

HOLY FAMILY & ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SURVEYS, MAY 2021 -127 TOTAL SURVEYS COMPLETED-

Italicized words in smaller font after a given question were written in as responses for that question by parishioners. Some were quite long and "Edited" will appear before those, in fact, edited for sake of brevity. Highlighted areas simply indicate predominant answers.

Demographics Questions

Question #1: My home Parish is:

Holy Family.....	81
St. John the Baptist.....	19
No answer/other.....	27

NB: The number of responses to many questions is less than 127. Many parishioners skipped various survey questions.

Question #2: My age bracket is:

18-29.....	3
30-39.....	9
40-49.....	10
50-59.....	33
60+.....	72

Question #3: My children are ages (check all that apply)

Pre-born -9 years old.....	8
10-15.....	14
16-19.....	17
20+.....	26
I have no children at home.....	77

Question #4: My children attend school at:

Holy Family.....	9
St. John the Baptist.....	1
Marian HS.....	6
St. Joseph HS.....	3
Public School.....	11
Pre-School.....	4
Home School.....	1
College.....	15

I have no school-age children.....85

"Christ the King" "St. Jude"

Faith Formation ideas

Question #5: How much would you agree with the following statement: *"I am interested in deepening my relationship with Jesus & His Church."*

Very Enthused.....	51
Somewhat enthused.....	22
Enthused.....	22
I am OK.....	31

Question #6: I would be interested in attending a meeting/ group/ prayer time for: (please check all that apply)

Bible Study or Bible Basics.....45

Catechism of the Catholic Church.....29

Eucharistic Adoration.....37

Defending the Faith.....25

Mass & the Sacraments.....32

Saints of Our Faith.....26

Book Study of Various Catholic Authors.....24

Study of Papal Encyclicals.....10

Theology of the Body (Pope St. JP II).....13

Q & A with Our Priests (a.k.a. “Grill the Pastors!”).....23

Catholic Youth Group.....4

Theology on Tap.....6

Theology on Cap.....2

Current Events in the light of Faith.....18

Church History.....29

Why Catholics believe & do what we believe & do.....32

“On-line, please”

“Eucharistic Adoration before & after Mass....1 hour....asap....”

Silent Eucharistic Adoration. More evening Masses.

Question #7: I would like to attend such gatherings (please check all that apply):

As one-time events.....14*

Weekly.....30

As a “short series” ...i.e. weekly for 3-4 weeks.....31*

Biweekly.....15**

Monthly.....31

During Advent.....20

During Lent.....29

During the Easter Season.....13

During the Summer.....14

“Daily” “No car” “None”

*This option was not on the paper surveys. Numbers likely would be higher.

** This option was not on the on-line surveys. Number likely would be higher.

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Question #8: Best time for such gatherings (please check all that apply):

Sunday a.m.....18
 Sunday p.m.....24
 Saturday a.m.....18
 Saturday p.m.....16
 Weekday a.m.....18
Weekday p.m.....49
 “No car” “Monday pm”2
 “Tuesday pm”...4 “Not Tuesday”
 “Wednesday pm”...1 “After 5pm”
 “Thursday pm”...2
 “Bring back Sunday 7pm Mass & Wed pm Mass”
 Depends, I don’t have a set work schedule.

Question #9: I would be interested in becoming a Catechist (one who has studied & really knows our Faith basics) & eventually help with these Faith Formation offerings.

Yes.....12
No.....94
 Maybe.....2
 “Was for several decades”

Question #10: I already enjoy deepening my Catholic Faith in Jesus & His Church over the airwaves/internet/etc. via (please check all that apply):

Redeemer Radio (95.7 FM).....49
EWTN (radio, TV, etc).....35
Reading various Catholic books including the Bible.....51
You Tube videos, etc. (Fr. Mike Schmitz, etc.).....32

Ordering & enjoying CD’s/DVD’s MP3’s, etc.....11
 Formed.....14
 Hallow.....2
 Dynamic Catholic.....2
 Other.....9
 “Virtual”4
 “Word on Fire” “Old books”
 “Bible in a year” “Being in Church”

WFRN 104.7 & Pulse FM 96.9
 Relevant Radio
 I love listening to (Fr. Mike Schmitz)... he relates well to all age groups & talks about current events/problems. He keeps his talk interesting without sounding “preachy”

Fr. Mike Schmitz...Yes! Yay! He makes the Bible & the Catholic Faith interesting & relatable.

Question #11: I would be more likely to attend various Faith Formation events in-person if babysitting were provided.

Strongly agree.....6
Agree.....9
Neither agree nor disagree....28*
Disagree.....8
Strongly disagree.....9
Not Applicable.....63

*This option was not on the on-line surveys.

Question #12: If a Faith Formation event were to be held, & it was as if God put it at HF/SJB JUST FOR YOU, what would it be and when would it be held?

All the above ideas!

Cool survey No car

Not really sure, sorry

*Speakers from other Parishes/
Dioceses...Fr. Jerry Schweitzer*

Scott Hahn, Jeff Cavins, Fr. John Riccardo & others would come to HF for various talks & missions

Prayer meeting Sat./Sun. nights

Prayer meeting on a designated night... maybe Sat after Mass or Sunday night

Laying on of hands & prayer for specific needs...maybe after Mass

Weekend Bible Study.....2

Bible Study Wed. pm

How to be a better Catholic

Tell me about Saints during the Summer

It would be about defending the Faith (T or Th pm). I've recently had conversations with family members who are no longer practicing Catholics or are non-Catholics. I want to be a better witness to them.

Family-based informal gathering with featured speaker

Holy Family Fun Fair come back!

Teachings of the Catechism Sun. pm or Wed. am

Church History

Bible Study or Church History from a more academic perspective. Just good rational teaching.

Saturday am's.....2

Anything about God, anytime

Retreats outside of Holy Family

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Engaging the moral issues of the day

Right to Life group, marriage faith formation, groups for children

Weekday evening with a visiting Priest or speaker

Edited...I need to overcome my disappointment with my Parish. I feel like my disappointment overwhelms my faith...I need to know my needs are being heard & respected & I am not just valued for my donation.

Not sure, maybe in the comfort of my home

Something on life after death

Bible Study, how to start reading the Bible

Current events. Bible study to understand more. How to exercise our supernatural abilities.

Something on how to pray.

Why are we here? Why is life so painful? Discouraging & seemingly hopeless?

Praising God, perhaps confession opportunities on Monday pm.

Community

Engagement Questions

Question #13 What are your ideas on how we might create a more welcoming atmosphere at Holy Family & St. John Baptist. (please check all you'd like to see &, perhaps, be a part of):

Have greeters at doors before Masses, Baptisms, events, etc.....52

A "Host Table" in the vestibule where a knowledgeable Parishioner(s) could answer basic questions about Catholic life, Parish life, have brochures available, update Parishioner info, take phone numbers for return calls from Staff or Priests, etc.....31

Greater youth involvement at Mass...music, Altar Servers, Lectors, etc.....48

Social time (after Mass & other times as well).....64

Home Visits (please fill out reasons for home visits in box below).....8

Small group family events

Smile, greet people

Coffee after Mass

Happy homilies. I leave feeling so defeated because of thinking that politics & the devil are the things I most need to be concerned about

No talking in the Church after Mass

K of C spaghetti dinners

Priest to greet at door before Mass...2

Home Visits to elderly & sick by a Priest.....2

More modern music, guitars

Violin was great at Tenebrae

More current, welcoming homilies

Home visits to neighborhood non-parishioners with an invitation to attend in-person or on-line dialogue & offer prayer for their needs at that time

I really enjoyed the Spring Clean-up. It was wonderful to see families, the young & the old working together.

Working together on events or projects to become a caring Parish.

Social time once covid is passed...

Need SOME new music, not all, some contemporary music. Good sermons that interest those in the pews. Need new material. The sermons are very repetitive in word & content. Too many personal stories, over & over again. Purdue was decades ago.

Openness to listening to those of us who are not in the "inner circle." I feel like as soon as I open my mouth to

talk or share, someone starts talking about politics or how I should be feeling or experiencing my faith & then it just goes on & on.

Extra weekly newsletter.

At HF, clean the narthex & gathering room. There is so much clutter that makes both rooms look trashy & not welcoming. Books in gathering room have not been used – time to get rid of them. Gathering room used for funerals is embarrassing due to clutter & mess. Cleaning these would create a more aesthetic welcome to our Church.

Question #14: Would you be interested in becoming a "Sponsor Family" (help incorporate a new family into our Parish life)? These new families might be move-ins, new Parishioners via RCIA, Newlyweds, etc.

Yes.....12

No96

Maybe.....2

"Need more info"1

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Question #15: Would you agree that “I am well engaged with my Church.”

Strongly agree.....18
Agree.....59
 Neither agree nor disagree.....32
 Disagree.....11
 Strongly disagree.....0

*Been well engaged for 70+ years.
 Retired from active service now.*

Edited....Was becoming quite bored at Mass, discovered Fr Mike Schmitz due to covid, got more out of his talk than ever before at Mass, relevant words about today’s times

Edited...I think the parishes should be combined...wasted space at SJB, sell it & use \$ to improve/expand HF, especially a Parish Hall & a real gym that other schools would enjoying coming to play in...and revenue from renting out such? Then Priests could stop asking for money so often.

Question #16: Please let us know what would help you become more engaged with your Parish life at HF/SJB?

“Sunday school” for children, so we parents can engage during the homily & service.

Feeling that it is a Parish that cares & is concerned about it’s Parishioners

I work weekends

I work evenings

If I didn’t have to work so much at my job

Just find time to be involved.....2

Manage my schedule

More social time

More events for families

Simple gatherings like coffee/donuts rotated across various Masses to keep cost down but access for all

Family’s schedules are fragmented... difficult to attend

Quit singing all the prayers, its too slow, just say them. Weekly meetings, good topics.

Edited...I would only recommend HF if it gets with the times...liven up the music...more upbeat, the songs are predictable. Make Mass more fun,

young people will not come back to us using Latin, more homilies on being kind, patient, helping others, not just abortion.

Quite engaged, Thank you!

I feel well engaged with the Parish. I could use some direction on how to lead others to be more engaged.

If my Church helped me to feel positive about my world & my faith. When I visit a couple of other Churches in the community, I leave feeling so ready for the week. Not so very often at HF.

Info on certain activities. Would have helped with the grounds clean-up if I would have known about it. Never mentioned in the bulletin, never mentioned in Sunday announcements. I do not want the app!

I need to be more informed of volunteering (opportunities?)

To know that my voice is heard

More sense of community. A Priest that is more approachable & less preachy. Very unrealistic as to how faith relates to life.

I already am

Not sure bec/ of pandemic. HF doing a good job trying to keep us engaged.

Very long, very edited...Gloria & Sanctus music far to feely-goody, overly-flourished.....silly & not

prayerful. Holy Cross Parish made a big change for more reverent music years ago & it helped there. Music also needs to be so that a non-soprano can sing it... the average person in the pew needs to be able to engage the song, not just listen to it performed.

Wed pm Mass would be great. Schedule makes it hard to make an 8am daily Mass for working families.

The Church offers many opportunities. It's more up to me to take advantage.

Question #17: Do you agree that "I would recommend our Church to a friend or family member."

Strongly agree.....57

Agree.....49

Neither agree nor disagree.....11

Disagree.....5

Strongly disagree.....1

Question #18 Regarding the previous question, please let us know what would make you even more likely to recommend our Church to a friend or family member.

Catholic speakers we like

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We have faithful & dedicated priests

Our Priest

*Having priests without a strong
accent & a Pastor who speaks slower*

*How Father gives the Mass & explains
the word of the Gospel.....4*

Good homilies

*If Mass was a more positive
experience (referenced homilies that
were much about politics & the devil)*

Brochures/pamphlets/literature.....2

*More on-line & in-person discussion
forum on Biblical reality of the
Catholic Faith & the blessings
available to all people*

*Let people know that at HF you
become part of a larger family*

*If they had been away from the faith
for a while*

*Our Priests are very knowledgeable &
communicate their message
extremely well*

*More upbeat services...ours are so
serious...even David sang & danced
with joy...no joy in our services...skip
the Latin as people don't reply or join
in...skip singing everything*

Woo-woo!

*More welcoming & brief mentions/
instructions during Mass for non-
Catholics*

More engaging programs

*Faith Formation & "welcome" events
as mentioned*

*Instituting some of the ideas in this
survey will help greatly.*

More Fellowship.

*Edited...Brought a fallen away
Catholic to Mass on Easter & will
probably never get them to come
back...stated it was a Billy Graham
preach that went on & on & I agree.
We are losing the old & not attracting
the young as they have found more
energizing & relatable services on-line
& on TV during covid....Church should
be more upbeat & joyous.*

*If it were a friendly Church. If the
Pastor knew my name after shaking
my hand for years. If we could
converse rather than be talked at.*

*There are already a variety of things
going on at HF...so as to involve &
welcome many people*

We must share our Faith

I love our Church & our Pastors

Very welcoming & our Priests are very engaged with the Church family & very knowledgeable of our Faith

We need a Priest to draw more people to our Church not repel them.

Less emphasis on finance & more about Faith. Do that & everything else will take care of itself.

A more friendly atmosphere & more parishioner involvement. I feel we have too many who just attend Sunday Mass & nothing more.

Church is my private time with God. I don't like distractions.

Up to me to have more courage to speak up & recommend HF.

Keeping personal political views out of the homily.

Question #19 Which of the following would be most helpful to your personal/family prayer life?

Parish Mission.....	8
Eucharistic Adoration.....	32
Adult Faith Formation events.....	31
Youth Formation events.....	7
Bible/Book Study.....	40
Prayer Groups.....	11
Daily Mass.....	30
Confession.....	22

Praying the Rosary.....38

Day-trip Pilgrimage events (Shrine of Christ's Passion, National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, etc.).....16*

Other.....3*

Prayer chain

Young adult events

Good example for others

Confession

Noon Holy Day Masses

I am set in my ways

This option was not on the paper surveys. Numbers likely would be higher.

Question #20 How important would it be to have a Parish Hall or Family Reunion Pavilion?

Extremely valuable.....15

Very valuable.....44

Somewhat valuable.....41

Not so valuable.....5

Not at all valuable.....11

"Use the facilities we already have"

"More use of school café & gym"

Fix the entrance so the place doesn't flood....2

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*Edited...A hall to rent out for
weddings & parties, not a cafeteria...
a real gym with a real wood floor.*

*Very valuable if used correctly, rented
out*

A good hall could bring in revenue

*Do improvements right so they last,
as when you own a house.*

*Instead of spending money we do not
have on something like this, how
about if we develop the community of
the Church first!*

*Edited...School kids getting off in
flooded area during rains since
parking lot was re-done. Are we
showing that we care about the 250
of them? Fix that first so they have
dry feet for the school day.*

**Question #21 If you are not
Catholic, do you have an
interest in learning more about
our Faith? (please check all that
apply)**

Not right now, but thanks for the
invitation.....0

Yes – no commitment – but I’d like to
know more or I do have a few
questions.....0

Yes, definitely, I’m considering
becoming Catholic.....0

I am already a Catholic.....0

Other.....5

**Question #22 Last thought:
Anything else you’d like us to
know... questions, comments,
ideas for our Parishes? If you’d
like a return call, e-mail, etc.
please leave your name & info
below.**

*Elderly couple attending Sunday
Mass, considering joining HF. Thank
you & God Bless you!*

*What happened to the car raffle? It
was always a money-maker. These
comments all meant to be
constructive...please try new
things....people are leaving every
week.*

*Edited...Fr. Glenn needs to get to the
point in his homilies...doesn’t know
when to end...rambles about the
same things every Sunday... yes, we
already know you are a mechanical
engineer. Please focus on the
readings for the Sunday, be positive
about our life, make the homilies
exciting & practical. Use your homily
to entice people to want to come to*

Church rather to hear the same stuff weekly.

Hopefully will look at these surveys with an open mind & make some much-needed changes. So many people I know have moved to St. Stan's, St. Monica, & more are looking to.

Music suggestion...have Fr Sunday bring a little African flair to the Mass once a month or so. Love his singing...maybe some drums.

Edited...Church attendance has been shrinking...some have found better, more uplifting services on line...sad, because they are missing out on so much grace by not receiving Communion, but they seem to be getting more out of other services....

...also...combine HF & SJB. We need a bigger community & could sell the property for money & then quit asking us for more constantly. We need to revamp, not regress. It is not sacrilegious to rejoice.

Some times for people to openly receive prayer for needs, such as after Mass, or gatherings not necessarily planned.

If there's coffee & donuts every Sunday....kidding! There's a sense of community & family at HF.

Everybody including the Pastors know you by name & the homilies are very relatable. Some people are surprised when I tell them I just became

Catholic while pregnant with my son 4 years ago. ... I have learned more about my faith & God while attending HF than I have my whole life growing up.

I wish the Parish Administration would recognize the value of our students & school staff. I also wish that those who ask for input really wanted it – I'm sorry, but in my many, many years here, it is clear that those who lead these things really only want feedback that agrees with them. I wish I believed this time would be different, but my experience in trying to share ideas has shown me that this is probably not the situation. Good luck with it all though, I hope I am wrong.

At all Masses...more constant & vigorous vocal promotion of all our spiritual gatherings/meetings, especially for Eucharistic Adoration. Putting something in the bulletin does not excite people to attend gatherings. Enthusiasm about Parish happenings from our Priests is contagious!...so is lack of enthusiasm.

Edited...Hopefully offering this survey means that HF is open to change. Last time we did a similar thing, I felt the response was defensiveness....Combine HF & SJB. It would create a bigger Parish with more opportunities for engagement....sell SJB ... and stop

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asking for money... Revamp the sermons, they are repetitious & boring. Same sermons, same intercessions, same songs.....Fr Sunday's singing brings smiles to people in the pews. Bring back the 7pm Sunday Mass.

I know it sounds like I am the type of person you don't want to hear from but I have been in this Parish for many years. It saddens me that I no longer feel embraced or respected by the Parish – everyone is in a hurry, no one wants to talk about anything other than politics.

Edited...Our situation is different now....in our 70's & caring for a 95 year old Parent. Not much time for more, just prayer at home.

I feel people are leaving HF in droves. Being driven out by Fr. Glenn. He's unapproachable, unrealistic in real life & just not engaging with the school kids.

Bringing back the young is a huge problem, & partly a west-side of South Bend location problem. Possible creation of a HF professionals & blue-collar group to discuss the issue & begin to influence local politics.

Card parties like Euchre.

Everything is great at HF Parish & I appreciate the desire to be better! That's what makes it so great. Q & A/ Bible study with the Priests would be my suggestion.

Thank you for asking my opinion. HF is trying harder than ever to strengthen the Parish. Fr. Glenn & Fr. Sunday are very good Priests. Thank you for your service to the parishioners.

- 1. Find out why many parishioners are leaving HF & get them back.*
- 2. Share all the results of this survey with all parishioners. We are curious about the responses.*
- 3. Fr. Glenn tells everyone he has a masters degree from Purdue in engineering in his homilies. He even says this at funeral homilies (nobody cares). He never tells us what seminary he attended.*
- 4. Clean the narthex & gathering rooms from clutter & junk. These areas look trashy.*