

## SYNOD SURVEY RESULTS & LISTENING SESSIONS

The responses from parishioners to the Synod Survey have been compiled and are included in this report. We are grateful to the parishioners who took the time to complete the surveys.

The process of compiling parishioner input is to include “listening sessions” where folks can gather informally to express opinions regarding issues the Universal Church should address. The “listening sessions” will be held on Sunday, April 24, at 2 p.m. and at 7 p.m. in the Rose Garden. All are invited to attend one of those sessions “in person.”

Our two “Synod Parish Ambassadors”, Jack O’Brien and Denise Lee, along with some members of the Parish Council will be present to take notes of what is discussed, and the information will then be forwarded to the Diocese. Bishop da Cunha will compile the information from all of the parishes, and the diocesan report will be forwarded to the National Conference of Bishops in Washington, and then onto Rome.

With regard to the parish needs expressed in the survey, the Parish Council will be reviewing them carefully in the next several weeks and will develop action items to address those needs. Those action items will be posted on the parish website and the bulletin. We look forward to implementing these action items and thus strengthening our parish community.

*Fr. Mike, Deacon Tom and the members of the Parish Council:*

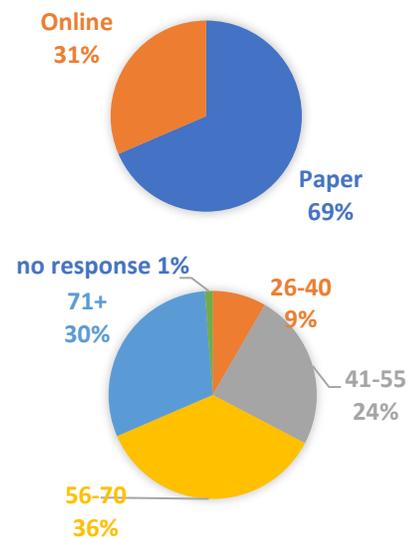
*Joe Andruzzi, Jenn Blood, Sarah Cosgrove, Joe Donovan, Lisa Hart, Tory Holmes, John Lynch, Mary Pope-Baratta, Nick Riccio, Charlie Spath, and Jeff Ward.*

### Synod on Synodality Survey Results

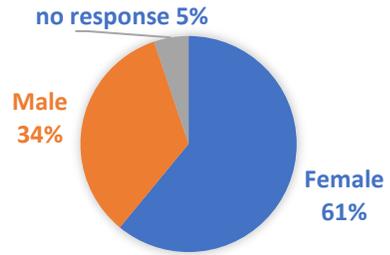
Responses		
Paper	172	69%
Online	79	31%
	251	

Age		
18-25	0	0%
26-40	21	8%
41-55	61	24%
56-70	90	36%
71+	76	30%
no response	3	1%
	251	

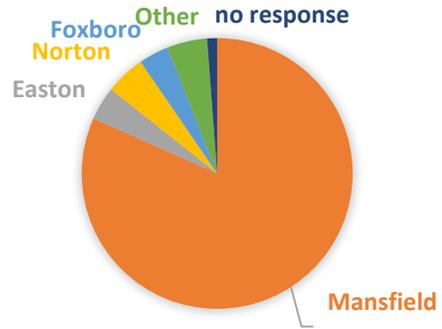
Average number of People in HH	
Adults	2.05
Children	0.60



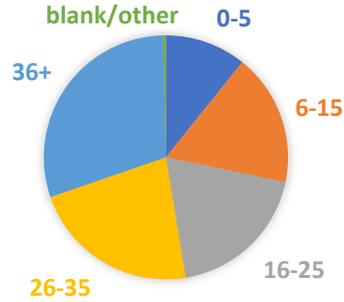
Gender		
Female	153	61%
Male	85	34%
no response	13	5%
	251	



Town		
Mansfield	205	82%
Easton	10	4%
Norton	12	5%
Foxboro	9	4%
Other	12	5%
no response	3	1%
	251	



Membership Years		
0-5	27	11%
6-15	44	18%
16-25	48	19%
26-35	56	22%
36+	75	30%
blank/other	1	0%
	251	



In person Mass frequency		
daily	4	2%
weekly	153	61%
monthly	18	7%
occasionally	39	16%
holidays only	8	3%
do not attend	20	8%
blank	9	4%
	251	



Online/Live Stream Mass frequency		
daily	3	1%
weekly	29	12%
monthly	3	1%
occasionally	57	23%
holidays only	2	1%
do not watch	108	43%
blank/other	49	20%
	251	



**Question 1: Please share, pandemic notwithstanding, why do you attend Mass in the frequency that you do?**

**Responses from daily/weekly attendees**

- obligation/habit/how I was raised	40	16%
- brings me closer to God/increases my faith	36	14%
- to receive Holy Eucharist	34	13%
- to worship as a community	30	12%
- gratitude for God's blessings/honor, praise God	24	9%
- comfort/peace/relieve stress/reflection/renewal	23	9%
- I enjoy Mass/want to be there/Fr. Mike's homilies	22	9%
- to hear the message of the Bible/Gospel	10	4%
- power of prayer	10	4%
- sharing my faith with my children/family	8	3%
- mobility/age/health issues/weather (online vs in person)	8	3%
- pandemic (online vs in person)	8	3%
- to seek forgiveness/graces needed in my life	5	2%

Total Number of Responses: 258

**Responses from those who attend monthly/occasional/holidays only/do not attend**

- other commitments/I need to make it a priority	25	30%
- pandemic	21	26%
- age/mobility/health issues	5	6%
- sex abuse scandal	4	5%
- bad past experience with a priest/church	4	5%

Total Number of Responses: 82

**Question 2: What can we do as a community to have you participate more often in Mass and in parish ministries (faith formation, SVDP, Knight of Columbus, etc.)?**

**Responses from daily/weekly attendees**

- nothing/I participate as much as I can/lack of free time/same people do it all	42	34%
- ministry fair/more communication about ministries/invitation to participate/have different ministries host after church social gatherings	21	17%
- parish is doing enough/current programs are great, don't need improvement	13	11%
- rotating announcements at Mass about what ministries do with invitation to participate	8	7%
- be more welcoming to all community members/insiders vs. outsiders/cliques	6	5%
- have more social gatherings (like Septemberfest, Advent wreaths)/communal meals	6	5%
- offer more ministries or service projects for families with children	4	3%

Total Number of Responses: 122

**Responses from those who attend monthly/occasional/holidays only/do not attend**

- nothing/I participate as much as I can/lack of free time/same people do all the work	11	22%
- more community activities/social activities/more fun	8	16%
- pandemic-related responses/check vaccination status and enforce mask-wearing	7	14%

Total Number of Responses: 51

**Question 3: What are some ways we as a parish can better reach out and listen to people, including active and less active parishioners?**

**Responses from daily/weekly attendees**

- social media presence	13	12%
- social events/informal meet and greets/quarterly parish events/spaghetti dinners/singles groups	11	10%
- I don't know	10	9%
- listening sessions open to all/focus groups/quarterly online forums	9	8%
- surveys are helpful	7	6%
- don't need to change anything/other people have to want it	6	5%
- use email	5	4%
- coffee hours for small groups to discuss faith/current events in the church	5	4%
- ministry fair/coffee and donuts with presentations by priest, school principal, and ministries	4	4%
- invite: inactive parishioners to participate/to a school event/to try a ministry without commitment	4	4%
Total Number of Responses:		112

**Responses from those who attend monthly/occasional/holidays only/do not attend**

- don't know	7	14%
- social media presence	6	12%
- church should be more accepting of all people, less judgmental	6	12%
- surveys/email anonymous surveys	4	8%
Total Number of Responses:		51

**Question 4: What factors inhibit people from being more active in the parish?**

**Responses from daily/weekly attendees**

- other time commitments (work, children's activities, elder care)/not a priority	51	35%
- afraid of not being accepted, being embarrassed in some way, not knowing others, not feeling welcome	14	10%
- sex abuse scandal/lack of faith in church leaders	9	6%
- pandemic/people broke a good habit	9	6%
- health/age	9	6%
- lack of personal invitation to get involved	8	6%
- don't want to be recruited to participate/fear of large time commitment/need to see time commitment before agreeing to get involved	8	6%
- lack of faith	4	3%
- current leadership in parish	4	3%
Total Number of Responses:		144

**Responses from those who attend monthly/occasional/holidays only/do not attend**

- other time commitments (work, children's activities, elder care)/not a priority	26	37%
- pandemic	6	9%
- sex abuse scandal/lack of faith in church leaders	5	7%
- health/age	5	7%
- fear of being judged/don't feel I fit your idea of a Catholic	4	6%
Total Number of Responses:		70

**Question 5: Are there areas of our parish and local community we can better serve, if so, which areas and suggestions how we can be of service?**

**Responses from daily/weekly attendees**

- more events for youth/families with children/middle and high school youth groups	17	19%
- don't know	9	10%
- support seniors/service outings for active seniors/rides to Mass/visit the homebound	7	8%
- do enough already	6	7%
- groups/activities for younger adults (20s - 30s)	6	7%
- outreach to the homeless and food insecure (Our Daily Bread, My Brother's Keeper)/publish local charities so people can donate year-round	6	7%
- be accepting of all/be open to all (divorced, LGBTQ)	4	5%
Total Number of Responses:		88

**Responses from those who attend monthly/occasional/holidays only/do not attend**

- don't know	8	20%
- reach the youth	5	12%
- support homeless and food insecure	4	10%
Total Number of Responses:		41

**Question 6: What areas of St. Mary's parish life do you feel are strengths and which do we need to improve? After attending Mass, could you reflect on your experience?**

**STRENGTHS from daily/weekly attendees**

Fr. Mike/excellent leadership, compassionate, accepting, positive, sense of humor, greeting before Mass	27	16%
adult ministries/the many ministries/Knights of Columbus/Eucharistic Ministers	26	16%
warm and welcoming parish/sense of community	17	10%
Masses/messages conveyed at Mass/homilies	12	7%
children's choir/music at Mass/adult choir/music director	11	7%
the school	11	7%
faith formation	10	6%
generous donors/giving trees	6	4%
Deacon Tom	6	4%
solid community	6	4%
Mass times/frequency of Masses	5	3%
Septemberfest	5	3%
Total Number of Responses:		167

**AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT from daily/weekly attendees**

promote more social gatherings/engage parishioners/more events to welcome new parishioners and improve fellowship opportunities	12	16%
more inspiring sermons/relate to everyday	5	7%
programming for youth/keep HS kids involved	5	7%
second priest to help Fr. Mike/too much work for one priest	4	5%
Total Number of Responses:		75

**STRENGTHS from those who attend monthly/occasional/holidays only/do not attend**

wonderful/helpful community that works together/the parishioners/friendly, familiar faces at Mass/welcoming	10	25%
different music options at different Masses/excellent music ministry	7	18%
faith formation	4	10%
Total Number of Responses:		40

**AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT from those who attend monthly/occasional/holidays only/do not attend**

be more welcoming/no sense of community/cliques/community is "overpowered by townies;" change up the standard few to allow for more active participation	6	23%
Total Number of Responses:		26

**REFLECTIONS from all respondents**

I always feel good after Mass/always uplifting	8	62%
Total Number of Responses:		13

**Question 7: Do you have interest in coming together as a group to learn, discuss and share different aspects of our faith journey together? If so, please suggest topics.**

**Responses from daily/weekly attendees**

Yes	52	66%
No/not at this time	27	34%
Total Responses:		79

**Topics from Yes answers**

Bible study/Lenten (or other) retreat/parish Mission	22	28%
faith/maintaining faith/modern challenges/dealing with sins and temptation	15	19%
social gatherings for connections/friendships	5	6%
living one's faith	5	6%
what is prayer/how to pray/forms of prayer/prayers of intention	4	5%
Liturgy in lay person's terms/real presence of the Eucharist	4	5%
Total Number of Responses:		80

**Responses from those who attend monthly/occasional/holidays only/do not attend**

Yes	11	38%
No/not at this time	18	62%
Total Responses:		29

**Topics from Yes answers**

None with four or more answer