

# RESPONSES

## PARISH SURVEY

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The parish has about \_\_\_\_\_ adults.

A little over 200 surveys were picked up.

39 Surveys were returned  
which is about 19% of the papers picked up  
and \_\_\_\_\_% of possible adult responses.

Not everyone responded to every item, so totals will not be 39.

Remarks are verbatim  
and as complete as necessary for planning

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### 1. How would you describe your faith and prayer life?

- Active
- I hope I'm on the right track.
- Strong faith and daily prayer are helpful when I feel insecure and angry.
- Weekend Mass, Wednesday Mass at 5 at ICC, 1 hr. wk in Adoration Chapel, scripture reading
- The center of my life (and all life); that which connects, grounds, motivates and gives me joy and gratitude to share
- I am growing with God's help – through Adoration Chapel
- Ebb and flow; at times during the day, I feel close and other times distracted by the demands of everyday life.
- Could always be better. But I really try to speak to God and I strive to hear Him.
- I do believe that God is love as Trinity, intimately intertwined with me. I pray every day several times, sometimes for moments or minutes.
- Strong faith could improve prayer life
- The core of my prayer is daily Eucharist plus daily scriptural prayer and contemplation.
- Good but could be better
- Prayer, reading the Word and spiritual books, meditation, group meetings of like-minded
- Always hoping, trying my best. I always want to do better and I'm always trying for a deeper understanding.
- Devout. I couldn't get through my day without prayer, and I truly believe the world needs our prayers.

- I attend Sunday Mass and often will go to daily Mass. I pray throughout the day, read Catholic newspapers and articles; occasionally pray the rosary.
  - God is still working with me.
  - My faith is good but could be better. It is sometimes 'rocked' by life's events. My prayer life is good-daily rosary, talks with God
  - I practice perseverance in my prayer times using both contemplative and intercessory forms. I enjoy the daily scripture readings and attend more regularly.
  - In need of upgrading
  - Normal; attend mass on Sunday and say prayers daily
  - Strong faith and praying always on personal level
  - Feel strong in my faith and prayer life is priority in my life but it could use quality improvement.
  - Adequate. To me, my close encounter with a journey to heaven means that God still has things for me to do – to be His hands and feel, to share his love.
  - Moderate. Could be improved somewhat.
  - Active. Reasonably fulfilling/satisfactory. Could be better.
  - Growing on the journey.
  - I was raised Catholic, went to Catholic High School, taught in Edmonton Catholic schools, got a Master of Religious Education, been retired for 18 year, became a permanent resident of BC last year.
  - Fairly good.
  - Intermittent.
  - Needing a bit of a jolt.
  - Faith very strong. Prayer life very poor.
  - Very strong
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## 2. What goals are you setting to help you grow in your faith and prayer life?

- To be more like Jesus
- Continued use of prayer, reading, meditation, mass attendance often
- Daily prayer for others that need our Lord and for myself when I am troubled.
- Scripture reading, prayer to God for help
- (1) to spend 2-30 min in silence twice (at least) a day just being present to the Presence (2) to read and reflect on the daily scripture readings
- To receive the sacrament of reconciliation more regularly
- I try to make myself available to the needs of God's teaching and being available to the needs/support of others.
- Spending more time serving or in prayerful activity.
- Meditate 2X a day, continue seeing SNancy for spiritual direction; read books and articles that help me pray and scripture.
- More prayer time
- Continued reading and reflection and sharing of faith
- Daily prayer and would like biblical learning.
- Reading the Word and spiritual books, meditation, group meetings of like minded.
- Reading certain books and writers (von Balthasar, John Paul II); pray my rosary at least once a week.
- Daily prayer of the rosary and Divine Mercy; Lectio divina bible study – Catholic community.
- I try to engage others in speaking about faith and how it applies to our daily life. I'm open to learning more about my Catholic faith and to keep current.
- Daily prayer, retreats, spiritual direction, prayer groups and the myriad methods God uses in everyday life.
- I want to be more scripturally strong.
- One important goal for me is to be part of a prayer community with those who are interested in sharing prayer and able to witness to the Presence of God within them and all creation.
- Involvement in parish activities; Being grateful every day through prayer.

- Haven't thought about them really.
  - Engage with more "like" people and more knowledge.
  - To recognize the Holy Spirit's guidance in my life and to learn to live a more holy life, that will please God.
  - Spreading God's love, understanding, acceptance and aid.
  - To continue in my present efforts to aid the less fortunate in our society.
  - More personal prayer time; attend more retreats, mission.
  - Regular attendance as often as possible. Hoping to attend retreats at the church.
  - I just try to set a good example of being a Christian to my family and friends.
  - Daily readings emailed to me; minimizing "things"; praying novenas occasionally.
  - Would like to join a bible study or prayer group in the fall. Read more spiritual material, fiction.
  - Saying the rosary daily.
  - To develop a sincere and deep relationship with our Lord; to get in the habit of saying the rosary.
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### 3. What have you found helpful in meeting these goals?

- a) Regular church attendance; RCIA' Richard Rohr; Thomas Keating, Bede Griffiths, lives of mystics
  - b) Good solid writers who go beyond traditional formulations – some challenge – question.
  - c) Talking with others about our faith; reading the bible.
  - d) Scripture and Sunday homilies
  - e) Spiritual direction, prayer journaling, spending time in nature; participating in liturgy; outreach to homebound sick and refugees, or wherever I feel led.
  - f) Parish penitential services
  - g) Meditation, listening to nature, being sensitive to the pain/needs of others; asking for understanding of God's words and implications for today's world.
  - h) Being more organized in my life.
  - i) Ron Rolheiser columns; Richard Rohr meditations and courses, centering prayer and lectio divina, Ignatian prayer; provide opportunities for silent retreats.
  - j) Slow down to focus on God's plan for us.
  - k) Setting aside the early morning times for prayer and walking with others in their faith journeys.
  - l) Setting aside time. Prayer and faith partners.
  - m) Adoration; having my bi-weekly men's meeting.
  - n) Church community. Adoration Chapel. Mass. My husband. My children.
  - o) The Eucharist helps me center my life; also I enjoy Fr Ron's movies. I read a great deal so this helps. Also I know many people who have a strong faith so this encourages me in my own journey. Mass Sermons help me to learn and grow in my faith and life.
  - p) Daily prayer, retreats, spiritual direction, prayer groups and the myriad methods God uses in everyday life.
  - q) Nothing yet; thinking about going to Evangel for bible study.
  - r) Meeting people through exploration of s...(word illegible) and social justice groups available.
  - s) Interact with other parishioners.
  - t) Not much lately. I need to put more effort into it. It's just a phase in my life, where family demands take over.
  - u) Going to mass as often as possible and listen to homilies.
  - v) I have found when I watch EWTN I learn many things about the Catholic church.
  - w) Membership in the St. V. de Paul Society
  - x) My membership and contributions with St. Vincent de Paul
  - y) Recently creating a prayer room in our house; regular small group meetings.
  - z) Sense of belonging to church family; wanting to hear the sermon. Increased focus on the Eucharist.
  - aa) I try to keep current with what is happening in the Catholic faith, mainly by attending weekly mass.
  - bb) Online resources; joining online communities of people with wr...(word illegible) goals; FORMED.org
  - cc) The FORMED app recently provided by parish is excellent.
  - dd) Literature/books; online help.
  - ee) Setting aside prayer time; having aids to give more meaning when saying (sentence unfinished)
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#### 4. How can the parish be of further help to you ? (10 highest, 1 lowest interest)

##### A. Being Welcomed into one of the established faith-sharing groups in the parish?

10-5

9-2

8-4

7-1

6-2

5-4

4-1

3-3

2-0

1-4

Noted but not ranked-2

##### Comments:

- I am in the Centering Prayer group.
- I didn't know we had any.
- Would need to know what these are and when they meet.
- Publish a "Did You Know?" about the prayer groups already existing in the parish and where and when they gather, and encourage at least a 'drop in' for the ones to which you feel an attraction and a welcome on the part of the groups. Support the groups already in existence to know they have a gift and an identity.
  - Rosary Prayer Group after weekday masses:
  - Centering Prayer Group which meets periodically
  - 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration Group (at ICC)
  - Moms & Tots Prayer Group
  - Do we have a Charismatic Prayer Group in the parish? If not give reference info for others in Kelowna.
    - Etc. etc.

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##### B. Coming together with a few others to reflect on the Sunday Readings?

(10 highest, 1 lowest interest)

10-0

9-3

8-5

7-2

6-5

5-5

4-0

3-0

2-1

1-5

##### Comments:

- Lectio Divina?

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##### c. Educational video programs/discussion groups? (10 highest, 1 lowest interest)

10-4

9-4

8-6

7-5

6-1

5-3

4-0

3-1

2-0

1-3

Noted but not ranked-1

#### Comments:

- I have found FORMED helpful. I've also done several of the NOW YOU KNOW CD series (eg. On Eucharist). I have finished a 12 program course in indigenous spirituality.

#### Topics:

- Eucharist
- Prayer (meditation, centering, contemplation, walking meditation)
- Nature as spiritual practice (there's a book and workbook)
- Mysticism; lives of the mystics
- Teilhard de Chardin and his ideas
- Creation-centered spirituality
- Reading the Bible from the perspective of the poor
- Richard Rohr's Contemplation---→action
- Discussion of Richard Rohr's book on the Trinity
- Indigenous worldviews
- Simplicity (could include brief discussion of scripture and how various saints and mystics practiced simple living.
- Christian ecology
- Something to stimulate conversation. I've heard the Alpha videos are good.
- The work of the Holy Spirit in my life and in all those around me; a deeper understanding of God's goodness, and more freedom in praise and worship.
- Contemplative prayer, lectio divina, Ignatian spirituality
- More on the teachings of the bible. FORMED series is excellent in teaching and learning.
- The Saints
- Educate about the value of silence in nourishing awareness of God in the midst of a busy, noisy world and preparing for prayer. A practical step could be to savor complete silence for half hour before weekday mass. No piano playing, no talking (except beyond the doors,) no noise (walk softly, raise kneelers gently, etc.)
- Educate re the supports for deepening personal prayer (regular time and place, posture, preparatory prayer, patterns of praise/thanksgiving/pleading/, distractions, openness/desire, etc.
- Educate re discernment, listening for God's Spirit, distinguishing that Spirit from ego, evil spirit manipulation, etc.
- Encourage groups with specific interests/characteristics who have a mission in the church, and with their families or our world, to connect to explore that mission, to discern and pray, to be encouraged in their mission. Focus would be on their mission supported by prayer, rather than socializing.
  - Groups could be:
    - Singles
    - Those with physical disabilities
    - Those called to intercessory prayer for personal, social or world needs
    - Those grieving
    - Young adults, millennials (their mission re social media?)
    - Those with ties based on language or culture

- Those who want to use their knitting or crocheting talents to pray for others (e.g. making prayer shawls)
- Grandparents concerned for the spiritual needs of their grandchildren
- Those concerned with care of the earth
- Praying with recorded music
- Connections could be according to the needs and wishes of the group/individuals:
  - Face-to-face group gatherings in church or homes – varying in frequency (weekly, monthly, quarterly)
  - Via electronic means (e.g. Google Groups or other listserv processes)
  - One-on-one conversations with trained spiritual advisors
- Bible study and teaching how to use the bible. Fr. Bernie Black has great ideas on how to become ‘scripturally aware.’
- Being a convert, I am interested in most everything: the why’s and what’s of our faith; the history, encouragement and reinforcement of our Catholic faith.
- Use stuff from FORMED.

#### D. Periodic one-on-one conversations with a trained spiritual guide?

(10 highest, 1 lowest interest)

10-7

9-3

8-4

7-1

6-0

5-2

4-0

3-0

2-1

1-3

Noted but not ranked-3

Already doing this-2

Comments:

- Someone with whom I feel/sense a connection (who? When? Where?)
- I’m doing this with S. Nancy
- Annual/Semi-annual or as needed

#### E. A daily or weekly reflection on the Mass Readings delivered by email? (10 highest, 1 lowest interest)

10-8

9-1

8-3

7-1

6-0

5-5

4-0

3-1

2-2

13

Noted but not ranked-1

Already doing this-1

Comments:

- Richard Rohr's daily reflections
  - Lawrence Freeman reflections
  - In the bulletin? ...a reflection on the weekly readings by Fr. John Foley. I found that helpful when mentally reviewing the lessons from the readings of the week.
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#### F. Periodic Parish Retreats? (10 highest, 1 lowest interest)

10-7

9-2

8-4

7-3

6-2

5-2

4-0

3-3

2-0

1-2

Noted but not ranked-6

Comments:

- Age appropriate
  - Short term retreat experiences combining guidance, silent individual prayer time and sharing (e.g. afternoon or evening.)
  - For me, a retreat implies active participation/dialogue with a spiritually trained person rather than a preset program delivered by clergy. Meeting people where they are, building on that.
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#### G. Parish Missions? (10 highest, 1 lowest interest)

10-10

9-1

8-3

7-1

6-2

5-2

4-3

3-0

2-0

1-2

Noted but not ranked-6

Comments:

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#### Missions or Retreats: How often?

- 2-3 X a year
- 1-2 X year (4 comments)

- 2 X a year (5 comments) Spring and Fall?
  - 1 X a year (5 comments)
  - Retreat at least once a year (spring or fall). Mission once every 2-3 years. (2 comments)
  - Ladies retreats?
  - Holly Routley used to do 2 retreats (Lent/Advent) I miss those.
  - Yearly if possible (ranked 4)
  - Often as possible.
  - Regularly (to be discussed)
  - Quarterly.(2 comments)
  - 3-6 months
  - Every two years
  - Retreats bi-annually. Missions annually.
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## H. Other Suggestions?

- Guest speakers/Christian musical performers would rank 10 for me.
  - Cursillo/Marriage Encounter/End of life spiritual preparation
  - Spiritual/Physical healing
  - Altar servers (children from Catholic schools)
  - Youth leadership events – sports, hikes, etc.
  - Monthly evenings of prayer
  - Use tools already available
  - Youth activities
  - Bible Study group
  - Possibly more social activities for seniors (ranked a 6)
  - I would like to meet other seniors.
  - Suggest books that are great reading.
  - Online streaming of mass for days I find I can't attend in person.
  - The church should hire someone to oversee all the suggestions above and youth ministries. It must be a person of high character who walks the walk. (You know what I mean.)
  - We need a youth group! A proper guide for our teens.
  - Scripture study with materials from the bible timeline (story of salvation) Author: Jeff Cavius (sp?). It's Symbdon series.
  - There are parts of the Bible I would not attempt without guidance.
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## I. Other comments that would help in planning?

- I try to avoid situations that foster group-think. I don't like competitive hospitality which some groups that rotate homes lead to. Food is not necessary in group meetings.
- It would be good to advertise whatever is being done through the schools.
- Acceptable parishioner behavior (i.e. people who walk out after receiving communion before priest has left altar; children screaming and distracting parish solemnity. Could not hear bishop's prayers at close of mass. Friend behind, wearing hearing aid exclaimed, "Good God!" after piercing scream. Her noise, his pain!....I don't know if my friend will return to this church if these incidents continue....Happy, joyful noises are welcome. Homilies I remember are those that I can relate to in everyday life. I also like to celebrate parishioner events like anniversaries, baptisms and renewal of vows. I enjoy reflections on the words of God and how we can weave our inspirations into everyday living.
- Great idea to check with parishioners: "Where are we going? How do we get there from here. We can't support every need but we can prioritize recognizable needs and support ones we think are worthy of time, prayer, financial support.
- Mariopolis event

- I really believe this is such a fortunate parish to have such a prayerful priest and to be blessed with the presence of our bishop.
- There are many helpful guides and info on the internet; daily reflections and studies.
- I enjoyed Sr Nancy's one day retreat and would like more. I like being able to go to Seton House for days (or a week) as we did a few years ago.
- I would have an interest in helping (Sr. Nancy)
- I am willing to lead groups or co-lead or organize events (ML Johnson)
- The timing of church events are often difficult for families with young children, especially for mothers who need to put their children to bed before going out.
- A morning mass for families with young children @ 10 am (ranked 10)
- We desperately need a proper children's ministry, and youth ministry.
- I believe we need more youth programs. These used to be a big part of our parish but have slowly been let go. Many of our strongest young faith families came from these groups.
- I feel we are a very welcoming parish. Fr. Bart's door welcoming and greeters before Mass are really appreciated.
- Have at least 2 co-leaders of groups, so that there is a probability of continuity if one leaves. It also models collegiality rather than hierarchy.
- Be aware of the power of words. (e.g. Evocative names for prayer groups can tweak interest and curiosity.
- It is difficult for some individuals (separated, divorced, single or other) to feel welcomed within the parish (not just here but in most RC communities.) Inclusiveness is an issue that needs to be encouraged.
- I wish to see in our church that we show more respect to God before and after mass, especially on Sundays as He is there in the tabernacle. (No loud conversations/laughing.)
- I would continue to attend Fr. Ron's movie nights.
- Fr. Ron's movie nights are great but no one stays for discussion. I would like to see some community building for seniors. Also I am very interested in doing a weekend retreat at Seton House.
- Continue Family nights
- Hope youth groups will come soon so children can continue (age 10-14ish); Summer bible camp for kids.
- Love Fr. Bart's homilies; would appreciate copies via email.
- Challenge: Families need babysitters. That is a drawback to attendance. Offer free babysitting?
- At the children's liturgy in the spring, devote half time to the children's message on the gospel and leave half time for an adult message. Not exclusively for children at the 10:30 service.
- Problem with the microphones. Many of us are seniors and with the babies crying, kids screaming and running around, most of us at the back of the church cannot hear the readers nor the Bishop speak. We have microphones therefore is something wrong with the volumes?
- Support and suggestions etc. re helping/encouraging our lapsed catholic children to return to their faith. Especially those with children of their own.