

ST. MARY'S OF THE LAKE/ST. BENEDICT PARISH SURVEY RESULTS (2017)

We're grateful for the time and effort that parishioners put into this survey. We understand that there is no such thing as a perfect survey, including this one, which was given to us from the Diocese of Rochester for the purpose of consistency in measuring responses within Southern Tier Regional Catholic parishes. Yet, this survey, at least, gives us some valuable insights, ideas and feedback, as to what aspects of parish life we are strong in, and what could be improved. It's impossible to please everyone in every aspect of parish life, since, quite often, certain aspects are a matter of individual preference, taste, personality, and experience. However, we are all called to work together as a family of faith to help maximize effectiveness in spreading the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ far and wide.

We received 121 surveys, not including ones received after March 27th. The following results are listed on a 5 to 1 scale for each parish aspect listed, with 5 indicating "very well," down to 1, indicating "not well at all." The number after the ranking under each aspect listed indicates how many received surveys used that ranking number for that aspect of parish life. Some people left certain statements blank, while others indicated they didn't know enough about that aspect to rate it. Two people returned the whole survey blank (and they weren't figured in the final numbers below), while 2 couples had both the husband and wife give different responses to several statements. "Most important" and "most improvement needed" statements are found after each section's statements are listed. Various people's comments, given at the end of each of the 4 main sections, end each section.

WORD (1 male 70+ only circled "very well" at top, instead of the individual aspect numbers.)

	Don't know	Poor 1	2	3	4	Great 5	Blank
1 Programs or activities are available to promote spiritual growth (retreats, missions, Bible studies, Small Christian Communities)for promoting spiritual growth.	5%	0%	4%	20%	37%	29%	3%
2 Faith Formation opportunities are available for all age levels & cultures represented in the community	19%	3%	7%	16%	32%	19%	3%
3 Faith Formation reaches out to and is accommodating of those with physical and mental challenges	38%	2%	4%	13%	24%	12%	5%
4 Ministries are constantly adapting in ways that are inviting to children, youth & young adults	25%	7%	13%	25%	17%	12%	2%
5 All events exhibit a spirit of welcome and invitation for those interested in becoming Catholic	12%	3%	2%	21%	22%	34%	3%
6 Outreach is provided to non-practicing Catholics and the unchurched	39%	7%	9%	14%	16%	9%	5%
7 New members of the parish are welcomed & identified	12%	6%	12%	25%	23%	20%	2%
8 Newcomers are able to find what they're looking for (office, bathrooms, info, etc)	21%	2%	2%	18%	34%	20%	2%
9 The parish encourages vocations to the ordained & lay ecclesial ministries and consecrated life	19%	2%	4%	26%	32%	12%	4%
10 Opportunities exist that support vocations to the Sacrament of Marriage	36%	2%	7%	13%	26%	12%	3%

TOP 3 ASPECTS FROM ABOVE SECTION VOTED MOST IMPORTANT:

- 1—Ministries adapting to youth & young adults (Statement #4)—31 votes
- 2—Programs available for promoting spiritual growth (Statement #1)—28 votes
- 3—Faith Formation for all age levels & cultures in parish (Statement #2)—21 votes

TOP 2 FROM ABOVE SECTION VOTED NEEDING MOST IMPROVEMENT

- 1—Faith Formation for all age levels & cultures in parish (Statement #2)

2—New parishioners welcomed and identified (Statement #7)

COMMENTS: male (70+)--This survey is an excellent idea, hopefully constructive responses will help improve an already vibrant parish.

male (70+) I observe a number of positive activities that reach out spiritually as well as socially. Even new altar servers & the Community Table!

female (56-69)—Somehow youth—those in elementary & high school esp.—need more interaction w/the Church. The only idea I can suggest is perhaps younger youth ministers that the young people can relate better.

female (40-55) Faith Formation needs less focus on the textbooks/class setting and more on teaching our youth to put their faith into action. Service & volunteering to those in need in our community. Kids are bored reading out of textbooks. We should use that time to minister to those in need. Make learning time fun and unforgettable. Foster our youths' desire to be spiritual and grow in their religion. Work with other faith groups in the community.

female (40-55) Access to office is awkward & the “ring the bell” is a bit off-putting.

female (26-39) The Church does a wonderful job with the children, and VERY welcoming. It also does a great job paying attention to the needs of the community at the moment, and responds. I also appreciate reaching out to all age groups and relevant needs to each group.

female (26-39) The Church no longer does a children's dismissal. The children enjoyed dismissal. To my knowledge, I do not know of any adult groups for Bible study that would engage younger Catholics.

female(56-69) More understanding of what the lay ecclesial ministries are would be helpful.

female(26-39) Very unhappy with the faith formation program for my children. We no longer attend, as it is more a form of babysitting than learning. My children are above their age range in knowledge and find the program a waste of time. Extremely frustrated with the lack of help with this!!

male(70+) Too many liberals

male(56-69) I did not offer comments, as there are too many categories where “I don't know” was the only section to check.

Female(70+) When we joined the parish years ago, I wanted to get involved—was told I could join the ladies in making quilts ☺ A home visit would have been great.

Female (40-55) re: encouraging vocations—“priesthood, deacons, relig. Life, not laity.”

Female (56-69) Would love to see more for the young (ages 4-12), whether visiting or members...It is our future faith in what is inspired in the little ones of God! While welcomed when I moved here 2 years ago, had to wait till summer for coffee hour... Why not one a month plus summer for tourists?

Male (70+) I think the intense preparation and duration of Confirmation Preparation discourages many young people from completing the process.

Couple (70+) “Youtube, Facebook, & Tuesday dinners” are examples of ways our parish reaches out to non-practicing Catholics & unchurched people. Also, there's “not much diversity here” in our community, as far as the statements concerning “cultures represented.”

Female (40-55) At the Midnight Mass (Christmas), I was handed a book about the Catholic faith. Why? I'm a member of this church. My friend, who is not Catholic, gave it back to me and said she was fine with her own faith. I think it would have been a lot more effective to give people a flyer (in the pews) "inviting" new friends to a "workshop" or introductory meeting of some sort about the catholic faith. Keep it light and friendly. Monthly "round table" meetings might make people feel more welcome. These flyers could be placed all over Watkins and Montour & Dundee & Odessa.

Female (70+) Small Christian Communities are "not happening." We need outreach for preschoolers during Mass, so parents can focus more on the Mass and children can have time for their own level of our faith. We seem to have a very small group involved with our church at the high school level. We have not had a group of teenagers go to the "Right to Life" March in DC.

Female (26-39) Our kids used to love faith formation both during and after church. It's too hard to attend on a regular basis with kids at different ages. Also, faith formation after church changed a few years ago and just isn't fun or interesting anymore.

Couple (70+) Why is there no adult catechesis in the parish? Why do the children in faith formation not have their own good catechism?

Female (40-55) I would like to see a more involved youth group for our teens.

Female (56-69) What happened to the traveling chalice? That was a way for people to bring prayer into their home for vocations.

Unknown—We need to continue to welcome newcomers as a parish that has so many seasonal visitors. This has been one of our strengths.

WORSHIP (1 male 70+ only circled "very well" at top, instead of individual aspect numbers.)

	Don't know	Poor 1	2	3	4	Great 5	Blank
1 Masses are prayerful, reverent, and spiritually moving	0%	0%	5%	12%	36%	40%	4%
2 Masses strengthen my faith & prepare me to go out & live it	1%	0%	6%	12%	33%	45%	3%
3 The interior environment of the church creates good worship atmosphere	0%	0%	0%	3%	38%	54%	3%
4 Confession is regularly scheduled at a variety of times & clearly published in several places	8%	1%	4%	20%	31%	33%	2%
5 There are communal opportunities for the Anointing of the Sick	39%	3%	6%	19%	19%	9%	4%
6 Homilies are scripture based, inspirational, & effectively delivered	2%	0%	4%	13%	37%	41%	2%
7 The music ministry enhances the experience of worship with music that encourages full & active participation	2%	7%	4%	15%	29%	39%	3%
8 The parish reaches out to those of appropriate ages and invites them into Sacramental Preparation	33%	2%	5%	17%	24%	16%	3%
9 The parish creates an evangelizing baptism experience with hospitality from time of preparation through the celebration of the Sacrament	39%	2%	2%	10%	29%	13%	4%
10 Parishioners support those in the RCIA process becoming fully initiated Catholics	21%	2%	2%	22%	29%	18%	3%
11 Weddings are done with joy, optimism, personalization, & evangelizing spirit	45%	0%	1%	7%	17%	26%	2%
12 Funerals are reverent, sensitive, comforting, personalized, w/evangelizing spirit	14%	1%	1%	7%	26%	48%	2%

TOP 3 ASPECTS FROM ABOVE SECTION VOTED MOST IMPORTANT

1—Masses are prayerful, reverent, spiritually moving (Statement #1)—39 votes

2—Homilies Scripture-based, inspiring, effectively delivered (Statement #6)—35 votes

3—Masses strengthen faith & prepare me to go out & live it (Statement #2)—31 votes

TOP 3 ASPECTS FROM ABOVE SECTION VOTED NEEDING MOST IMPROVEMENT

1—Music ministry enhances worship with active participation (Statement #7)

2—Communal opportunities for anointing (Statement #5)

3—Parish reaches out to appropriate ages for Sacramental Preparation (Statement #8)

COMMENTS: 1 couple (40-55) Too hot in St. Mary's Church in Summer

1 couple (40-55) Excellent music ministry

1 female (40-55) Too much singing by people who can't sing but think they can or are "someone." Turns me off... They add verses or repeat 4-5 times---really!

1 female (40-55) It seems counter-productive to treat non-regular Mass attendees as if they must come weekly. While they often/usually know this, it feels like a "wrist slap" rather than a "welcome."

1 female (26-39) The music is always moving and it is appreciated how much time and practice goes into its execution. The homilies are always well prepared and meaningful.

1 male (70+) While I appreciate the music efforts, I personally find it difficult when the music "appears" to overshadow the Mass, rather than move forward with it. I also favor the weekday homilies, as they tend to have one powerful takeaway point.

female (56-69) I have said this many times to several people, but no one listens. Why do we have to have music at the early Mass??? I spent 5 years in N.C. & over 25 years in Fla. & my parishes never had singing at the first Mass. We could go to Church and just pray & enjoy our time with God quietly. No one seems to care how I feel.

female(56-69) More opportunities to become a lector or Eucharistic minister could be helpful.

female (56-69) Fr. Steve has a very kind, gracious, welcoming & pastoral presence to all.

male(56-69) I value my time in church. If you come to church prepared to listen and learn, you will benefit! If you're distracted or not prepared—better to skip it and come back another time—it will always be there! It's always been there for me! ☺

female (70+) Is it possible that Confessions could be heard at another time than before Masses?

Male (70+) The return of the bells are a distraction that is not needed. This is not a large cathedral and I can see what is happening. Please let the spirituality of that moment not be interrupted by bells!! (Also, music is not needed) at every 8 a.m. Mass.

Female(26-39) Enjoy Fr. Steve's homilies!

Male(70+) Continue with your liberalism and you will lose all your income. Old families are dying off; we used to fill this church winter & summer.

Couple(70+) I would like to hear more of the old songs and more "Mary" songs.

Couple(56-69) (individual homily ratings: Deacon Tom (5), Fr. Steve (5), Deacon Dan (3), Deacon Rick (3)

Female (56-69) We have not been to a funeral at St. Mary's.

Couple (40-55) (individual homily ratings: Fr. Steve & Deacon Dan (5), Deacon Tom (3), Deacon Rick (1)); No info at the 8 a.m. Mass on RCIA candidates. Our music ministry is lacking in consistent quality, both in vocal and instrumental. Would the parish consider paying for a qualified cantor and/or instrumentalist? A solid homily and music ministry would encourage more people to attend.

Female (70+) I would love, love meditation session.

Female (56-69) There has (been) many changes in the past few years to the Sunday Mass that have made it hard to attend and to be fully involved. The return of bells, how the ministers of Communion stand, decrease in the choir, the Mass length being less than 60 minutes (feeling rushed).

Female(40-55) Homilies depend on presenter. One presents an authoritative, legal, obey or be punished; one talks about self and repeats same homily yearly; and one tries to help apply scripture pastorally. I do not need to be treated like a child. Can make my own choices re: faith and depend on a loving God, not punitive God. (Also,) prayers are said too fast—feels rote.

Female (56-69) Excellent!

Couple (56-69) Re: homilies—Priest 5; some deacons 6 (overall rank for homilies a 4)

Female (40-55) Homilies “not always consistent”

Female (70+) We have 3 deacons and that means Father doesn't do the homilies as often as I would like.

Male (40-55) Please don't sing 5 verses just because.

Female (26-39) “Too much” music

Couple (70+) The Liturgy (Mass) manifests a rupture with the Catholic past—that is, in its “piano/guitar folk music” expression; in its loss of sacred music. Poor liturgy in most Catholic parishes is responsible for the loss of many adults and youth to the Church who see little difference from the insipid services of protestant churches. Why is there avoidance of systematic doctrine in homilies? No explanation of the Creed?

Couple (26-39) The filming of the congregation during Mass is unnecessary, i.e. when receiving Communion. This is a personal and private act of worship. During that time, could the camera focus on the crucifix? Also, we have a beautiful choir loft. Why don't we use it? The Eucharist should be the focal point of the sanctuary, not instruments and choir members. The conversations and chatter before and after Mass make it hard to prepare to receive the Eucharist and give thanks after.

Female (40-55) I would like to see a little more reverence at the beginning of Mass, quiet time to contemplate and pray. Not so social. We do that at the sign of peace. Music is nice. I especially enjoy the organ and the singing from the choir loft. I feel closer to God than when we have the guitar. I'm more of a traditional person when it comes to the music. I'd like to see our music move out of the 70s folk. Sermons by Fr. Steve are very good—lots of connections to Scripture. Some of the deacons relate too much to their own life/wife. O.k. once in a while, but not every sermon. I like it from the Lectern—I can see them better!

Unknown—I find the church very cold (temperature) and is not very welcoming. Increasing the heat during the winter will improve the atmosphere for worship. Masses do not always move me spiritually. We seem to have taken a step backward in our worship. It lacks the vibrancy and excitement that we have had recently. We seem stuck in the 50s time warp. I don't believe our Masses are speaking to our younger parishioners. Reverence is apparent but no excitement—no spirit of being on fire for the gospel!

SERVICE (1 male 70+ only circled “very well” at top, instead of individual aspect numbers.)

	Don't know	Poor 1	2	3	4	Great 5	Blank
1 The mission of the parish is evident in all we do	9%	2%	6%	31%	30%	20%	2%
2 The parish is active in the community	3%	2%	8%	17%	41%	26%	0%
3 Outreach/programs are offered for people with specific needs (divorced, separated, single parents, seniors, etc.)	33%	3%	11%	12%	19%	18%	2%
4 The parish promotes respect for human life	1%	0%	0%	12%	29%	58%	0%
5 Parishioners are encouraged to work for social justice	14%	4%	5%	27%	20%	28%	1%
6 The parish offers outreach to the poor, afflicted, lonely, & refugees	12%	2%	6%	17%	34%	28%	1%
7 Parish cooperates w/ Catholic Charities & other groups to meet local needs	5%	0%	2%	7%	28%	57%	0%
8 The parish fosters outreach and care through common activity with neighboring parishes	38%	8%	7%	17%	20%	9%	0%
9 A relationship is nurtured with local leaders of other world religions	63%	12%	4%	10%	6%	3%	2%

TOP 3 ASPECTS FROM ABOVE SECTION VOTED MOST IMPORTANT

- 1—Parish active in the community (Statement #2)—25 votes
- 2—Outreach/programs offered for people with specific needs (Statement #3)—24 votes
- 3—Parish promotes respect for life (Statement #4) & cooperates w/Catholic Charities (Statement #7)—20 votes each

TOP 3 ASPECTS FROM ABOVE SECTION VOTED NEEDING MOST IMPROVEMENT

- 1—Outreach/programs offered for people with specific needs (Statement #3)
- 2—Parish fosters outreach with neighboring parishes (Statement #8)
- 3—Parish offers outreach to the poor, afflicted, lonely, refugees (Statement #6)

COMMENTS: (female 70+) Anything being done about our drug problems?

1 female (56-69) I am very happy to see the activities for life such as the baby shower. Can more be done especially with prayer?

1 female (40-55)—Years ago we had Masses that invited different local religious leaders to conduct the homily. It was very nice. It gave a sense of community and opened our eyes to similarities and one God shared among different faiths. Let us let go of differences/prejudices. It was very peaceful.

1 female (40-55)—Two of your deacons’ (Dan & Rick) are always about their families. I don’t come to Church for this. Where’s the education of Christ? Not a social visitor bragging rites. I could do that, but no one cares. Why no woman? Get with modern day.

1 female (26-39) The parish promotes a strong community within the Church and its parishioners. I am not sure however how much is done with other parishes.

1 male (70+) I strongly see and applaud the recent efforts, but the declining attendance is sad. Unfortunately, the reasons are far reaching and way above the local parish level.

female (56-69) I have not been back to Church since a substitute priest in the Fall all but told us all to go out and vote for Trump—I found this so offensive. I was almost sick to my stomach—I will be back, but please, no promotion of fascist politicians-

female (56-69) When someone comes in with a problem, it should be kept confidential at all times, no matter what is going on, and it isn't. I overhear someone talking to a lady about my problem and then someone approaches me about my problem. It's wrong and needs to be addressed, that all personal (details) must (be kept) confidential. Other than that, I think we have a beautiful people who work for the church and go to church. We have the most beautiful church!

female (56-69) We could use more encouragement to work for social and environmental justice, especially during these difficult economic and political times. It would be nice to have some interaction with local leaders of other major world religions.

male(56-69) People of other religions in the area think lightly of our Catholic Church! At least the ones I have occasion to meet with or talk to.

Female(26-39) I don't know the "mission" of the parish. Is there a mission statement somewhere? (Also) not a large diversity (of religions) here.

Male(70+) This survey will tell you nothing but to become more liberal and destroy the Catholic faith. If it wasn't for summer tourist, never fill the church.

Couple (70+) During the winter months (cold & flu season), I think we should stop shaking or holding hands.

Couple (56-69) I am unaware of any refugees in the area.

Female(70+) Need to follow the mandate of the Pope

Female(40-55) Members of the parish are involved individually in many of these areas, but to say parish is—not sure. I don't represent Church (parish), but Church (Gospel living). The Community Meal is my idea of parish—in name of St. Mary's, but there is no encouragement from pulpit to understand it as such.

Female (56-69) Wish there was a program for seniors, especially those of us widowed, single and so on! While parish respects life, would like to see more ways to promote pro-life...even a homily on it! Would like to mingle more with other parishes...How about dinner & dance or coffee hour or parish picnic at Clute Park and include other parishes?

Couple (56-69) Our mission statement is not on bulletin.

Couple (70+) Do we have a mission statement? Also, "I'm sure we would (nurture a relationship with local leaders of other world religions) if there were some" (in our community).

Female (70+) Fr. Steve does meet young adult couples once a month. Many notices in bulletin regarding outreach for various groups that are in need, such as widow/widowers support group, food pantry at St. Mary's Parish Center, & Operation Rice Bowl.

Female (40-55)Tuesday dinners are a very nice feature for our community.I've heard good things.

Female (70+) I understand that other parishes (Ithaca Catholic) have good success with their teen population. We should investigate other programs that are more successful to build a more welcoming program from toddler through high school and beyond. We also need an outreach for our population who have stopped coming to church. You could ask the parish to provide names & addresses of people they know who need to be contacted by our pastor & deacons. This would include a letter as well as personal visit. Does our diocese have a mission program? I am thinking of this for our high school and beyond. Having one would be great.

Couple (70+) Too much about social relationships and too little about Christ.

Unknown--We have a fabulous outreach with Catholic Charities and the Community Table. This is growing and a wonderful service to our community. We don't do much with other faiths. Maybe another ecumenical service?? Sharing of some sort?

Male (70+) (added "and releases from prison/jail" to list of "outreach to the poor, afflicted, etc.)

COMMUNITY (1 male 70+ circled "very well" at top, instead of individual aspect numbers.)

	Don't know	Poor	1	2	3	4	Great	Blank
1 A spirit of warmth and hospitality is exhibited in the parish	1%	1%	3%	10%	36%	46%	2%	
2 The parish is sensitive to religious diversity in families	39%	2%	7%	13%	17%	17%	5%	
3 An environment that values ethnic and cultural diversity is fostered in the parish	29%	2%	4%	18%	17%	21%	7%	
4 Efforts are made to discover and invite use of parishioners' talents in daily lives and parish ministries	23%	4%	8%	23%	21%	12%	6%	
5 Attention is paid to spiritual & sacramental needs of sick & homebound	12%	2%	1%	12%	40%	28%	4%	
6 Support is offered for grieving families	17%	1%	4%	13%	30%	29%	5%	
7 The parish makes good use of communication tools to inform people	1%	1%	7%	20%	33%	32%	5%	
8 An increasing number of parishioners support parish through stewardship	19%	2%	9%	21%	31%	13%	4%	
9 Effective Leadership is provided by Clergy, staff, & lay leaders	5%	1%	4%	19%	27%	36%	7%	

TOP 3 ASPECTS FROM ABOVE SECTION VOTED MOST IMPORTANT

- 1—Parish warmth and hospitality exhibited (Statement #1)—35 votes
- 2—Effective leadership provided by clergy, staff, lay leaders (Statement #9)—26 votes
- 3—Attention paid to spiritual & sacramental needs of sick/homebound(Statement #5)--19 votes

TOP 3 ASPECTS FROM ABOVE SECTION VOTED NEEDING MOST IMPROVEMENT

- 1—Efforts to find and use parishioners' talents (Statement #4)
- 2—Parish sensitive to religious diversity in families (Statement #2)
- 3—Increasing number of parishioners support parish through stewardship (Statement #8)

COMMENTS: female (56-69)—Young families need to be more involved. An example is the Children's Liturgy during Mass is cancelled because volunteers of young families using the program did not step forward to help. I am thankful for Fr. Steve & staff for their prayerfulness at Mass & leadership. We are blessed!

1 female (40-55) Volunteers seem to be the same parishioners over and over again. These people, although they enjoy giving a helping hand, get burned out being asked to take on several roles. All parishioners should take part in volunteering their time in some way or form. We are a family and all need one another to thrive.

1 female (40-55) Some parishioners are impatient with young children, not realizing the parents are trying to introduce a child to Mass and appropriate behavior. "Shushing" a toddler (by a stranger simply embarrasses the parents.

1 female (26-39) The parish does an amazing job of making everyone feel welcome and special. The ushers have always made us feel like we receive a personal welcome, and Father Steve goes to great lengths to get to know each family personally.

1 male (70+) Worried about the financial status long term with the decline in attendance

female(56-69) I really appreciate the priest coming out to the steps after Mass to greet everyone. However, I feel anonymous. If I have a problem, no one in my church will ever know—not much fellowship.

female(56-69) Maybe more could be done to “discover” parishioners’ talents and invite their use in daily lives and parish ministries.

male(56-69) I’m very proud of the leadership!!!This is just the right church for me! ☺ St. Mary’s of the Lake, W.G. N.Y.

female(70+) To Whom It May Concern, ever since the sex scandals regarding the Catholic Church and abuse of young boys I’ve been very disappointed and disheartened by the lack of responsibility within the Church. These boys, mostly all men now, may very well never recover from the physical and extremely emotional stress they suffered. How the Catholic Church had the audacity all those many years to deny and cover up their actions is beyond most peoples’ ability to digest and forgive. This explains my reason for not attending Mass on a regular basis. This past Christmas I stayed home and watched a Mass on TV. I guess it’s rather selfish to think that a few bad apples can spoil the entire bushel, but, for me, that is exactly what has happened. I seriously doubt that I can ever feel totally comfortable in any Catholic Church, located wherever, being preached to by someone who may or may not be abusive. Maybe the Pope should consider adding some women into his network. It’s never been tried before and even though he says women will never become priests, maybe someday a Pope will say “Let’s try it, what do we have to lose?” Sincerely, a somewhat attached parishioner.

Couple(56-69) We think more people would take the wine if it was in individual cups. Other non-Catholic churches use small plastic cups.

Male(70+) Holding hands across the aisle not a Catholic rite. You want to hold hands? Go to a liberal faith; there are many.

Couple (56-69) Maybe we could establish a maintenance committee similar to Linen or church cleaning committees for simple maintenance tasks, such as shoveling, lawn mowing,etc.

Female(56-69) We really enjoy St. Mary’s. We live near Penn Yan, but try to make Mass at St. Mary’s.

Female(40-55) This used to be a special church...Welcoming and just walking in, you felt God’s presence and peace. Now I don’t feel a part of my own church...I had volunteered, but was not needed. I used to feel very attached until the last 2 years. I go to another church out of the area.

Female(70+) Sending the bulletin by email would be great. We would know what is happening, so we could be involved. We often work on Sundays. Also, we find the kneeling for prayers after the service is over prevents any conversation with people.

Female(56-69) Re: “Efforts made to discover parishioners talents...” They look for money first. Re: “Effective leadership provided by clergy, staff, lay..” Some yes, some no. It appears money does speak well. It appears you are in the inner circle if you can provide a healthy share to the budget.

Female(40-55) It is very difficult to answer these “as a parish” because so much depends on individual staff people and the relationship with individuals.

Female (56-69) Having a bi-racial grandson, while he is welcomed, I am sensitive to the fact that people’s kind words don’t always match their body language, making their spoken word seem insincere. Members’ talents could be drawn out more to enhance the greatness of the parish & community.

Male (70+) It would be nice to have some of the 5 p.m. Masses held at St. Mary’s, especially during the summer when so many tourists are here. Would also be nice to have confession one Sat. a month at St. Mary’s.

Couple (70+) Need more piano players and choir members. Also, “good idea” to make more efforts in discovering parishioners’ talents to use in parish.

Female (40-55) Some of the traditions that make St. Mary’s a wonderful, welcoming church need to stay a part of the church, such as the 3 “Hail Marys” at the end of the Mass—very nice aspect/tradition. Sometimes traditions are changed because a new pastor wants to make it different, but the church community is the same and many traditions need to stay They are what makes us unique. (Also) Blessing at Communion—nice.

Unknown—Our clergy are providing effective leadership.

Couple (70+) Parish seems divorced from concerns of the whole Church in crisis. Little sense of Catholic identity, as contrasted with Christians. No concern registered for why there have been the massive loss of Catholics to the Church. This is a very poor survey for lay people.

Couple (26-39) All comments made here are out of love for our parish community and with hopes that our church grows and flourishes under Fr. Steve Lape.

Female (40-55) Seems as though fewer and fewer parishioners are helping out. How do we get them more involved?

Unknown—I feel our parish is shrinking by leaps and bounds. Our older parishioners are dying and we do not have any new young or returning young families. I believe the leadership provided by the clergy is not fostering a welcoming community. I hope this survey will provide direction for improvement. Personally the clergy is very kind, but I feel the leadership component is weak. The ability to foster volunteer and paid help is not very effective or encouraging. Working with people in our parish to grow spiritually and physically is so important to the life of our parish or any parish.

DEMOGRAPHICS

1—Relationship to Parish: Registered parishioner (116) Not regist./regular attendee (3) None (1) blank(1)

2—Active in Parish?: on a committee, staff or serve as a volunteer (52)//

attend some events & Mass (46)//Only attend Mass (14)//blank (8)//none due to health issue (1)

3—How attached to parish?: Very attached(76) Somewhat attached(36) not at all(3) blank(6)

4—Frequency Attending Mass: 2-3 times/week (9)//more than 1/week (16)//Once/week (78)

only special occasion (4) Never (2) blank (4) 2 to 3 times/month (2) once a month (4)whenever I can (1) “5 times a week” (1)

5—Race/Ethnicity: Anglo/White/Europ. (112) African American (1) blank (7) ‘human’(1)

6—Gender: female (76) male (22) couple (17) blank (6)

7—Marital Status: widowed (24) married (65) separated (2) divorced (15) single/never married (9) blank (6)

8—Age:70+ (56)// 56-69 (34)//40-55 (19)//26-39 (5)//blank (6)//couple (70+ & 56-69) (1)