

St. Bernadette Parish Survey

TODAY'S FOCUS: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE APPROACH

The Parish Council believed it was essential to take a “big picture” view of our community. To accomplish this, parishioners were asked to identify activities and practices that should be continued, started, and/or stopped. Now that the results are in, the goal is to engage people whose skills and talents will make this a positive process that leads to meaningful long-term success.

AN OVERVIEW

150 respondents (about 5% of parishioners)

The data collected fit generally into four broad categories (in descending order):

1. Music and Liturgy
2. Religious Education
3. Ministries and Outreach
4. Parish Budget and Finances

Many responses were passionate and expressed heartfelt opinions. Parish Council is, and has been, working to address them.

A SAMPLING OF COMMENTS

- “Continue hosting Friday morning Bible study groups.”
- “Continue emphasis on education and continuing education regarding Catholic teachings.”
- “Improve the youth program. Once kids get confirmed, many stop being involved with our parish and the Church.”
- “Have less sitting and more activities during Religious Education classes.”
- “Do more to make kids want to get involved.”
- “Has the Religious Ed. program ever been changed or revamped over the years?”
- “Have more adult education offerings.”
- “More suggestions regarding good educational reading material would be most welcome.”
- “Continue providing books by Catholic authors.”

SUGGESTIONS

- Update the Religious Education program to improve student interest and engagement.
- Make the high school Religious Education program more relevant/relatable.
- Revise the Religious Education class schedule to make it more accommodating for families with students at different grade levels.
- Have Bible/book study groups for moms and provide childcare.
- Have more guest speakers and retreats.



ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR

Since the Pulse of the Parish survey, parishioners and staff have initiated a number of programs and actions, including:

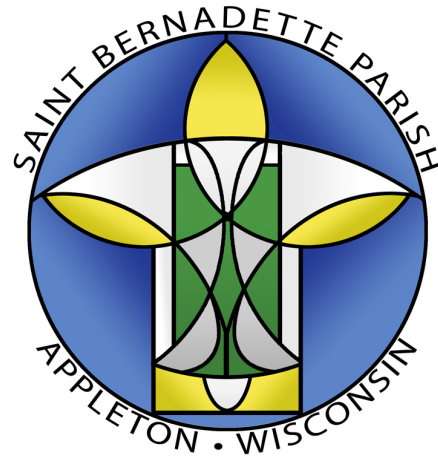
- revisions to the high school Religious Ed. program developed by experienced St. Bernadette catechists.
- a new Lenten Bible study program.
- retaining the *Parish Success Group*, independent analysts with a record of proven success, to evaluate our current procedures and practices and recommend key changes.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Reinforce lessons taught during Religious Education classes by participating in Mass, Religious Ed. related activities, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, etc. as a family.
- If you're a parent with young children, feel free to sit up front during Mass where it's easier to see and hear what's going on.
... *Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." - Matthew 19:14*
- Volunteer as a Religious Ed. teacher.
- Stay abreast of adult and family educational opportunities by checking out the Sunday bulletin, *myParish* app, *Happenings* eNewsletter, and narthex announcement display.
- Do you have a specific interest, idea, or need regarding religious education? Contact the parish office or a Parish Council member.

IDEAS THAT REMAIN UNDER DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION

- Increasing the percentage of activity based learning (vs. in-seat lecture style instruction) for Religious Education students.
- Expanding support and training for those interested in serving as religious education teachers.
- Providing more speakers, programs, and retreats based on topics identified by parishioners.
- Developing a broader range of educational and service opportunities with the goal of reaching all parishioners regardless of where they may be in their individual faith journey.



Many thanks to those of you who responded to the Parish Survey. If you didn't get the opportunity to do so, or would like to share additional thoughts, we encourage you to speak with any of your Parish Council members.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tom Schmit (Chair), Joe Feldhausen, Kate Feldhausen, Jean Herres, Ed Kleckner, Mary Lietz, Dan Lynch, Conor Mares, Julie McMillan, Bob Parsons, Denise Reitmeyer, Sue Taylor, Rachel Tomasik, Deb Truymen, Jeff Venable