the poor - service opportunities.

Three years.

Add a very early Mass if possible (ex. 6:30). 8:00 is becoming very distracting.

I know it is not possible but quit growing. I miss our small Parish. Will be transferring parishes to St. John Tipton when P.R.E is over this year.

Responsible growth. Financial conservatism.

Have adult education program during children's education time. Could be held in the old chapel. Would likely be well attended.

Not sure.

Not sure.

Our parish has slowly become more worldly. Only few women wear veils, most everyone received Communion in their hands instead of the tongue and the choir is at the front of the Chapel instead of at the back where it should be. For the next few years, our parish must work to restore the old ways of Catholicism. Choir in the back, no phones, Communion in the tongue, and a push to wear veils.

Continue to involve families & grow our parish.

Adult education - quick and easy, like between masses at coffee and donuts; in a certain part of the room.

Bringing people closer to God and continuing to educate people more on the Bible.

Youth.

Children's outreach.

Keep the warmth & positiveness.

Attendance for young families seems low...very few attend Sunday School. Don't know how to fix, but looks like an issue and a need to address.

Like what we're doing.

Serving the needs of people in our community who are struggling. Showing them God's love.

Keep doing what you are doing – don't mess with success! Father Dale is a terrific pastor.

Pro-life advocacy. The sex scandal in the church needs to be addressed locally and all the way to the Vatican.

Brining lapsed Catholics back to the Church.

Bring God back into our world.

Population growth. Children and teenagers' education.

Younger family inclusion.

Helping others. Communicating the faith. Be an example.

Priest and nuns should marry so they can better identify with the people. I don't think women should be ruled by a body of single men.

Love.

Pre-school/playground for kids.

9:00 am Sunday Mass.

Growth.

To create fun groups that do fun stuff with children so that they can engage and learn. Sunday School in a fun manner instead of just sitting.

Evangelizing the people who already come to Mass, in order to prepare them to evangelize others.

More activities available for young families. Additional activities /events related to young couples (Beyond Theology on Tap).

Growth.

Since I am recently a new member, it is hard to make a recommendation without knowing more. Do we think a renewal program is needed - CRHP?

I very strongly feel that women need to be in positions of influence in the Catholic Church as a whole. I realize that the Pope is probably who needs to take the lead on this; the early church had many women helping Jesus. But now how many women do you think the Pope surrounds himself with as advisors in the Vatican? The sexual abuse scandal would never have occurred with women in influence. How much pain and monetary pay-outs would this have saved?

Education for parishioners and helping the poor.

Eucharistic adoration more than the 1st Friday.

To continue to bring young families into the parish to maintain and establish the continuity of our parish.

The younger kids (in the next 1-3 years) will become an important part of Church Community, so perhaps their involvement can be instilled early.

How to handle growth and keep our community intimate.

Planning for parish growth. Social justice ministries.

Maybe some spiritual support/guidance for people whose spouses don't attend church.

Continue communication through the bulletin and emails.

Need women groups - small groups to support one another. Does anyone visit the sick at home or at the hospital?

10:30 am Sunday Mass

Would love to see the beginnings of a school.

Bible studies for adults.

Youth group.

Reestablish trust after all the sex abuse. Drain the swamp. Reevaluate the acceptance of imperfect people in an imperfect world -- love.

More parish social activities to encourage more people to participate and become part of the community.

Religious education after confirmation.

Healthcare for the sick.

Bringing new people to God.

Faith formation for all ages, not just K-8.

Helping us grow closer to God in our understanding of our Catholic faith.

A "parents with young children" room where parents take turns, one mass per week, to have children aged 5 and under to go to. Cursillo! Best kept secret. Needs to be discussed for everyone to know about it.

People needs?

More service outreach.

Family outreach, marriage, group gatherings.

Focus on family. Raising our families with discipline and compassion in today's world & challenges.

Following God's Law.

Growth.

Be steadfast. Catholics and Christians are under attack. Bishop Council needs to push for more acknowledgment of persecuted Christians.

Offer Bible studies. Find ways to encourage involvement of youth.

To be more inclusive with one another.

To be more inclusive so people feel welcome in participating in activities & fellowships.

Keeping the youth!

The music, change the mass setting; we have used renewal for years. Also, more Hymns that actually match the readings each day in the church. The music is always sad.

Getting more teenagers into Mass.

Continue to welcome families with younger children.

I believe that the Father and the Deacon are doing a very good job of engaging people and working to improve the church. Please continue your efforts.

More involvement, interactivity outside church - Parish, picnics, races.

Continue growing parish. More children/teen events (youth group).

Getting more 18-30-year-olds involved in the parish. My children don't go anymore because they say it should be a celebration to go and they just see ceremony and bored faces.

Music, ministry, involve children more on Sundays.

Continued positive leadership. Leadership change can be a huge negative.

Community outreach & Religious education.

Programs for youth and adults. More book clubs, etc. Monitor size plan for a larger congregation.

Adult classes. Mission trips?

Both.

Getting others involved. Explain during Mass the programs and flat rate for youth classes, ERE, Confirmation, etc.

Outreach to charitable ministries and more involvement with charitable organizations.

Saving money.

Traditions and education.

How great God is!

Outreach to the youth.

Better/longer religious education. Youth ministries.

Faith formation opportunities to serve others locally.

The love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

I would appreciate more adult's education courses.

Mass community outreach in middle/high school, youth group.

Need to focus on education for young people. Need to hire a full-time paid director for education so they can grow our program. We should have a strong teen program since those are the tumultuous years in a young person's life. They need to know that their parish family supports and loves them. We need to continue educating the adults as well. We should have weekly small group meetings where people can go more in-depth with their faith. People have questions about their faith, especially as they get older. These questions need to be answered so they can grow closer to God. We need more ministries that reach out to families and welcome them into the Church. We need to pull in our young families with activities that interest them. Do a survey asking families what interests them, and what do they want to see happening at Church. We need a strong Deacon who can inspire and ignite people, especially when he is teaching. I do not feel like we have that now. Homilies need to relate more to everyday life. In this way, people will better understand what the Gospel is saying and what the priest is preaching. When you tie it to everyday life, you are better able to live according to God's word. While the food pantry is a wonderful ministry, we place too much emphasis on it. There other ministries that allow us to reach out the community.

Not sure.

Clear up sexual abuse in Catholic Church.

Let this parish and the people identify if not outside the scandals.

Focus on human rights.

For me? Adult education. Here is an entire generation of adults who were poorly catechized.

Education, Bible studies, Church history, Mass in slow motion.

Same as below! We attended mass for 7 weeks in a parish in Florida. I felt it was a true celebration from the music to the homily; very little "Catholic Guilt" that I was raised with.

Religious education for children & adults, faith formation, women's groups, we're over it here!

A more developed youth group.

I feel like a more common and active youth group is important.

[Illegible] is a low need to reach out to these families. Sometimes I don't feel welcomed when I try to volunteer. Need continuous religious education for adults.

Continuing to show acceptance to all who worship.

Abortion.

LBH inclusion. Abuse.

Parish outreach.

Today's issues.

Too new to parish, feel at home.

More activities that are social- and faith-oriented, I want to be more involved.

Growth.

For all to believe. Spread the Gospel.

Question 89: What can our parish do to encourage others to come to Mass or return to the Catholic Church?

The comments below have been lightly edited for grammar, spelling and punctuation.

5 pm Saturday Mass

Personal contact by Priest.

Speak out about problems confronting the Church, i.e. abortion, birth control, sex scandals, immigration.

Invite others to events to learn about the Catholic Church. Host "The Catholic Faith" lectures so that people of other faiths might learn about the Catholic Church.

Give parishioners' business cards to hand out with Parish's address, phone number, Mass schedules, confessions schedules.

At times I felt that this Church is somewhat cliquish.

Continue on the same working path! The Parish is growing.

This is such a hard question because there is such a sense of anger at all the scandals and growing population of "nones". I think the Church as a whole needs to get out of politics, get rid of bad priests, bishops, and Cardinals and just stick to Catechism.

Make things about God and not the Catholic Church. The Church tries to act as "God" and not as a path to God. The Church only cares about its power and image.

Make it interesting. I have attended other churches and felt more engaged with the service, i.e. Northernview Christians Modernized services.

Open, friendly, welcoming. Refresh course on what it means to live the Catholic faith in today's world.

Send occasional Mass mailing saying "We miss you". Encourage those who know someone who isn't coming to mass to invite them.

Keep the good work you are doing.

Keep doing it how you are now.

By word of mouth; how great mass will make your day/week.

Personal invitations to come to mass especially during Lent, Easter, advent and Christmas time.

Prayer and contact.

This issue is one that confronts the Catholic faith in general - locally Parish [illegible] would have to promote the church and its good deeds-- unless the world leadership changes. Hard to promote local growth.

Let them decide when the time is right for them and helping them to change their hearts.

Invitation to all activities.

Many times just showing up helps.

Pray. Let people in the community know Mass times and that they are invited to come. Encourage parishioners to invite others to mass.

Advertising our church and welcome them to come to Mass. Use ads in the newspaper, including the Times and the Hamilton County Reporter.

Seek out new faces & personally welcome them.

As a parish, more visible in the community.

Be more visible in our town.

Pray!

Model Jesus' behavior – be kind. Love each other fully in all our actions.

Programs more appealing to youth.

Communication marketing plan. Youth programs. Improved music -- more celebratory, youthful music.

Return to tradition. This is what I long for. Tradition in music and liturgy.

Pray.

Keep investing in music!

Look at what Protestants do; sponsor a free movie, something that the community wants to do. Offer charismatic renewal healing Masses. Many times, that brings in people. (Maybe) Everyone needs healing!

Speak to others before and after Mass. Put the Mass Times in the help pantry.

Bring in Speakers.

I don't know.

I don't know, sorry.

Don't know.

Parish outreach to those registered but not attending. Meet and greet with those seeking faith.

Better understanding - what is expected of me in today's world, where Government now does what the Church used to do (i.e. Taxes vs. taking care for others vs. social welfare).

Easier access for handicap.

Be welcoming. Most Parishes have a sense of who's who. Assigned positions, etc.

Be supportive of parishioners' needs.

Adapt to change.

Offer rides if needed. Open house.

Shorter Masses.

Be more inviting. Do more social activities.

Our Parish could include more advertising.

I feel that our Parish could involve some more winter and outdoor summer activities, for example, bonfires and dinners in the summer and fun Christmas parties in the winter.

Make an effort to find out why they stopped attending.

I feel the Fish Frys are a nice community event, things like that help the community to see what we represent.

Regular adult Formation classes. Parent classes.

I don't know.

Improved public relations might help.

Have activities for young adults in their 20's & 30's that would be enjoyable for these age groups.

8 am Sunday Mass

Casual environment. Easy to get involved.

Keep Father Dale. No chanting Masses, please! Add another mass at 9:00 am.

Community meals, not just our parish meals. Community movies, nights, play dates. Things to invite others.

Christian community have a good model to bring people to the church; vibrant, alive...not so stuffy.

Community outreach programs.

Have more signs up around Cicero, Tipton, Arcadia. Things that mention theology on top and other activities that could help people learn more about God.

I believe in their choice.

Teach the “why” - my generation lost those teachings - we didn't get them. Many left.

Try to make some kind of contact with those who don't attend.

Any kind of outreach within the schools.

Continue the wonderful hospitality. Become a greater presence in community.

Have more entertaining activities that appeal to young parishioners.

Be more welcoming and accepting of those who are different. Adapt to change on some of the older rules (i.e. Birth control, divorce, Priests marrying).

Lead by example.

Spread the word.

I think to the Catholic Church.

Invite community to a Q&A session.

Continue with Parish & Community Functions and Adult Growth Programs.

Not Sure.

Pray.

More engaging activities for teen youth, see Our Lady of Mount Carmel youth group.

Do more activities in the community and teach about faith outside the church.

Be an example of Christ – a role model.

Become more active/present in the community.

Continue to offer a welcoming environment.

Change mass time of 8:00. Being understanding of the base of the church.

It is such a personal thing that I really don't know.

Ask for them to return.

Seeking God with our whole heart and encountering those around us with true love. Having more open conversations as a parish about faith issues.

I think adult Ed. classes similar to PRE would encourage those who have lost their way. A greater understanding of our faith would go a long way.

I think Sacred Heart gets it right.

Be welcoming.

Continue to stay true to doctrine. Community outreach.

Face-to-face communication.

Hold more events in community (dinners, silent auctions, etc.).

Continue to pray for them.

More open social events, picnics. Events/sponsorship.

What happened to all the priests that have molested our children? Are they in prison? Are we supporting them financially?

Love.

Have young adult discussions with childcare.

Be open and inviting.

Schedule an evening class on returning to the Church.

Be sincere and welcoming. This was not always the case.

Give them a good reason to come that goes beyond generational affiliation.

Educate.

Educate people on how to invite people back. Add it to the announcements each week.

I guess just bringing in to the forefront of our minds with practical ways to do it from Fr's homilies. Fr. Dale does a great job at giving us homework.

Ask our friends and neighbors.

Keep an open door and welcoming new or returning parishioners.

Those who have left the Church could be encouraged attend a Mass, as well as those who do not go to (any) Church to see Mass in a different light.

Be welcoming, be engaged, pray, pray, pray. Emphasize Jesus' true presence in the eucharist.

Have social activities & pray for them to come and return.

Something to help encourage/strengthen the faith of teenagers. So many leave church when they leave home.

Continue to encourage the youth of the parish with activities designed to bring their friends.

Ask them, watch EWTN to learn how to explain and answer questions. We need more fun gatherings, so much loneliness.

10:30 am Sunday Mass

Be attentive to their needs.

Keep being welcoming and nice. We are impressed with everyone.

Not sure.

Pray.

Communicate, lead by example.

Already does it well.

This is a need. I have no suggestions, sad thing.

Reach out via letter and other means.

Reach out more actively on social media, website or email.

Be more active on the Internet/social media. I think it might encourage the younger generation to come if they see it through these avenues.

Being able to follow the order of Mass.

Talk to them.

Continue Fish Fry, others events, provide more and advertising for classes and Bible study.

Bigger presence in surrounding communities (i.e. Farmers, market booths, county fair, Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, Shepherd's Center. Sponsor more community events).

Evangelization training for consistent parishioners.

As you are doing now.

As a convert, worship in my prior churches was so upbeat and welcoming. Our church needs to let everyone know worshipping our great God can be upbeat and exciting! Our Church has a lot of young couples. We attended Harbor Shores trunk and treating yearly, and the Cicero Christian Church Easter Egg Hunt. Would love to attend our church events. More church events -- Trunk and Treatings. Easter Egg Hunts.

Announce it better. Invite more people that are serious.

More seminars. Would like programs to understand one's faith.

Really wish there was a crying room.

Ask parishioners to pray for strayed Catholics.

See above.

We need to have a youth mass at least once a month. Fun worship music. We lose our youth to the "rock concert" churches.

I make people grow with me.

Offer more "fun" activities -- a better and more involved youth group would help.

Unfortunately, sometimes the people who run parish ministries make people feel unwelcome because it can seem that their personal mission and satisfaction come before the mission itself.

Word of mouth from all of us.

I read the 4 traits of a dynamic Catholic and felt inspired. Powerful sermons and less repetition with personal stories may help. Humor is also great. We had a 80 year old priest this winter in Florida who used humor and every Mass felt joyful and celebratory.

Food truck festival, family events, life groups.

Get more children involved. They'll bring adults back.

Have a presence at community events.

I am not sure.

Keep doing what is being done. I've noticed higher attendance each week/month.

Become more relevant to today's society -- social, government, environmental, economic issues that are part of daily struggles.

Encourage website email list.

Evangelize amongst ourselves and that we carry that responsibility forth for others.

Reach out.

Word of mouth from the faithful.

Mailings, informational bulletin, and Lobby.

Make sure all people are very welcomed. Do not exclude.

I am not registered to this parish, but conveying the message that attending Mass strengthens your relationship with God is key and should be important to all Christians.

Pubic involvement. Welcome committee.

Be welcoming, not judgmental.

We have a wonderful parish here at Sacred Heart. I have always felt welcomed when I entered the door. However, there is room for improvement. Some groups are very set in their ways and will not let new members participate or welcome them. Let people know if they haven't practiced their faith for a long time, that they can be forgiven. Show them how to get back to church, give them some help. Address the abuse scandal with your parish. We are angry, let us know you are angry too and want change. While you encourage us to pray about it, let's remember the victims. Praying is not only what they need now- they need the perpetrators brought to justice so they can heal. Defrock all of them, if found guilty.

Through Parish website.

Continue as you are.

Reach out to them specifically.

Call out/admit abuse and corruption even if it means confronting Rome. Continue to welcome all seekers without initial judgment (i.e. "We welcome those of you who are not Catholic, etc.").

Point out the good work the church does in areas such social justice.

Be Orthodox.

Do what you are doing. Excited parishioners bring new people.

Make the Mass a true celebration and limit "Catholic Guilt".

Invite them to parish events. Have someone to reach out to them.

Help show others how to get more involved.

Continue with social activities and invite non-members.

Must be more welcoming. Make it fun with coffee times, movies. Need to educate about glory of Catholic Church and need good teachers.

Continue to be very welcoming and accepting.

Contact.

Talk about today's issues.

Forgiveness, especially with divorced people.

Community outreach and activities.

Larger presence in the community.

Motivate parishioners to spread the word about Christ.