Holy Spirit Catholic Church Disciple Maker Index Survey Results

446 Total Surveys Completed 35% of 1276(Average Sunday Mass going parishioners)

Background

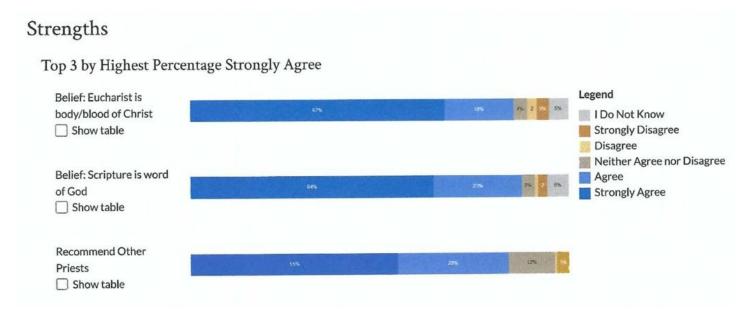
In March of this year parishioners across the Archdiocese of St. Louis will be invited to share their thoughts, reflect on their spiritual growth as well as provide parish leadership with invaluable insight regarding their parish's strengths and opportunities through a survey, the Disciple Maker Index (DMI). The results for Holy Spirit Parish are outlined as follows:

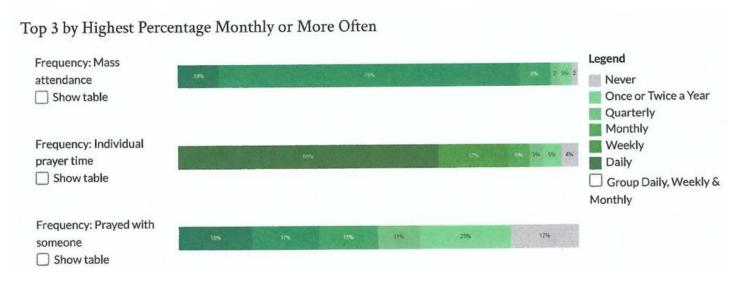
• A total of 446 people shared their views by completing the Disciple Makers Index survey this past Lent. The 35% is a response rate that is above average for parishes in the country completing this survey. We are grateful to the members of our community for giving to complete the survey.

This survey, consisting of 75 questions, examined our personal beliefs about the Church and the level of our participation in the sacraments and other parish-based activities, and experiences of the parish.

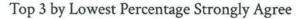
Results

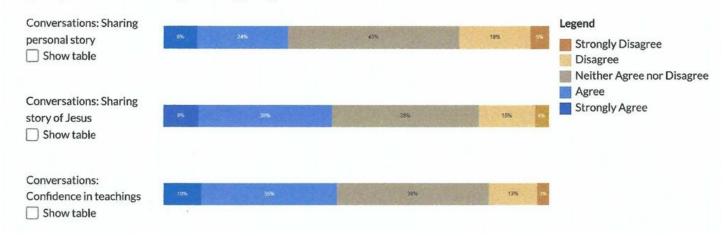
Provided below is a summary and highlights of our survey. If you would like to discuss any of the results in greater detail, you may contact either the pastor or one the Key Parish Leaders listed at the end of the report.



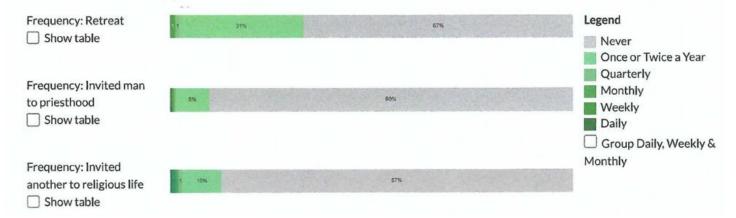


Opportunities





Top 3 by Lowest Percentage Monthly or More Often



Summary

The DMI was primarily completed by:

- 97% of those responding attend Mass at Holy Spirit.
- 85% report attending Mass at least weekly.
- 71% were older than 55 years old.
- 72% have been parishioners for more than 11 years.
- There was very little response from those who are less involved in the parish.

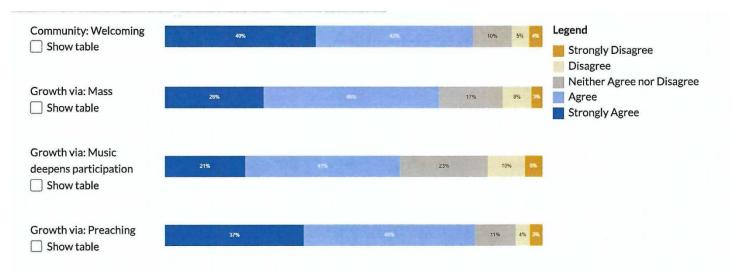
Major themes of strength from our survey were:

- There is a strong belief that the Eucharist is the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
- There is a strong belief the Scripture is the Word of God.
- There is high satisfaction with Father Jerry.

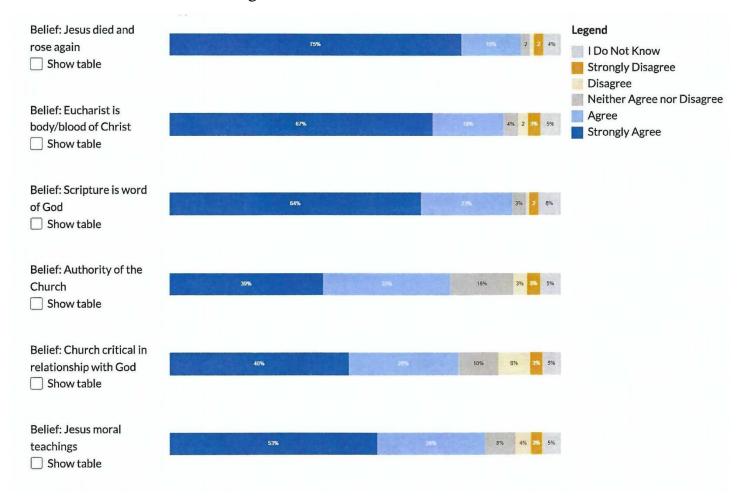
Major themes of opportunities from our survey were all focused on evangelization:

- There is a predominant feeling that more needs to be done to teach individuals how to share their personal witness story.
- More can be done to teach individuals how to share the story of Jesus.
- More needs to be done to assist individuals so that they grow in confidence in the Church's teachings so that they can answer other's questions.

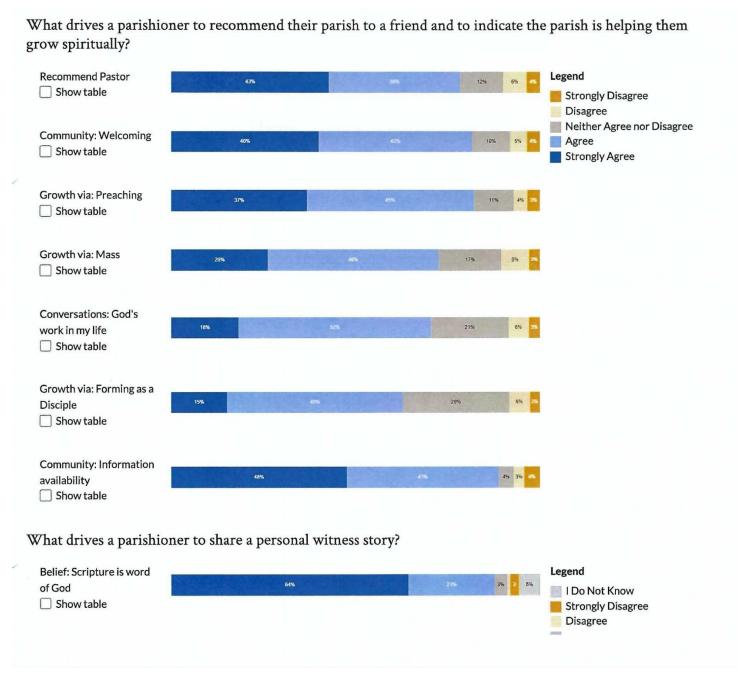
Sunday Experience



Belief in Core Catholic Teaching



Most agree that the Sunday Experience assists in their personal growth in faith. There is a strong belief in Core Catholic Teachings from the Resurrection to the moral teachings of Jesus.



The question, "What drives you to recommend their parish", there is a dichotomy when it comes to what drives a person to share their personal witness story.

- On the one hand, there is a strong belief that Scripture is the Word of God.
- But on the other hand, there is a reluctance to share one's faith with others.

As we began this planning process, Father Bob asked this question in a homily, "What keeps us from sharing our faith?" Common responses were, "Fear", and "Lack of knowledge." Both show that we have work to do.

Other Key Findings



About the Parish

10. All parishes have opportunities for growth. If you could **only select 3 of the following things** that the parish needs more of, which would they be.

294	More young people involved
149	More volunteers participating in ministries
109	More contemporary forms of worship
96	More catechesis on Church teaching
89	More inclusive spirit and welcome
87	More lay involvement in decision making and leadership
82	More clarity on parish vision, direction, and goals
58	More traditional forms of worship
36	More money for parish needs
28	More savvy communication strategies
19	More transparency (e.g. finances and decisions)
15	More paid professional staff

11. Rank **the community values** that would best describe the culture of your parish community. (1 being the highest preference)

Access to the sacraments and worship 2.0 Prayerfulness 3.6 Family Focused 4.4 **Parish Traditions** 4.7 Service and Outreach 5.0 Stewardship 5.3 Sharing the Faith with others 6.1 Diversity and Inclusion 6.8 Social Justice

These last two point about growth and values are enlightening.

- Clearly two thirds of those responding feel that we need to do more to engage the young people of our community.
- One third see a need to increase the number of people who volunteer in our ministries.
- Finally, one quarter would like to see more contemporary forms of worship offered.

Take Away

These three opportunities, young people, volunteers, and contemporary worship are realistic and achievable for our community of Holy Spirit. They give us the opportunity to grow more deeply in our faith.

The ranking of values in our community (above) is revealing. They say so much about us that the one of the most important value is about access to the Sacraments and Worship. Clearly we are a Christ-centered community drawn together by our common love of God.

As we continue to move from under the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic it is our hope that we continue to grow as a community of faith.

I am grateful for the support and contribution of our Key Parish Leaders who assist me with All Things New. They are Patrick Cunningham, Sandy Flack, Sharon Kaufman, Jeff Pattison, and Jerry Rumph.

Blessings,

Father Bob Evans