

[Return to website](#)

Report to the St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish Community on the Results of the Parish Survey of March 2021

One of the responsibilities of the Pastoral Council is to “invite suggestions, recommendations, and a dialogue on Parish activities.” In March 2021, the Pastoral Council invited the members of our parish community to participate in a Parish Survey to obtain information and ideas to assist the Council in its purpose: “The Council is to facilitate the growth and engagement of our Parish family by bringing the Pastor the wisdom of the community, promoting Pastoral planning, fostering Pastoral activity, and working together to develop and realize the vision of Jesus Christ.” The Council desired to “check in” with our community members on how they were doing during the pandemic and how the parish could best serve them as indoor services became possible again. This report is a summary of the information that was obtained through your survey responses.

The Council is so grateful for your response to the survey! 210 persons completed the survey; 189 completed it online, and 21 completed a hard copy survey packet. We are appreciative of the time and effort you put into providing information, comments, and ideas. The data obtained from the survey will be helpful in planning for the future of worship services, community activities, and faith formation in our parish community. The overwhelming tone of the responses was one of positive and affectionate regard for our parish community, the strong desire to be celebrating the Mass together again in our church building, and pent-up energy ready to be used to engage in church ministries and activities for our members and the greater community.

A summary of the “fill in the blank” questions is as follows:

- 92% of those who responded to the survey are registered members of the parish.
- The majority of respondents are in the 65-79 age range (52%), with the next highest number of respondents being in the 50-64 age range (27%). 7% are 80 or older. 10% are in the 35-39 age range. Less than 1% are 20-34 years of age, and less than 1% are 19 or younger.
- 60% of respondents have been members of the parish for 10 years or more, and 24% have been members for 4-10 years. 16% have been members for three years or less.
- 67% of respondents have no children at home, and 25% have adult children at home. 21% have children at home that are 17 or younger.
- When in-person Mass attendance was suspended in March 2020, the respondents attended worship services in various ways:
 - 83% viewed the online Mass of St. Ignatius of Antioch
 - 51% attended Walk-Up Communion
 - 48% attended the outdoor Mass at St. Ignatius of Antioch
 - 39% viewed an online Mass elsewhere (either Sunday Mass or weekday Mass)
 - 8% attended outdoor Mass elsewhere

- 85% of the respondents indicated that they will return to the church building for Mass when the restrictions are lifted; this includes those who indicated that they will do so once they are vaccinated.
- The Mass time configurations that were most popular with the respondents were the Saturday Vigil at 4:00 P.M. (40%) and the Sunday Masses at 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. (56%).
- The respondents indicated that they turn to several sources for information about parish activities. The largest percentage was Flocknotes (85%); other sources frequently used were the parish website and the parish bulletin (both paper and online on the parish website).
- 52% of respondents said they are currently participating in a parish ministry; 68% indicated interest in participating in a parish ministry in the future. (For information on various parish ministries, please visit the parish website at stignatiusofantioch.com.)
- The respondents continued their financial support of the parish during the pandemic in a variety of ways; the most popular were those that involved dropping off their contribution in their Sunday envelope at the parish mailbox or at Walk-Up Communion.
- Most respondents felt disconnected from the parish community during the pandemic (66%); this ranged from extremely disconnected (10%) to disconnected (13%) to somewhat disconnected (43%).

If you would like a pictorial view (pie charts and graphs) of the responses outlined above, please [click here](#). The same link is also available on the parish website. If you would like a hard copy of the pictorial view, please contact the parish office.

The last two questions of the survey invited written responses. The first one asked what was most enjoyable about the services at St. Ignatius of Antioch, and what would improve that experience. What came through clearly in these responses is that the members of St. Ignatius of Antioch Church love celebrating the Mass with the parish community! Respondents expressed their appreciation over and over again for the warm and welcoming community; the inspiring and engaging homilies; the well-planned liturgies; the beautiful environment; and the inspiring music. The respondents stated frequently that the parishioners and the priests are open, friendly, and caring. Suggestions to improve the experience include the following:

- Small groups for prayer, Bible study, and fellowship offered at various times during the week
- More opportunities (e.g. social events) to get to know fellow parishioners
- More contemporary music/greater variety of instruments
- More young people involved in the liturgical ministries
- More ventilation of the building during the Mass

St. Ignatius of Antioch is blessed with a diverse community, as indicated in the survey responses. The second question invited respondents to share ideas to celebrate this diversity. Respondents indicated that they felt the parish did a good job celebrating diversity, and they provided suggestions that included the following:

- Embrace and celebrate the culture of each nationality, encourage participation by and recognition of these communities, and respect each culture
- Host a Multicultural Mass and/or Festival and/or Food Faire to experience our diverse communities with food, music, dance, ethnic dress, and sharing of cultural customs
- Celebrate important traditional holidays, feast days, and saints in each culture; provide a method for ethnic/cultural groups to suggest those that have meaning to them
- Showcase different ethnic groups as we are doing with the weekly spotlight on parish ministries, and describe their contribution to the parish
- Use multicultural worship songs and offer prayers in different languages in liturgies
- Include prayers from various cultures in church meetings, prayer services, etc.
- Focus on inclusivity by inviting members of various cultures to participate in liturgical ministries
- Invite parishioners to share their cultural story and how they have felt included or excluded via periodic articles in the bulletin
- Host an international film viewing that ties in with a liturgical message or season, followed by a facilitated discussion
- Do more outreach to our neighbors and invite them to join us in worship

The faith and wisdom of our St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish community was shared in a special way in these survey responses, and the Council thanks you once again for your commitment, insight, and support. As we return to our church building and renew our community connections, and as construction begins on our building expansion, we look to the future with joy and hope. Your input is always welcome and necessary. If you have a specific proposal/additional details regarding a suggestion you made on the survey (small group fellowship, social events, multicultural activities, etc.), please contact the Pastoral Council at wavitable@aol.com. God bless you and your loved ones!

[Return to website](#)