

Parish Survey
Preliminary Results

Demographics

53 people responded to the survey; 34 identified a gender; 23 female, 10 male, 1 couple

- a) 41 identified an age: avg. 61 years (range of 33-86)
- b) 42 of the 53 (79%) identified an occupation; 26 of those 42 (62%) said they were retired
- c) 44 of the 53 identified 'years in parish;' the range was 1953-2023; the average was since 1996 (26.5 yrs.)
- d) 51 of the 53 identified 'persons in household;' the average was 2.2

Question Number 1: On average, how often do you attend weekend Masses at SPB?

- 39 of the 53 (70%) said they attended Mass every weekend
- 7 (13%) said two or three times a month
- 3 (6%) said one-two times a month
- 2 (3.6%) said three-six times a year
- 1 (1.8%) said "streamed Mass"
- 1 (1.8%) said "attend on special occasions—Christmas/Easter, etc.)"

Question Number 2: If you attend Mass at SPB fewer than two times a month, please share your reasons for not attending more often.

Note: the totals do not balance with the numbers in the previous item.

6 respondents cited "I attend Mass elsewhere"

1 response for each of the following:

Weather

I don't always feel like I'm part of the community and welcomed.

I spend winters in Arizona—attend weekly when in town.

I have health issues at this time.

The Mass times are inconvenient.

I serve at another parish from time to time.

I have other obligations (work, children's activities, family commitments, etc..)

Question Number 3: Does your child/do your children attend the SPB day school or attend SPB PSR?

40 'no' responses 75%

13 'yes' responses 25%

Question Number 4: Please list suggestions/ideas as to how SPB can assist you (and others) to increase attendance at weekend Masses.

Outreach to those who do not attend but are registered in the parish.
Continue to keep the services warm and open to all.
I prefer the early Mass on Sunday—liked 8:00 but understand why 8:30 and the priest shortage problem.
Make 10:30 Mass/children's Mass shorter; keep message at Mass positive and uplifting; less singing.
Offer more events associated with Masses, i.e. highlight the various groups.
Have PSR on Sunday, so that families come to Mass before class.
Make sure parking lot is ice-free, add senior activities.
Help other parishioners be more welcoming to new faces.
Quicken the transition times (bowing in unison, etc.), more engaging homilies, guest priests.
Coffee and doughnuts after Mass, sponsored by different groups.
Improve the music.
Make an effort to learn my name.
Provide rides for elderly and/or disabled.
I prefer the older songs I grew up with
Find out why young people are turned off by attending Mass.
I think people need to see the value of attending Mass regularly. I'm not sure how that can be accomplished.
I can't speak for others, but I know that there are people who have left the parish.
Plan a 45 minute Mass, move the pace by eliminating quiet space (ex. bowing of first reader and psalmist) and saying
Speak the name of the Mass intention clearly at the appointed petition, not mumbled by the priest in a list of prayers.
I'm not sure. I share the frustration that not many school families attend Mass regularly.
8:30 Mass just doesn't work for me on weekends. 8:00 is a better time for me.
4p.m. on Sunday evening; change the 6:30.
Sing less of the Mass.
I hear from many people--too much singing. Homilies need to be 'simpler' with basic take-aways that are applicable to daily life.
Hire a real music minister.
I don't think you can. Most Catholics who don't go to church won't talk about it.
More after-Mass social events in narthex.
Honestly, a little less singing. Sometimes it's beautiful, but some days it makes the Mass feel like it's dragging on.
Less singing.
Need to focus on the young and what appeals to them (pace of Mass, short and relevant sermons.
Too many envelopes!
I prefer to go to Mass at SPB, but the morning times are during my youngest child's nap and the evening Mass butts up

Maybe find ways to help parishioners get to know other parishioners better.
At every broadcast Mass, invite parishioners back to Mass.
Faster Mass services. Many people are looking for 'express' in every facet of life anymore. Not to take the important.
Thank everyone for attending Mass, "Welcome Home."
Participation: increase inclusion/participation of intergenerational parishioners in the Mass (GIRM). Many times
Offer community social time after Mass with beverages and small snacks; have more family activities after Mass.
The sermons need to be relevant to 2023. Also, Mass needs to be no longer than 1 hour. Perhaps a social activity after Mass like doughnuts and coffee.
Add kneelers so everyone knows to kneel at the Consecration. Make the Mass more sacred and less Broadway showy.
Kneelers.

Question Number 5: Do you agree with the following statement: "Saint Paschal Baylon is adhering to the Documents of Vatican II? (as far as you understand those Documents)

Yes: 52 (98%) No: 1

Comments:

Maybe a Mass in Latin once a month.
I'm fine with SPB's adherence.
I feel they follow Vatican II.
The Church's universal language (Latin) isn't included as much as it should be.
Extraordinary ministers are used

Question Number 6: There are churches that have had to close their doors for lack of finances and/or dwindling attendance. Is this a concern for you as a member of Saint Paschal Baylon?

Yes: 21 (40%) No: 18 (34%) Maybe: 14 (26%)

Question Number 7: Saint Paschal Baylon is a Eucharistic-centered parish. Is this important to you when comparing SPB with other parishes?

Yes: 38 (72%) No: 15 (28%)

Question Number 8: The Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution requires the separation of Church and State. In that context, how do we at SPB act upon the beliefs in our Creed and our obligation to bring Christ to the world? Choose all that apply.

- a. Speak to world issues in light of the scripture: 31 (45%)
- b. Speak out against those who threaten Christian values: 12 (17%)
- c. Confirm that every individual has a free will and conscience to make independent decisions regarding world affairs: 26 (38%)

Comments:

Live Jesus' precepts; stay out of world affairs, politics, and personal affairs.
Have group discussions and take up signs against abortion.
Recognize and identify politicians and political parties that violate core Church values; for example, abortion.
It appears that there is more of a superficial mention of the right to life and abortion.
Christ is brought to the world when each individual accepts certain values.
Do not stay silent on the ongoing murder of our children by the thousands in our neighborhood every year just a few miles away.

Question Number 9: There is a need in every parish to keep ministers (i.e. Communion Ministers, Lectors, and other volunteers, etc.). Do you feel obliged to step in to help Saint Paschal's community remain a vibrant parish? Choose all that apply.

- It is something I feel strongly about. 21 (51%)
- I can help if called upon. 13 (31%)
- I do not feel obligated. 7 (18%)

Other/comments;

I've done my time—younger people need to step up.
I am already part of a parish committee and also help with Spring fest.
Disability is a problem.
I serve the Church in other ways.
I can help from time to time.
I feel the desire to help—not because I'm obligated but because I want to.
I would love to help out more, but with an infant and a toddler, we aren't in that season now.
I am a Eucharistic Minister, but even arriving 15 minutes early, all the slots are filled by people who have been Ministers for a longer time.
I am already in several ministries.
I am involved with the Music Ministry
I do not have time to offer my services due to family obligations.

Question Number 10: Do you feel that organized religion (of all denominations) is becoming less relevant in today's America?

Yes: 38 (72%)

No: 12 (23%)

Maybe: 3 (5%)

Comments:

The Church needs to be forward thinking. We are too stuck in the past.

I wish I had a good answer.

To me, the key word is 'community.' I hope that we sincerely welcome people and make them feel a part of our parish.

Include women.

Advertisement in the "Sun Messenger."

Provide opportunities during all Masses for the youth to be more involved so they will have the desire to attend Mass.

Dynamic (lay) leaders relating to the people, especially the younger adults (school families), hospitality to bring the people in.

I wish I knew. Prayers.

Each person needs to have a firm commitment to the truths of our faith. Then we share.

The Catholic Church needs to open their minds to people who are gay. Love is love.

The male-dominated, hierarchical structure of the Catholic Church and other organized religions has pushed many people away.

I wish I had the answer.

Get more young people involved.

I'm not sure what can be done about it.

Prayer, example. Such a huge issue. Need to capture interest of young people and encourage them to carry the practice of the faith.

Focus on young people, young adults, young families.

Try to make adjustments to Mass (less singing and themes of homilies) to make it so people feel they are getting more out of attending.

Keep praying, worshipping and doing what we can because I believe people will return to their church, especially in hard times.

Parents then prayer.

Prayer.

Be more accepting of others' ideas and of gay people.

Churches have not kept up with the changing world.

People only see the bad or the 'over-evangelized' aspect of faith. I like to show the quiet side of faith, why it is important.

Not in touch with current realities.

Teach families core beliefs and moral values. Identify hypocrisy.
People are concerned about their families and the insanity of the world order.
Religion, while providing solace, does not address these issues.
I wish I knew the answer. I have Jewish friends who also feel what we are going through.
Stronger connection of the Church's teachings to practical daily living.
Encourage participation in the efforts of the Evangelization Committee.
Beliefs have changed. Society is making so many liberal ideas acceptable and many people question Catholicism.
Evangelization by each member of the parish. Guidance on how to do this. Outreach training and utilizing the tremendous assets of our parishioners.
Many people, especially younger people, do not understand everything that organized religion offers.
The family unit needs to be stronger with emphasis on Christian values. Less violence on TV and social media.
A think tank of people that agree and disagree that religion is important to explore this topic.
Be inspiring by going back to our roots. Post Vatican II style (music, culture, liturgy, etc.) is mostly uninspiring.
Be unapologetically Catholic. More reverence in Mass, Continue to strengthen our youth and their relationship with Christ.

Question Number 11: Please help us plan for next Christmas. On Christmas day (December 25, 2023) Mass will be offered at 8:30 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.. At what time(s) would you prefer Mass to be offered on Christmas Eve (December 24)?

As far as individual Mass times are concerned (how many people identified a particular Mass either by itself or in tandem with other Masses), the survey showed the following:

4:00 28 mentions (35%)
7:00 24 mentions (30%)
10:00 17 mentions (21%)
8:00 11 mentions (14%)

As far as Masses offered in combination, the following pairings were shown:

4:00 and 7:00 8 mentions
4:00 and 10:00 6 mentions
4:00, 7:00, and 10:00 4 mentions
7:00 and 10:00 two mentions
4:00 and 8:00, 7:00 and 8:00, 8:00 and 10:00 all one mention each

Question Number 12: What suggestions/ideas do you have regarding additions/improvements to the parish's buildings and grounds?

Refurbish the Eymard kitchen.

Increase our maintenance budget for more inspection of facilities and supporting power plant. Find and fix problems before they become too big.

Why ask for improvements? From what I understand, there already is a list for Church and school.

Follow the maintenance plan as much as possible based on parish finances. Avoid loans as much as possible.

I would love a living rosary area where parishioners gather to pray it outdoors.

They have a designated area

Keep lot clean of ice.

Grounds are well kept.

Dots on windows to prevent bird strikes. I can provide information if needed.

Map on the home page as to where the rooms are.

Less money spent on signage.

Grounds look good. Buildings may need maintenance.

Need better landscaping in the front by the horseshoe and that entrance to the church.

I think the church and buildings are great.

I noticed last week when there was snow and ice in the parking lot, the handicapped spaces were completely iced over.

Add flowers in front yard.

Nothing, the parish buildings and grounds are beautiful.

Too cold in summer!! All week long too!

Signs

Times are tough for people with inflation and the economy. Focus on needed repairs, not on improvements right now.

Need something for less distractions behind the altar from the outside.

The buildings and grounds are fine.

All is well.

It looks good. Maintain landscaping around the church.

Would love have a permanent living rosary area, a place for the Ladies Guild to host more outdoor Rosaries.

Outdoor meditation garden.

Shades/blinds on windows to assist in decreasing sun glare.

I feel the church is in good shape. We have a new parking lot. I never had children or grandchildren attending the school.

Facilities are in good order.

Replacing the church windows behind the sanctuary, e.g. double-paned, energy-efficient.

Of course, O'Brien Hall could use some remodeling to allow for assemblies, workshops, etc..

No knowledge base of parish improvements.
Re-cover the choir chairs.
The parking lot should be salted better in the winter. There is black ice on the asphalt.
A map of the grounds. I get confused about where the 'rooms' are located.
Kneelers, move tabernacle to more visible spot behind altar, more inspiring paintings/statues (most of the current
More artwork in the church. It is bland and uninspiring. Please go tour the old churches in Cleveland for inspiration.

Question Number 13: Other comments, suggestions, questions

Appeal from the pulpit for additional tithing by the pastor
Would like to see PSR attendance count toward making sacrament (for example, I think a child should have to attend 75% of classes, and prayer nights should be mandatory toward attendance.
I liked the idea of playtime after Sunday Mass so young families could meet one another. I don't know if the idea persisted, but it was a way of welcoming others and getting them to participate together.
I am very blessed to be a part of this parish.
Fish Fry, Oktoberfest, more shared meal gatherings.
I appreciate knowing that everything is being done to use our donations to the church in the most sustainable way possible.
A listing of all meetings—if not in the bulletin, on the website.
I like being a parishioner at Saint Paschal.
I would like to become a Eucharistic Minister, but I don't know what I need to do.
The Church, overall—not just St. Paschal's—needs to have more women in positions of leadership so that young women feel valued in the Church.
I think the church and the campus look good. Windows being washed made an improvement. The dead trees by the altar need to be cut back sooner than later.
Keep up the good work. The staff and volunteers are truly appreciated for all their time and dedication to Saint Paschal Baylon.
Adoration—Maybe a meeting to get ideas from people so they don't feel that they never have a substitute if they commit to an hour. I have heard three people say this.
Stop announcing what's in the bulletin at the end of Mass.
Everything o.k.
Need for better music like the old days.
Educate parish on the Angel Scholarship and its benefits with not out-of-pocket costs to parishioners.
I am honored to be a member of Saint Paschal's.
Do not preach politics from the pulpit.
Question 3 is irrelevant to me as my kids are in their 30's.
We are very thankful for the leadership of the Blessed Sacrament Community.

We find all of the liturgies welcoming, joyful, and inspiring.
Great music!

Increase overall participation. People will engage and get more involved.
Get a list of what services people would be able to offer to others in the parish
and one day

I've found SPB to be a welcoming church.

Speak out on the greatest evil in human history that is currently taking place
at this moment in time: the murder of our baby brothers and sisters
via legalized abortion! We need to be; a) at the very least constantly
mourning their deaths, b) healing mothers, fathers, workers who have
taken part in these murders (they need to acknowledge what they did
head-on to properly repent and heal, c) showing up at the local
chambers)Preterm on Shaker Blvd.) to try to prevent more deaths
on site that are taking place on the other side of the sidewalk that day.
At least Jesus had his mother at the foot of the cross; often times
These babies have NO ONE outside mourning them.

Do not worry about being politically correct.

'No comment/none at this time/NA'=26 responses