

Parish Life Survey Report

October 2017

**St. Michael Parish
90 Concord Road
Bedford, Massachusetts**

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Parish Life Survey for St. Michael Parish Bedford, MA

Summary

The St. Michael Parish Life Survey was a questionnaire distributed to parishioners who attended the parish liturgies over the one weekend of September 30 and October 1, 2017. The questions were mainly derived from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) database of nationally tested questions, including some that were designed by us specifically for St. Michael Parish. In all, there were 396 valid surveys returned, out of 646 (adults and children) in attendance.

Major findings can be summarized as follows:

Respondent Demographics

- Of the St. Michael respondents the average age was 57 years old. Almost four in ten are under age 50, almost four in ten are in their 50's and 60's, and over two in ten are 70 or above.
- Of those who responded to the question of marital status almost three-quarters are married or remarried. Among those not currently married, 10% are single, 7% are either divorced or separated, and 9% are widowed. Nearly four in ten of those who responded report having children, stepchildren, or grandchildren living with them.
- Of those who answered the question of education, three-quarters of respondents hold a Bachelor's degree or higher, and one-quarter holds an Associate's degree or lower. Thirteen percent of the total number of surveys returned did not answer the question
- Of those who answered the question, fifty-eight percent were female and forty-two percent male. Of the total number of surveys returned, thirteen percent did not answer the question.

Religious Characteristics of Respondents

- Of all respondents, 84% stated they are registered at St. Michael Parish. On average, respondents have attended the parish for 20 years. Six in ten have attended for more than 10 years.
- Half of respondents are involved in at least one parish ministry or activity. The percentage involved in two or more ministries or activities is under one-quarter.

Evaluations of Parish Life

- Nine in ten respondents give St. Michael Parish overall a positive evaluation, with almost four in ten rating it as "excellent" and 5 in ten rating it as "good".

- More than eight in ten agree that at least “somewhat” they feel included in parish life, with almost half agreeing “strongly” that they do. Those involved in at least one parish ministry or activity are particularly likely to agree “strongly” that they feel included.
- Masses and liturgies in general receive a positive evaluation from almost all respondents. Nearly eighty-five percent give them a “good or excellent” rating. Almost nine in ten report being attracted to the parish “somewhat or very much” by the following: the quality of the liturgy, the sense of belonging they feel there, and the opening, welcoming spirit of the people/parish community.
- From respondents, almost two-thirds give high priority to both Youth ministry and visitation of the sick and homebound.
- Eighty-five percent give children’s religious education/formation a “high” priority.
- Six in ten gave developing a sense of community a “high” priority rating.
- When asked to write in what ministries or services are most needed at the parish, respondents more often cited the need for outreach to and formation for specific groups of people in the community. Children and young adults received the highest priority along with community outreach for those in need.

Formation

- Efforts to educate children and youth in the faith received a positive evaluation, with over half of the respondents giving it an “excellent” rating.
- Almost one-half of respondents rate as “good” youth ministry at the parish.
- One-quarter of those responding rated faith formation for adults as “excellent”, with a little over one half rating it as “good”.
- Six in ten place “high” priority on youth ministry, with almost five in ten giving as much priority to a young adult group.

Stewardship

- Only four in ten respondents give an “excellent” rating and equally four in ten give a “good” rating to efforts to invite participation in parish ministries.
- When asked about the likeliness to give monetarily in the next year, a little under four in ten responded “very much” while a little over four in ten responded “somewhat”.
- Two in ten of respondents reported to likely give “only a little” or “not at all” over the next year.
- Four in ten respondents report giving to the parish’s offertory collection regularly.

Sense of Community

- A little over four-fifths of the respondents give a positive evaluation to the sense of community within the parish. About four in ten rate it as “excellent” and four in ten rate it as “good”.

- Social activities evaluation receive “good” rating from almost one-half of respondents, with one-fifth giving an “excellent” rating and one-fourth giving a “fair” rating.
- Developing a parish sense of community receives “high” priority from almost two-thirds of respondents, while receiving a “somewhat” rating from almost one-third of respondents.

Parish Communications

- Most respondents responded positively about the efforts to communicate with parishioners.
- Over one-half of those who responded feel the periodic “Faithlife” emails are helpful and spiritually nourishing.
- The parish recognizes the need for advancement in using social media to communicate with younger families, young adults and the youth. Research from other parishes is underway, while discussions are ongoing with parish staff, the Parish Advisory Council, and the Finance Council as to the implementation and cost effectiveness of such an undertaking.

Leadership

- Almost all respondents give a positive evaluation to the vision provided by parish leaders, with eight in ten rating the pastor/administrator’s leadership as “excellent or good” and nine in ten rating the parish and religious education offices staff as “excellent or good”.
- Nine in ten rate efforts to manage parish finances as “excellent or good.”

Evangelization and Parish Outreach

- Efforts to spread the Gospel/evangelize and outreach/advocacy to those-in-need receive positive evaluations with nearly three-quarters of respondents giving at least a “good” rating.
- Less than one-fifth would be likely to invite someone to attend a parish worship service or activity at least once in the next year.
- Over half of respondents rated Parish efforts to reach out to youths aged 4 to 12 as “excellent”, four in ten rating outreach to ages 13 to 17 as “good”, and four in ten rating outreach to senior citizens as “good”. Less than two in ten rate outreach to young adults as “excellent”, while a little over three in ten rate it as “good”.
- Three-quarters of those who responded to Parish efforts to reach out to those who suffer loss gave a rating of “excellent or good”. The St. Michael Arimathea Society is often highly praised, and this response is evident of the success of the ministry.

Parish Life Survey for St. Michael Parish Bedford, MA

Introduction

The St. Michael Parish Life Survey was a questionnaire distributed to parishioners who attended the parish liturgies over the one weekend of September 30 and October 1, 2017. In all, there were 396 valid survey returns, although many of the questions on the 396 surveys were left blank. The blanks or unanswered parts to questions were taken into consideration when tallying the responses for each individual question.

Interpreting This Report

Most of the questions in this survey use four point response scales (“not at all,” “only a little,” “somewhat,” “very much”; or “poor,” “fair,” “good,” “excellent”). These scales allow half of the responses to be interpreted as relatively more “negative” (“poor” and “fair,” for example) and half as relatively more “positive” (“good” and “excellent,” for example).

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 shown in the table charts. The percentage responses for each item were calculated out of 100 percent of actual responses. In most cases, the percentage of respondents who did not answer is reported.

In addition to the quantitative data analyzed in this report, four open-ended questions on the survey collected qualitative data. For these, respondents were prompted with one 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.

The results of this survey fairly represent the characteristics and attitudes of people who attend Mass at St. Michael 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 programs or functions excluding Mass.

Section I: Demographics of Respondents

This section of the report includes demographic and other descriptive data for 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 a typical weekend at the parish.

Age

The average age of respondents is 57 years old.

Age of Respondents	
Left Blank out of 396	21%
% below of 314 responses	
17 and Under	2%
18-19	1%
20-29	4%
30-39	6%
40-49	24%
50-59	17%
60-69	20%
70-79	14%
80 and above	12%

Responding parishioners were born between 1925 and 2004 and range in age from 14 to 93 years old. Those born between 1969 and 1978 (ages 40-49) represent almost one-fourth of respondents. Almost four in ten respondents (37 percent) are age 50 to 70, with one-four of them (26 percent) 70 and above. The average (mean) age is 57.

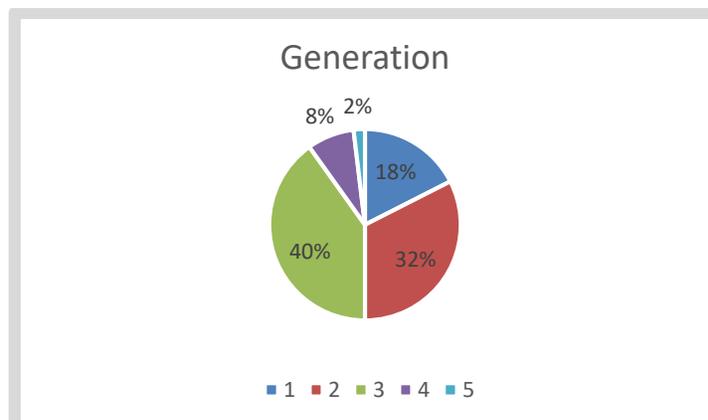
Generation

Important differences between groups in a parish is typically found among those who belong to different generations. CARA divides Catholics into the following four generations, reflective of the age categories.

Percentage by group of 314 actual responses (79% of total survey returns)

Pre-Vatican II	18%	(Age 76+)
Vatican II	32%	(Age 58-75)
Post-Vatican II	40%	(Age 37-57)
Millennials	8%	(Age 18-36)
Centennials	2%	(Under Age 18)

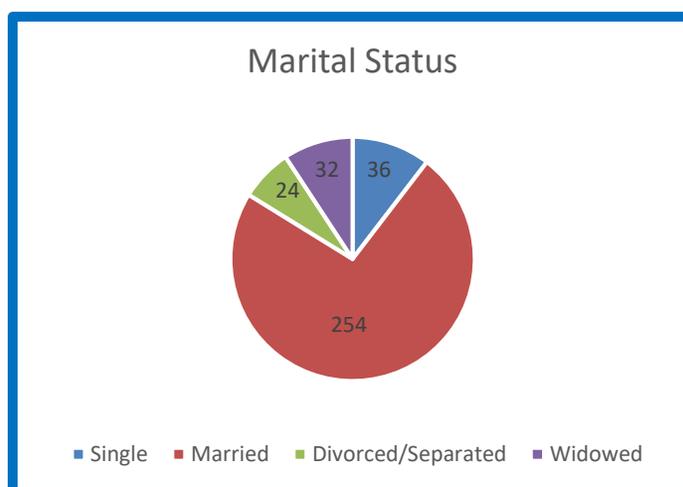
- *The “Pre-Vatican II Generation,” ages 76 and over in 2017.* The Pre-Vatican II Generation was born in 1942 or earlier. Its members came of age before the Second Vatican Council. Members of the Pre-Vatican II Generation make up 18 % of the respondents.
- *The “Vatican II Generation”, ages 58-75 in 2017.* These are the “Baby Boomers” who were born between 1943 and 1960, a time of great demographic and economic growth. They came of age during the time of the Second Vatican Council and their formative years likely spanned that time of profound changes in the Church. Members of the Vatican II Generation at St. Michael Parish represent 32% of respondents .
- *The “Post-Vatican II Generation”, ages 37-57 in 2017.* Born between 1961 and 1981, this generation, sometimes called “Generation X” or “Baby Busters” by demographers, has not lived experience of the pre-Vatican II Church. Four in ten respondents (40%) are members of the Post-Vatican II Generation.
- *The “Millennial Generation”, ages 18-36 in 2017.* This generation, born in 1982 or later, has come of age primarily under the papacies of John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis. Because some still live with their parents, their religious practice is often closely related to that of their families of origin. Eight percent of respondents belong to the Millennial Generation.
- *The “Centennial Generation”- under 18 years of age.*



Marital Status

Sixty-four percent of respondents are currently married or remarried. Of the total surveys returned, 13% did not answer the question.

<i>Based on actual responses</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Married or Remarried	254	74%
Widowed	32	9%
Divorced or Separated	24	7%
Single or Never Married	36	10%

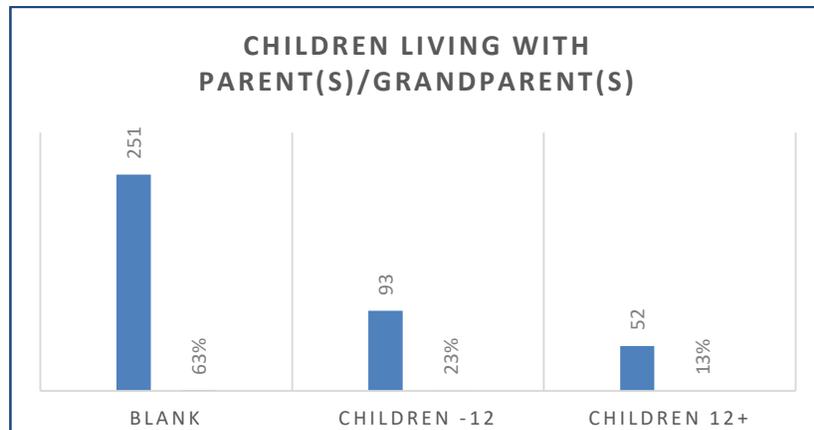


- About one-quarter (26%) of respondents are currently not married, including those who are single and never married (10%), divorced or separated (7%) and widowed (9%).

Children in the Household

About one in four respondents has at least one child (including stepchildren) living with them. The survey responses totaled a number of 145 children, of which 93 are under twelve-years old and 52 are over twelve-years old.

<i>Number of Children or Stepchildren Living with You</i>	
<i>Percentage responding</i>	
Zero or Left Blank	63%
Children under 12	23%
Children over 12	13%



- Of the 93 respondents with children under twelve, 32% have one child, 53% have two children, 14% have three children and 1% have four children.
- Of the 52 respondents with children over twelve, 58% have one child, 35% has two children, 6% have three children and 1% have four children.
- Because respondents were given the instruction to “leave blank if none,” it is assumed that those respondents who did not answer this question do not have children in this age group living in their household.

Section II: Religious Characteristics of Respondents

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

Parish Registration

Of the 396 returned surveys, ten percent left this question blank. Out of the 358 who responded, eighty-four percent report being registered at St. Michael Parish. Ninety-four percent of respondents report that St. Michael parish is their primary place of worship. Sixteen percent of respondents at Mass on survey weekend reported to be not registered in St. Michael Parish.

Years at the Parish

Mass attenders were asked to write in the number of years they have attended the parish. Those who do not regularly attend the parish were asked to leave the item blank, with those who have attended for less a year instructed to write “1.” Twenty percent of the returned surveys did not answer the question.

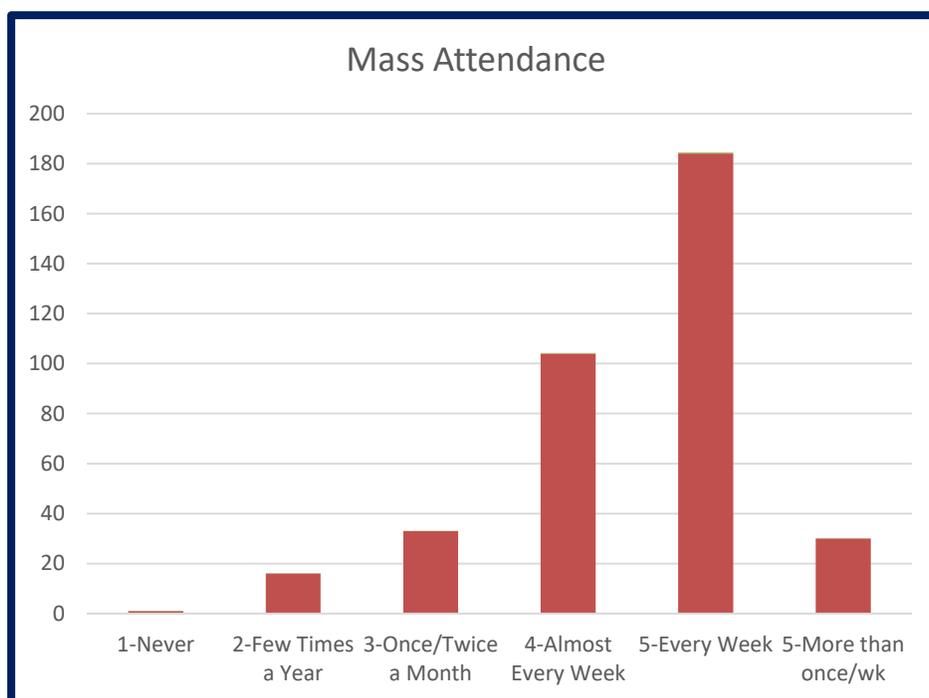
On average, respondents have attended the parish for 20 years. The median is 15 years, meaning that half of respondents have attended for 15 years or less and half have attended for 15 years or more.

Years at Parish		
	Of 285 Responses	% of Responses
1 year or less	20	7%
2-5 years	46	16%
6-10 years	47	17%
11-15 years	33	12%
16-20 years	32	11%
21-25 years	21	7%
26-30 years	17	6%
31-35 years	7	2%
36-40 years	17	6%
41-45 years	8	3%
46-50 years	18	7%
51-60 years	14	5%
61-72 years	5	1%
Average years	20	7%
Maximum years – 1 person	73	

Mass Attendance

St. Michael Parish distributed the survey in three Masses over one weekend on Saturday, September 30 and Sunday, October 1: Saturday, 5pm, Sunday, 7am and Sunday, 10am. Out of 396 survey returns, 28 did not answer this question. Below is information based on the 368 responses:

- Eight percent attend Mass more than once a week.
- Fifty percent attend Mass every week.
- Twenty-eight percent attend Mass almost every week.
- Nine percent attend Mass once a month.
- Four percent attend Mass a few times a year
- One percent responded they never attend Mass, however was at the Mass on survey weekend.



When asked if the respondents attend Mass as a family, more than half did not answer the question at all. Out of the small number of responses (183), eighty-three percent report to attending Mass as a family.

Participation in Parish Faith Education Programs

Forty-nine percent of respondents have children who attended religious education classes in the past five years.

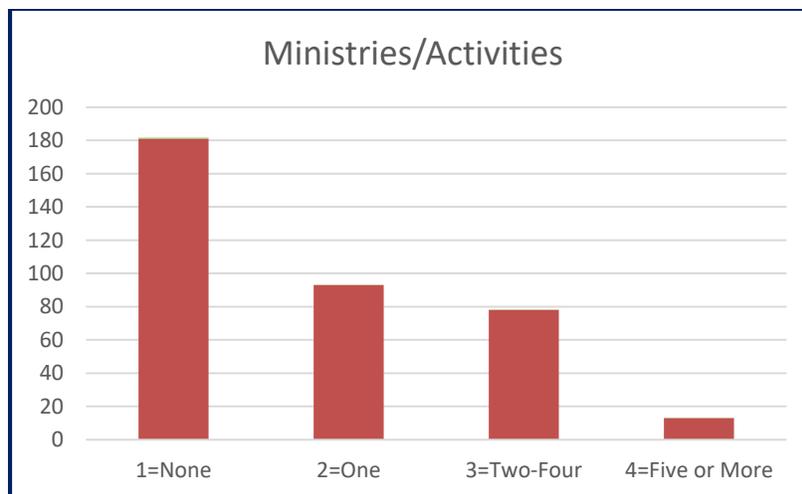
Almost six in ten of respondents report they are either “very much or somewhat” likely to spend time learning more about their faith in the next year. While five in ten respond they are either “very much or somewhat” likely to attend one of the speaker series offered.

Ministry and Activity Participation

Out of 396 returned surveys, eight percent of respondents left the question about ministry and/or activity participation blank.

Half of those who did answer report not being involved in any ministries or activities at the parish. One-quarter are involved in one ministry or activity.

Number of Ministries/Activities	Responses	% of Respondents
None	181	50%
One	93	25%
Two to Four	78	21%
Five or More	13	4%



When asked if the respondents would volunteer in the parish in the next year, sixty-six percent of responses were “yes”, leaving thirty-four percent reporting “no”.

Miscellaneous Respondent Information

Of the total number of surveys returned, twenty-one percent did not answer the question of their faith background. Ninety-two percent of those who responded to the question report they are cradle Catholics and eight percent having converted to Catholicism.

When asked if the respondents watch or listen to Catholic TV/Radio, one-quarter of those who answered reported “yes”. Eleven percent of the surveys returned did not answer the question.

Twenty-one percent of respondents partake in Catholic group activities outside of St. Michael Parish, and seventy-nine percent report they do not. Thirteen percent of the surveys returned did not answer this question.

Only thirteen percent of the respondents report to using electronic giving. However, when asked if likely to transition to on-line giving in the next year, twenty percent responded “very” likely, while twenty-two reported “somewhat” likely. Thirty-nine percent of respondents report that they will not transition to on-line giving, leaving the remainder to give it very little consideration.

When asked about remembering St. Michael Parish in estate and financial planning, below are the results of those who answered.

- Thirty-two percent of the returned surveys did not answer the question on remembering the parish in the Last Will and Testament. Of those that did answer the question, thirty-one percent report they will remember St. Michael Parish in their Will and sixty-nine percent report they will not.
- Twenty-seven percent of the returned surveys did not answer the question about including the parish in their year-end and financial planning. Forty-nine percent of those who responded report they will remember the parish in their financial and year-end planning, while fifty-one percent report they will not.

Section III: Evaluation of Parish Life

The results from the sections comprising of the main body of the questionnaire are presented here.

Aspects of Parish Life

Almost ninety-three percent of those who responded evaluate St. Michael Parish overall as “good” or “excellent.” More than eight in ten give a positive rating to all of the aspects of parish life evaluated.

Evaluate these aspects of parish life	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
St. Michael Parish overall	45%	48%	6%	1%
Sense of Community within the parish	39%	43%	16%	2%
Masses and liturgies in general	42%	50%	7%	1%
Vision provided by parish leaders	31%	47%	21%	1%
Efforts to education parishioners in faith	45%	44%	10%	1%
Encouragement to share time/talent/treasure	44%	43%	12%	1%
Outreach/Advocacy for those in need/distress	30%	52%	17%	1%
Spreading the Gospel/Evangelizing	24%	50%	23%	3%

- About eight in ten respondents evaluate the Masses and liturgies in general and the sense of community within the parish positively.
- Efforts to educate parishioners in faith scores equally between “excellent and good”. Less than two in ten respondents feel the parish efforts are “fair or poor”.
- More than four in ten give an “excellent” and four in ten give a “good” rating to parish efforts to promote responsible stewardship among parishioners.

Parish Persons and Programs Evaluation

Over eight in ten respondents to the 2017 survey give a positive evaluation to all four of the persons/programs listed.

Evaluate the following persons/ programs.	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Leadership provided by pastor	46%	40%	12%	2%
Leadership of the parish and religious education offices staff	60%	34%	5%	1%
Children’s religious education program	63%	33%	3%	1%
Youth Ministry program	29%	47%	20%	4%
Faith formation for adults	25%	51%	20%	4%
Social activities	22%	49%	24%	5%

- More than eight in ten respondents give an “excellent and good” rating for pastoral leadership of the parish. Of the total number of returned surveys, only seven percent did not answer.
- Both the parish and religious education offices staff received high marks with more than nine in ten giving them an “excellent or good” rating. Fourteen percent of the total number of surveys returned did not answer this question.
- The religious education program gets very high praise with ninety-six percent of the respondents giving an “excellent or good” rating. Twenty percent of the total surveys returned did not answer this question, however, respondents were asked to leave it blank if it did not pertain to them.
- For the past several years, volunteers have dedicated much time and planning to establish and maintain a Youth Ministry program. Overall, it has been well-received with seven in ten respondents giving it an “excellent or good” rating. Of the total number of surveys returned, thirty-eight percent did not answer, which would mean that it does not pertain to them and therefore would not know details of the program.
- Almost half of respondents reported social activities to be “good”, while about one-quarter of respondents feel it is “fair or poor”. Eighteen percent of surveys returned did not answer.

Priority for Parish Needs

The table below shows the results of the actual respondents. Out of the total number of surveys returned, the percentage left unanswered for each of the priority areas ranged from sixteen percent (children’s religious education) to thirty-one percent (ministry to the divorced or separated).

The five areas with the highest number of responses were children’s religious education and formation, developing a sense of community, youth ministry group activities, more opportunities for devotions, and visitation of the sick and homebound.

Priority for the parish	High	Some	A Little	None
Children’s religious education/formation	84%	13%	2%	1%
Youth Ministry group activities	62%	28%	9%	1%
Provide retreat opportunities	19%	44%	30%	7%
More small group prayer opportunities	17%	48%	26%	9%
More devotion opportunities	22%	46%	26%	6%
Ministry to the divorced or separated	23%	51%	19%	7%
Ministry to the grieving	50%	42%	6%	2%
Visitation of the sick and homebound	63%	31%	4%	2%
Developing a sense of community	62%	31%	6%	1%
Developing a young adult group age 18-25	47%	37%	13%	3%

- Children’s religious education ranks as the highest of priority with the most number of respondents. Only sixteen percent of the total surveys returned did not answer this question.
- Overall the areas where parishioners view the least priority for the parish were providing retreat opportunities, more of small prayer groups, and more opportunities for devotions such as Adoration or the Rosary.
- Just over six in ten of respondents place “very much” priority on youth ministry, visitation to the sick and homebound and developing a sense of community.
- Ministering to the grieving receives high priority from half of respondents.

Attitudes about Parish Life

Eight in ten respondents at least “somewhat agree” that they feel well-informed about what goes on in our parish.

Regarding Parish Life	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Feel included in parish life	39%	46%	10%	5%
Feel well informed about what goes on in the parish	42%	46%	10%	2%
Feel adequately informed about parish finances	32%	46%	17%	5%
Feel comfortable talking with the pastor	48%	31%	14%	7%
Understand the concept of stewardship	38%	39%	17%	6%
Wish to volunteer more in the parish	19%	48%	26%	7%

- Sadly, only about two in ten respondents at least “somewhat agree” to taking a greater role in parish ministry, with over one quarter of respondents disagreeing to the desire to volunteer.
- Over seven in ten at least “somewhat agree” to understanding the concept of stewardship.
- Almost eight in ten at least “somewhat agree” to being informed about parish finances.
- Overall ratings were good regarding parishioners attitudes about the current status of parish life.

Likely to do in the next year

The table below shows the results of the actual respondents. Out of the total number of surveys returned, the percentage left unanswered for each of the priority areas ranged from fifteen (attend a parish activity or function besides mass) to twenty-one percent (invite someone to a parish service or activity).

Likely to do in the next year	High	Some	A Little	None
Attend a parish activity or function besides Mass	48%	29%	17%	6%
Transition to electronic giving	20%	21%	20%	39%
Talk to someone about our faith	26%	30%	31%	13%
Spend time learning more about our faith	30%	37%	24%	9%
Volunteer for a parish ministry	33%	27%	26%	14%
Generous support to the parish's on-going needs	38%	42%	16%	4%
Invite someone to a parish service or activity	19%	27%	31%	23%
Attend one of the speaker series offered	24%	30%	30%	16%
Attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation	24%	29%	29%	18%
Regularly read the Bible	17%	26%	34%	23%

- Eight in ten respondents report to the likelihood to give generously to the support the parish needs going forward.
- Over seven in ten respondents report they would be at least somewhat likely to attend a parish function besides Mass, although only five in ten would likely attend the speaker series and six in ten would likely spend time learning more about their faith.
- Respondents were almost equal in all categories regarding the likelihood to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- A little over half of respondents may talk to someone about their faith, and a little over a half would invite someone to a parish service or activity.

Evaluate Areas of the Weekend Masses

The table below shows the results of the actual respondents. Out of the total number of surveys returned, the percentage left unanswered ranged from nine percent (homilies) to fifteen percent (music).

Evaluate areas of the weekend Masses	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Homilies	44%	43%	9%	4%
Music	50%	35%	13%	2%
Liturgical decorations and environment	33%	49%	16%	2%
Weekend Mass schedule	38%	46%	14%	2%
Hospitality or sense of welcome	42%	43%	13%	2%

- An average of over eight in ten responded positively to all areas of the weekend Masses, rating “excellent or good” in all categories.

What Attracts You to St. Michael Parish

The table below shows the results of the actual responses. Out of the 396 total surveys returned, the percentage of questions left unanswered ranged from twelve percent (open, welcoming spirit) to thirty-one percent (for both adult faith formation and commitment to social justice).

How much do the following attracts you to the parish	High	Some	A Little	None
Its open, welcoming spirit	50%	37%	10%	3%
The quality of the liturgy	43%	45%	10%	2%
The quality of preaching	40%	44%	12%	4%
Children/Youth religious education program	59%	30%	8%	3%
Adult faith formation	20%	45%	25%	10%
Opportunities for spiritual growth	24%	48%	24%	4%
Commitment to social justice	17%	40%	28%	15%
Sense of belonging felt at St. Michael Parish	49%	36%	11%	4%

- Overall, almost eight in ten respondents responded positively to all areas of the parish.
- Approximately half of the respondents rate the religious education program, the open, welcoming spirit and the feel/sense of belonging as “high” in what attracts them to St. Michael Parish.

Evaluate Parish Efforts

The table below shows the results of the actual respondents. Out of the total number of surveys returned, the percentage left unanswered ranged from twelve percent (communicate with parishioners) to twenty-seven percent (manage parish finances).

Evaluate parish efforts	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Nurture your relationship with Christ	32%	54%	13%	1%
Communicate with parishioners	29%	56%	14%	1%
Support parishioners in practicing gospel values in daily life	28%	52%	18%	2%
Meet people’s spiritual needs	25%	58%	14%	3%
Invite parishioners to join parish ministries	41%	46%	12%	1%
Management of parish finances	45%	45%	9%	1%

- The evaluation of parish efforts of the parish were quite positive. Eighty-five percent of respondents gave an “excellent or good” rating to the overall parish efforts .
- Nine in ten responded favorable to the management of parish finances, with equal percentage of respondents giving an “excellent” and a “ good” rating.

SECTION IV: OPEN RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question: What **need or program do you think the parish should focus** on in the next one to three years?

	# out of 139 responses
Young Adults – Mass Attendance, continued religious education formation after Confirmation	25
Youth and Teens - focus on programs, support Them in whatever they are going through, attracting them to the Church, getting and keeping them in Mass, addressing teen issues such as drug addiction	23
Developing and More Community/Fellowship – welcoming new parishioners, welcoming new families, more social events	22
Outreach - to the sick, poor, aged, more focus on outreach opportunities	15
Young Families - engaging young families, increasing young families attendance at mass	10
Adult Support - Programs, Retreats opportunities, continuing faith formation	10
Social Justice and Inclusion - more focus on social justice issues	9
Volunteering	4
Music - include children's choir, more upbeat songs to engage young people, guitar	3
Increase Mass Attendance	3
Improve Church/Liturgical Space	2
Crucifix over Altar - move St. Michael	2
Shorten homilies/sermons	2
St. Vincent de Paul	2
Programs for Singles - never married/widowed	1
Collaborative 2019 and pastoral consistency	1
Reach out to those who left the Church	1
More Speakers	1
Parishioners to increase their giving	1
Respect Life	1
Fiscal Responsibility	1

Question: What area of the parish property do you think needs the most improvement or update?

	# out of 99 responses
CHURCH	
Church Interior - outdated/dark/paint	16
Church Sanctuary/Altar/Crucifix	10
Church Windows	6
Church Bathrooms	5
Church Building	5
Church pews/kneelers	3
Church - Air Circulation	1
Church Front Doors - make handicap accessible	1
Church Sound System	1
Church - reduce heat in winter	1
Church - clean statues outside of church	1
Church - beautify entrance, flowers, etc	1
Parking Lot - repave/re-line	10
Drive and walk area at side of Church	8
Outside Lighting	6
Rectory	5
Landscaping around property	4
Parish Hall	2
Parish Center - more classrooms, repaint curb by kitchen entrance	2
Youth Ministry Area for youth to hang out	1
All Fine - good job with upkeep	10

- Over fifty percent of responses were regarding the Church building in most need of improvement and update.
- Second highest area is the parking lot and drive/walk areas around the Church, including the lighting.

Question: **Additional comments and/or suggestions.**

	# out of 50 responses
Positive Comments: Feels like home, Great changes to parish operations and maintenance to Church property, Preaching is great, Run well, Good people, Great parish, Strong sense of community, Thank you	18
Programs – Stations and rosary, More long-term social activities, More opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation, Outreach for 18-35 year olds, Fun evening activities, Parish picnics, Program are generally held too late or too early	8
Sermon – More practical, Too long, More honest, More engaging, More real, Keep politics out of sermons	6
Music – Move choir off altar, More lively/contemporary music, Guitar, Lower volume	6
Evangelize – Promote sacraments, Get young people to Church, Fill parish	5
Bulletin – Make more like a newsletter, Earlier notice for upcoming events	3
Religious Education Program – Sunday nights are inconvenient, Costs too much	4

Many comments were to offer positive feedback. Other major suggestions and comments were regarding programs, sermons, Church music, and evangelization.

Comments that repeat in both the question about parish focus and in this general comment section are regarding building up the parish community and young people/families attending Mass, the music program being more upbeat to engage young people/families, and social activities to engage young people/families. In summary, one main area of focus and concern are the young people and young families in the parish to become more involved in parish life.