

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.

Strengths

Top 3 by Highest Percentage Strongly Agree

Belief: Eucharist is
body/blood of Christ

Show table



Belief: Scripture is word
of God

Show table



Recommend Other
Priests

Show table



Legend

- I Do Not Know
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

Top 3 by Highest Percentage Monthly or More Often

Frequency: Mass attendance

Show table



Frequency: Individual prayer time

Show table



Frequency: Prayed with someone

Show table



Legend

- Never
- Once or Twice a Year
- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily
- Group Daily, Weekly & Monthly

Opportunities

Top 3 by Lowest Percentage Strongly Agree

Conversations: Sharing personal story

Show table



Conversations: Sharing story of Jesus

Show table



Conversations: Confidence in teachings

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

Top 3 by Lowest Percentage Monthly or More Often

Frequency: Retreat

Show table



Frequency: Invited man to priesthood

Show table



Frequency: Invited another to religious life

Show table



Legend

- Never
- Once or Twice a Year
- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily
- Group Daily, Weekly & Monthly

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

Belief: Jesus died and rose again

Show table



Legend

- I Do Not Know
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

Belief: Eucharist is body/blood of Christ

Show table



Belief: Scripture is word of God

Show table



Belief: Authority of the Church

Show table



Belief: Church critical in relationship with God

Show table



Belief: Jesus moral teachings

Show table



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.

What drives a parishioner to recommend their parish to a friend and to indicate the parish is helping them grow spiritually?

Recommend Pastor

Show table



Legend

■ Strongly Disagree

■ Disagree

■ Neither Agree nor Disagree

■ Agree

■ Strongly Agree

Community: Welcoming

Show table



Growth via: Preaching

Show table



Growth via: Mass

Show table



Conversations: God's work in my life

Show table



Growth via: Forming as a Disciple

Show table



Community: Information availability

Show table



What drives a parishioner to share a personal witness story?

Belief: Scripture is word of God

Show table



Legend

■ I Do Not Know

■ Strongly Disagree

■ Disagree

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

Conversations:
Confidence in teachings
 Show table



■ Neither Agree nor Disagree
■ Agree
■ Strongly Agree

Conversations: Sharing
personal story
 Show table



Conversations: Sharing
story of Jesus
 Show table



Frequency: Invited
someone to Mass
 Show table



Legend
■ Never
■ Once or Twice a Year
■ Quarterly
■ Monthly
■ Weekly
■ Daily
□ Group Daily, Weekly & Monthly

Frequency: Invited
someone to parish
activity
 Show table



Frequency: Pastoral
counseling/spiritual
direction
 Show table



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)

2.0	Access to the sacraments and worship
3.6	Prayerfulness
4.4	Family Focused
4.7	Parish Traditions
5.0	Service and Outreach
5.3	Stewardship
6.1	Sharing the Faith with others
6.8	Diversity and Inclusion
6.9	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