

Spirit of Life

Roman Catholic Church

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR 2016 PARISH SURVEY RESULTS

Dear Parishioners,

As part of Spirit of Life's ongoing commitment to develop Stewardship as a way of life, we conducted a comprehensive parish survey in fall 2016. 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 170 completed surveys. This is a response rate of 18 percent, which is almost twice as great as 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 Spirit of Life. In the coming year, 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 "Msgr. Chad Gion". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Msgr. Chad Gion,
Pastor

2016 PARISH SURVEY RESULTS

Liturgy

Which Mass at Spirit of Life do you most frequently attend?

- 31% Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
- 32% Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
- 30% Sunday, 11:00 a.m.
- 8% Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

How often do you attend Mass at Spirit of Life?

- 60% Every weekend
- 20% Every weekend and some weekdays
- 5% Every weekend and every weekday
- 14% Occasional weekends (once or twice a month)
- 0% Seasonally (Christmas, Easter, etc.)
- 1% I no longer attend Mass

I consider myself a member of...

- 99% Spirit of Life
- 0% St. Anthony
- 1% St. Martin
- 0% St. Joseph
- 0% Christ the King
- 1% Another church



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

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Needs Improvement
Msgr. Chad Gion	65%	29%	3%	2%
Fr. Chris Kadrmas	64%	34%	2%	0%
Fr. Selvaraj Periannan	27%	36%	28%	9%
Deacons	32%	57%	10%	1%
Greeters/Ushers	35%	57%	8%	1%
Altar Servers	34%	58%	5%	3%
Lectors	40%	54%	6%	0%
Cantors	38%	47%	12%	3%
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	44%	52%	4%	0%

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

- 32% Strongly agree
- 17% Neutral
- 7% Strongly Disagree
- 26% Agree
- 17% Disagree

Do you have any suggestions to help enhance our Sunday liturgies? **(Top Response)**

- Change Music (54)

Adult Faith Formation (RCIA, Book Studies, Video Series, Faith Enrichment, etc.)

Have you attended an Adult Faith Formation program at Spirit of Life in the last three years?

- 28% Yes
- 72% No

If you have attended an Adult Faith Formation program at Spirit of Life in the last three years, was it a good experience?

- 75% Yes
- 25% No

If you haven't attended an Adult Faith Formation program at Spirit of Life in the last three years, would you consider attending one in the future?

58% Yes 42% No

If you would like to attend an Adult Faith Formation program, in which areas would you be most likely to participate? **(Multiple Selections Possible)**

- 54% Church Teachings
- 69% Scriptures/Bible Study
- 25% Ethics and Morality
- 20% Marriage
- 21% Small Faith Sharing Groups
- 64% Practical Ways of Growing in Faith and Prayer
- 29% Retreats
- 6% Other

What do you like most about our Religious Education program?

(Multiple Selections Possible)

- 35% Director, staff and catechists
- 20% The families involved
- 70% The children/families learn about their faith
- 20% Meeting times
- 5% Other

How do you think we can improve our Religious Education program?

(Multiple Selections Possible)

- 42% Get the parents more involved
- 11% Change the time
- 58% More training and support for the teachers
- 32% Improve the curriculum
- 42% Other

Pre-K - 8th Grade Religious Education (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Faith Formation)

The questions in the shaded area were answered only if one's child/children are currently enrolled in our Religious Education program.

How would you rate the quality of instruction that our students receive in our Religious Education program?

- 27% Excellent
- 36% Good
- 27% Adequate
- 9% Fair
- 0% Poor

Do you feel that the instruction provided by our Religious Education program is in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church?

- 78% Yes
- 0% No
- 17% Somewhat
- 4% Unsure

9th - 12th Grade Youth Group

Do you have children in 9th through 12th grade living in your home?

18% Yes 82% No

If you have children in 9th through 12th grade living in your home, do they regularly attend youth group activities/programs at Spirit of Life?

- 35% Regularly
- 10% Occasionally
- 55% Never

If not, why not? **(Top Responses)**

- They Attend Elsewhere (4)
- They Are Not Interested (3)



The questions in the shaded area were answered only if one's child/children regularly participate in our youth ministry program.

How would you rate the quality of the youth ministry program at Spirit of Life?

- 20% Excellent
- 27% Good
- 20% Adequate
- 33% Fair
- 0% Poor

What do you like most about the youth ministry program?
(Multiple Selections Possible)

- 58% The commitment and dedication of the staff
- 33% The variety of activities offered
- 50% It involves the youth more in parish life
- 67% The Christian atmosphere in which they socialize
- 0% Other

How do you think we can most improve the youth ministry program? **(Multiple Selections Possible)**

- 47% Involve the youth in the parish more
- 33% Inform the parishioners more about the program
- 53% Get more youth involved
- 33% Offer more activities
- 40% Improve the current activities
- 47% Increase the service opportunities
- 7% Other

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

- 53% Very responsive
- 23% Somewhat responsive
- 19% Neutral
- 2% Unresponsive
- 3% Very unresponsive

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

- 74% Very responsive
- 16% Somewhat responsive
- 9% Neutral
- 0% Unresponsive
- 1% Very unresponsive

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

(Multiple Selections Possible)

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|------------|
| 91% | Bulletin | 20% | Web site |
| 13% | Facebook | 0% | Twitter |
| 32% | Email | 52% | Newsletter |
| 69% | Announcements at Mass | | |

Do you enjoy receiving our parish's monthly newsletters?

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|----|
| 93% | Yes | 7% | No |
|-----|-----|----|----|

In what medium would you prefer to receive the parish's monthly newsletter:

- 80% Print (current medium used to deliver newsletter)
- 20% Online (via email or some other form of electronic delivery)

What information do you want included in our monthly newsletter? **(Multiple Selections Possible)**

- 89% Articles about parish groups and activities
- 86% Comments from our pastor
- 41% Highlights on various parishioners
- 59% Information on the finances of the parish
- 25% Diocesan-wide news
- 64% Articles of general Catholic interest
- 58% Explanations of specific Catholic teachings
- 4% Other

Parish Life

What is your perception of your role as a member of Spirit of Life? **(Multiple Selections Possible)**

- 96% To attend Mass
- 72% Participate/volunteer in ministries and social activities
- 86% Support the parish financially
- 68% Share my faith with others
- 6% Other

Do you use our parish's website?

58% Yes

42% No

If not, why not? **(Top Response)**

- Don't Have or Use a Computer or Internet (19)

Outreach

Do you feel that Spirit of Life does a good job reaching out to the following groups:

	Yes	No	Unsure
Active Parishioners	72%	6%	22%
Inactive Parishioners	17%	15%	68%
New Parishioners	46%	6%	49%
Shut-in Parishioners	37%	6%	56%
Non-Catholic Spouses	9%	8%	83%
The Local Community	72%	3%	25%
The Poor	85%	1%	14%
Other Christian Churches	19%	7%	74%
Other Religions	11%	7%	82%



What more can we do as a parish to reach out to those in need? **(Multiple Selections Possible)**

- 62% Increase communications about parish ministries
- 47% Encourage more parishioner participation
- 27% Be more welcoming
- 27% Get more involved in the community
- 13% Other

Stewardship

What is your perception of Stewardship (Time, Talent, and Treasure) when it is discussed?

- 70% Accept it as a core Gospel value and carry it out in my life
- 2% Don't really understand what it means
- 24% Think it's important, but find it hard to implement
- 1% Feel it's not applicable in my life
- 1% Feel that it's just another way to discuss fundraising

Stewardship of Time

How often does your family share a meal?

- 71% Daily
- 17% Several days a week
- 6% Once a week
- 6% Less than once a week

Do you say grace before meals?

- 79% Yes
- 21% No

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

- 55% Yes
- 45% No

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

- 22% Yes
- 78% No



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

- 79% Daily
- 17% Weekly
- 1% Monthly
- 1% Every few months
- 3% Never

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

- 69% Yes
- 31% No

Stewardship of Talent

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

- 28% 0
- 20% 1
- 22% 2
- 15% 3
- 15% 4 or more

Beyond participating in weekly Masses, how do you rate your involvement in Spirit of Life?

- 11% Very involved
- 35% Moderately involved
- 31% Somewhat involved
- 14% Rarely involved
- 9% Never involved

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

- 2% Not interested in what the parish offers
- 21% Health issues
- 10% Usually unaware of opportunities within the parish
- 52% Not enough time due to family and work responsibilities
- 3% Transportation
- 12% Haven't yet made the effort to get involved
- 1% Lack of babysitting services

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

- 76% Satisfied with my current level of involvement
- 24% Would like to become more involved

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

- 71% Satisfied with current level of involvement
- 29% Would like to become more involved

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

- 13% Saturday mornings
- 28% Saturday evenings
- 45% After the Sunday Mass I attend
- 23% Sunday evenings
- 11% Weekday mornings
- 45% Weekday evenings
- 13% Weekday afternoons

Stewardship of Treasure

Each parishioner is responsible for supporting our parish financially.

- 45% Strongly agree
- 47% Agree
- 8% Neutral
- 1% Disagree
- 0% Strongly disagree

How often do you make financial contributions to Spirit of Life?

- 47% Every week
- 6% Every other week
- 22% Once a month
- 11% Monthly (for all the weeks in the month)
- 1% Never
- 14% Other

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

- 6% 0% of my annual income
- 42% 1% - 2% of my annual income
- 20% 3% - 4% of my annual income
- 16% 5% - 6% of my annual income
- 6% 7% - 8% of my annual income
- 10% 9% - 10% of my annual income
- 0% 11% or more of my annual income

How do you determine the amount you contribute in the offertory collection?

- 21% I give a certain dollar amount based on a percentage of my income.
- 45% I have chosen a certain dollar amount in some other way.
- 1% I base the amount on what I think the parish needs.
- 16% 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?

- 10% We are easily able to pay our operating bills and put aside money in savings.
- 25% We are easily able to pay our operating bills.
- 20% We barely generate enough revenue to pay our operating bills.
- 1% We are not generating enough revenue to pay our operating bills.
- 45% I am unaware of the state of our parish finances.

Demographics

Gender

- 8% Male
- 48% Female
- 43% Husband and Wife Completed Together

Marital Status (**Only One Selected**)

- 8% Single
- 70% Married
- 17% Widowed
- 4% Divorced
- 0% Separated



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Change Service Requested

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Spirit of Life

Monday: 8 a.m.

Tuesday - Thursday: 7 a.m., 9 a.m.

Friday: 7 a.m., 9 a.m., Latin Mass at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m., 5 p.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.

CONFESSIONS: Sunday: 8-8:30 a.m.

Saturday: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 7-8:30 p.m., and 20 min. before
weekday Masses except Mondays

St. Martin's Parish

Even Months: 9 a.m.

Odd Months: 11 a.m.

St. Anthony's Parish

Even Months: 11 a.m.

Odd Months: 9 a.m.

What is your annual household income?

7%	\$0 - \$9,999
16%	\$10,000 - \$29,999
21%	\$30,000 - \$49,999
17%	\$50,000 - \$74,999
15%	\$75,000 - \$99,999
21%	\$100,000 - \$199,999
4%	\$200,000 and above

The things I like best about Spirit of Life Catholic Church are... **(Top Responses)**

- Outreach and Ministries (52)
- Friendly and Welcoming Atmosphere and Parishioners (49)
- Clergy and Staff (37)

I wish Spirit of Life would... **(Top Responses)**

- Change the Music (51)
- Work on Communication with Parishioners (15)

General Information

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

1%	18-29	10%	30-39
15%	40-49	28%	50-59
31%	60-69	26%	70+

How long have you been a registered parishioner at Spirit of Life?

3%	0-1 year	8%	2-3 years
8%	4-5 years	11%	6-10 years
70%	More than 10 years		

