

The Parish of Saint Mary



Faith In Our Future Survey

Survey Launched Friday 2/19/2016

Closed Sunday 3/6/2016

Faith in Our Future Survey for EMAIL and ONLINE Web

1588 Email invitations to survey sent

1067 opened; 464 unopened; 38 opted out; 19 bounced back

426 participated in the Email Survey

87 Online Survey via website link

33 incomplete surveys received with no portion of criteria for planning questions answered or duplicates of same person. *PDFs of info exported then deleted from survey data.*

9 anonymous surveys submitted (5 online, 4 email) *PDFs of info exported then deleted from survey data.*

513 Email and Online Surveys utilized in the data

388 Comments received: Comments received such as *No Comment, N/A* or *None* were deleted from listing. No grammatical/spelling corrections or alterations were made to comments received

Sacramental Life: 115 comments

Evangelization: 121 comments

Communal Life: 69 comments

Stewardship and Leadership: 83 comments

Profile Information:

How long have you been a registered member of the Parish of Saint Mary?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 3 years	10.9%	56
3 to 9 years	17.9%	92
10 to 19 years	29.6%	152
20 years or more	41.5%	213
<i>answered question</i>		513
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Where do you reside?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Colts Neck	58.7%	301
Farmingdale	2.0%	10
Freehold	17.1%	88
Holmdel	1.6%	8
Lincroft	1.2%	6
Marlboro	5.8%	30
Other (please specify)	13.6%	70
<i>answered question</i>		513
<i>skipped question</i>		0

How old are you?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 30 years old	0.6%	3
30 to 44 years old	20.7%	106
45 to 59 years old	40.5%	208
60 to 74 years old	27.3%	140
75 or more years old	10.9%	56
<i>answered question</i>		513
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Which of the following best describes your current employment status?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I work outside the home.	48.3%	248
I remain at home.	16.2%	83
I work from home.	7.8%	40
I am retired.	26.5%	136
I am under-employed.	1.7%	6
<i>answered question</i>		513
<i>skipped question</i>		0

What is your marital status?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Single	3.7%	19
Married	85.4%	438
Divorced	4.5%	23
Widowed	6.4%	33
<i>answered question</i>		513
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Who officiated at your marriage ceremony? (most recent if more than one marriage)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Roman Catholic Clergy (priest or deacon)	88.3%	387
Christian (non-Catholic) clergy	4.3%	19
Civil Official	5.0%	22
Other (please specify)	2.3%	10
<i>answered question</i>		438
<i>skipped question</i>		75

What is your spouse's religion? (Note: Person filling out the survey is assumed to be Roman Catholic)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Roman Catholic	84.7%	371
Christian (non-Catholic)	7.3%	32
Jewish	3.4%	15
Muslim	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	4.6%	20
<i>answered question</i>		438
<i>skipped question</i>		75

Which of the following best describes your spouse's current employment status?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
My spouse works outside the home.	58.0%	254
My spouse remains at home.	5.7%	25
My spouse works from home.	8.0%	35
My spouse is retired.	25.8%	113
My spouse is under-employed.	2.5%	11
<i>answered question</i>		438
<i>skipped question</i>		75

How many children do you have?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0	7.2%	37
1	10.1%	52
2	39.2%	201
3	30.6%	157
4	8.8%	45
5	2.3%	12
6	0.8%	4
More than 6	1.0%	5
<i>answered question</i>		513
<i>skipped question</i>		0

How many children currently reside with you?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0	32.4%	151
1	19.8%	92
2	29.2%	136
3	17.3%	69
4	3.4%	16
5	0.0%	1
6	0.0%	0
More than 6	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		465
<i>skipped question</i>		48

What is the age of children residing with you? (Please check all that apply.)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
5 years old or less	17.8%	58
6-10 years old	30.1%	98
11-18 years old	46.4%	151
More than 18, attending undergraduate or graduate studies	20.6%	67
More than 18, working outside the home	23.1%	75
Other (please specify)	6.4%	21
<i>answered question</i>		325
<i>skipped question</i>		188

How would you describe the importance of participating in the life of our Catholic parish?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Essential	31.3%	161
Very Important	35.3%	181
Important	25.7%	132
Somewhat Important	7.2%	37
Not Important	0.5%	2
<i>answered question</i>		513
<i>skipped question</i>		0

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Rate the number of weekend Masses, the times that they are offered, and the sufficient opportunity to attend.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	334	150	26	3		513
	65.1%	29.2%	5.1%	.6		
<i>answered question</i>						513
<i>skipped question</i>						0

Rate how the clergy, music ministry, readers, and ushers all work together to bring about active participation of the assembly (active singing, responses, listening, and praying as opposed to acting as spectators).

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	334	129	43	7		513
	65.1%	25.1%	8.4%	1.4%		
<i>answered question</i>						513
<i>skipped question</i>						0

Rate homilies in respect to relevance and application of the Word of God to your own life.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	289	167	50	7		513
	56.3%	32.6%	9.7%	1.4%		
<i>answered question</i>						513
<i>skipped question</i>						0

Rate how sacramental celebrations all derive from, and lead to, participation in the Sunday worship and the celebration of the Eucharist on a regular basis.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	285	195	30	3		513
	55.6%	38%	5.8%	.6%		
<i>answered question</i>						513
<i>skipped question</i>						0

Rate the provisions made to accommodate non-English speaking Catholics in their native language (if not at the parish then at nearby parish with particular ministry for that group).

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Not Applicable	Rating Average	Response Count
	48	94	26	13	332		513-332 NA=181
	26.5%	52%	14.3%	7.2%			
<i>answered question</i>							181
<i>skipped question</i>							0

Comments about Sacramental Life:

1. I have found tremendous connection to the sacramental life through participation in Walking With Purpose
2. I love this parish. I love this faith.
3. The essentials of Catholic being...very important.
4. I don't understand why the 5pm Mass on Sunday is tied to Daylight Savings time; I would think it would be more appropriate to have it in the summer and drop the noon Mass if need be. We have good music ministers but the congregation, in general, doesn't sing much...
5. I would prefer to hear more upbeat and positive energy in the music.
6. Our parish makes mass meaningful even for my children, which I deeply appreciate. I feel welcome in mass with three young kids.
7. I do not think is necessary for the cantor to sign parts of the Glory to God giving parisherners a snippet to sing. The cantor does not need to sign the Holy, Holy, Holy and the Mystery of Faith first. These should be as familiar to attendees as The Lord's Prayer, and they are in the missal. The music should not be some obscure song nor dirge-like songs unless it is a funeral. The music doesn't inspire me, how can it inspire children - the future of the Church. Or have a Mass with up tempo music. Growing up the 5pm Mass was family-friendly and up tempo music, the 10:30 was a folk Mass

with great music, and the noon Mass was ahi go Mass for those looking for that type of music. (And the first morning Mass had no music for those who wanted to be in and out but still wanted to give glory to God.)

8. PRETTY GOOD
9. Without regular or sufficient attendance of Sunday Mass, it's very difficult for people to retain, and easy to lose sight of, Christian life.
10. We absolutely love celebrating Mass at St. Mary's.
11. My answers are based on the few times that I have attended. We always try to go but the baby prevents us from coming. We hope to come more regularly once he is a little bit older. We have another one coming very soon too.
12. St. Mary's accommodates all parishioners in offering numerous opportunities to partake in the sacraments.
13. Unsure of the number of non-English speaking parishioners, so not sure if this should be N/A instead
14. We love the St Mary Parish community. We have gotten closer to God and Jesus since the death of our son by attending mass regularly and strengthening our faith. Our marriage and overall life has been blessed through our deepening faith in the Lord. And St Mary's has helped us get there.
15. Very pleased with our church!
16. Communion for first child much nicer - more of a celebration....second child, changes made, less of a "celebration" feeling.
17. Would really like it if you keep this Sunday mass at 5 PM!
18. Sunday homilies are always relevant, thought-provoking, and instructional; I get a lot out of them. Music style and selections have taken an unfortunate step backwards to the very traditional and even chants; I really miss the option of at least one Mass with more contemporary, uplifting music. I think this is one key to attracting younger couples and families to come to Church. Also, sometimes there seems to be too much emphasis on ceremony during Mass (processions, candles, incense - not unlike the Pharisees) and God's message and our communion with Him get lost. I prefer simplicity and humility, so our focus is on Jesus. And because there's no where else on this survey to say it, I really miss Stations of the Cross in the Church itself (as opposed to the parish hall); physically walking from station to station makes it feel more like you're walking with Jesus.
19. We really enjoy being part of St Marys
20. I am very happy with the way mass is celebrated at Saint Mary parish. My family and I all take active roles in participating in the celebration of the mass.
21. I think St. Mary's Parish does a fantastic job in practicing the Roman Catholic Faith.
22. The Catholic Church is just a big money maker. We left the parish a while ago and glad we did. The pope all the way down to you are just a waste of time. You set rules for everybody and barley follow them yourselves . I will never give a dime to the Catholic Church again
23. Too much singing
24. I believe that Saint Mary's offers numerous opportunities to meet the needs of the people.
25. Need more meditation time after communion /the opening hymn is part of the mass which should start at the appropriate time not before

26. I am unhappy that deacons who supported youth group leaders who put our children at risk are still in positions of leadership at the parish. Besides defending the youth leaders they treated concerned parents in a condescending manner. I felt our concerns were not addressed until the Bishop intervened.
27. Music has become performance rather than inspiration to participate. Responses are too difficult for non musicians to learn and sing. Latin distances me rather than engages me.
28. I personally feel music is an integral and meaningful part of worship. While the new cantor is very good, integrating a more modern (folk/soft rock) genre would not only make worship more meaningful for some but would also provide an opportunity for musicians in the parish to become involved - who may not otherwise have done so.
29. Our parish has created many opportunities to participate and live out the "Sacramental Life" to the fullest.
30. Homilies are adequate relative the Gospel and traditional Catholic messages. However, we live in unique times, and I feel it is imperative that the Church educate and inform as to world events involving Christians, especially the challenges posed by radical Islam and the persecution of Christians. We should also make it a priority to pray for all Christians under siege throughout the mid-east and around the world.
31. The music is too much. Many responses are sung instead of reading. Too much incense is used so I have to go to other parishes nearby to attend mass. Also the long pauses for the readers to walk to and from altar.
32. My family and myself have enjoyed the blessing of having father Jeff join our community.
33. Sometimes I think the homilies should more relate the message of the Gospel to every day family life. I see many young families attending Mass and I think children as well as parents would get more out of it if they understood how the Gospel relates to raising children in today's world. I do think the choir and the hymn leaders have beautiful voices, but they are much too high for the average person to reach some of those notes! While we extend our selves to Latino brothers and sisters, excepting Mass in their language, wish we did same with blacks by invitations to surrounding communities. They would enrich our understanding of "brother/sister."
34. Atmosphere at Church is reverential.
35. Answer to question 5 is indicative of the variability of the homilies depending on the priest or deacon. Understanding that the Church is not a place for political comments we often are surprised that the persecution of Christians around the world is so infrequently mentioned and generally not included in the prayers of the faithful. Even tragic events like the Paris massacre, San Bernadino were not recognized in the prayers at least at the Masses we attended.
36. Since father lee has been pastor I feel he has made tremendous improvements within our parish. I am grateful for his presence and efforts.
37. There are many opportunities For a person to further develop and enrich his/her Sacramental life. Example, Bible study, Rosary prayer, Saturday Men's Morning Prayer and discussion, Woman's bible study group. The list goes on and on!!
38. I find it very difficult to attend Mass at St.Mary's because of the over excessive use of incense. I have had to leave Mass on 2 occasions, overcome by the smoke, and have coughed for hours after. To attend Mass on Sundays when incense is used, I will seek out another parish. This is something we wish NOT to do. I would like very much to become more involved in St.Marys, but dont see how I can when the over excessive use of incense impedes my ability to be in the building when it is used.

39. I love my church and all it means in my heart. That which it devotes to my family and the support I find in being part of this church.
40. Very important. As a Roman Catholic, I Love the Mass. Why I go to church. I just love everything about our Mass. Old Traditional or New.
41. I think the children celebrating their first Holy Communion should have a separate Mass making their first Holy Communion the special important event that it is.
42. I feel that St. Mary's offers many opportunities for people to participate in a fulfilled sacramental life.
43. I am not sure what is offered at other parishes to non english speaking Catholics
44. There should be a box for "Do not know." There is no opportunity to comment. I am very sorry to know how many offspring of myself and friends are no longer among the Catholic faithful. Compare the number of children receiving First Eucharist and Confirmation with the number of weddings. Why are they turned off?
45. #17, as a preacher I continually work on improving.. I would rate pastor/msgr as very good.
46. Agape is the biggest catalyst for an active sacramental life that brings the church body together and helps to realize the mass we celebrate. However, apart from those Sundays, there seems to be a lack of personal investment and interest in the community apart from a weekly ritual exercise.
47. very good
48. good
49. Our parish has a warm community life of sharing Baptisms & communions together. During Holy Week there are many functions available to all, the communal confession stations of the cross, and many more
50. For the people actually attending services, very good.
51. We need to do a better job in engaging with the teenagers from the parish, through music and message.
52. Not really clear in understanding questions #19 and #20
53. St Mary's offers a beautiful and fulfilling celebration of the sacraments! We need to respect after communion to not start ending prayers until tabernacle is closed!
54. I rate our sacramental life as excellent . The music is so beautiful but i do miss the contemporary music and wish that it were offered as well-maybe at one or two Masses a month.
55. Mass schedules should remain the same all year round.
56. Too much incense & chanting @ liturgy
57. Our music at liturgy could include more people and add to the celebration. There is so much great liturgical catholic music out there, and we are not using any of it.
58. Quality of homilies vary depending on presider.

59. Father Jeff's homilies are very good and well thought out. Others are so irrelevant to our everyday life that one can not help but drift. I have heard from many people who have left St Mary or do not go to Mass that this is the single biggest reason why.
60. We live in interesting times. Christianity is threatened, Roman Catholics are ridiculed. I wish the Pope would stop weighing in on political issues. Of course, that's because I disagree so much with him. How about tending to his own business. What about women priests and priests being allowed to marry? That would make a difference in the church but global warming? Really? Trump is not a Christian; really? To me, he sounds like a fool, but everyone else seems to love him and isn't he cute yadda yadda yadda. OK, I know that's not about sacramental life, but it was bugging me. I try to attend mass regularly, but I travel for business a lot. I have also had my own "crisis of conscience" about church in general, but I find it impossible to stay away; I really like it. I would like to accept the body AND blood of Christ, but I do not believe that the wipe of the white cloth protects us from cold, flu or herpes or whatever disease could be transmitted that way. Is it true that other Christian churches have individual servings of wine? Like shot glasses? I know that others feel as I do about the wine. Wouldn't individual serving be worth a try?
61. I have 3 teenage children who don't get much from the homilies and therefore don't want to attend church. I believe the homilies need to be tailored to teenagers so that they are understanding the homily and can apply the message to their lives.
62. St. Mary parish inspires reverence. We are blessed with an intelligent, theologically trained pastor whose homilies are thought-provoking.
63. Sunday night mass offered all year.
64. I feel there should be more time for prayer after receiving communion, confessions heard during the week in this year of mercy and more time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
65. Excessive and frequent use of incense causing allergic reactions interferes with participation in Liturgy and ability to concentrate on anything other than difficulty breathing
66. Q 12. Lumped too many different groups into 1. I think the ushers don't participate in the spirit of this question nearly as much as the other groups.
67. The Masses are read beautifully and with reverence. I wish the priests and deacons would use story more in their homilies so Jesus can come to life in layman terms. The avoidance of theology as such and a concentration on the life of Christ - who he was as a person would be more relevant to touching our own lives and help us to become more like Him..
68. I might not understand question 18. If I do, it's a question that can be answered by checking one of the boxes. It's an essay question. Sacramental life at St. Mary's might be a little atypical in that we're such a wealthy parish. Wealth gets in the way of experiencing them the same way. It's nobody's fault.
69. I know it is difficult to accommodate everyone, but I still miss the 9:00 Mass on Sunday morning. At times there is a disconnect between the Sunday readings and homilies and what is occurring on the local level or around the world. While I do not want the Church to become political, I think we need to acknowledge some of the challenges facing people today both individually and in their families. I often feel that the Church on the diocesan or Vatican level has a "bury your head in the sand" attitude when it comes to today's world and that the upper levels are out of touch with the reality of the local parishioner. As far as active participation in the Mass itself, I believe that the music ministry team is doing an excellent job, but people feel intimidated that their voices are not as good as the ministry team and are hesitant to join in. I presume there is more participation at the Mass when the choir is singing because the volume of multiple voices makes it easier for others to chime in. Also, people are still uncomfortable with the vocabulary changes made in the last few years. Not many people know what "consubstantial" means and was it really necessary to make

those changes? I think St. Mary's has done an excellent job and has some wonderful people working with our youth and trying to initiate activities to get them more actively involved in parish life. Unfortunately today's kids are so fully involved in a wide range of school and athletic activities that they don't always make Church activities a priority. The difficulty also arises when they go off to college and lose the connection to the local parish.
#16- I think best effort is given. #17- it depends on who is giving homily

70. The selection of songs at Mass can be better - Too often songs are chosen that no one knows and it is difficult to sing along
71. I am not sure how we accommodate non-English speakers.
72. While there is a need to ensure the smooth progression of all liturgies, often the essence of Jesus' teachings and ministry is missed.
73. It is good.
74. Adequate
75. Re: #15- I would like our congregation to sing more hymns, responses/acclamations, etc., from "Breaking Bread" during Mass that are not difficult to sing and remember. I would also like cantors to teach new music before Mass. I would like the music to be played and sung in a joyful tempo and in a key comfortable for everyday people, which is most likely the majority of us in the congregation. Re: #18- One of St. Mary's parishioners, who died several years ago, reached out Vietnamese refugees, so the parish had a Vietnamese Catholic community that met once a month on Saturdays in the late 1980s. I had the pleasure of meeting some of people after a Mass one evening. Their singing during Mass was very beautiful, as they themselves were. Now I see that there is a Vietnamese Catholic Community at St. Rose of Lima Parish inFreehold.
76. Question 19 doesn't apply as most people understand English and it shouldn't matter if you're going to mass
77. Going to church has always been part of a Catholic person's life. But I feel that now more than ever we must unite as Christians, attend Mass, spread the word of the Lord and concentrate in his words. We can not allow to have God taken out of our lives. We must work hard to teach the youngsters what is like to love the Lord.
78. Homilies are generally very good. Masses are well-organized.
79. Very happy w/ the direction of St. Mary.
80. Would be appreciated to have sat morning week mass and confessions as well after morning mass if possible
81. As a member of the music ministry, it is disappointing to see ministers (readers, eucharistic ministers, deacons, priests) not always singing the hymns and/or responses. If they don't sing, we can't expect the people to sing. What role do the ushers have in active participation at mass? The readers are usually good - they could put a little more conviction into what they are saying. Can homilies somehow make a better connection between the readings and our daily decisions? Regarding #14: The question is not very clear but if it means how a sacramental celebration like baptism, communion, confirmation and marriage might lead to participation in Sunday worship, then, as indicated, those celebrations are inadequate. More education needs to be done to instruct people on how these celebrations are rooted in our need for the Eucharist.
82. I think our parish has made a great effort to accommodate and welcome all, addressing some of the issues that can keep people from mass such as addressing small children and convenient schedules
83. Not sure we even know how many non English we have in area

84. The choices here are limited. Sometimes I walk out of church feeling completely inspired and rejuvenated because of the homily. Other times I benefit just from the Eucharist. I think that it's so unusual that our homily is focused out of passages from a bible that isn't present in the pews. The foundation of our faith stems from this book and its obsolete in church. That's a big contradiction for me.
85. I do not understand question 17
86. The Eucharist is my lifeline
87. We are brand new to the Parish and have found the Celebration of Mass a very positive and uplifting experience,
88. Do not like all the incense being used at daily masses. Some comments too scripted - Addios, arrivedici... Tidy up the book racks...
89. Depending upon the presider, homilies are generic and nebulous. The most engaging homilies include hooks to current events demonstrating how faith is shown in the world. Prayers are all sung except for the Our Father and the Creed. Many do not sing the prayers and just stand there. Mass should not be a spectator sport. In order to bring in young families, I suggest at least one mass where all the prayers are spoken. This helps young Catholics actually learn the prayers so they can participate in saying the prayers when they visit other churches as well. Love the Sunday evening masses before CCD. It's great seeing all the young people at mass. Now, let's engage them!
90. Most of the meetings are held at 7.00 which makes it impossible to attend if you commute to nyc. St Mary's is incredibly focused on money and "bona fide" parishioners. A lot less focus on money would be ideal. I also think the use of the Church for New Jersey Housewives, a show we do not allow in our home, is not really appropriate.
91. For our family, Sacramental Life is essential, for it is from Sacramental Life and all that is derived from it, that we nourish our souls and seek to become the people God wants us to be, following the example of His Son Jesus.
92. The number of weekend Masses is adequate. Although the majority of the assembly is welcoming, Fr. Lee does not bring about active participation. His numerous ways of saying "goodbye" is a rude way to dismiss the children during the Liturgy of the Word. He does not take a moment for silent reverence after the Eucharist. He does not walk to greet the people bringing up the gifts. He has interrupted his own homily to walk behind the altar to fix a microphone. He does not thank the altar servers or readers. He does not acknowledge or thank the children who participate in the choir. He has started Mass much earlier than it's advertised time, and then publicly berated a music minister for being "late" (although she was on time). He is aware that many families have left for other parishes in the last two years, but he is seemingly unwilling to make changes to welcome them back. Fr. Jeff is the main negative about Sacramental Life at St. Mary's.
93. I enjoy going to mass, especially during Advent and Lent.
94. Use of incense is a bit too much, my wife is very sensitive to smells and at times we must stay in the cry room.
95. Sometimes I feel like the emphasis in the parish has shifted away from the essence of the Eucharist and toward an emphasis in ceremony. For me, this detracts from the meaning of the Eucharist, moving toward what Jesus criticized the Jewish leaders for emphasizing.
96. I like Fr Jeff. He touches my heart. Fr Jeff speaks very clearly.
97. Need to make it more clear to the parishioners the importance of the liturgy of the Eucharist. Seems we've lost the importance of this. So many Catholics don't realize what this IS and that it came from Jesus.

98. I feel that there should be more times offered due to today's overwhelming schedule. I have 4 children and it is quite difficult for us. Also, I would like a more spiritual connection to the Word of God. To teach to bring about a deeper understanding of Jesus, meditation, relationship with Him. A way of having a better connection with God. The reason the New Age is doing so well is because it is bringing (falsely of course) to a higher consciousness. Of course, Jesus Christ told us we don't need any of that, but perhaps, we need to be taught why and then how to have a more metaphysical relationship with him. The Catholic faith needs to stop pretending science away. There is physics, neuroscience, psychology that is long forgotten by Catholics, that Jesus understood and practiced.
99. I believe a greater effort should be made in incorporating the importance of the Eucharist and Reconciliation in the homilies and in our devotionals.
100. Not enough is done to hold onto our young adults after they make their sacraments.
101. This is a beautiful parish- we love the way mass is celebrated, and the message- the homilies address inspiring messages, and how to live our faith better in our everyday lives.
102. The Eucharist is the most important aspect of my being a Catholic, I am very concerned how these changes will effect the availability of the mass
103. Particularly for confirmation in the last two years, I feel more time could have been spent on making sure the children knew the traditional prayers and stories of the bible.
104. Homilies are always relatable to our current society Fr Jeff is an excellent communicator
105. As I have mentioned to Fr. Jeff, I believe hearing personal faith life stories from parishioners would have a very positive affect on our parishioners. I don't think there is a real understanding of the importance of the Eucharist.
106. The homilies always seem to make a connection to our everyday lives, which is a good thing! I never feel I am being preached AT! Another good thing!
107. My family and I enjoy attending mass at St. Marys and are pleased with the parish masses.
108. More availability for masses. For example, the 5pm mass on Sunday is a great addition. Would be nice if it stays all year-round. Also, if we are linking not with other churches it would be great if masses were staggered during the day.
109. I attend Sunday mass and daily when possible. Due to circumstances sometimes I attend elsewhere with my 95 year old mother
110. Would like a 9 o'clock mass
111. Regarding question 20, it is my understanding that our majority of our community speaks English and I am not aware of non-English speaking provisions offered at our church.
112. I can't really comment on question 20, as I don't know what accommodations there are for non-English speaking Catholics in our area
113. Essential for grace and peace.
114. Even my husband (who is not Catholic) attends Mass each Sunday with us, and is very impressed with how St. Mary's handles everything

115. i think we would get significantly more participation if we had flat screen monitors placed throughout the church which would guide the parish on when to sit & stand, when and what our responses should be, words to songs & prayer.

EVANGELIZATION

Rate the effectiveness for the processes of Baptism, weddings, funerals, and/or new parishioner registration in encouraging parish relationships and encouraging participation (i.e. more than just completing forms).

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Not Applicable	Rating Average	Response Count
	195 46.7%	173 41.4%	42 10%	8 1.9%	85		503-85 NA
<i>answered question</i>							418
<i>skipped question</i>							10

Rate the practical opportunities provided by the Parish for parishioners to grow in their lives with Christ (Bible Study, Small Group Faith-Sharing, Retreats, parish, mission, programs, Book studies, Prayer groups, Spiritual reading, kiosk materials and recordings that can be used in groups and/or independently).

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Not Applicable	Rating Average	Response Count
	303 63.3%	148 30.9	27 5.6%	1 .2%	24		503-24 NA
<i>answered question</i>							479
<i>skipped question</i>							10

Rate the content of parish Religious Education and youth ministry with respect to promoting knowledge of the faith and a relationship with Christ.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Not Applicable	Rating Average	Response Count
	154 44.4%	132 38%	52 15%	9 2.6%	156		503-156 NA
<i>answered question</i>							347
<i>skipped question</i>							10

Rate the parish's encouragement of parents, as primary educators in the faith, to be involved with Religious education and Sacramental preparation.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Not Applicable	Rating Average	Response Count
	177 46.6%	155 41%	43 11.2%	5 1.2%	123		503-123 NA = 380
<i>answered question</i>							380
<i>skipped question</i>							10

Rate the support provided by the administrative functions of the parish (office hours, phone support, website, bulletin info, E-mail, etc.) in meeting parishioner needs.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	333 66.2%	149 29.6%	17 3.4%	4 .8%		503
<i>answered question</i>						503
<i>skipped question</i>						3

Comments about Evangelization:

1. I think that the parish should have more out reach programs that attempt to engage non-Christians and educate them on the mission and accomplishments if the Cathokic Church
2. More courses (and most of all advocates) would be very good especially more Bible related classes.
3. I no longer have children in the Religious Ed program, but if I did, I would be disappointed that grades 3-6 do not have the option of "on campus" RE during the school year - I think they gain something from learning as a community (in addition to from their parents).
4. My children so love CCD (the summer program) and all of the program's associated with it. They beg me to attend. What a blessing.
5. Promotional material I have seen at Wells Fargo bank and ads in local newspapers help promote church activities
6. By no fault of St. Mary's, our Parish is still adjusting to a new Pastor and struggling a bit with the transition and formation of a steady/solidified CCD program.
7. My suggestion to encourage new parishioners to join Church--hold events/campaign that would encourage existing church members to bring new people to see & experience St. Mary's. Also, from my personal experience, when we registered with the church, we only met new members at

Orientation. Some of those new members we never saw again. It would have been nice to have a process where we could have assimilated with existing church members to feel a part of the church...kind of like a mentoring. They could introduce new members to existing members :) We eventually got to know people but it took a few years to feel like we were a part of the church. We had to find out about processes, etc on our own. The only way we started to get to know everyone was through frequency of seeing them at mass & then seeing them around town. That can take a while...

8. The Religious Education Program is terrific and offering a family Mass where all of the children attend with their friends and peers brings the kids closer together. They go to school together, play sports together and now worship together too; at St Mary's young parishioners are bonding and it is amazing to watch.
9. Re #25- requesting a Mass has gotten more difficult
10. Overall, my family and I feel very welcome by Father Lee and St. Mary's parishioners. I answered 23. N/A because I haven't been exposed to these programs yet. It would be nice if St. Mary's offered a preschool program. We send our two children to St. Catharine's Preschool in Holmdel but would have considered St. Mary's if they had one.
11. Priests and deacons should be more involved with the learning aspects of the program.
12. rules of the parish should be more flexible in regard to ministering to the faithful in regard to funeral times and availability.
13. I have no idea how to answer these questions
14. The online RE program is terrible. My youngest is the only one of my 3 children who has to participate in this program. He used to enjoy going to RE classes each week. He was able to see his friends and they actually enjoyed participating in discussions about the lesson each week. Now he hates and dreads this online program. It is turning many of the younger children away. I feel like they are disconnected from the Church. I am also disappointed in the Youth Ministry. I was hoping that it would be a bit more than videos.
15. We do not have any school age children but we do attend many adult program.
16. The youth group is important to our parish. Every effort should be made to engage our young people.
17. I would like to see some offerings on marriage strengthening, similar to the marriage encounter weekends I did years ago or even a few hour offering regarding relationships and keeping marriages strong. Parenting seminars as relates to biblical or Catholic values/parenting would be helpful. Offerings for teens would be good...ways to strengthen your faith, stay true to self/chaste in today's society etc
18. I am not sure how you get parents to be more involved in their faith and their children's faith, both this community doesn't do well with being "told" what to do. I am unsure as to how you open up communication in this area with parents to show them the important role they play in their children's religious life without making them angry and become more distant with out parish
19. I didn't just scroll down and check very good arbitrarily. I've lived in different places and have been a member of different parishes throughout my life. St. Mary's does an excellent job in all of the areas listed. Better than any of the previous parishes I've been a member of.
20. I don't know of any church that does as much!

21. Trust issues regarding youth ministries...when 3 years ago the Father Fugee incident had us questioning the Church's commitment to our children's safety. Changes made of course, but trust has to be regained - slow process
22. Friends and family advised me to switch parishes for my children as others haven't received confirmation until beyond 8th grade at St Mary's.
23. We are currently trying to have our 2 young boys "make-up" the years of CCD that their mother did not complete with them. It is going to cost us ~\$1000.00 for this to occur. It is very discouraging that it is going to cost that much money to have our boys become productive members of the church. Currently, we have decided if we can make this financial commitment. While religion is extremely important to us, religion and sacraments should not cost money. It is sad that everyone knows and has the opinion that the Catholic Church will bend, change, make up rules if you pay money, An annulment is the perfect example.
24. The current lack of weekly classroom RE for grades 3-6 is a HUGE setback. I see the effect on our youngest who is now in 7th grade and does not want to go to confirmation class, does not feel a connection to the other students, does not feel that RE is an important part of his life. Our other 3 children felt very differently and had close class groups that made them feel a part of the church. I am sad to see him feel this way and can't help but feel that we have let the kids down in not making them feel a part of the community. The message that they hear from the church is "go away for 4 years but please come back for two years before the sacrament of confirmation." That is NOT welcoming or encouraging.
25. This is our biggest challenge. The parish needs to figure out how to reach and convince people to come back to church and to become more involved in the parish. Community building activities are good and they help, but more flexibility, as in personalizing weddings and funerals, for example, and more autonomy for laypeople in leading ministries -- allowing and encouraging parishioners to take some ownership of the parish -- is needed. When people have more say about how a ministry, or a process is run, and their ideas are sought, respected and valued, they care more about it and are more motivated to develop it the best they can.
26. My children liked being in the ccd class room. They felt more like a United family in Christ
27. My 10 year old daughter participates in online CCD. We opted for this because it is convenient, but I do think it would be more beneficial for her to attend a class. Her knowledge of her faith is very strong because it is so important in our home and she also use to attend a Catholic school. I don't think the online program is strong enough for children with a insufficient foundation.
28. Office hours on Sunday very important
29. Children should also be taught more traditional prayers, such as praying the rosary. Would like to see a comeback of the Blue Army/Solidarity.
30. More options for religious education days and times. Just having 7 & 8th grade on Sunday nights does not offer any options.
31. I have seen an increase in #25 over the last 6 months or so. Before that it was rare specifically around the ebulletin and any email to parishioners. For youth education, I have been somewhat disappointed in that in the family sessions on Sunday I feel that the parents are getting taught. I also feel that it is sometime implied that we the parents do not teach our children or understand the meaning behind the church, bible, Eucharist etc. this is contrary to what happens in my household.
32. Michelle does a great job; wish we had weekly ccd, online isn't working for our family; I remember a sex education class that was very informative for children, maybe consider introducing that again

33. Religious education program needs to put a greater emphasis on the core beliefs of our faith and how it relates to present life. The confirmation prep program is in transition and is improving, yet the basics are sometimes overlooked and assumed to have been taught in earlier years. These basics should be reviewed every year so that confirmation candidates have a solid understanding of the faith.
34. The methods of communication have improved tremendously: printed and online. Education opportunities; efforts to build community, support by the administrative functions, and practical opportunities for the parishioners to grow closer to Jesus have also greatly improved in the last 3 years, since we got our new Pastor.
35. The 7th and 8th grade CCD is MUCH improved from last year.
36. There are many opportunities offered relative to Bible studies, faith sharing, media and materials, and the like. However, I feel that we need more marketing, from the pulpit, to periodically re-introduce the parishioners to what is available and how participation can be of value to us as individuals as well as our improved communication with fellow parishioners to tie our Church community closer together.
37. I feel our parish tries hard to accommodate all. I am not happy with the on-line program. Too many issues last year and this year. I have facilitated in the past.
38. we need to ask more new and not active parishner to become active in the church volunteering.
39. I am encouraged by efforts at Bible study and group prayer for men and women, but think strong voices from altar at Mass should publicize to inspire more participation.
40. TOO MUCH SINGING IN MASS EVERY SUNDAY
41. Miss Michele mc cue dedicated hard worker who is kind & caring to everyone involved. els he is educated and implements her resources with running our religious ed program. The children are lucky to have her running our program.
42. tried to book a Mass on a specific date and got a run around and was told Mass would be set by the parish. When I want a specific date, why can't it be handled?
43. Its great that the rectory has Sunday hours
44. In my opinion, there needs to be more improvement engaging those who are no longer active within the parish. First, we need to figure out why are these people no longer active? As a parish, we need to welcome those with open arms and most importantly, connect with them. I believe there is a large miscommunication between the people of the parish and the parishioners. As a millennial, I want to relate and connect with the homilies. However, it is difficult to do so when many of the homilies are un-relateable to our everyday lives. In order to know what is relatable to us you need to ask younger people what they have going on in their lives. If parishioners knew this information, they would be able to better convey God's messages.
45. I think St. Marys does a decent job of Evangelization. Too much and some may get "turned off" or feel you are an intrusion in their life.
46. Once a week religious ed class or on line classes seems inadequate to engage young people to remain involved in the church. I preferred it when Baptisms and First Communion were done as separate occasions. Not within a mass.

47. I do not think the RE program really teaches our faith. My son did not really understand his religion until he attended a Catholic High School, CBA. I think RE needs religion teachers that have trained to teach the Catholic faith.
48. St. Mary's offers many opportunities to participate in evangelization.
49. Religious Education is something that most parishioners feel should be done by the church. However, I feel Religious Education starts in the home. Without an active and daily role model within the home our youth parishioners will not grow in their faith. ie - prayings daily, going to church weekly, being active in the parish community. I think St. Mary's does a great job trying to get families involved especially in RE unfortunately I think people just show up.
50. #24: Encouragement is there, taking advantage of what is offered is something else.
51. I would hope for a group for young families and couples. After asking around, there is none, however I was encouraged to gather a faith sharing group around this focus. I am impressed by the program for young children present in the parish- both liturgy of the word and "Little Church", an excellent program I have not seen in the other parishes to which I have belonged.
52. Our parish gives many opportunities and programs to enrich our Religious life.
53. My impression is that the parish is getting feedback and has made many changes to address those concerns and I appreciate the efforts. I feel a challenge is how to allow the families to participate with the limited times we have in our area. Understanding the local calendar is critical in getting some folks involvement
54. We need much more of CCD-type Christian adult education.
55. I cannot properly rate numbers 21, 23 and 24 as I have no first hand experience with them now in my parish life.
56. St Mary's has shown continuous improvement over the last 4 years! Very encouraging.
57. Need to rebuild youth group for high school students
58. I miss having a spiritual director on staff. Until last year we always had a spiritual director with opportunities to grow in our lives in Christ on both a group and individual basis. I only know of a few other parishes that offer as much as ours does on a group basis. Our community is a highlight of our parish. Increased evening offerings may be indicated yet it is difficult to get people out at night.
59. RE programs are extremely expensive for many people. Accommodations need to be remembered for parents who work or do not live close by, as many parishioners fall into this category.
60. I have found the lay people of the parish make the parish Evangelical life fulfilling
61. Religious Education for my children has been challenging. Online study has become a chore when they previously welcomed going to class. My children enjoyed the classroom environment & familiarity of classmates to share in their faith. My experience with the Sunday 7&8 grade program was also tough. Children were provided some lessons, but not too much substance & not enough discussion. Weekends are also the only family time we have and Sunday evenings changed dinners with parents and grandparents. I realize my family may not be the norm, but unfortunately the program has caused some family tension. My Confirmed children have joined the youth group and seem to enjoy it. Looking forward to some service activities to come.

62. Many of the opportunities occur during the week and during working hours, which exclude those who work out side the home and/or travel for business during the week.
63. It is hard to watch the lack of parent participation in the confrimation prep class mass on Sunday nights. It saddens me to see the parish (priest, lectures, music, etc..)give of their time for this mass, with so little attendance.
64. Needs more ways to encourage those after confirmation as well as college students to participate more
65. I once contacted St Mary for direction as to where I could donate the contents of my fathers home as I was selling it...no direction could be provided. Odd.
66. Religious Education cannot work if it is online or for just 2 weeks during the summer.
67. I appreciate that it is my responsibility to have my wife join me in the Catholic faith. She has joined me at church for the past 28 years and joining - becoming a Catholic - just seems daunting, like a lot of work. It shouldn't be regardless of those who would say that it should be difficult, that a non-catholic should want it. Well, for most of us, myself included, I was born to a Catholic family, so it was easy...just toed the line and did it all along the way. Baptism at birth, Catholic school for communion, and CCD for confirmation. No big deal. Know this, other christian churches are far easier to join. And in my mind, I can hear Sister Agnes telling me that they are not the chosen, they are far more welcoming and open to converts. The Catholic church does not make it easy.
68. While my children are older and this does not pertain to them now, I am not sure about having ccd online for grades 3-6. Shouldn't we try to get the children to church as much as possible? I think this method excludes them from church. Coming once a month as a group isn't enough. I know if my children were in that age group I would not have them participating in that type of religious education program.
69. Good material is provided in the Gathering Space for those who want to read further in special areas of faith, or who need help or support.
70. Would be beneficial to consider home-study for all ages.
71. At times, I was confused about the intergenerational events. Some were for second grades, some were for everyone. My family did enjoyed the summer program. This program makes a lot of sense.
72. I feel the materials presently used for small faith sharing groups could be improved.
73. Administrative Support less business like and more informal
74. I am not a fan of the online classes being the only option during September-April. My child learns much better in a classroom setting and doesn't learn well from the online classes
75. Sometimes I see the younger set being sent off for their own session during mass as something that gets in the way of the adult mass continuing. Some of the clergy seem to hurry them off and don't stand when blessing their group. All it takes is stepping down to speak with and bless them on their way - a couple of extra minutes. I think the children would feel more cared for as they are sent on their way if this were done.
76. This has to be taken up by each individual as he is capable of doing. Many are shut -jns or have care responsibilities at home. Full participation is not always possible given a care giver responsibilities.
77. I wish I could be more involved in the additional practical opportunities referenced in #22. I hope to soon. I'll let you know how they are next time!

78. #21-always room for improvement. # 22,#23 --Grandchildren seem to be doing well in their RE but we do not have complete info in this area
79. All the administrative functions (see #25) are greatly expanded over recent years using the technologies available. Dynamic programs that enhance and expose adults to more recent teachings of theologies are seriously needed. The faith of parishioners needs to be based on more than was received in their elementary, secondary, and/or post-secondary classrooms.
80. Don't like how the system of intentions of masses are currently set up.
81. Adequate
82. Re: #20 & #21- I have spent many years as a Lazarus Ministry member, which has always been a very special ministry at St. Mary's, but have not been involved in the other ministries mentioned, so I cannot comment on those.
83. St Mary's doing decent effort Matt butler Ccd wonderful the summer rel Ed also great option to online. I'm indure how to get parents to be more involved as many aren't making church the priority for various reasons
84. I see how hard everyone tries to make St. Mary's a united community. I was fortunate to be invited to participate in, Walking with Purpose, and although I was not able to complete the program, the few weeks that I attended I met beautiful ladies ready to share their experiences and guide you through difficult times. I learned the importance of reading the Bible on a daily basis.
85. I believe the parish would benefit from women's and men's Cornerstone programs
86. A lot of effort goes into encouraging greater participation and Masses, but it seems to be an uphill battle.
87. In order to comment on #17, it would be helpful if the actual processes for each of those life changing events were described.
88. Parish office doesn't need to be open until 7:30 pm. When ordering a Mass you should be able to pick time and date.
89. From the moment I arrived at St Mary's I no longer felt like I joined a parish. I felt like part of a community. There are so many opportunities to be part of something other than just attending mass.
90. We provide information overload in our bulletins & in year end report . Need to recognize what people can & want to absorb .
91. Walk the walk and walk the talk
92. Religious education programs need a lot of improvement in communication and needs improvement of the program overall.
93. New parishioners with young children are not warmly greeted by our pastor. Our daughter and young grandsons moved in with us. We started taking them to mass with us. On two separate weeks we left early because the young boys were "out of sorts" after communion. The Pastor made a comment and was not friendly even after we explained and introduced our daughter and grandsons. They now attend mass at my parent's church instead.
94. Parent encouragement needs to be looked at. I don't have the answer, but it needs to be more than chastisement during mass. Those messages are heard by the folks that are actually there and don't need admonishment. Maybe an outreach to them outside of Mass. "Bring a friend" event of some kind, maybe. Maybe a survey of those families that are registered for the church but come only a few times a year. You have to know who they are. We have a terrific parish with lots of events, but they are attended by the same suspects all the time.

95. I think our parish provides with good opportunities of Evangelization. However, is it up to us to follow and commit to such opportunities. As a catechist, sometimes I am not sure that parents help by being the primary educators in the faith and are involved enough. Sometimes, I think they don't make an effort on attending and participating in mass as a priority, at least on Sunday/Saturday evening.
96. 2 of my children attend religion instruction every other Sunday. They are happy to attend the training.
97. Office hours after Sunday Mass have been a wonderful addition. The Religious Education at St. Mary's, or lack thereof, is disheartening. Under Fr. Jeff, one director of R.E. resigned, one Youth Minister Coordinator resigned and two Coordinators of Childrens' Catechesis resigned. After adamantly voicing our disagreement with Fr. Jeff about onsite RE classes being offered for all grades, the RE volunteer advisory board was dissolved. As a parent and volunteer teacher, our children can not grow in faith and be active members of the Church with the situation in place and the lack of leadership in the RE dept.
98. I find everyone at St. Mary's to be approachable, friendly and helpful.
99. Engaging families and children in the life of the parish and active practice of their faith is/should be a high priority mission of the parish. Where current attempts do not succeed (it is hard in today's environment), we need to continue to seek new and innovative ways to make this happen. As an illustrative example, should we initiate a parish bus service to pick up children for Religious Education -- radical and expensive, but if it would significantly help..... On another topic, I am disappointed in the decision to discontinue our parish pre-Cana service, which I believe was a very personal way to encourage engaged couples to become acquainted with our parish life, and better appreciate the role that our parish (or another Catholic parish) could play in their married life. Finally, it seems to me that parish proceeds from the Faith to Move Mountains campaign should be reserved to fund efforts at Evangelization -- if the purpose of that campaign is to secure/enhance our future, the most important part of that is to maintain and increase the population of practicing Catholics in our parishes. Spending that money on "buildings and mortar" seems to be wasting an opportunity to direct significant resources toward that goal.
100. When we first joined my children were young and there was a group called Ministry of Motherhood MOM. It was a great introduction into the parish. I don't believe that group exists anymore. I think you should reconsider starting it again. We made lifelong friends as a result of that group and had us involved in the church more.
101. We need to be better prepared, encouraged, and shown how to evangelize. Our Protestant brothers and sisters have done such an amazing job evangelizing. Imagine how effective a Catholic evangelizer can be who realizes that they are expressing the FULLNESS of the Christian faith. We also need better access to Catholic Apologists and dynamic speakers to provide us the tools for engaging with the culture. Finally, we need to make it clear to the parishioners the importance of the liturgy of the Eucharist. Seems we've lost the importance of this. So many Catholics don't realize what this IS and that it came from Jesus, and it IS Jesus.
102. We are all called to be disciples and witnesses of Christ and that message, and the importance of it, is not sufficiently proclaimed to the Church community. There is a disconnect between the Sacraments of Initiation and living as Christians (Catholics) in every aspect of our lives.
103. I participate in a prayer group during Advent & Lent which is very fulfilling. Other than that, I do feel the parish provides me with much spiritual satisfaction. The church community's fellowship has declined over the years in my opinion. It's not as friendly, warm or welcoming as it was in the past.
104. I find the religious education program to be somewhat daunting for young members of the parish. The emphasis on indoctrination into the religion is off putting.

105. The young adults of our parish are being lost. Yes there WAS a scandal but move on already. Young adults are NOT being engaged by the parish. There are sooooo many top notch youth focused ministries out there and speakers. Why have we abandoned our young adults?
106. After confirmation young adults become lost. They do not have the spiritual strength to withstand outside pressures or the knowledge to defend their faith
107. Not having children in RE nor youth ministry, baptism, funerals, I could not answer. There is information in bulletin, but it does not pertain to me.
108. As recently joined members of this parish- we are impressed by the organization of the ministries- we have already been contacted by the leaders of the ministries we selected when we registered.
109. I am not aware of any evangelization
110. I'd like to see an active CYO.
111. Real strides are being made regarding RE and youth ministry, and I see good things happening with RE, but I don't see many young people taking participatory action during the Mass, i.e. ushering, lectoring, Eucharistic ministers. Their activity during Mass seems to be limited to acolyte. Possibly, encouraging or even inviting young people to become more involved in these area would increase their interest in their faith. Also, I know there are multiple attempts at having programs for parents of RE students. I would love to know the answer to getting parents more involved.
112. CCD program radically changed in recent years. People running it are unfriendly and program is just strange. Even when Joan was in charge, the staff was friendly, but the children really weren't encouraged to learn anything. I joined another church so my 4th child can go to a more traditional and informative CCD.
113. Recently my daughter became engaged...we proudly brought our daughters up in the Catholic faith...my daughter wants a Catholic Church ceremony..the difficulty in marrying in a Catholic Church especially St Mary's is off putting and enraging...if the Catholic faith would like to continue to grow I would suggest a more welcoming approach to our young couples...
114. I believe that home study should be instituted again. For working parents it is very difficult to get children anywhere after school. Maybe move to Sunday morning.
115. Sadly, the RE program has had significant turnover and therefore a lack of leadership & cohesive policy & instruction. It has been very disappointing and has made getting children thru the program extremely difficult.
116. The Religious Education Online program is not adequate. The concept "sounds good on paper", but is lacking. Having a summer intensive as our only other option in this church is not an optimal alternative either. As a parent, I am the primary religious educator of our children, however the online program does not strengthen this. Our family's prefers live, interactive education and the online program is not being effective, is confusing, and causes struggles for our children (e.g. The questions and lessons are often unclear. Children fight/resist doing the lessons. Learning religion with their peers in a weekly class community setting is missed and desired.)
117. Office hours are excessive. Office does NOT need to be open four nights a week, 2 would be adequate.
118. Follow this thesis: Jesus has become a stranger to us. Nobody follows a stranger. As a result, fewer and fewer go to Mass. Nobody goes to confession. Churches wither and die. More emphasis needs to be spent on getting to know Jesus and less emphasis on the other aspects of

Christianity. Only when God stops being a stranger to us - when we establish and develop a relationship with him - when we get to know him - when he becomes a member of our family - when the Son of God becomes our brother, does the downward trend get reversed I do not see any emphasis on this. Who is God? What do we know about him and how do we know it? Give us the details. Put flesh onto the skeleton. Make this cardboard character real. More talk about God; less talk about us. More revelation; less regulation. More exploration; less indoctrination. More Mary; less Martha More pizzazz; less nitty-gritty. No change in doctrine. Just a change in emphasis - a shift in the paradigm - nothing more.

119. Where is the reaching out to those who are not active or to tell others about the Faith? That is why the whole Catholic Church is shrinking...we need to do more evangelization...not just with those we have already but reaching out to others and teach people how to do that and encourage them with the overflowing joy of our Faith so that they want to speak up. You cannot just say do this..you need to lead the way and show how it is done. This is one of the most frustrating points I see in the Church...Catechesis is teaching those already in the Faith...evangelization is teaching those who are not in the faith and perhaps with the new evangelization it might include those who have fallen away from the Faith to bring them back. I just see the whole Church closing parishes or consolidating them and a closing schools...What we need is to fight back against this culture but instead I see the Church just getting smaller instead of working to get bigger by reaching out more.
120. The Church must gather the Children in with kindness and welcome!
121. There needs to be more freedom regarding the hymns/verses allowed at funerals in addition to more freedom in general. It is a time of mourning, not a time to apply an iron will. Additionally, Bible studies and other practices should be more marketed and encouraged.

COMMUNAL LIFE

Rate the parish's success in being welcoming, inclusive, and hospitable.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	267 53.5%	179 35.9%	43 8.6%	10 2%		499
<i>answered question</i>						84
<i>skipped question</i>						14

Rate the parish's teaching, witness and advocacy efforts to uphold the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	301 60.3%	172 34.5%	18 3.6%	8 1.6%		499
<i>answered question</i>						499
<i>skipped question</i>						14

Rate the care and companionship provided by the parish for the ill, disabled, grieving, and their families.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Not Applicable	Rating Average	Response Count
	219 60%	117 32.1%	25 6.8%	4 1.1%	134		499-134 NA =365
<i>answered question</i>							365
<i>skipped question</i>							14

Rate the parish's encouragement of the idea that the family in the home is "the domestic church."

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	243 48.7%	207 41.5%	42 8.4%	7 1.4%		499
<i>answered question</i>						499
<i>skipped question</i>						14

Comments about Communal Life:

1. Our parish is wonderful when it comes to bringing a spirit of "family" to all - I feel as though I have gained an enormous extension to my family from the those I have met and have come to love in this parish
2. Need more people to do the 'WORKS' and not just talk about it.
3. Seeing Fr. Jeff outside greeting people when he is not saying the Mass is very welcoming. His words and tone at Liturgy of the Word Dismissal for the children are not nearly as welcoming - sounds more like he is getting rid of them as opposed to sending them to a good learning experience. Msgr. Troiano's style for this (and Fr. Victor's) are much more welcoming.
4. While it is hard for me with three young children to take advantage of some of the adult programs, I look very forward to the time that I can.
5. AREA TO GROW
6. I cannot accurately provide opinion on companionship for the grieving because I have not needed those services not heard about them
7. The people of St. Mary;s are some of the most compassionate, kind and caring people I have ever met.
8. Answered 29. N/A because haven't experienced that aspect
9. Programs such as the bereavement group and how we help the poor show our commitment to our community.
10. There is no community better than that of St Mary!
11. I admit, my family does not attend every Sunday - honestly been quite a while...Although we continued our CHildren's religious education, and sacraments. However, once we decided to take a break from St Marys (after 2013 dealings w Fugee, etc) nobody reached out to ask why - "where are you" "are you OK" We sent in \$\$ every month - and when it stopped, no questions as to why. My Dad passed away in June - never heard from anyone from St Marys. I guess this parish only reaches out to those who attend mass on a regular basis, and & contributes
12. I'm not involved in that ministry so it's hard to rate
13. I didn't really understand what #25 is asking.

14. Starting Mass a few minutes before the appointed hour is frustrating for those who struggle to get there on time, like families with young children or grumbling teens or the elderly who move more slowly or encounter unexpected difficulties en route -- it is discouraging, not welcoming. Bidding children leaving the sanctuary for Liturgy of the Word with comments like "Adios" comes across as degrading. Families need more ideas and instruction and role models on how to carry out their responsibility for being the domestic church, from the time they are married, let alone when their children are baptized. Have people to speak from the lectern after Communion at Mass; resurrect the Family Enrichment program where groups of parents, and groups of similarly aged children, share with and support one another. Also, reintroduce the Engaged Encounter program in the parish, where long-married couples counsel and share their wisdom with engaged couples -- both parties benefit, the former in giving and the latter in receiving. These kinds of activities draw people closer to one another and to God.
15. The idea of community is encouraged by the parish.
16. I would like to see a designated section of the church for wheelchairs and walkers, etc. As well as having a designated Eucharistic Minister serve that area.
17. 27. Not really aware of what the parish does to promote the concepts of Welcoming, Inclusion, and Hospitality. 30. Not aware of what the parish does relative to "the domestic church".
18. Amen to #30
19. I've never heard mention of number 30.
20. More should be said and stressed at Mass that we are a "family" to encourage each other spiritually and increase overt friendliness.
21. TOO MUCH SINGING
22. Father's written word in the bulletin encourages the above.
23. In discussion with others its apparent that many folks were confused about what "domestic church" meant.
24. Father Lee has made tremendous improvements within our church. I'm proud to be a part of St. Mary's and see the Parish family growing and enjoying being a part of all that is offered now. God bless him and give him the strength to continue with his hard work.
25. Priests needs to be more welcoming and sympathetic with our community. It's important to meet the people on an individualized basis and finding out knowing where they are in their life.
26. More effort/concern re: parish members that need support in time of need for any reason. A closeness and fellowship like the Reformed Church Parish.
27. I cannot answer 27 28 and 29 as I am unfamiliar with what the parish does. Inadequate may not be the correct response
28. #28- taking baby steps based on history, but improving. #29- small group of dedicated ministers, but more needed. #30- as #28.
29. Being a new member this year, I was not welcomed or noticed as being new. I had to make an effort to make inroads and introductions into the community. It took walking on the lawn instead of the sidewalk (not knowing this was a pet peeve) to get the priest's attention and even then, we had to take the first step to introduce ourselves. I did like the new members class however. It is an acknowledgement that our churches are large these days and evolving and so parishioners awareness of new members can be a challenge.

30. good participation by broad cross section of the parish
31. Our parish reaches out to those homebound we visit prisons. We have retreats , food collections and deliveries also prayer groups & entertainment that keeps our community well rounded.
32. Everything starts with formation from youth up! It is improving but we need to break through to the younger parents.
33. I know we have outreach but would like the parish to let us know how we can help and to reach out to the home bound and sick better
34. I think we are improving in the area of upholding the dignity of ALL human life and hopefully we will continue to grow in this area including but not limited to homilies educating and encouraging people to respect and uphold the dignity of all human life with emphasis on justice and mercy for all through the love of Jesus Christ for us and through us to our brothers and sisters.
35. An excellent job has been done in the past couple years to become more welcoming then ever before.
36. Improvement could be made in the area of reaching out and welcoming families and all people. Years ago we had inexpensive picnics, senior free lunches once a month or so and more programs involving children. I attended a "Singles Journey" program which was outstanding and has now, I believe, turned into social events off church grounds. All people need to have a group to fit them: gay, seniors, families.
37. I have unfortunately witnessed an exclusive mentality simply by those that give are treated differently than those that give less.
38. I'd like more done to reach out to those who are in mixed faith marriages. I'd also like to see more programs for those 55 and older.
39. On the whole, there has been a tremendous amount of improvement with the communal life of our parish. Father Jeff is more visible to the people of the parish. However, I wonder if our families understand the meaning of the "domestic church." The parish has increased the care and companionship to our parishioners but the need is great and the workers are few.
40. The Deacons are very firendly and accessible and encourage a vibrant Parish community.
41. Although people know that my husband has dementia, no one calls or comes to visit. Long time parishioner very involved previously. Sad and disappointed.
42. The lazarus committee is extraordinary, I am told, from every family they have consoled and helped with funeral arrangements.
43. 28. One of the strongest points at St. Mary!
44. In #27, I don't mean to be too critical. I wouldn't say it's inadequate and I'm probably not in a position to judge too well. Some of that is on me.
45. @29--My husband did not understand this phrase. as we discussed in PC, it was Christ as the center of the family--in any case, there's always room for improvement
46. I believe the parish has greatly improved in these areas in the past two years
47. There is a need to revert to the Vatican II Parish that St. Mary's once was. St. Mary's was the model parish of the Vatican II experience. People from across the state and indeed the country visited the Parish to see in person why we had the reputation we had.
48. Re: #26- I have been part of St. Mary's parish life since the mid-1970s and I have always felt included and welcome.

49. I've not had any outside church experiences with church so hard to say accurately if doing a good job
50. I think is very important to greet parisheners as they come in and out of church. The ushers are very helpful during Sunday Mass, especially on Holy Days, when more than the usual amount of people attend mass.
51. Would it be possible for each ministry to ask among its members, who might be in need of care and companionship? I think people are being left out. That the family is the domestic church could be reiterated more frequently.
52. There was a time when we had a Cup that would be passed from one family to another. I thought that was a great example for the parish to see at mass.
53. I've heard reference during mass that home is the domestic church but it just feels like a tagline at this point. It would be good to include references to this concept in action. This goes along with making the homilies more personal and less "theological". While I don't mind the new formality of the Mass and St. Mary's, it doesn't feel very personal and warm. It feels institutional and almost sterile. We need to loosen up a bit to be more welcoming.
54. I marked number 29 as n/a because I haven't had experience on this regard. However, parishioners (for example our choir members) have come together to help ill or grieving members.
55. We need outreach to young adults in their 20s who seem not to be an active part of the congregation. We need to bring them back. We have programs up to high school but need mass geared to college age
56. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Fr. Jeff rudely dismisses them during the Liturgy of the Word, ignores them when they sing in the choir and ends classroom options for religious education. The Bible states "when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." Fr. Jeff announces to the assembly how much he donates to the Annual Appeal or how many raffle tickets he sells. Fr. Jeff is not "welcoming, inclusive, or hospitable".
57. A few weeks ago, the Asbury Park Press ran an ad listing all of the Churches in the area that welcome the LGBT community. There was not one Catholic Church on that list. If this is the year of mercy, why can't we be the first Catholic Church on that list? Like the divorced, this population is excluded from their faith and the Church community when they need it most.
58. On the surface, the parish communicates support for these ideas. The community-building activities like the Advent pancake breakfast and soup-and-bread Lenten dinners, as well as the traditional agape Sundays, are very good supportive initiatives that help to build community. One area needing improvement is the music at our liturgies. It used to be vibrant and diverse, with contemporary upbeat and youth-oriented Masses complementing traditional Masses, providing options to appeal to all tastes. This enabled us to reach young and young-spirited parishioners, making them feel like the parish is welcoming and inclusive for their style of celebrating their faith in music. Simply put, we have stifled that completely, abandoning an opportunity to engage our young people by offering them music -- good Catholic music -- that they can embrace as their own. If we expect to evangelize young people, we need to be welcoming and inclusive in our music as well. Another item which detracts from being welcoming and inclusive is the comment to our children as they leave the Sanctuary for the Liturgy of the Word for Children. Saying "Adios, Arrivederci, Ciao" can be interpreted as demeaning and dismissive, particularly to the parents of these children -- as a parent of three, that is exactly

what it sounds like to me. This may seem small, but if other parents in the parish view it the same way (and perhaps some of the children), it is the opposite of welcoming and inclusive, and diminishes/negates our other efforts to encourage families to greater participation in our parish. Is it worth that risk? Finally, I need to comment on the practice of starting down the aisle for Mass 3-4 minutes ahead of the stated starting time. Regardless of the official definitions, the operative definition over my lifetime is starting down the aisle at the advertised hour. If I'm in my seat ahead of that, I'm on time; if I'm not, I'm late (and have to own that). Regardless of the pros and cons of it, it's the perception that matters: if people make an effort to be on time (which sometimes is difficult with children), and we make them feel late by starting "early", it engenders negative feelings. This is not welcoming and inclusive behavior, and, at some level, discourages even coming. Again, is it worth the risk of damaging our efforts to be welcoming and hospitable?

59. I've seen many great improvements in welcoming special needs children and making parents more comfortable at mass.
60. There is a very strong message and influence on families from the culture (media and government) that is the antithesis of the message and teachings of the Church, especially in areas of morality and sexuality. The message of life and the sanctity of marriage promoted by the culture leads many to commit mortal sin. I believe the Church and our Priests need to better proclaim the Church teachings that our grounded in truth and for the good of the person.
61. My comments in the evangelized section covers this part as well.
62. Huge positive progress here through Father Jeff.
63. Helped me tremendously upon death of wife....
64. Very well done, on all of the above. I will say, that while it is nice (and indeed necessary) to have a "hospitable" church that is welcoming- at the end of the day as a parishioner, you want to walk out feeling accepted, and inspired to walk with Christ, and know that Christ walks with you. Too many times, our religion can get in the way of our faith-and put simply I believe our church life should be a reminder of the simple idea that no matter what, we can walk with Christ ,and he walks with us.
65. A number of long time parish members are excellent in reaching out to invite and encourage others to join in various groups and ministries
66. Real attempts are made at welcoming people,but there are still people I have met who do not feel included. This is a fantastic Parish. I wish everyone could feel what I feel. This is MY Parish. I love it, and I love the people. I will do my best to make anyone and everyone feel included.
67. I think some efforts are being made but it could be improved.
68. When two or more are gathered in my name...
69. More community events are needed, rebuilding the playground at the church would encourage more community.

STEWARDSHIP and LEADERSHIP

Rate the parish's success in education and forming its parishioners in stewardship where all disciples share their time, talent, and treasure.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	215 44%	216 44.2%	48 9.8%	10 2%		489
<i>answered question</i>						489
<i>skipped question</i>						24

Rate the effectiveness of the leadership by the pastor/administrator, staff, and the pastoral and finance councils in embodying stewardship and pointing to the future.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	270 55%	175 36%	38 7.8%	6 1.2%		489
<i>answered question</i>						489
<i>skipped question</i>						5

Rate the parish Commitment to Protect Children and Youth via the procedures of the parish and the training/background checks of all clergy, parish staff, and youth-serving volunteers.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Not Applicable	Rating Average	Response Count
	235 57.3%	142 34.6%	26 6.4%	7 1.7%	79		489-79 NA =410
<i>answered question</i>							410
<i>skipped question</i>							24

Rate the availability of the priest(s) assigned to the parish, in that they care for parishioners as the Good Shepherd cares for his flock, and are available and present to the people of the parish.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	262 53.6%	186 38%	36 7.4%	5 1%		489
<i>answered question</i>						489
<i>skipped question</i>						14

Rate how well the facilities and surrounding environments are maintained and kept in good repair; nothing poses a risk to the health and safety of parishioners, employees or those who may visit the parish.

Answer Options	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Improvement	Inadequate	Rating Average	Response Count
	392 80.1%	82 16.8%	14 2.9%	1 .2%		489
<i>answered question</i>						489
<i>skipped question</i>						14

Comments about Stewardship and Leadership:

1. Father Jeff continually reinforces our duty and need to be good Stewards and Leaders
2. Good standing for sure.
3. Need to get more young people (<50!) involved in committees, ministries, etc. Fresh ideas and new blood are good! Fixing the roof has been delayed longer than it should have been; snow removal seemed better in prior years than this one.
4. Father Jeff inspires us as do the beautiful grounds of our parish.
5. I cannot adequately comment on #34 because I do not know what those processes are
6. I am unaware of background check procedures.

7. My daughters volunteer in the office and the staff members are extremely dedicated to the parish community on all of the fronts mentioned in the survey.
8. I did not want to answer questions 32 - 34 because I don't have enough information to answer adequately, but the survey required answers in order to complete.
9. Who are the members of the pastoral council? The commitment to the protection of children has been lacking in prior years. What has been done to improve the vetting process? I hope that this is something that as a parish we are committed to on an ongoing basis.
10. I think St Mary's has done an excellent job in explaining the need for increased stewardship.
11. I think parish leaders are making strides to ensure facilities are safe. Can only do so much with limited funds so it will take time.
12. I rated question 33 as N/A because I'm not familiar with the churches process in that area.
13. Excellent!
14. I can only hope, with all the changes a few years ago, the screening practices have improved, b/c in the past, the children were not protected.
15. Sometimes I feel the leadership in the parish is more by force and guilt, than by love.
16. I am not familiar with the training/background checks that are required for administrators and volunteers of the parish.
17. Grounds are beautiful
18. The concept of stewardship is always encouraged.
19. Plans for the parish facilities are not discussed with parishioners. The cost and plans for new parish house were never shared. Money earned from specific fundraisers not reported individually.
20. Much improved over past 2 years!
21. Stewardship and Leadership seems adequate, but we need to hear more, from the pulpit, as to goals, progress, and needs as we go forth.
22. The only health risk is the overuse of incense at mass. It is difficult to breathe resulting in my having to leave mass or if I know in advance go to different parish for mass
23. Indeed, the the clergy and staff extend themselves, all-be-it!, without fanfare. We should have a section in weekend bulletin that describes persons visited and helped (no names for privacy) as well as parishioner ministry participation rates
24. Father has done much to improve the facilities. However, money is a factor in improving some problems.
25. I see all of the above has improved drastically again with the guidance of Father Lee I am ever so grateful.
26. Our church facilities are maintained to perfection thanks to the efforts of our Pastor, Father Lee
27. Wonderful improvements and addressing overdue maintenance issues.

28. I think our Pastor and those in leadership roles do a really good job, but I am older. I would be interested in hearing what younger parishioners think. I'm sure they have a different regard.
29. I am still very upset over the events that occurred at St. Mary's two years ago regarding our youth ministers and the manner in which it was handled. I am still trying to maintain my faith in the church and to trust that it will protect our children.
30. Safety condition and upkeep of the church is fine - desecration of trees and shrubs in not... someone with educational knowledge of such care should be involved –
31. #35- only one priest assigned who covers everything, makes himself available always when needed. #36- well maintained however due to previous years of neglect, issues need to be addressed ie roof, parish house, etc.
32. I see a few personally invested parishioners however I don't notice an active commitment to give of time and talent. In fact, there seems to be an emphasis on a quick mass and immediate exit so as to fulfill the mass obligation. I have never been to a mass that begins five before the hour and ends at quarter to the next hour!
33. very good
34. Our pastor is very on top of everything needed to succeed as a parish. We are kept informed of what is good and what is needed. We help many charities and programs. We welcome missionaries into our parish and contribute when called on. We try to be responsible in all areas
35. The Stewardship program that was implemented has seem to go by the wayside. I am assuming it has morphed into something else. Not visible to me. Collections are up! New participation is always a question.
36. It appears that a great deal of effort is put into this area. We have dedicated educated staff, volunteers,pastoral guidance,etc but how do we get more people involved?
37. Our current pastor is doing an outstanding job regarding stewardship and leadership.
38. few new ministries in last few yrs should use main church more often .
39. I am unaware what has been done to ensure children's safety. Dismissal after Sunday classes were not too organized or supervised (2 yrs ago) & am uncertain if when classes meet the building is safe & doors locked. Not sure of fire safety either. Maybe my inadequate rating is based on not knowing what is in place. As for our pastor being available, he is available in presence but my experience has made me is intimidatied to approach with matters. I now choose to remain silent.
40. I'd like confession availability to be earlier on Saturdays, and if possible, available on other days of the week, too, during afternoon hours. This could be in addition to the fine reconciliation services offered during advent and lent, when priests are brought in to hear confessions. Perhaps some retired priests could come to hear confessions during afternoon weekdays.
41. Father Jeff is our only priest on the St. Mary's campus. He is a good shepherd, but he is only one person. There still is an environment safety issue, the growing of mole in the Parish House.
42. Father Jeff does an outstanding job in leading the sacramental celebrations at our Parish.

43. There needs to be a much better system in background checks considering the issue from a few years ago of the priest that was hired who had a history of inappropriate behavior with children. That was unacceptable.
44. The Risen Christ, which hung behind the altar of the Church, for years and represented hope of our Christian lives, has now been replaced from Advent thru Lent with the crucified Christ. Why thru Advent and Christmas..?
45. I'm not faulting the pastor/parish council in noting that he it could use improvement in #32. It's a tall order to be successful in that area, especially in a comfortable area.
46. #33-we have now improved in this area
47. The current pastor/administrator and staff are very aware of what needs to be done to maintain the facilities, but unfortunately they do not always have the financial resources necessary to do the repairs and maintenance. One of the problems that has not been addressed due to lack of finances is the mold issue in the parish house.
48. The roof in various parts of the buildings needs repairs but that costs lots of money. Hopefully, money can be put toward these repairs so that additional damage is not done. I understand that funds for these repairs may not be readily available at this time.
49. Once again, great improvement in the past two years
50. As a former member and president of the Parish Council and member of other committees at St. Mary's, I took part in the leadership roles of the parish. The Parish grounds and environment are not a campus! Rather than the natural pastoral setting of the past eliciting a prayerful response, they are becoming a showcase of manufactured metal that do not blend with the pastoral environment of parish grounds and the Colts Neck community. Whether donated or not, what has been done to the parish grounds hardly encourages a prayerful response but rather elicits shock that the beautiful natural views of the property are interrupted with molded pieces of metal.
51. Would like to know who are the members of the Pastoral and Finance Councils, they are not listed one the Website.
52. There is only so much one priest can do.
53. Re: #31- This is a wonderful goal, but from my experience serving in ministries in the parishes that I have belonged to over the years, 100% is not possible to achieve. There are those who, for one reason or another, be it age, employment obligations, family commitments (e.g., babies or very young children, or care of aged or ill parents) parishioners at that stage of their lives cannot participate in ministry. Re: #32- I haven't been involved in the pastoral council for many years and have never been involved in the parish financial council, so I'm not qualified to comment about those two; but it is apparent that our pastor encourages stewardship.
54. Again I feel like its minimal to no contact here so hard to say good or bad
55. Water collects at the base of the Phalanx Road walkway which could lead to falls in freezing weather.
56. I am very excited with all that Father Jeff brings to our church. He is a great leader and a business man.
57. The intent and efforts of Fr. Jeff and the staff to promote stewardship are excellent. It must be frustrating to see the limited number of parishioners who elect to be involved in a meaningful way.

58. With 3 young children and one on the way it is extremely difficult to participate in any manner at this time. As they grow older and can help we hope to play a bigger part.
59. we just need more priests the current priest do all that is possible to meet everyones needs
60. It would be nice to have more volunteers
61. # 32 requires more interaction with people & not necessarily on formal basis ie. meetings etc
62. Fr. Jeff is doing a good job at cleaning up the image of St. Mary's. He's caring for the neglected structures and improving physical safety. He seems like a good manager in that area.
63. I think the pastor, administrative and pastoral staff are doing a great job in this area. We are committed to keep children safe and the facilities are being maintained adequately. A lot has been done in this regard and it should be acknowledge. Regarding question 32, I think there are still many more talents, time and treasure to be share. But this depends on our parishioners. Administrative staff are always encouraging to participate and commit, however, I believe there are many parishioners that may find it difficult to commit and share some talent and time. We all have responsibilities and things to do, but we can carve a little time of our busy schedule to put in for the parish.
64. The lack of altar servers is, in part, due to the lack of on-site religious education and meaningful face-to-face interaction with our Pastor. Our Pastor should take the time to meet all the children so they feel welcomed and know the joys and opportunities. There should be children's masses where the kids can do the readings and sit at the altar for age-related homilies (in the Church, with the assembly - not dismissed). At my previous parish, Eucharistic Ministers/Choir/Altar Servers were opportunities everyone knew about and people wanted to be active. This is the joy I felt when my family and I switched to St. Mary's. In the past two years, I've seen my friends' leave this parish and thrive in other Churches. I've seen my own children question their faith. I've brought my concerns to the pastor and others. Stewardship will decline unless we have a Pastor who unites rather than divides.
65. There has been a dramatic improvement in the parish since Father Jeff's arrival. He has taken control of aspects of the parish that needed attention.
66. It is very nice that there is a lot of leadership by example.
67. It's recognized and appreciated that we have made substantial efforts to improve the physical condition of our parish and grounds, and to improve our financial condition. And that this may have required unilateral leadership (with stress and pain) to institute necessary change. The downside of this is that it creates the perception of control which is not open to the ideas or opinions of others, in these and other matters. Where people feel they will not be allowed to use their talents and ideas to assist the parish, it discourages involvement. Growing a healthy community where all can contribute to success requires openness and the delegation of authority, with the acceptance that sometimes things done by others will not be done the way the leader would do them.
68. Parish house needs replacement due to mold issue.
69. I think our parish needs a more sincere friendly and spiritual interest in all the parishioners from our pastor and staff.
70. I am deeply concerned about the previous incidents regarding allowing clergy with prior allegations of misconduct from being able to gain access to parish children.

71. I dont think there is enough transparency between what is collected and spent. Not enough transparency about all the donated services creating doubt about why the parush spent that money when in reality it was a donation. Grotto.....sculptures..... Etc.
72. Priests are very busy. Reconciliation seems the best time to talk to one.
73. in relation to question 34 there has been improvement
74. It's a shame that the Grotto can not be utilized by the elderly, disabled, etc. They should/must put a drive through for individuals as mentioned. Many elderly simply cannot handle the walk. Please consider.
75. Enjoy hearing the truth about our Catholic doctrine 🙌😊☐
76. Sometime I feel that there is too much emphasis on "how" people do things rather than "why" they do them. We have to accept each other as we are. We can't fit everyone into a mold that suits us.
77. The Church has declined since Father Ed left years ago. Father Jeff while I'm sure he is a wonderful person, puts a lot of us off. He doesn't seem very friendly or happy and often gives us "lecture"- not religion related.
78. Needs of adult singles, partnerships with area parishes needed.
79. Cameras should be active and monitored.
80. Father Jeff is a good leader.
81. The structure where the ministries needs to go through a person then that person goes to a committee and no being allowed to even discuss ministries with pastor is disappointing.
82. the pre-school area needs a better set up. It feels very closed off from everything, which it needs to be - but it's in the very middle of our facility.
83. The grotto is no longer handicap accessible which is a gross oversight - aesthetics should not be more important than access. The parking lot on the side of the grotto was of the utmost importance for many parishioners to access the grotto and the new path is not good for wheelchairs.