



Church of Saint Ann *"Faith in Our Future"* Survey

Parish Summary

PARISH CORE TEAM

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April 2016

About the Survey

- 468 parishioners provided feedback; 364 completed the full survey; Surveys were collected from January 19th to February 8th
- Nearly 9 in 10 surveys were submitted online; 2/3 were done on a mobile device
- The survey is largely representative of parishioners over age 45, mainly from Lawrenceville, generally attend mass at least weekly, and read the Sunday Steward for parish information.

Age	
65+	34%
55-64	26%
45-54	19%
35-44	16%
25-34	2%
<25	2%

Race	
White/Caucasian	91%
Hispanic	3%
Asian	3%
Black/African American	2%
Native American	1%

Town of Residence	
Lawrenceville	66%
Ewing	15%
Hamilton	7%
Trenton	3%
Princeton	3%
Other*	6%

**Hopewell, Yardley, Newtown, Robbinsville, etc.*

Ethnicity	
Ireland	27%
Italy	20%
Slovakia	14%
Poland	10%
Philippines	3%
Germany	3%
England	2%
Other*	22%

**Russia, Hungary, Latin America, Puerto Rico*

Family Status	
Single w/no Children (<i>and divorced/widowed</i>)	13%
Single w/ Children (<i>and divorced/widowed</i>)	11%
Married w/ no Children	5%
Married w/ Children (<i>dependents or grown</i>)	71%

Frequency of Mass Attendance	
Daily	3%
Sundays, Holy Days & some Week Days	17%
Most/All Sundays & Holy Days	67%
Occasionally Sundays & Some Holy Days	13%

Church Attend Most Often		Average # of Years as Parishioner
St. Michael	10%	17.0
St. Ann	90%	19.0

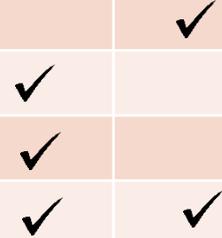
Preferred Sources of Parish Information	
Sunday Steward (bulletin)	47%
email	31%
Mail to Home	11%
Parish Web Site	9%
Social Media (<i>Facebook, Twitter</i>)	2%
Texts	1%

Key Findings & Opportunities

1. Sacramental Life



- Add Sunday evening mass/weekday masses
- Increase number of ushers, altar servers, deacons
- Add baptisms back to Sunday liturgy
- Greater outreach to inactive parishioners/Catholics



2. Communal Life



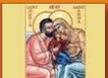
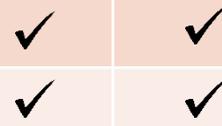
- Increase outreach to disenfranchised, non-traditional families (e.g., divorced, single parents)
- Increase outreach to elderly, poor, those struggling with addictions, physical/emotional abuse
- Greater focus/training on parish's multi-cultural needs; non-English language masses/services



3. Youth & Young Adults (Millennials)



- Strengthen and increase participation in parish youth ministry program
- Develop and implement a strategy to engage young adults (age 18-35) in parish life



= Indicates whether item is to be addressed by Saint Ann's parish, by FIOF Diocesan initiative, or both

Key Findings & Opportunities

4. Religious Education



- Teach and re-train the parish on fundamental elements of our faith and of the Mass
- Increase number of CCD volunteers and provide continuing education/training
- Improve and better communicate availability of small group sessions/bible study groups
- Reinforce tithing concept



5. New Parishioner Engagement



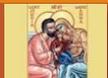
- Enhance the registration process to capture interests and recruit for parish ministries
- More frequent/well-promoted socials for new parishioners



6. Parish Communications



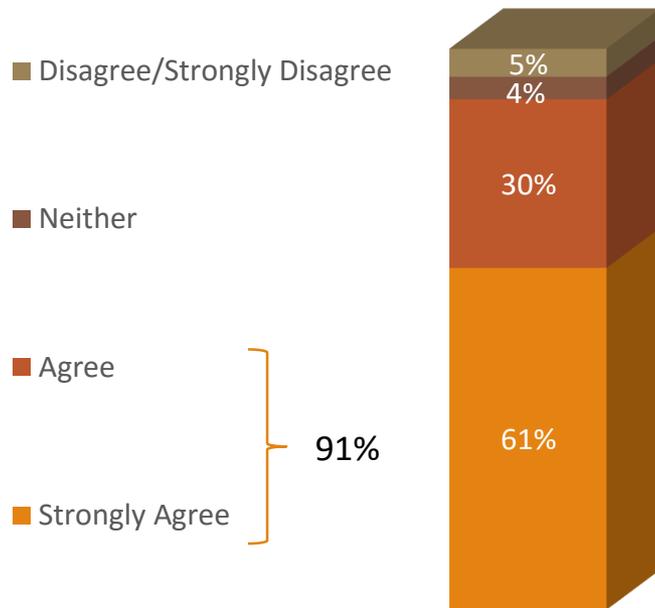
- Better targeting of mail/email to parishioner segments based on interests or demographics
- Improve use of social media & parish Facebook page, especially to reach younger parishioners
- Increase utilization of parish website to provide more timely/relevant information



= Indicates whether item is to be addressed by Saint Ann's parish, by FIOF Diocesan initiative, or both

Sacramental Life: Nearly all feel that the sacramental life of the parish satisfies their needs; however, parishioners under age 45 are more likely than others to disagree.

Question 1. "The Sacramental and Liturgical Life of our parish – as described* – meets my needs."



Top Suggestions**

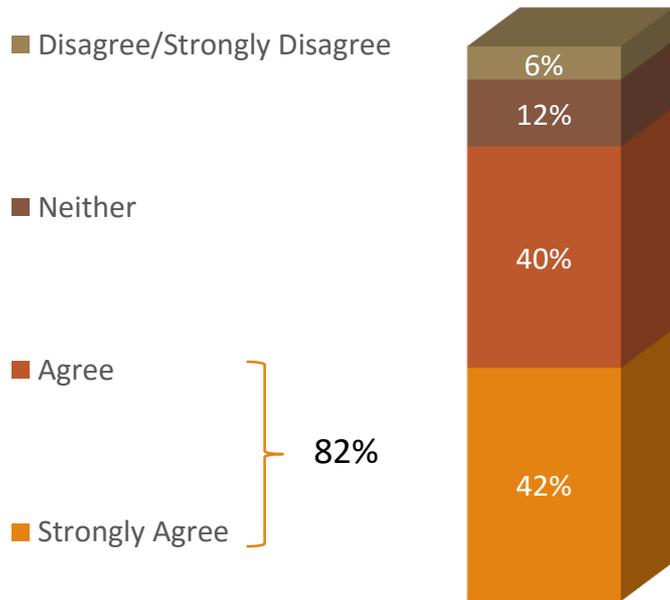
- Additional weekday Masses; Sunday evening Mass
- Add baptisms back to the Sunday liturgy
- Address timely/topical content in Sunday homilies
- Hear confessions during the week
- More youth ministry activities; More youth involvement
- Teach/re-train the parish on fundamental elements of the Mass/liturgy
- Need more altar servers

**Based on number of comments

*Sacramental Life includes: *Providing sufficient access to the sacraments / adequate number of weekend/Holy Day Masses; Offering diversity of parish ministries; Providing adequate training of lay ministers; Establishing music as an integral part of the liturgy*

Evangelization, Catechesis & Schools: Most agree the parish’s faith formation effort have been effective; parishioners under age 45 with children are less likely to feel this way.

Question 2. “Religious education, communication and evangelization efforts of our parish are effective in strengthening faith formation.”*



Top Suggestions**

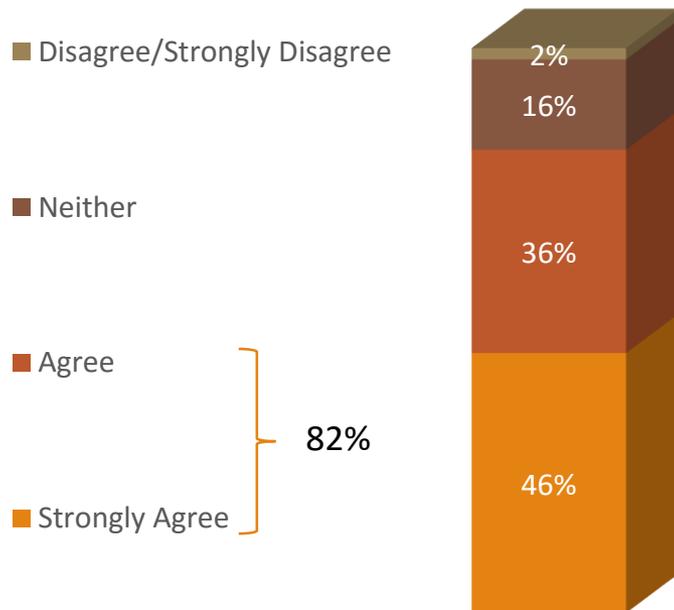
- More informal small group/family meetings/bible study groups (5 or 6 families rotate hosting monthly meetings)
- More teen/tween-oriented education programs with greater youth involvement
- More promotion/expansion of **Generations of Faith**
- Make Saint Ann School a higher priority; promote the school more and integrate it more with church activities
- Increase participation in adult education programs with targeted promotion (e.g., allow parishioners to “opt-in” to weekly/monthly email alerts about retreats, events, reflections, homilies, service opportunities)
- Greater use of social media/Facebook

**Based on number of comments

*Includes: Catechetical Formation, Homilies, Catholic School Education and Methods of Communication

Communal Life: Parishioners feel we are fairly generous with our time, talent and financial resources – this is especially true of those over age 55.

Question 3a. “Our parish is generous with its time, talent and financial resources in helping those in need.”*



Top Suggestions**

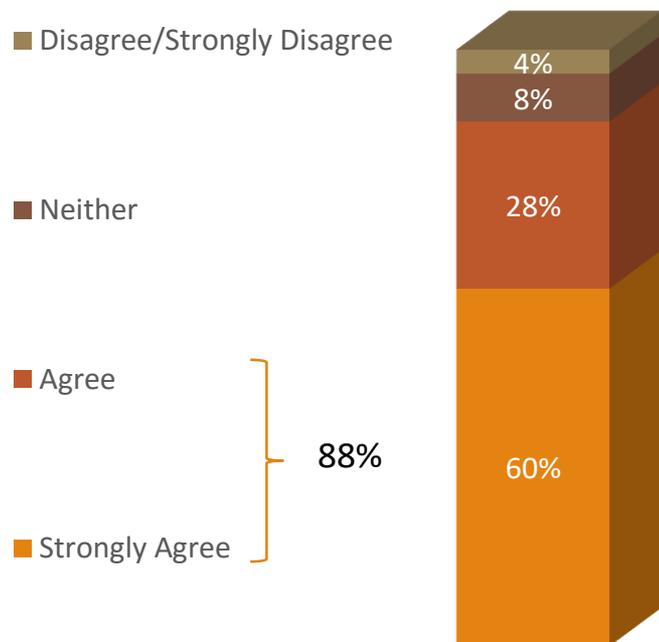
- More active support for the poor and homeless [time & money]; more frequent promotion of opportunities for parishioners to help
- More visible and active involvement in the community (food and clothing drives, soup kitchens, cleaning parks, planting flowers/trees)
- Provide more support for the growing population of elderly/homebound in our parish (day care, rides to mass, doctor appointments)
- Offer more service opportunities for the youth of our parish – e.g., TASK, Habitat for Humanity

**Based on number of comments

*Communal Life includes: *Outreach with compassion to individuals and families; Being welcoming, inclusive and hospitable; Unity in the midst of diversity.*

Communal Life: For most, the parish has a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Question 3b. "Our parish is a place where I feel welcome."*



Top Suggestions**

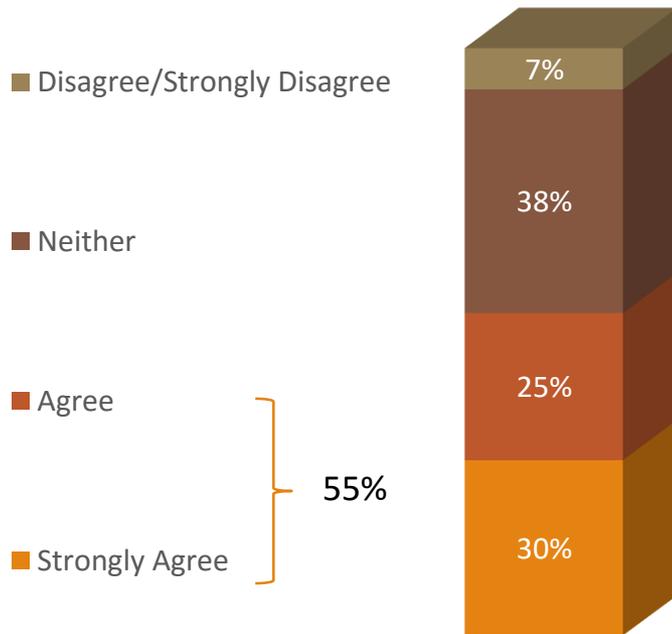
- More social/meet & greet opportunities throughout the year (e.g., wine & cheese, Sunday coffee & donuts); seems like we do this less often now
- Greater laity involvement with parish management and committees; some feel less welcome to participate lately
- More youth ministry activities/More youth involvement
- More decorations in church – the atmosphere is not as warm and celebratory as it used to be
- Escorting RCIA candidates from the church during Mass seems demeaning and unwelcoming

**Based on number of comments

*Communal Life includes: *Outreach with compassion to individuals and families; Being welcoming, inclusive and hospitable; Unity in the midst of diversity.*

Communal Life: Opportunity exists for greater outreach to the alienated in our community; this sentiment is strongest among parishioners under age 45.

Question 3c. "Our parish reaches out to those alienated from the community."*



Top Suggestions**

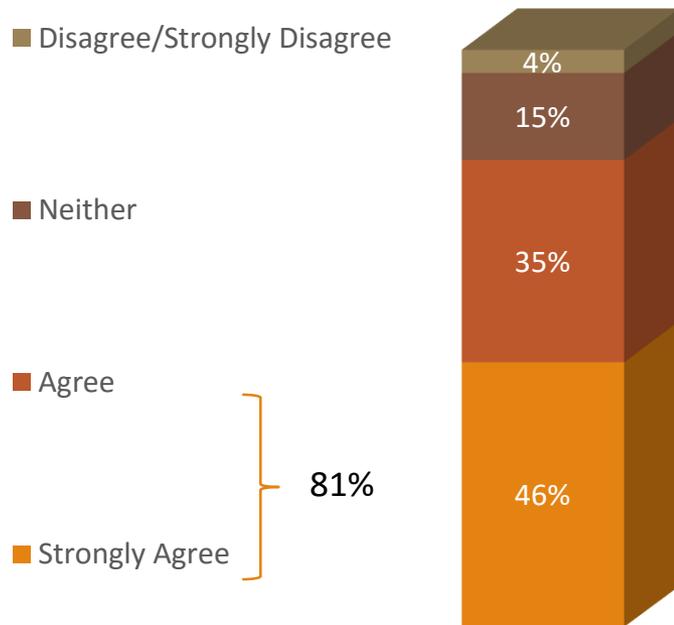
- More outreach to the disenfranchised; more welcoming to non-traditional families (divorced, re-married, widowed, single parents)
- More outreach to inactive Catholics/parishioners not regularly attending Mass
- Make an effort to recruit those who feel disenfranchised to participate in parish ministries/committees and become more active
- Increase outreach to those struggling with alcoholism, drug addiction, physical/emotional abuse

**Based on number of comments

*Communal Life includes: *Outreach with compassion to individuals and families; Being welcoming, inclusive and hospitable; Unity in the midst of diversity.*

Stewardship & Leadership: While most feel that the parish effectively manages its resources, a number of suggestions were offered for future consideration.

Question 4. "Our parish effectively manages its resources for short and long-term health and prosperity."*



Top Suggestions**

- St. Ann School need attention – qualified teachers and upgraded facilities
- St. Michael church requires renovation/refurbishing
- Help families pay for catholic education/St. Ann School
- Need help/coordinators for youth & social service ministries
- Continue practice of transparency/detailed reporting of parish financials

**Based on number of comments

*Stewardship & Leadership includes: *Effective parish leadership; Parishioners who Practice Stewardship; Financial Stability; Geographic Proximity and Mass Attendance; Adequate Staff and Facilities to Meet the Needs of the Parish*

Vocations: More frequent and visible campaigns, combined with personal appeals and using young clergy/newly ordained to help in recruiting are among the top suggestions.

Question 4b. “How should we address the need for vocations to the ordained ministry, religious life and lay ministry?”

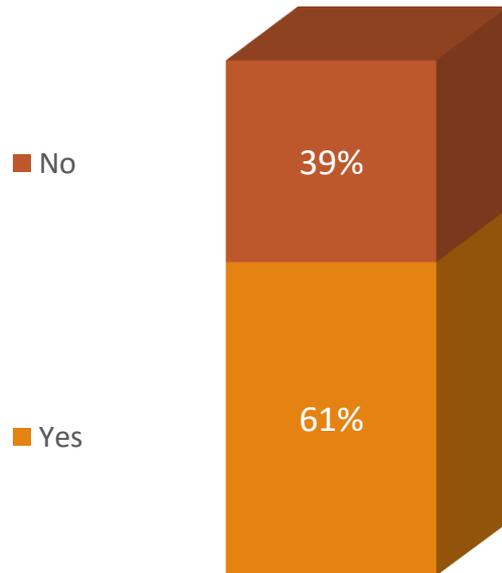
Top Suggestions*

- Conduct more frequent and visible campaigns for vocations (too little is done today – rarely talked about or promoted)
- Make a personal appeal to specific parishioners to consider the religious life – reach out to all age groups
- Have young priests/nuns and newly ordained help in recruiting efforts -- speak after mass, hold retreats, share their stories
- Provide more information about the desperate need for vocations; reinforce the impending shortage of clergy
- Establish a “Vocations Formation Month”, with guest speakers and special programs geared toward discernment/recruiting
- Allow priests to marry; Allow women to become priests; Allow nuns to celebrate the Mass and perform duties of priests

**Based on number of comments*

Partnering with Other Parishes: Parishioners are mixed on the idea of working with other parishes; yet, a majority are in favor of the concept and some offered to help.

Question 5. “Do you envision working with other parishes to create a viable future of Catholic life in our community, especially given finances, demographics, and the diminished number of priests?.”



Top Suggestions**

- Joint activities to share resources/expertise/technology: retreats, adult education, CCD, youth ministries, fund raisers
- Cooperation in meeting the social service needs of the community (e.g., food and clothing drives, care for elderly)
- Increase cross-parish communication about opportunities/needs via parish websites, social media or perhaps a diocesan newsletter/section in The Monitor
- Share best practices and success stories across parishes
- Combine/share administrative functions/resources

***Based on number of comments*

Favorite Things about our Parish: “warm, welcoming place”, “the people”, “sense of family”, “the music”, “feeling of community”, “the Mass”, “the atmosphere”.

Question 6. “What do you appreciate most about our parish?”*



*The words shown and the size of the words corresponds to the frequency with which the words were used to describe the parish.