

## **2018 Parishioner Survey**

### **St. Joseph Parish, Austintown, Ohio**

#### **Summary Report Submitted by Jim Merhaut of Coaching to Connect**

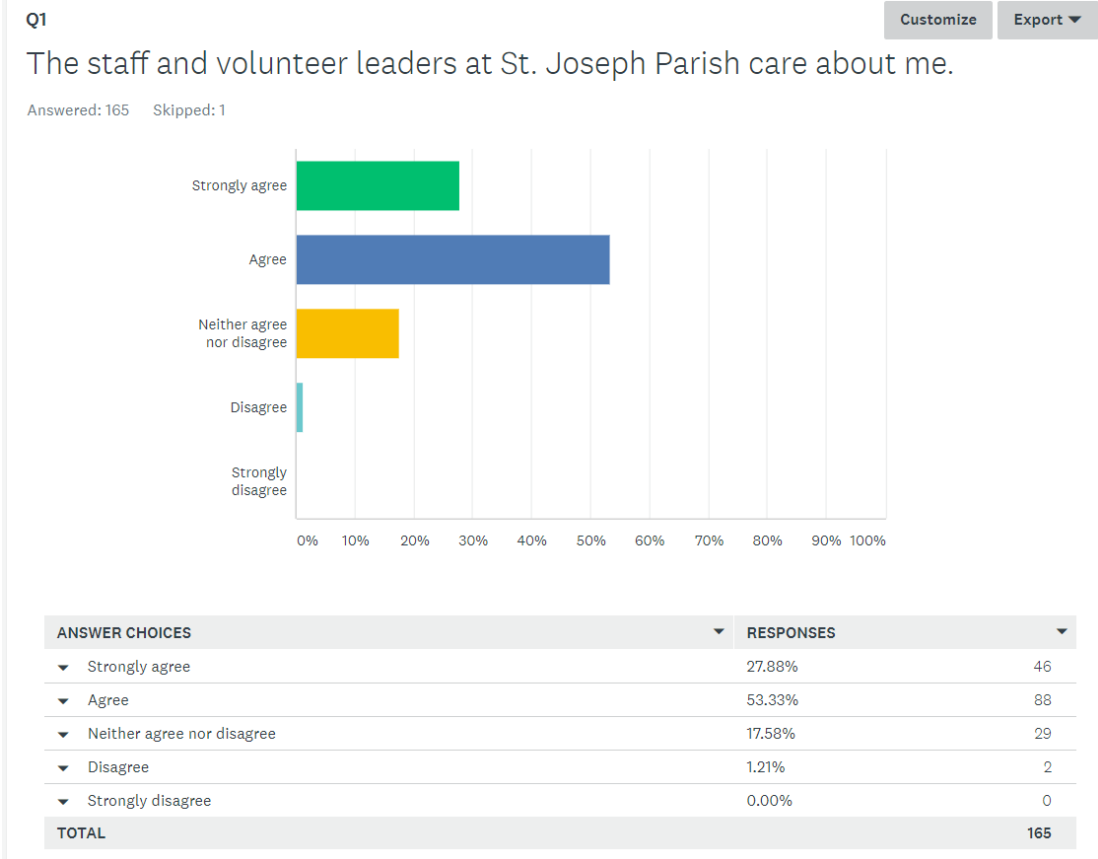
In the Fall of 2017, Fr. Fedor commissioned a St. Joseph Planning Team including Parish Council and additional parishioners to study the ministries at St. Joseph Parish as well as explore the parish's relationship with the Austintown community. The Planning Team released a survey in the Spring of 2018 to gather parishioners' opinions about five key areas of church life: 1) Caring, 2) Learning, 3) Serving, 4) Worshipping, 5) Perspectives about Austintown. The survey response was very strong and provides valuable information about each area of church life.

The Planning Team has begun to make recommendations for ministries based on survey results. Additional research will be conducted in the near future on two areas of worship: music and family accommodations. Both were raised as concerns in the survey, but the details of the concerns were unclear. Focus groups on each topic will help the Planning Team understand what parishioners are saying on these topics.

The next phase of planning will include listening to leaders throughout the Austintown community. Planning Team members and other parishioners will learn about the strengths, trends, and challenges throughout Austintown Township. When this phase is completed, the team will discern goals and action steps to help shape the future direction of St. Joseph Parish and its mission in Austintown.

# Part 1 – The Objective Questions

The first part of this report contains charts and data from the objective questions in the survey. There were objective questions for all five areas of church life mentioned above.

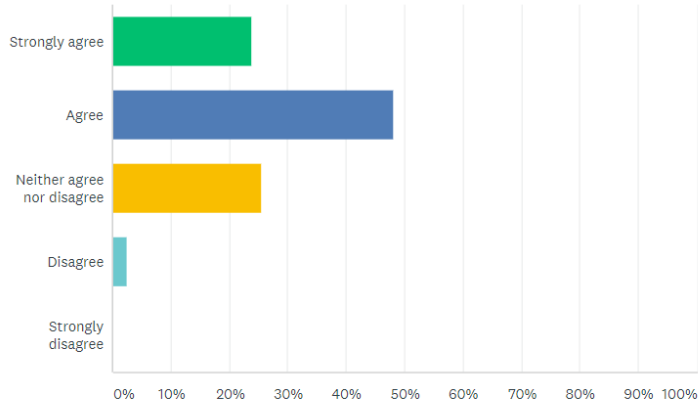


Q2

Customize Export

The parishioners of St. Joseph Parish care about me.

Answered: 164 Skipped: 2



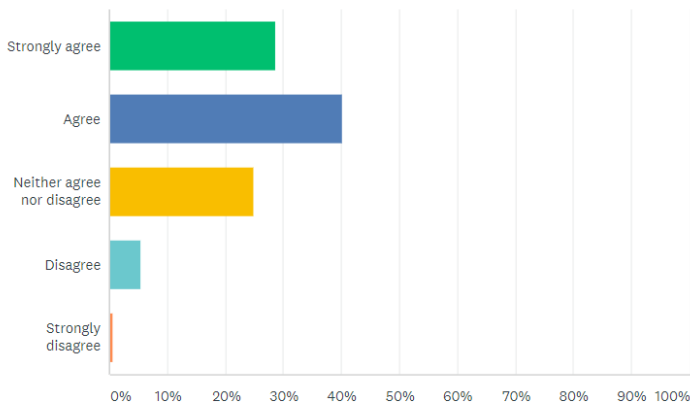
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	23.78% 39
Agree	48.17% 79
Neither agree nor disagree	25.61% 42
Disagree	2.44% 4
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>164</b>

Q3

Customize Export

Visitors and new members are warmly welcomed at St. Joseph Parish.

Answered: 164 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	28.66% 47
Agree	40.24% 66
Neither agree nor disagree	25.00% 41
Disagree	5.49% 9
Strongly disagree	0.61% 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>164</b>

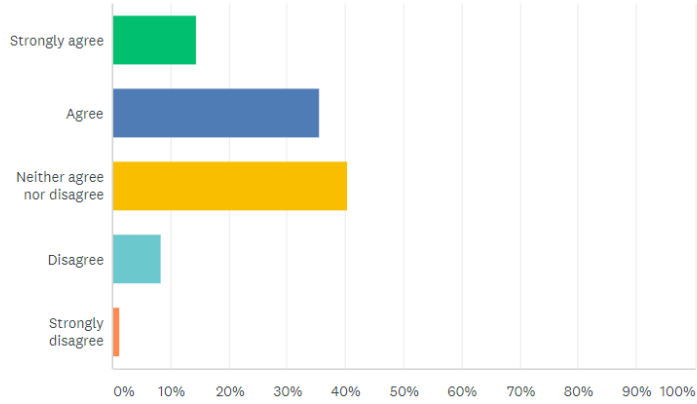
Q4

Customize

Export

## Visitors and new members easily find a way to become active in St. Joseph programs.

Answered: 166 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	14.46% 24
Agree	35.54% 59
Neither agree nor disagree	40.36% 67
Disagree	8.43% 14
Strongly disagree	1.20% 2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>166</b>

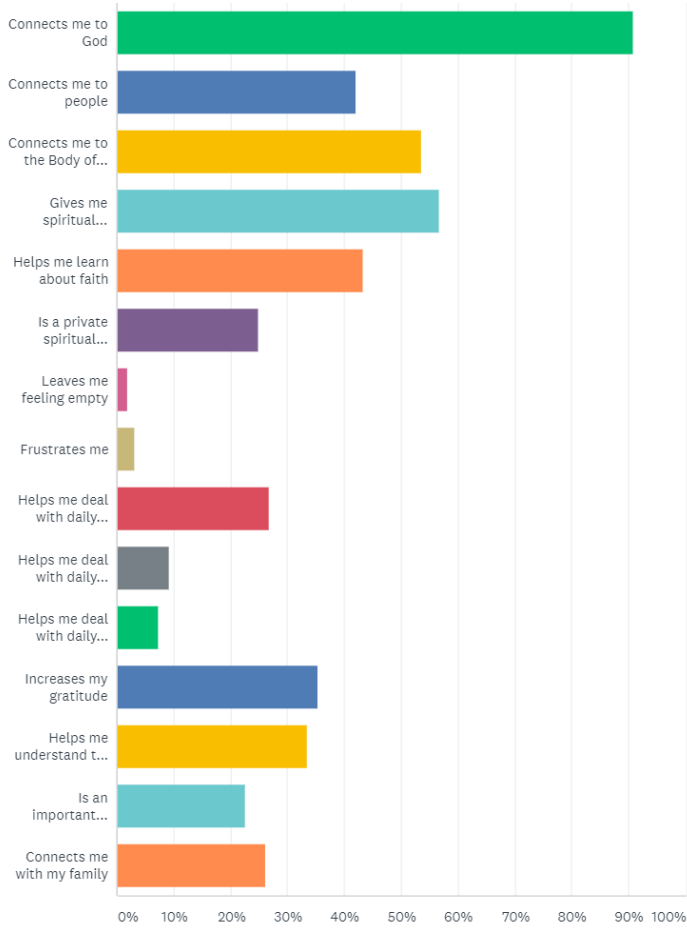
Q6

Customize

Export

### My participation at Mass at St. Joseph... (Please select up to five of the following.)

Answered: 164 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Connects me to God	90.85% 149
Connects me to people	42.07% 69
Connects me to the Body of Christ	53.66% 88
Gives me spiritual energy to face the week	56.71% 93
Helps me learn about faith	43.29% 71
Is a private spiritual experience	25.00% 41
Leaves me feeling empty	1.83% 3
Frustrates me	3.05% 5
Helps me deal with daily issues in my family	26.83% 44
Helps me deal with daily issues at work	9.15% 15
Helps me deal with daily issues with friends	7.32% 12
Increases my gratitude	35.37% 58
Helps me understand the Bible	33.54% 55
Is an important community experience	22.56% 37
Connects me with my family	26.22% 43
<b>Total Respondents: 164</b>	

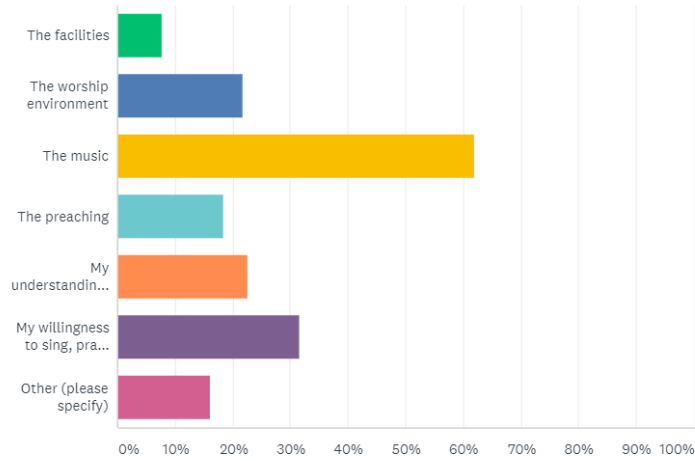
Q7

Customize

Export

Which part of Mass could we work on to enhance your worship experience?  
Select up to three of the following.

Answered: 142 Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ The facilities	7.75% 11
▼ The worship environment	21.83% 31
▼ The music	61.97% 88
▼ The preaching	18.31% 26
▼ My understanding of what is happening	22.54% 32
▼ My willingness to sing, pray, participate, etc.	31.69% 45
▼ Other (please specify) <a href="#">Responses</a>	16.20% 23
<b>Total Respondents: 142</b>	

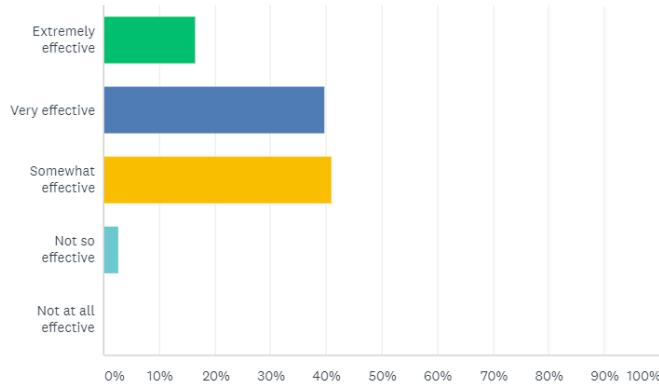
Q8

Customize

Export

### How effective is St. Joseph Parish at religious education of children?

Answered: 146 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Extremely effective	16.44% 24
Very effective	39.73% 58
Somewhat effective	41.10% 60
Not so effective	2.74% 4
Not at all effective	0.00% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>

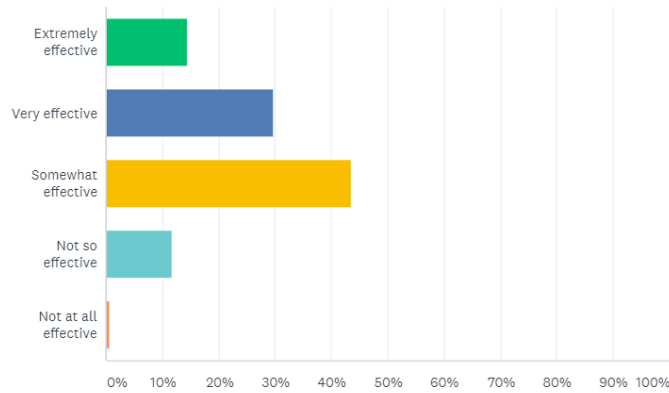
Q9

Customize

Export

### How effective is St. Joseph Parish at religious education of teens?

Answered: 145 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Extremely effective	14.48% 21
Very effective	29.66% 43
Somewhat effective	43.45% 63
Not so effective	11.72% 17
Not at all effective	0.69% 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145</b>

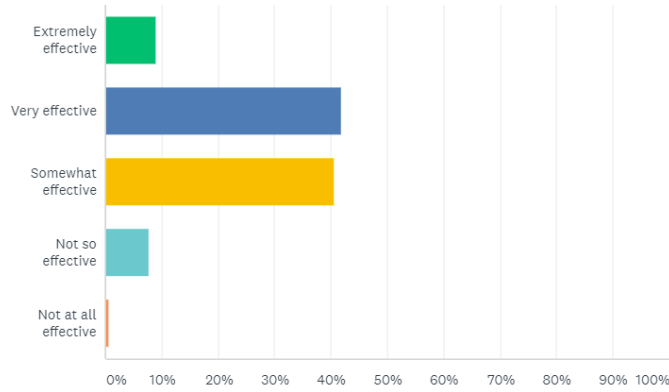
Q10

Customize

Export

### How effective is St. Joseph Parish at religious education of adults?

Answered: 155 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Extremely effective	9.03% 14
Very effective	41.94% 65
Somewhat effective	40.65% 63
Not so effective	7.74% 12
Not at all effective	0.65% 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>155</b>

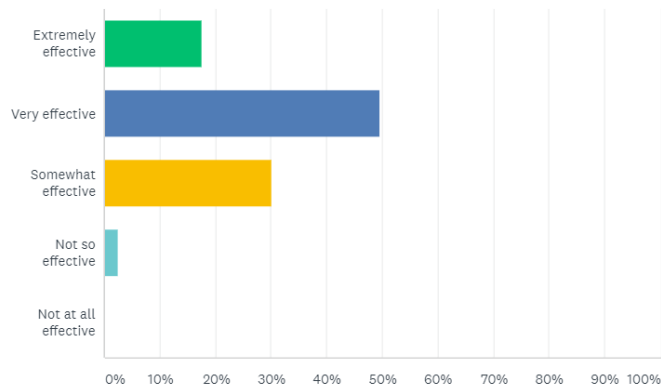
Q12

Customize

Export

### How effective is St. Joseph parish at serving your needs?

Answered: 159 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Extremely effective	17.61% 28
Very effective	49.69% 79
Somewhat effective	30.19% 48
Not so effective	2.52% 4
Not at all effective	0.00% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>159</b>



## Part 2: Themes in the Open Question from the Survey

The second part of this report includes a table that identifies the themes that emerged in the subjective questions of the survey. The subjective question on worship did not produce any additional information beyond what we learned in the other questions. This is what is prompting the focus groups on worship.

The table below includes four parts:

1. The question from the survey and its corresponding number
2. The left column includes the name of the theme identified by the Planning Team’s interpretation of parishioner comments.
3. The center column includes the Planning Team’s interpretation of the theme’s meaning based on parishioner comments.
4. The right column indicates theme strength by identifying how many times the theme was mentioned by parishioners in the survey responses.

<b>5: What is the most important way that St. Joseph Parish can express care for its members?</b>		
<b>Theme Name</b>	<b>Theme Meaning</b>	<b>Theme Strength</b>
A. Be Friendly, Welcoming, Greetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and parishioners offer friendly greetings to each other.</li> <li>• Parishioners receive a warm welcome when they arrive at the church.</li> <li>• New members are welcomed warmly and invited into ministries.</li> </ul>	24 Mentions
B. Deepen Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design ways for parishioners to meet each other and get to know each other.</li> <li>• Work on facilitating better conversations.</li> <li>• Assist parishioners with relationship skills.</li> </ul>	20 Mentions
C. Offer Support, Care for Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tend to emotional needs of sick parishioners.</li> <li>• Tend to emotional needs of grieving parishioners.</li> <li>• Tend to anyone without discrimination.</li> <li>• Pray for those in need.</li> </ul>	17 Mentions

D. Provide Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer programs that target needs.</li> <li>• Offer programs with food and socialization.</li> <li>• Promote the programs we offer.</li> </ul>	12 Mentions
E. Be Open-Minded, Open to Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to parishioners.</li> <li>• Improve music at Mass.</li> <li>• Explore creative approaches to Mass.</li> <li>• Add missionary work and more service opportunities.</li> <li>• Learn from other parish models.</li> <li>• Accommodate working families.</li> </ul>	8 Mentions

**11: What is the most important thing St. Joseph Parish can do to enhance religious education for all parishioners.**

Theme Name	Theme Meaning	Theme Strength
Variety of Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep current programs and add more with greater variety and scheduled in family-friendly ways.</li> </ul>	18 Mentions
Bible Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study groups</li> <li>• Discussion groups</li> <li>• Additional programs scheduled for greater access</li> <li>• Current Bible studies are good.</li> <li>• Bible study for beginners</li> </ul>	12 Mentions
Focus on Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational and relevant preaching</li> <li>• Improve music, more contemporary</li> <li>• More youth and family involvement in liturgical ministries</li> </ul>	10 Mentions
Overall Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A focus on everyday life and common concerns</li> <li>• Accessible content for young people</li> </ul>	7 Mentions
Family/Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning opportunities for families who don't have children in CCD</li> <li>• Family participation with CCD</li> <li>• Youth and parents involved together in learning and ministries</li> <li>• Parenting support</li> <li>• Family-friendly scheduling</li> </ul>	5 Mentions

**13: How do you think God is calling you to serve others**

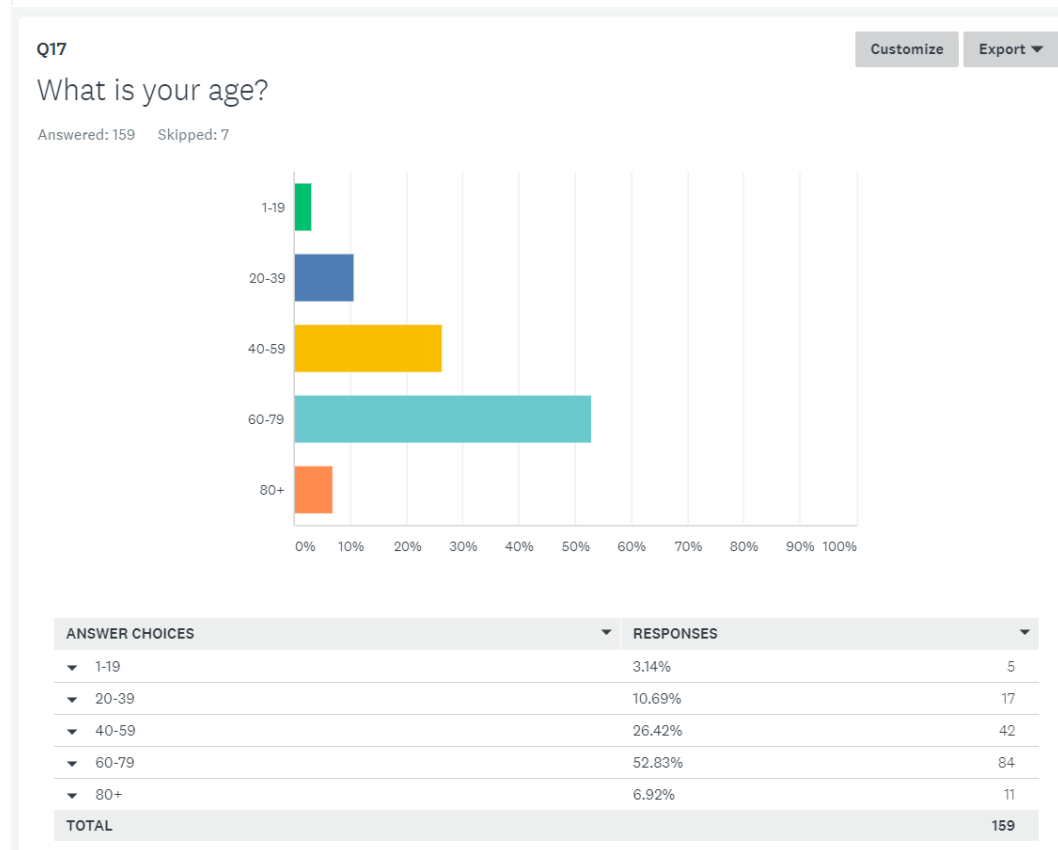
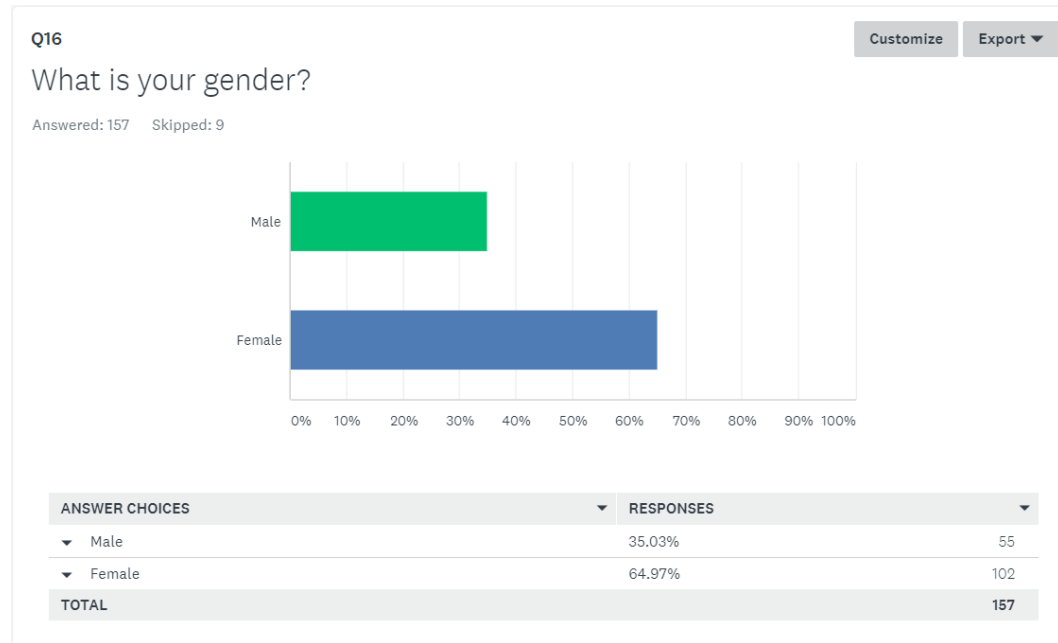
Theme Name	Theme Meaning	Theme Strength
Living a Christian Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share faith in word and deed</li> <li>• Living Christian values</li> <li>• Listening to the call of God in all situations</li> <li>• Being a good friend</li> </ul>	27 Mentions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being a good family member</li> </ul>	
Volunteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteering in church ministries</li> <li>• Volunteering in the community</li> </ul>	21 Mentions
Helping those in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping the poor</li> <li>• Helping anyone in need, including animals</li> <li>• Nurture others, be compassionate</li> </ul>	10 Mentions
Praying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praying for others in need</li> </ul>	10 Mentions
Generosity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giving money to the church</li> <li>• Giving money/resources to causes that assist the poor</li> </ul>	6 Mentions
Celebrating Sacraments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating at Mass</li> <li>• Participating in a liturgical ministry</li> </ul>	6 Mentions
Do not know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	6 Mentions
<b>14: What are the most pressing needs in the Austintown Community?</b>		
Youth Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More programming opportunities for youth</li> <li>• Greater care expressed to our youth</li> <li>• More services for youth in poverty</li> <li>• More religious/moral outreach to youth</li> </ul>	21 Mentions
Faith/Morals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater church attendance</li> <li>• Moral formation</li> <li>• Faith in God</li> </ul>	20 Mentions
Helping Those in Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering help and service to anyone in need, especially those in financial need</li> <li>• Transportation and other services for the elderly</li> </ul>	12 Mentions
Drug Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug trafficking</li> <li>• Drug addiction</li> </ul>	10 Mentions
Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More jobs</li> <li>• Higher paying jobs</li> </ul>	9 Mentions
Unity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sense of community spirit</li> </ul>	9 Mentions
Family Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting family unity</li> <li>• Parent support</li> </ul>	8 Mentions
<b>15: What have you heard non-members say about St. Joseph Parish?</b>		
Nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parishioners who report hearing nothing about the parish from non-members</li> </ul>	25 Mentions
Good Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good preaching</li> <li>• Welcoming</li> <li>• Good Pastor</li> <li>• Good Worship</li> <li>• Good people</li> <li>• Good Facilities</li> </ul>	21 Mentions

Exclusive/Controlling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not accepting of all people</li><li>• Not welcoming</li><li>• Cliquish</li><li>• Rigid rules</li><li>• Unchanging</li></ul>	10 Mentions
Concern about Loss of Parishioners & School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People leaving due to culture</li><li>• People leaving due to changes</li><li>• People left due to loss of school</li></ul>	10 Mentions
Boring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mass is boring</li><li>• Catholics are boring</li></ul>	6 Mentions

## Part 3 – Demographic Information

The third part of the report includes demographic information about survey respondents.



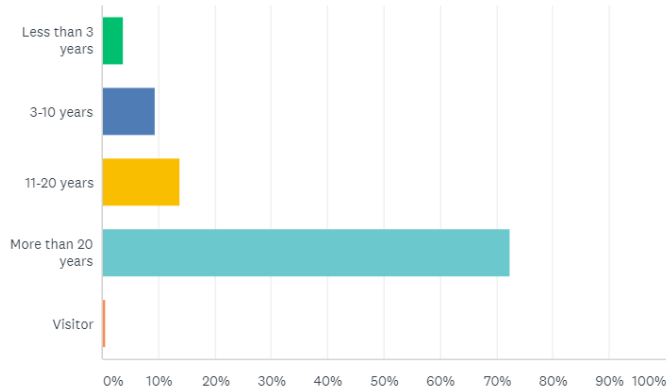
Q18

Customize

Export

### How long have you been a parishioner at St. Joseph?

Answered: 159 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than 3 years	3.77% 6
3-10 years	9.43% 15
11-20 years	13.84% 22
More than 20 years	72.33% 115
Visitor	0.63% 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>159</b>

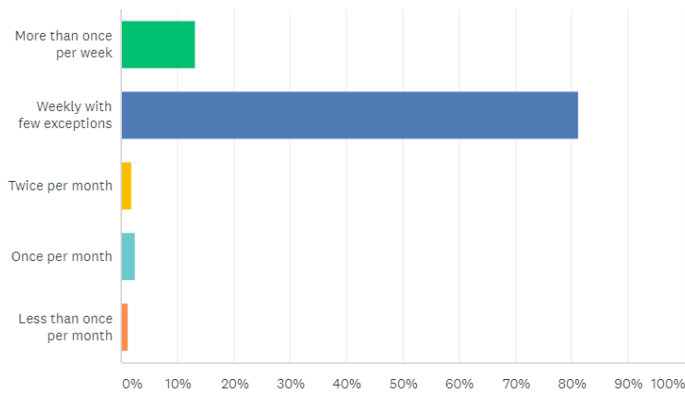
Q19

Customize

Export

### How often do you attend Mass?

Answered: 159 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
More than once per week	13.21% 21
Weekly with few exceptions	81.13% 129
Twice per month	1.89% 3
Once per month	2.52% 4
Less than once per month	1.26% 2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>159</b>

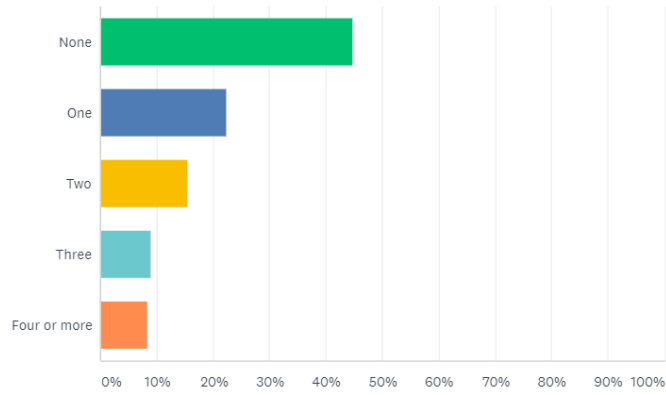
Q20

Customize

Export

### How many St. Joseph programs do you participate in other than Mass?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ None	44.87% 70
▼ One	22.44% 35
▼ Two	15.38% 24
▼ Three	8.97% 14
▼ Four or more	8.33% 13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>