



Saint Eulalia

— PARISH —

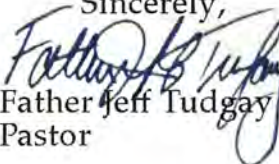
June 5, 2022
Pentecost Sunday

Dear Parishioner,

Beginning last Fall, our Parish Pastoral Council began a pastoral planning process that focused on the future mission of our parish. This process began with the invitation to each parishioner to participate in a Parish Life Survey, which asked you for your insights about our parish and your hopes for the future. The report that we are including in this weekend's bulletin is a breakdown of the insights and perceptions that you offered. The Pastoral Council is grateful for your time to take the survey, which will help us in our pastoral planning efforts in the coming years.

Over the next several months, our pastoral planning process will engage parishioners in a more concentrated way to take the information from the Parish Life Survey and prayerfully reflect on your insights. Together with the Church's teachings on various areas of Church life, the concentrated focus will result in a comprehensive pastoral plan that will chart our course forward over the next several years.

Please take some time to review the attached report. The information that your participation in the Parish Life Survey provided will impact the future mission and direction of Saint Eulalia Parish.

Sincerely,

Father Jeff Tudgey
Pastor



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Introduction of Executive Summary

In November 2021, the Saint Eulalia Parish Pastoral Council released its comprehensive Parish Life Survey. This survey captured the input of parishioners and visitors on five key elements of Parish Life: 1. Demographics, 2. Community and Outreach, 3. Liturgical Life, 4. Catechesis and Faith Formation, and 5. Stewardship and Evangelization. A total of 390 individual responses to the survey were received. The responses were analyzed with the intention of elevating the voices of parishioners and visitors in the Parish Pastoral Planning Process.

Methods

- The survey was designed by a committee of Parish Pastoral Council members and Parish staff. Following a period of comment and revision, the survey was approved by the full Parish Pastoral Council.
- The survey contained 49 questions, including open-ended, rank-order and yes/no questions, across the five elements of parish life. The survey was available online and in paper form.
- The survey was open from Nov. 11, 2021 to Jan. 2, 2022. Promotion and dissemination efforts included a mailing to all 1,065 families listed in the parish database, emails, social media posts, announcements in the weekly bulletin and flyers at the November and December parish breakfasts.
- The survey data (390 responses) was reviewed and analyzed by the Parish Pastoral Council.

Demographics of 390 Respondents

Parishioner Status

Parishioners	91%
Visitors/Guests	7%
Other	2%

Children in Household

Yes	45%
No	55%

Gender

Female	68%
Male	32%

Age

10-18 Years Old	8%
19-29 Years Old	2%
30-39 Years Old	6%
40-49 Years Old	18%
50-59 Years Old	22%
60-69 Years Old	20%
70-79 Years Old	19%
80 Years +	5%

Marital Status

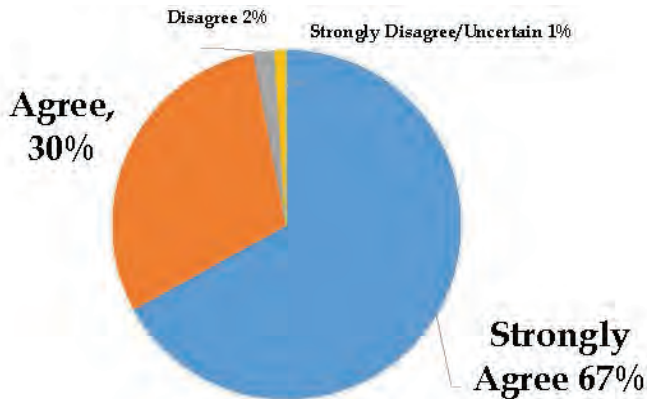
Married	76%
Single	11%
Widowed	6%
Divorced/Separated	4%
Long-term Partnership	3%

Community Outreach

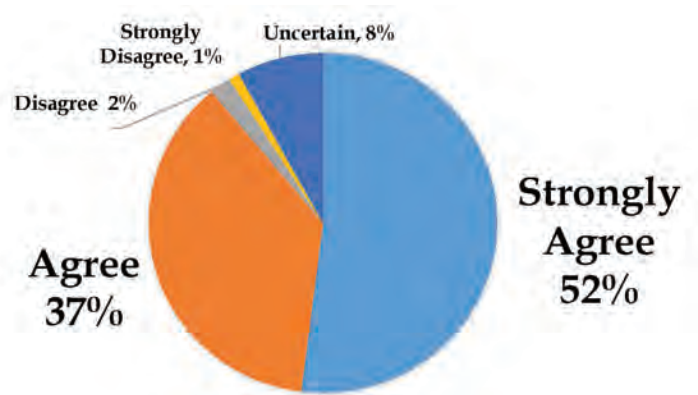
Who the parishioners of Saint Eulalia Parish are within our church community and beyond

Strengths

When asked if Saint Eulalia Parish is a welcoming community of faith, 97% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed



When asked if the Parish effectively reaches out to the North Pocono community, 89% strongly agreed or agreed



Other Results of Significance

- “Family/Families” (64 responses) and “Community” (44 responses) were two of the top words submitted to describe the Saint Eulalia Parish community.
- When asked if they feel comfortable reaching out to parish staff and clergy, 94% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed. Additionally, the majority of responses (98%) indicated they have confidence in parish leadership.
- The survey identified the following methods of communication are preferred (top six in rank order): email, bulletin, mass announcements, Facebook posts, parish website and mailings.

Growth Potential

Through written responses, respondents identified a desire for more opportunities to evangelize and tell the story of our church (for example, faith formation) and increased transparency within the Parish and Parish Pastoral Council. Additionally, respondents sought more engagement in community outreach grounded in a broader social justice approach (for example, offering a hot meal in the hall). There were calls for both more orthodox traditions (Latin Masses) and more inclusive traditions of Pope Francis’ leadership. On a more global scale, respondents voiced a desire for liturgies to remain apolitical and for continued healing from scandals and controversies within the larger Catholic Church.

Opportunities for Action

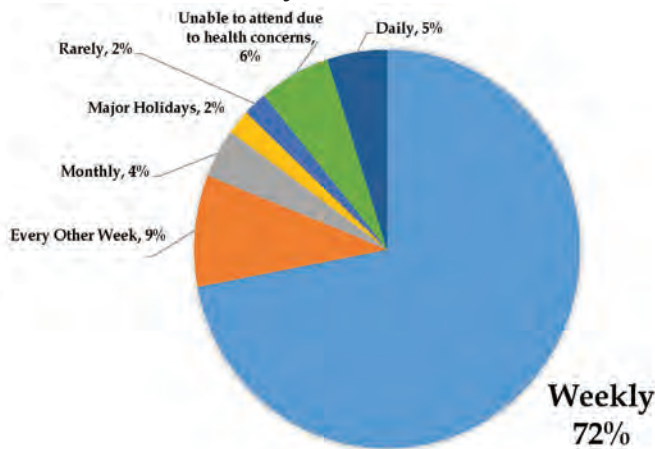
1. **Communication:** Provide opportunities to understand our faith and tell the story of our Church
2. **Engagement:** Engage the community, evangelize and reconnect people to the Church
3. **Belonging:** Build community and family sense of community

Liturgical Life

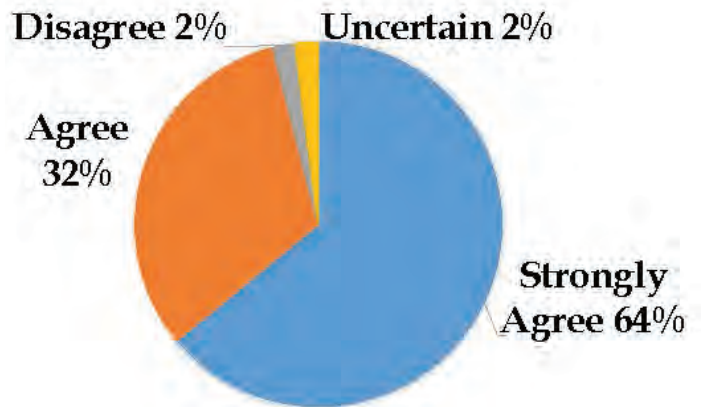
*How Saint Eulalia Parish celebrates the Mass
and all other Sacraments*

Strengths

When asked how often they attend Mass, 72% of respondents said they attend Mass every week.



When asked if homilies at Mass help them understand the Gospel, 96% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.



Other Results of Significance

- 97% of respondents stated that attending Mass was important to them.
- While 72% of respondents stated that they attend Mass every week, when asked if the current Mass times are convenient for them, 98% stated yes with the following breakdown:
 - 33% attend the 10:05 a.m. Mass
 - 24% attend the 8 a.m. Mass
 - 19% attend the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass
 - 12% attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass
 - 12% attend Mass via livestream and many respondents expressed gratitude for the livestream when they are not able to attend Mass.

Growth Potential

While 89% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the music at Mass creates a prayerful experience of worship, 76% of respondents agreed that they would like to hear new music. A total of 45% of respondents said they would like to hear new music at least a few times a year, while 31% said monthly.

Many respondents sought an exploration of other Mass times, including later Saturday Masses. Comments from respondents expressed a desire for more adoration and prayer opportunities in addition to a greater youth presence throughout the parish.

Opportunities for Action

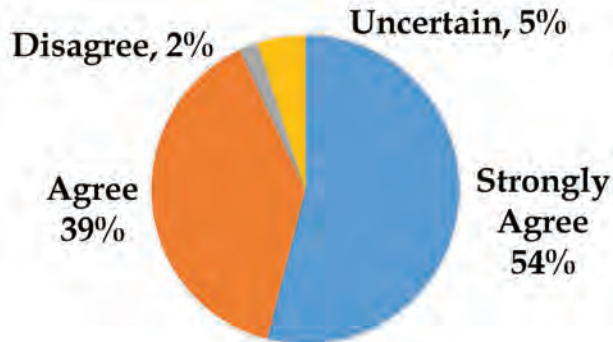
1. **Music:** Incorporate a greater variety of more familiar music
2. **Mass Times:** Explore the best schedule for Mass offerings
3. **Youth:** Attend to a young adult presence
4. **Liturgical Commission:** Create a lively presence from all age groups and musicians and non-musicians

Catechesis and Faith Formation

How the parishioners of Saint Eulalia Parish learn and integrate our Catholic faith

Strengths

When asked if the Religious Education Program is a foundational part of our parish, 93% strongly agreed or agreed



94% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the religious education program meets their expectations

97% of respondents say religious education is offered at a convenient time

Other Results of Significance

- 92% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that catechists effectively teach the Catholic faith to children. To contextualize these responses, only 32% of people currently or recently had children enrolled in Religious Education
- 89% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they were significantly knowledgeable in their Catholic faith. They cited the following as the primary places of Catholic learning:
 - 36% Family
 - 25% Catholic School
 - 24% Religious Education
 - 5% Adult Faith Formation
 - 2% College Courses
 - 1% Mass
 - 7% Other

Growth Potential

Respondents indicated that parishioners of all ages are hungry for education and faith formation.

66%

Percent of respondents who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, showing interest in:

- Scripture Study (153 people)
- Saints (133 people)
- Church History (128 people)
- Marriage & Family (96 people)
- Social Justice (82 people)
- Pro-Life Issues (56 people)

74%

Percent of respondents who stated their children share what they learn in religious education with them

70%

Percent of respondents who strongly agreed or agreed that their children look forward to religious education

84%

Percent of respondents who strongly agreed or agreed that Youth Ministry is a foundational part of the parish

43%

Percent of respondents were uncertain if the youth ministry program meets the needs of teens

Opportunities for Action

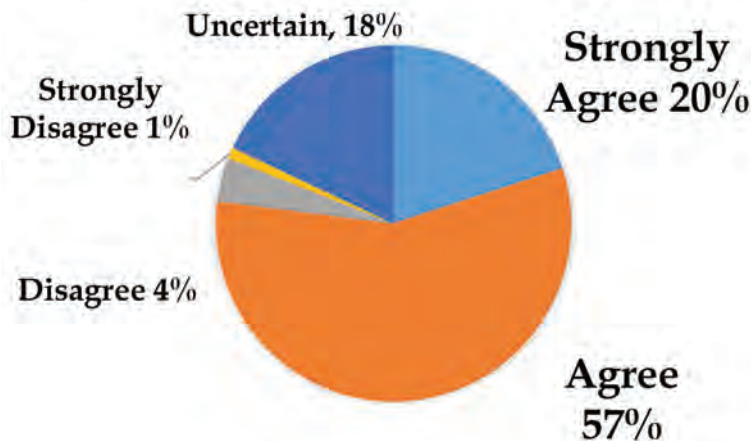
1. **Youth Group:** Promote and support participation, students announce at Masses, make short videos
2. **Faith Formation:** Movie night, book club, paint and sip, Pampered Chef party
3. **Adult Education:** A larger variety at more times

Stewardship and Evangelization

How the talents, gifts and resources of Saint Eulalia parishioners are used for the mission of the Church

Strengths

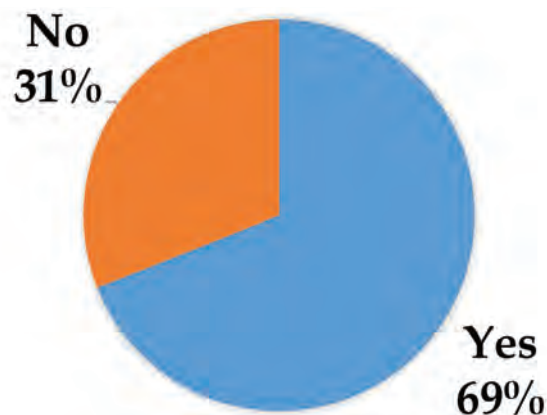
When asked if they were mindful of how they use their talents, gifts and resources for the mission of the Church, both globally and locally, 77% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed.



When asked if they were comfortable inviting others to experience and embrace the Catholic faith, a similar number of respondents, 76%, either strongly agreed or agreed and noted that people are often welcomed into the church by current members.

Growth Potential

A total of 69% of respondents indicated that the concept of “stewardship” was clear to them, but 31% of respondents were not clear on the concept.



When asked specifically if they felt comfortable reaching out to those who feel alienated from the Catholic Church, only 62% of respondents strongly agreed (19%) or agreed (43%). Respondents indicated through written comments that there is room for more encouragement of personal invitations for current members to “go forth and spread the Good News” about the parish. There is a need to “tell our story.”

Opportunities for Action

1. **Community:** *Build on sense of welcome and generosity*
2. **Transparency:** *Continue financial transparency*



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What's Next?

The next step to building the Parish Pastoral Plan is creating our five Commissions of interested parishioners who will focus on the survey data for their section and together identify goals and objectives for each area.

Organization and Responsibilities

- Each Commission will be comprised of five parishioners and two Parish Pastoral Council members.
- Parish staff will serve each Commission in a support role.
- Each Commission should include parishioners representing a variety of ages, occupations, length of time as members, geographic residency within the NP area, etc.
- Each Commission will determine their meeting schedule across a four-month period
- Commission members will be provided the raw data from the survey which applies to their focus
- Each Commission will be provided detailed information to structure their meetings while allowing them the freedom to determine the best way for their particular group to accomplish the end results.

Commissions

- **Community Outreach.** Foster a sense of belonging and strengthen a sense of community among parishioners. Deepen within parishioners the desire and ability to reach out to people hurting within their daily lives. Foster outreach to the poor and marginalized. Educate parishioners on social justice issues and best practices. *Themes: Communication, Engagement, Belonging, Outreach*
- **Liturgical Life.** Educate/invite parishioners into a deeper understanding and experience of various liturgies, especially celebration of the Eucharist. Create a lively presence from all age groups. Focus upon liturgical preparation, music, art, and environment as well as ongoing formation of liturgical ministers: musicians, greeters, lectors, servers. *Themes: Music, Mass times, Involvement.*
- **Catechesis & Faith Formation.** Develop among parishioners a desire to deepen their understanding and commitment to our faith as a way of life, foster a recognition that lifelong spiritual growth is the foundation of our entire lives and parish community. Create ways to integrate faith formation into parish life: religious education program, youth ministry, adult ed, and RCIA. Encourage people to consider priesthood, the diaconate, religious life, and lay leadership. *Themes: Youth group, Faith formation, Adult education*
- **Stewardship.** Assist parishioners to develop a sense of stewardship – sharing their time, talent, treasure as a way of life in the parish and in their overall life. Develop ways to involve people in various parish ministries, organizations, and short-term projects based upon their specific gifts Strengthen a sense of community among parishioners. *Themes: Transparency, Involvement*
- **Evangelization.** Form active Catholics to better live and share their faith in daily life. Outreach to inactive Catholics – especially young adults, parents of religious education students, former parishioners, those who are hurting, isolated or unchurched, people in the surrounding North Pocono area. Continue an active involvement in local ecumenical and interfaith endeavors. *Themes: Community, Connection*

All parishioners are asked to prayerfully consider volunteering to serve on a Commission in which they are interested. Complete the interest form on our website, by going to bit.ly/3Nbkpyz or scanning this QR code with your smartphone or tablet.

Paper interest forms are available in the Parish Office upon request.

