

# St. Bernadette Parish

## PARISH SURVEY 2015: THE NEXT STEPS

### AN OVERVIEW

150 of our Parishioners Responded (<5%)

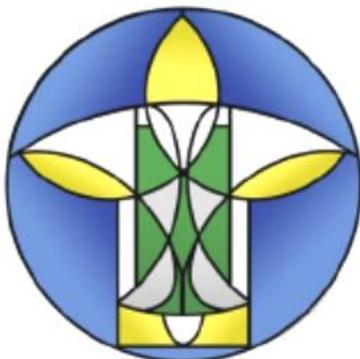
The data collected fit generally into four broad categories (in descending order):

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

Several responses expressed **definite** opinions. The Parish Council is, and has been, working to address them.

### THE APPROACH

The Parish Survey Group believed it was essential to take a “big picture” view of the four categories above. To do so, they have enlisted the help of people whose skills and talents in the above areas can make this a positive process that leads to long term success.



### TODAY'S SURVEY FOCUS: **MUSIC and LITURGY**

Of the **150 surveys** received, **35 comments** were focused on music, falling into **4 main categories**:

#### 1. Instruments Used

- “Invest in drums; add guitars and other instruments”
- “Get musicians with guitars, keyboard, etc. to make the music more modern.”

#### 2. Choirs

- “Improve the quality of musical groups: livelier and more fitting to the abilities of the musicians”
- “We want to sing along with the choir: help us to sing in the pew”

#### 3. Styles of Music Preferred

- “To attract the younger crowd, the music has to be vibrant and inviting.”
- “Perhaps one song at each Mass could be a traditional song that would appeal to those of us who are older.”

#### 4. Children & Youth Involvement

- “Have a Youth Choir with music young people identify with.”
- “Have a children’s choir”

### A NEW IDEA FROM THE SURVEY

“Have the Parish host a free annual Sacred Music Concert” featuring musicians and choirs from our own parish.

***Overall, we see a great desire of parishioners to participate more fully in the Mass through the music! That's fantastic!***

### ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR

Parishioners' comments have been shared and reviewed with the Choir Directors and music leaders.

Fr. Brian has been consulted because of his background as a liturgical musician.

There has been *much* discussion among the musicians and the Worship Committee.

Choir Directors and music leaders have repeated their desire to enhance our worship through quality music that supports congregational singing.

### FURTHER ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- **Provide more education**/information to the parish about the Church's desires regarding: music in the liturgy, the role of choirs, the role of the assembly, etc.

- When there are "seasonal psalms" (such as might happen in Easter), **provide printed music and catechesis** for the assembly.

- **Form a Youth and/or Children's Choir**

**NOTE:** There is *definitely* potential for this to happen. HOWEVER, this idea needs a "**guiding sponsor.**"

**WHAT'S NEEDED:** A core of parents to assist the director; a **parental commitment** for children to participate.

### ... and STILL MORE ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- **Hosting an Annual Sacred Music Concert**

**WHAT'S NEEDED:** A **volunteer** to plan, guide and lead this recommendation. If you are that person, please contact the Parish Office.

### WHAT PARISHIONERS CAN DO

- Sing what you **can**. Sing the **best** you can.

- Pay attention to the **text** of the music; maybe look over the music listed on the song boards before Mass begins.

- Be patient and look for the good. Change takes time and it takes a positive outlook.

- Consider your own **spiritual life** and how the music at Mass (the Choirs' and your own singing) can be an expression to God of your faith in him.

- Be an **active volunteer** in the music ministry. The more people there are in a choir, the easier it is to blend. And without volunteers, there would be no music.

**Thanks to the parishioners that responded to the Parish Survey. And if you would like to share your thoughts, speak with any of your Parish Council Members.**