

JULY 2015 SPECIAL EDITION



SURVEY RESULTS ISSUE



ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH

LIVING CHURCH

PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Results of Our Parish Survey

Dear Parishioners,

As part of St. Vincent Ferrer's ongoing commitment to develop stewardship as a way of life, we recently conducted a comprehensive parish survey. The survey gave all our parishioners an opportunity to express their views regarding worship, parish life, religious education, outreach, and stewardship.

Thanks to your response, our survey was a success! The parish office received 382 completed surveys. This is a 40 percent response rate, which is four times greater than the national average of 10 percent. I thank you for your honesty, as well as the time and commitment you made to complete the survey and help our parish become better and spiritually stronger.

The results of the survey are included in this newsletter, and I hope these results will give you a clearer vision of how the parish as a whole responded to each specific question. We also asked you to respond to a few open-ended questions. Because of space constraints, we could not include each response in this newsletter, but they have been read, reviewed and grouped together based on likeness so that

we could determine the top responses for each open-ended question.

As your pastor, I am confident that the information we have gathered through the survey will help guide our parish leadership as we continue to develop stewardship at St. Vincent Ferrer. In the coming years, I hope we all can work together to meet the needs of our parish community and make parish life more rewarding for us all.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. George Kunkel".

Fr. George Kunkel



LIVING CHURCH

Only one response was checked per question unless otherwise indicated.

Liturgy

Which Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer do you most frequently attend?

- 36% Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
- 26% Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
- 39% Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

How often do you attend Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer?

- 54% Every weekend
- 14% Every weekend and some weekdays
- 3% Every weekend and every weekday
- 23% Occasional weekends (once or twice a month)
- 3% Seasonally (Christmas, Easter, etc.)
- 3% I no longer attend Mass

I consider myself a member of...

- 94% St. Vincent Ferrer
- 0% All Saints
- 0% St. John the Evangelist
- 1% St. Gertrude
- 2% St. Saviour
- 3% Another church

Please indicate how well the following liturgical ministers enhance your prayer and worship.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Needs Improvement
Fr. George Kunkel	42%	43%	9%	6%
Deacon Dave Meyer	27%	54%	17%	2%
Greeters/Ushers	36%	55%	8%	2%
Altar Servers	27%	58%	11%	4%
Lectors	33%	56%	8%	3%
Cantors	29%	53%	14%	5%
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	36%	58%	5%	1%

The music at the Mass I attend enhances my prayer and worship.

- 27% Strongly agree
- 37% Agree
- 22% Neutral
- 10% Disagree
- 4% Strongly Disagree

Do you have any suggestions to help enhance our Sunday liturgies? **Top 3 Responses:**

- Adjust/Improve Music (62)**
- Adjust/Improve Homily (27)**
- Adjust/Improve Liturgical Practices & Ministers (24)**

Adult Faith Formation

Have you attended an adult faith formation program at St. Vincent Ferrer such as a Bible study, adult speaker or parish mission in the last five years?

- 49% Yes
- 51% No

If you have attended an adult faith formation program at St. Vincent Ferrer in the last five years, was it a good experience?

- 77% Yes
- 23% No

Why? **Top 2 Responses:**

- It Was Good And Informative (24)**
- Speaker (21)**

If you haven't attended an adult faith formation program at St. Vincent Ferrer in the last five years, would you consider attending one in the future?

- 51% Yes
- 49% No



If you would like to attend an adult education program, in what areas would you be most likely to participate? **(Multiple Answers Selected)**

- 37% Church Teachings
- 47% Scriptures/Bible Study
- 36% Ethics and Morality
- 21% Marriage
- 28% Retreats
- 1% Adult Confirmation preparation
- 46% Spirituality and prayer
- 18% Book studies
- 24% Social justice
- 13% Parenting help
- 10% Non-religious classes such as personal finance
- 6% Other

Parish Religious Education (K - 8)

The questions in the shaded area were answered only if one's child/children are currently enrolled in our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) and/or Summer PREP (SPREP) program.

My child attends: **(Multiple Answers Selected)**

- 92% PREP on Sundays at SVF
- 23% Summer PREP (SVF & All Saints)
- 0% Vacation Bible School at All Saints

How would you rate the quality of instruction that our students receive in our PREP/SPREP program?

- 32% Excellent
- 48% Good
- 7% Adequate
- 7% Fair
- 7% Poor

Do you feel that the instruction provided by our PREP/SPREP program are in-line with the teaching of the Catholic Church?

- 67% Yes
- 13% No
- 22% Somewhat
- 0% Unsure

How satisfied are you with what and how your child(ren) are being taught in PREP or SPREP?

- 41% Very satisfied
- 45% Satisfied
- 14% Not satisfied (Please explain on last page)

What do you like most about our PREP/SPREP program? **(Multiple Answers Selected)**

- 56% Director, staff and catechists
- 40% Meeting times
- 32% Welcoming
- 52% Quality of instruction
- 24% Family events
- 32% We like the other families
- 8% Other

How do you think we can improve our PREP/SPREP program? **(Multiple Answers Selected)**

- 44% Get the parents more involved
- 24% Change the time
- 12% More training and support for the teachers
- 28% Improve the curriculum
- 52% Other

Youth Ministry (Grades 7 - 12)

Do you have children in 7th through 12th grade living in your home?

- 27% Yes
- 73% No

If you have children in 7th through 12th grade living in your home, do they regularly attend Youth Ministry activities/programs at our sister parish, All Saints?

- 0% Regularly
- 24% Occasionally
- 76% Never - If never, why? **Top 2 Responses:**

Doesn't Like The Program / No Interest (15)
Time Constraints (13)

If your child(ren) attend the youth ministry program at All Saints, how would you rate the quality of the program?

- 33% Excellent
- 38% Good
- 5% Adequate
- 19% Fair
- 5% Poor

Why? *Various Miscellaneous Answers*



LIVING CHURCH

St. Vincent Ferrer Elementary School (K - 8)

Having a Catholic school is a vital part of St. Vincent Ferrer's mission as a parish.

- 55% Strongly agree
- 26% Agree
- 15% Neutral
- 2% Disagree
- 1% Strongly disagree

Do you have children in kindergarten through 8th grade living in your home?

- 26% Yes
- 74% No

If you have children in kindergarten through 8th grade living in your home, where do they attend school? **(Multiple Answers Selected)**

- 59% St. Vincent Ferrer Elementary School
- 9% Other Private School
- 33% Public School
- 2% Home School

If you currently have children in kindergarten through 8th grade in your household and they do not attend St. Vincent Ferrer School, what is the reason that they don't attend?

- 4% Transportation is a problem
- 64% More academic options at other school
- 32% More extra-curricular options at other schools
- 8% Catholic education is not a family priority
- 0% Children are not Catholic.
- 4% Cost (I would rather put my money to use in other ways)
- 16% Cost (I cannot afford to send my child[ren] to Catholic schools)
- 36% Other

Are you aware that St. Vincent Ferrer School has a tuition assistance program for those in need?

- 87% Yes
- 13% No

The questions in the shaded area were answered only if one has children currently enrolled at St. Vincent Ferrer School.

How would you rate the quality of EDUCATION that our students currently receive at St. Vincent Ferrer?

- 53% Excellent
- 2% Fair
- 36% Good
- 0% Poor
- 9% Adequate

How receptive is the FACULTY to meeting your child's needs?

- 66% Very receptive
- 24% Somewhat receptive
- 8% Neutral/no experience
- 2% Unreceptive
- 0% Very unreceptive

Do you feel that the children who attend St. Vincent Ferrer are receiving good education in the Catholic Faith?

- 85% Yes
- 3% No
- 11% Somewhat
- 2% Unsure

What do you like most about St. Vincent Ferrer School? **(Multiple Answers Selected)**

- 74% Teachers and Staff
- 57% The daily emphasis on Christian life
- 76% Catholic education
- 48% Builds community
- 45% Quality of instruction
- 60% Class size
- 37% Special classes such as art and music
- 15% Other

How do you think we can improve St. Vincent Ferrer School? **(Multiple Answers Selected)**

- 40% Increase the communication with the parents
- 28% Improve the curriculum
- 30% More training for teachers
- 22% Increase the emphasis on Catholic Faith
- 48% Other

If you have a child who attended St. Vincent Ferrer School, but has since graduated or left, was your child prepared for the next step?

- 56% Yes, well-prepared
- 36% Yes, mostly prepared
- 6% No, not well enough
- 1% No, not at all prepared

Sacramental Preparation

The following questions were answered only if the respondent or his/her child has been a part of the particular sacramental preparation at St. Vincent Ferrer within the last three years.

Baptism of an infant or small child:

My experience was 96% positive 4% negative.

First Eucharist and Reconciliation of a child:

My experience was 95% positive 5% negative.

Confirmation:

My experience was 91% positive 9% negative.

RCIA:

My experience was 89% positive 11% negative.

Marriage:

My experience was 95% positive 5% negative.

The following questions were answered only if the respondent or his/her child has been a part of the particular sacramental preparation at St. Vincent Ferrer within the last three years.

Anointing of the Sick:

My experience was 97% positive 3% negative.

Funeral/bereavement:

My experience was 90% positive 10% negative.

Eucharistic distribution to shut-ins:

My experience was 94% positive 6% negative.



What is your perception of your role as a member of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish? **(Multiple Answers Selected)**

- 94% To attend Mass
- 72% Participate/volunteer in ministries and social activities
- 89% Support the parish financially
- 55% Share my faith with others
- 8% Other

In your experience, how responsive is our PASTOR to your needs and requests?

- 53% Very responsive
- 23% Somewhat responsive
- 19% Neutral
- 4% Unresponsive
- 2% Very unresponsive

In your experience, how responsive is the PARISH OFFICE STAFF to your needs and requests?

- 65% Very responsive
- 21% Somewhat responsive
- 13% Neutral
- 1% Unresponsive
- 0% Very unresponsive

What methods of communication would work best for you and your family to receive parish information?

(Multiple Answers Selected)

- 83% Bulletin
- 22% Web site
- 9% Facebook
- 1% Twitter
- 63% Email
- 33% Newsletter
- 52% Automated phone call
- 52% Announcements at Mass

What information are you interested in learning more about at our parish? **(Multiple Answers Selected)**

- 53% Parish groups and activities
- 44% Comments from our pastor
- 31% Highlights on parishioners
- 43% Information on the finances of the parish
- 29% Diocesan-wide news
- 54% Information of general Catholic interest
- 43% Explanations of specific Catholic teachings
- 4% Other



LIVING CHURCH

Do you use our parish's website?

50% Yes 50% No

Why or why not? *Top 3 Responses:*

To Get Information (46)

Don't Have / Use A Computer or Internet (24)

No Need (12)

Outreach

Do you feel that St. Vincent Ferrer does a good job reaching out to the following groups:

	Yes	No	Unsure
Active Parishioners	83%	7%	11%
Inactive Parishioners	12%	18%	70%
New Parishioners	27%	11%	62%
Shut-in Parishioners	46%	2%	52%
Non-Catholic Spouses	8%	9%	83%
The Local Community	34%	12%	54%
The Poor	60%	1%	38%
Other Christian Churches	21%	8%	71%
Other Religions	9%	10%	81%

What more can we do as a parish to reach out to those in need?

(Multiple Answers Selected)

- 55% Increase communications about parish ministries
- 61% Encourage more parishioner participation
- 46% Be more welcoming
- 47% Get more involved in the community
- 12% Other

Stewardship

What is your perception of Stewardship (time, talent, and treasure) when it is discussed?

- 67% I accept as a core Gospel value that I am called to be a disciple and share of the gifts God has bestowed on me, and carry it out in my life
- 3% Don't really understand what it means
- 16% Think it's important, but find it hard to implement
- 3% Feel it's not applicable in my life
- 11% Feel that it's just another way to discuss fundraising

Stewardship of Time

How often does your family share a meal?

61% Daily 32% Several days a week
 3% Once a week 5% Less than once a week

Do you say grace before meals?

74% Yes 26% No

If you have children at home, do you pray with them on a daily basis (in addition to grace before meals)?

36% Yes 64% No

If you are married, do you pray with your spouse on a daily basis (in addition to grace before meals)?

17% Yes 83% No

In addition to Sunday Mass and grace before meals, how often do you set aside time for personal prayer?

72% Daily
 18% Weekly
 2% Monthly
 6% Every few months
 0% Yearly
 2% Never

If you have children, do you discuss vocations (Religious Life, Single Life, Married Life) within your family?

59% Yes 41% No

Stewardship of Talent

In how many parish ministries, committees, programs or events are you actively involved?

22% 0 25% 1
 23% 2 13% 3
 17% 4 or more

Beyond participating in weekly Masses, how do you rate your involvement in St. Vincent Ferrer?

13% Very involved
 25% Moderately involved
 31% Somewhat involved
 22% Rarely involved
 8% Never involved

What single reason (if any) has most prevented you from more participation in parish ministries?

- 7% Not interested in what the parish offers
- 19% Health issues
- 8% Usually unaware of opportunities within the parish
- 54% Not enough time due to family and work responsibilities
- 2% Transportation
- 7% Haven't yet made the effort to get involved
- 2% Lack of babysitting services

Are you satisfied with your PERSONAL level of involvement in parish ministries?

- 83% Satisfied with my current level of involvement
- 17% Would like to become more involved

Are you satisfied with your FAMILY'S level of involvement in parish ministries?

- 53% Satisfied with current level of involvement
- 14% Would like to become more involved
- 33% Not applicable

At what times would you most likely be able to attend parish functions? **(Multiple Answers Selected)**

- 21% Saturday mornings
- 19% Saturday evenings
- 38% After the Sunday Mass I attend
- 14% Sunday evenings
- 20% Weekday mornings
- 51% Weekday evenings
- 13% Weekday afternoons

Stewardship of Treasure

Each parishioner is responsible for supporting our parish financially.

- 51% Strongly agree 40% Agree
- 8% Neutral 1% Disagree
- 0% Strongly disagree

How often do you make financial contributions to St. Vincent Ferrer?

- 45% Every week
- 4% Every other week
- 21% Once a month
- 16% Monthly (for all the weeks in the month)
- 2% Never
- 13% Other

My household's gross annual financial contribution to the parish offertory represents:

- 5% 0% of my annual income
- 34% 1% - 2% of my annual income
- 32% 3% - 4% of my annual income
- 19% 5% - 6% of my annual income
- 6% 7% - 8% of my annual income
- 3% 9% - 10% of my annual income
- 2% 11% or more of my annual income

The Stewardship Commitment Card suggested that you consider financial contributions at the following levels: 5% to your parish, 1% to the Archdiocese, and 4% to other charities. How do you determine the amount you contribute in the offertory collection?

- 14% I give a certain dollar amount based on a percentage of my income.
- 55% I have chosen a certain dollar amount in some other way.
- 2% I base the amount on what I think the parish needs.
- 12% I give whatever I can afford that week.
- 16% I don't have a system that determines how much I give.
- 1% I don't financially support the parish.

What is your perception of our parish's current financial position?

- 1% We are easily able to pay our operating bills and put aside money in savings.
- 8% We are easily able to pay our operating bills.
- 47% We barely generate enough revenue to pay our operating bills.
- 33% We are not generating enough revenue to pay our operating bills.
- 11% I am unaware of the state of our parish finances.

Demographics

Gender

- 23% Male 57% Female
- 20% Husband and Wife Completed Together

Marital Status

- 7% Single 68% Married
- 19% Widowed 7% Divorced
- 0% Separated



ST. VINCENT FERRER PARISH

LIVING CHURCH

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MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:00 P.M.

SUNDAY: 9:00 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.

CHAPEL (PARISH CENTER):

MON-FRI: 8:30 A.M.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAY: 3:30-4:30 P.M.

What is your annual household income?

2%	\$0 - \$9,999
14%	\$10,000 - \$29,999
17%	\$30,000 - \$49,999
18%	\$50,000 - \$74,999
20%	\$75,000 - \$99,999
24%	\$100,000 - \$199,999
5%	\$200,000 and above

Age (More than one answer was selected if husband and wife completed the survey together)

1%	18-29	6%	30-39
14%	40-49	28%	50-59
20%	60-69	34%	70+

How long have you been a registered parishioner at St. Vincent Ferrer?

2%	0 - 1 year	3%	2-3 years
6%	4-5 years	10%	6-10 years
80%	More than 10 years		

General Information

The things I like best about St. Vincent Ferrer Parish are...

Top 4 Responses:

Friendly People and Community (89)

Clergy and Staff (41)

Liturgies (27)

School (26)

I wish St. Vincent Ferrer would... *Top 3 Responses:*

Adjust/Add Ministries/Activities (33)

Improve/Adjust Liturgy (19)

Be More Welcoming (18)

Additional comments

Top 3 Responses:

Commentary Concerning Finances (18)

Commentary with Words of Encouragement (11)

Commentary about St. Vincent Ferrer School (11)