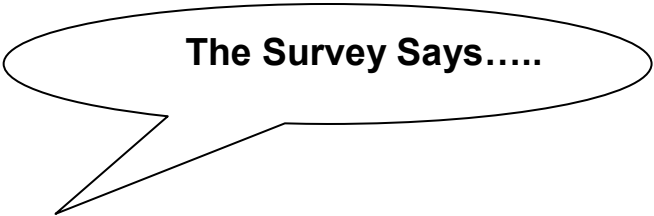


Parish Survey - Youth Ministry



Question 42: Do you believe our parish fosters and incorporates the unique gifts of teenagers by partnering with them in community service and liturgical worship?

Yes	No	Unsure
52%	9%	39%

Summary

- The majority of respondents believe our parish is headed in the “right direction” with the addition of a staff youth minister.
- Liturgy is an area where our parish excels at involving adolescents in a variety of meaningful and visible ministries.
- Community service and outreach to and with teens and their families are areas of concern and focus for future improvement.

Question 43: Do you see teenagers participating fully in the liturgy, worship and prayer of our church?

Yes	No	Unsure
72%	13%	15%

Summary

- Again, there was positive emphasis on those young people involved with liturgical ministries, especially as lectors.
- The overwhelming tone of responses was cynical, that young people are disenchanted with an organized religious that seems to have little to offer them. They suggested the need for revitalized community worship aimed at reaching the entire intergenerational congregation.
- Comments commonly included bringing a person to Mass, but not being able to force a personal faith response or experience.

Question 44: Do you believe our parish provides an adequate guidance to enable young people to make good decisions based on our Christian beliefs and Catholic values?

Yes	No	Unsure
42%	9%	49%

Summary

- The majority of responses indicated the belief that honest attempts were being made and were effective with those young people who participated in the Youth Ministry and Religious Education programming, however, the emphasis on Family as the primary character-forming conduit was emphasized.

Question 45: There are many ways to support a comprehensive youth ministry. Are you willing to take part in the responsibility to share faith and respond to the gifts and needs of young people?

- The majority of comments indicated that ministry with young people is decidedly “someone else’s” job. The biggest contributing factors seemed to be households without teenagers and parishioners who believe that they are “too old” or “not qualified” to work with youth.
- The survey responses indicate our major challenges in moving forward are:
a) youth attitudes towards Church and b) adult attitudes towards young people.

GOALS: The survey outlines three areas of focus in Youth Ministry:

1. **Reframing** Catholicism as an authentic, meaningful and personal spirituality that makes sense in the “real world”, and as a community that witnesses to and invites young people to actively challenge themselves in faith. We will seek to attend this goal through further catechetical faith formation, especially in Sacramental Confirmation preparation programming and in specific age-appropriate activities and youth ministry gatherings and meetings.
2. **Reclaiming**, inviting, and celebrating the unique gifts and needs of young people. By the witness of their baptism, adolescents challenge the church to avoid becoming sedentary and to not experience itself as established or complete. The vitality, exploration, transitioning, and balance of dependence and independence in adolescence enrich our community with the charisms of Vision, Questioning, Service, Enthusiasm, and Prophecy. In return, we embrace young people in the full invitation and adventure of knowing the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ by making a concerted effort to educate and involve them with authentic and meaningful roles in ministry, leadership and service. The attitude of our ministries will remain open and inclusive of all young people wishing to participate.
3. **Renewing** the liturgy and our joy to participate in it. Worship is foundational to the youth ministry in our parish, however the most prevalent youth assumption is that Church is primarily an adult event; they are spectators, not participants, and the same can be said of many adults. We seek to transform liturgical events from something to be endured to something to be experienced. The opposite of “boring” isn’t necessarily “exciting”, but is being meaningful and relevant. We aim at being intentional about meaningful worship with adolescents through the use of their musical and theatrical gifts.