

# 2019 Three-Year Parish Survey

Summary of themes by the Pastoral Council

## Contents

- Music ..... 1
  - What do you like?..... 2
  - What would like to see changed? ..... 2
  - What changes have you noticed? ..... 4
- Community ..... 4
- School ..... 5
  - Like ..... 5
  - Do better..... 5
  - Significant recommendations ..... 5
  - Low-hanging fruit ..... 6
- Family ..... 6
- Youth ..... 6
  - Like ..... 6
  - Do better..... 6
- Masses..... 6
  - what they like..... 6
  - what they want to see change ..... 6
  - significant recommendations ..... 7
  - low-hanging fruit..... 7

## Overall Summary

We received 448 survey responses (202 online responses and 246 paper responses) to the Three-Year Parish Survey. This represents almost half of the number of people attending mass each week. Many respondents answered just one or two questions:

- The first question, “What do you like about Cathedral Parish?” solicited the greatest response, with 424 responses.
- The second question, “What would you like to see changed at Cathedral Parish?” had second most responses (401).
- The final two questions about noted changes and other comments solicited 357 and 270 responses, respectively.

The initial qualitative analysis can be found at <http://www.cathedralofmary.org/pastoral-council-commissions/>. After this initial review, the Pastoral Council felt simple word counts did not provide

enough insight, so members of the Council read through the raw responses and provided the following summary according to the most common themes.

## Music

### What do you like?

#### **Themes.... Like the music, like the Choir**

- I like the changes that have occurred recently - more young families noticeable at Mass, more lively music at the liturgies, more service opportunities but all still in the peaceful setting of the Cathedral.
- The grand building, the commitment to , masses, the incorporation of upbeat lively music, and a strong effort to have priests get to know the members of the parish.
- Lots - love Monsignor and Fr. Kevin; love the new and improved music; love the effort to engage in community ministry like Loaves and Fishes
- The music, the timeliness of the mass, the building itself, Msgr. Woy
- The music, priests
- The music, the space itself, and the homilies
- Music and thoughtful homily, Saturday evening mass
- worship space, liturgy/music, preaching, school, family activities, community outreach
- The community of worship. From the youngest to the oldest, our parishioners feel like extended family... the music ministry
- I love the adherence to tradition. It is very comforting. Also, the beautiful organ music and Gregorian chant by the choir. Also, I love the devotion to Mary and the traditional Marian hymns. Thank you for that.
- Music, fellowship
- I like the welcoming attitude of the Cathedral. I really like the music/choir of the 11:00 Mass. I enjoy Msr. Woy's sermons

### What would like to see changed?

#### **Themes...Change the music, it needs to be more upbeat, it needs to be more contemporary, it needs to be more traditional, Sound system is not working.**

- The music at the 11am Mass. Guess there is still a place for Latin chants but going to that service is like stepping back a few decades.
- More instrumental music, especially for children's liturgy. The music at other churches is so uplifting the kids love it, but cathedral lacks a bit in this regard.
- I would love to see an elective guitar be added to the music:)
- why is the choir so small? why aren't there an adequate number of altar servers at all the masses
- We would like to see more vibrant liturgical celebrations (with more "singable" music, especially music that is appealing to our youth). . . Could we use AV tools to engage more of the people sitting in our pews (it's great that we have done more to engage people at home with technology)?
- The principal Mass at a cathedral should be celebrated with full solemnity. This includes a large choir that sings more than one small anthem or motet each Sunday. The emphasis on social events is fine, but the central focus must be the liturgy and how it is celebrated. Carefully

rehearsed ceremonial, reverent celebrations and fine music do attract people. Statistics today prove this.

- More sing able music. Better acoustics. More vibrant volunteer ministries.
- Perhaps mix in more contemporary music, particularly with multiple instruments when possible. I don't have specific ideas, but breaking down the large scale of the church would be interesting; I know the arise groups are helping with this but perhaps something could change at some masses? Music in the aisles? Encourage people to sit closer? Also, I find the website a bit difficult to find essential information. For instance, visitors had the dig around on the website the find Sunday mass times (the should be listed first, not on the bottom after upcoming special masses)
- Continued variety in liturgical music program
- The contemporary choir doesn't do much contemporary music - often doing the same music as the traditional choir.
- I would like to see the choir sing Gregorian music better. They should just listen to some recordings of Solemnness or other Gregorian chant records. The way they sing Gregorian chant is just awful.
- **THE MUSIC PROGRAM NEEDS A COMPLETE MAKEOVER:** Psalms: Use more Psalms in the hymnals we have. The ones in the hymnals are beautiful, easy to sing, and the music is right there for everyone to read along. The Psalms we use have bad melodies, often times sounding dark, gloomy, and ugly. . . Additionally, no Psalms of jazz, gospel, or blues genres should ever be used in the Cathedral. Hymns: use a variety of hymns. Regardless of when we had the old hymnals or the new ones, we use the same ones over and over again. The hymns , All Are Welcome, and, Want to Walk as a Child of the Light ,overused. Use of piano: The piano should never be used outside of the 9:30 contemporary Mass. The building is a Cathedral ,a house of worship, it is NOT a performing studio or modern auditorium. It sounds horrible when amplified! The 5 PM and 11 AM crowds do not ever want to hear it played at their Mass. People come to this church because of its traditional styles, NOT contemporary. This IS NOT a contemporary Parish. It is pitiful that the piano has been used on Feasts and other holidays, such as Thanksgiving and the Solemnity of Mary. Solemn Feast Days need the organ when there is music. . . Cathedral should have more than one organist. Place of the Organ Console: The organ IS NOT meant to be moved up as close as it is to the Altar. Again, the building is a CATHEDRAL, it is NOT a performing studio or modern auditorium. Mass Setting: The Mass of Wisdom is . . . not used in any other Parishes nearby, and it is not appropriate. . . [and] hard to sing. . . Examples of good settings to use: Mass of Creation, Heritage Mass, Community Mass. . . The lack of concerts is extremely disappointing. The Cathedral is an acoustical, spacious building specifically designed for choral music. We might have two or three a year, if that. . .Brass: The use of brass is not appropriate with the size of the choir. During numerous times of the year, especially Lessons and Carrols, the choir is so small that brass overpowers everything and that's all you hear.
- More Gospel music. Ex. "Praise You the Lord"!
- Get rid of the "modern music!!!" It's extremely distracting during prayers. I attended Xmas Mass at Notre Dame in Paris and the music was cohesive and glorious.
- Add some music to the 8:00Am Sunday Mass. Organ and cantor or piano/cantor or other.
- The music is better. The old familiar hymns are back! The music is uplifting! We like the familiar songs from the 1970's, 80's & 90's. (traditional)

## What changes have you noticed?

### Themes...Music is better, better variety

- Music Sunday at 11am mass, the relationship with the school, insightful homilies
- History for my family, music has improved greatly in recent months at the family liturgy.
- I see a real effort to welcome families and to highlight parish service. I see an effort to welcome diverse communities with the Haitian and Filipino festivals. I think the program for children during mass is very nice. I really like the idea of a children's chorus and I see you are starting to incorporate that as well. I do wish the musical selections gave off a less Evangelical vibe, but I appreciate the enthusiasm even if I personally dislike guitar music in Church. I think you overhauled religious education this past year in particular, although I am much less pleased with those changes.
- The spaghetti dinner and a better organized donut program. Also, better music at 9:30 mass.
- The music and social media
- Music ministry is fantastically improved.
- More pious homilies. Better music. More options for Sunday School and NICER Sunday school teachers. We need to keep the young people interested and engaged.
- The website, though updated, is difficult to navigate and often frustrating to find basic information quickly. The general "tone" of the parish has turned less traditional and has become more politically liberal. Music has also adopted this more non-traditional tone, with hymns and songs being chosen and played at a fast, "lets' get out of here quickly", less reverent pace. Like many parishes with a school, it is often difficult to integrate "school families" with non-school families, and thus the parish seems disjointed and bifurcated, and seldom acts like a united parish community. It is also unfortunate that a number of our "school families" do not worship at CMOQ on weekends, other parishes, or no other parish to attend weekend Masses.
- Better music program, more opportunities to expand faith, improved chances for children to be involved, warmer, more welcoming
- Improved variety of biblical studies, liturgy and music, improved financial statusA few more activities - unfortunately they attract the same people who mostly want to talk with one another, rather than someone who's newer. Hired a second music director, but it appears that Glenn still controls music selection for the most part.
- More evangelization. Better Music
- The music program- excellent. Strong Pastoral Council.

## Community

Like	Change	Changes since 2015	Other
Msgr/Priests leading the parish community (2)	No sense of Community	Cathedral Community feels more alive	Appreciate Msgr and Fr. Kevin's dedication to the parish Community (2)
Welcoming Community (14)	Find ways to make the parish a more vibrant Community	Uniting the school and parish Community	Wonderful Community (3)
Parish/School Community (7)	Create a Parish Village serving the needs of the Community	More community activities	Glad the parish is listening to the Community re: Scandals

Overall sense of Community (8)	Address how the Gospel applies to the Catholic Community in 2019	Stronger connection between clergy and the Community (2)	Grow the parish Community and increase attendance
Community created through parish events and opportunity for involvement (5)	More community outreach (10)	More attempts for inclusion of ethnically diverse groups	Do all we can to make this big church seem smaller
	More Community Youth programs (2)	Greater connections with children and young families	More before/after mass socials for greater sense of Community
	Keep working together to help the Catholic spirit and local community		
	Provide youth exposure outside our community		
	Community recreation/learning center of campus (pool)		

## School

Total entries - 106  
Positive - 67  
Constructive - 27  
Negative - 12

## Like

- School and Parish interaction/connection
- School Community/Quality of education/Administration
- Sunday school opportunity/Mass time accommodations

## Do better

- Communication/Inclusive athletic program for non-school parishioners/improved communication that is less school-centric
- Bridge connections between parish kids and school kids
- More activities for middle school/high schoolers (youth mission trip)
- More opportunities for reconnection with students after graduation
- Retention for middle schoolers/strengthen enrollment
- Expand the survey to include specifics such as suggestions for Parish goals/sense of school safety or activities to be added
- More exposure of school-age kids to common prayer recitals
- Consider expanding Sunday School to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Significant recommendations

- 1) Inclusive communication for non-school parishioners
- 2) More activities to engage youths

- 3) More publicity for Cathedral Athletic program

### Low-hanging fruit

- 1) Review current communications and make adjustments
- 2) Review youth engagement programs for improvement opportunities

## Family

The “family” related themes are very simple — any and all activities involving family are much appreciated by people (CLOW, donuts after masses and informal gatherings after masses got specific mentions). The low hanging fruit is to arrange for donuts after every mass as the rule and not exceptions. People love involvement between the school and church as well to foster the relationship.

Some commentary on lack of parish family focus from some people’s perspectives. But I think people are looking for the broader church community to be a large “family” and to also serve as a connector of individual families.

## Youth

### Like

- Focus on youth and inclusion
- Father Andrew and Father Kevin are very approachable
- Youth programs are great; **kids singing is great; appreciate music**

### Do better

#### Focus on older kids:

- Teen youth mass
- Mission or immersion trips for older kids
- Is a demographic being missed without a 5 pm Sunday mass?

## Masses

### What they like

- 1) Specific Masses (x54)
  - a) 9:30 AM, with special focus on children (x21)
  - b) Daily (x10)
  - c) 11AM, with special focus on solemnity & reverence (x10)
- 2) Times (x20)
- 3) Masses/ Liturgy (x12)
- 4) Increased attendance (x7)
- 5) family oriented/ more families (x7)
- 6) webcast (x7)
- 7) Clergy/Homilies (x6)
- 8) Welcome feeling at Mass (x5)
- 9) music during Mass is wonderful!! (x5)

### What they want to see change

- 1) Times (x22)

- a) Add a Sunday evening mass (x12)
- 2) Music (x13)
- 3) Liturgy (x13)
- 4) Special Masses (x9) e.g. Tridierine Mass (x2), a teen mass (x2)
- 5) Increased Participation (x8)
- 6) After mass socials x7 (two mentioned the 11am, one person said to have Fish Fries in Lent)
- 7) More options for confession (x7 including two that said we should offer during mass)

### Significant recommendations

- 1) Sunday evening Mass
- 2) more opportunities for Confession

### Low-hanging fruit

- 1) The mass times could be more conveniently found on the website (x3)
- 2) For next survey, we should ask which mass they typically attend on Sunday
- 3) Do more calls for volunteers, make it easy to get involved
- 4) Maybe a Library of children's books in narthex for little ones to borrow during mass - St. Pius X does this
- 5) More coffees after Mass