

FUTURE FULL OF HOPE: PARISH GATHERING

PARISH LIFE SURVEY SWOT

PILLAR OF PRAYER

Strengths:

- Legion of Mary
- Holy Spirit Prayer Group
- Pro-Life Ministry
- Music
- Stations of the Cross
- Homilies
- Daily Mass
- Reconciliation
- Rosaries
- 24 Hour Adoration Chapel
- Multiple Mass times
- Strong leadership and music
- Lots of opportunity, programs, and groups
- Music liturgy well received
- Adoration Chapel
- Daily Rosary and DM(?)
- Adoration Chapel
- Prayer Groups
- Traveling Chalice
- Presentations
- Prayer Teams
- Prayer is a big part of all parish ministries
- Adoration
- Bible Groups
- Confession
- Prayer Team
- Socialization
- Priests/Laity well informed
- Many Ministries
- The participation of devotions
- Weekly masses
- Prayer groups
- Strong and reverent music program
- Projection of mass on the wall, helps people participate in mass liturgy
- Various classes and groups emphasize prayer as a vital part of their program
- Being able to pray the rosary and divine mercy
- 24/7 Access to chapel
- Music Ministry
- Daily Mass
- Homilies
- Adoration 24/7
- Daily Rosary
- Wonderful Parish staff and priests
- Holy Spirit Prayer Group
- Friendliness of people
- Environment of our church
- Music
- Rosary
- 24/7 Adoration Chapel
- Many prayer groups
- Daily mass
- 12 PM Rosary every Sunday/1st Thursday
- Alpha
- Adoration
- Bible Study
- Mass
- Strong/prayerful staff and parishioners
- Mass
- Prayer groups
- Rosary
- Parish Retreat once a year
- Alpha
- Parish Administration
- Many resources
- Many gifts of priests and laity
- Stations of the cross
- Adoration Chapel
- Prayer gardens available

Weaknesses:

- Lack of participation
- Need for an evening mass
- Don't pass out bulletins before mass
- Talking before mass
- Not enough pilgrimage
- No parish mission since 2019
- More information on Adoration Chapel
- Unaware of strengths
- Arrive late
- Transportation for elderly and sick
- Petition vs Prayer, more prayerful
- Find a way to reach 20–60-year-olds
- Not enough spiritual advisors
- Include younger generation
- Available times (working families)
- Target 30–40-year-olds and 20–30
- Having daily mass in the evenings
- Adoration/Song
 - Reach religious education adults connected with parish
 - Have Father Anthonio share his knowledge
 - More outreach to communicate, need parish council
 - More confession times, availability of confession at other churches, no overlap
 - Prayer Team: more access and training to intercessory prayer group/every Sunday
 - Prayer Team: better communication about joining, phone number to call for emergencies
 - Need to bring in younger generations
 - Great music, can we offer some contemporary music and inactive prayer chain
 - Share the load and know the strengths of your team
 - Our own community is our strength and weakness (fear and gossip)
 - Prayer gardens, youth involvement needed
 - Apathy towards others that are not involved
 - Start rosary at 12-12:30 (Sunday), weekdays after daily mass
 - Opportunity for Hymnals to be used
 - How can we give the opportunity to share testimonies?
 - Too much noise in the sanctuary and trying to keep the spirit of reverence can be a threat to prayer.
 - Remind others of appropriate dress
 - Feeling of "not trained enough"
 - Hesitant to reach out and approach others (ex. Visiting homebound)
 - Not everyone aware of type of prayer
 - Reaching the non-involved parishioner
 - Need increase in ministries reaching out to engage parishioners
 - Adapt to changing times of more young families
 - Get young more involved in the church
- More education at Mass, types, and ways to pray
- People don't ask for prayer (prayer groups)
- Listen to the people
- Need copies of homilies
- How to pray during adoration/ways to pray
- Spiritual council for individuals
- Not enough word of mouth
- Silence before mass announcements
- Leave early
- Silence cell phones
- Evening mass
- Copy of Father's homily
- Priest availability
- Add contemporary and traditional
- Need Teen Life Mass
- Worship music for young parishioners
- Having daily mass for working people

Opportunities:

- Join and pray through the word on a teleprompter
- Encounter weekend/stewardship – youth interaction
- Education, prayer group more often than once a month
- Promote Chapel use
- Need education in prayer
- Incorporate in homilies
- How to pray in adoration, need input
- Few meditate, preach it
- Stories of transformations
- No bulletins until after Mass
- Reading on the teleprompter
- Offering workshops on prayer
- Opportunity to give comfort to parish
- Adding Sunday evening mass
- Hymnals to have when projection not in use
- Create more awareness in regard to prayer
- Bible Study and prayer teams to share what we have with others
- Numerous groups (Alpha, Cursillo etc.) ministries available to parishioners
- 24-hour prayer chapel
- Better communication by highlighting a ministry each week in bulletin
- Music should accompany the mass, not dominate it
- Banner for prayer groups
- Open adoration chapel
- Parish website
- More involvement ages 40-60
- Small groups
- Silence opportunity
- Highlight a ministry each week/month
- Awareness of all ministries and pillars
- Intro to scriptures during Mass
- Rosary before all masses
- Teach us to pray, call on us to do it
- Music ministry (praying twice)
- Rosary, Daily Mass, and Sundays at 12:30
- Get youth involved in parish. Lectors
- Utilize current ministries for growth
- More teachings on prayer and spirituality

Threats:

- Security
- Intimidation
- “Not me” attitude
- Time allotment
- Not enough people to volunteer
- Lack of desire/time/facility/funds
- Latin, and not knowing what is being said
- Dissociation, not connecting, too busy, no energy
- Lack of knowledge and communication about what the church offers
- Cut down on noise before mass in sanctuary to prepare for mass personally
- Transportation for older parishioners
- Too much talking before mass and bulletins in the beginning
- Availability
- Fear
- Large crowds (parking)
- Distractions, noise

PILLAR OF LEARNING

Strengths:

- Variety of learning opportunities
- Religious Education/OCIA/Workshops
- OCIA
- Love & devotion to parish
- CCD classes
- Alpha
- Men's group (TMIY)
- Strong/large youth ministry
- Flocknote/great tool
- Faith Formation
- Bible study opportunities
- Alpha
- Bible class
- Women's groups

Strengthens (continued):

- Many “on fire” for Christ
- Cursillo
- Zoom Bible study
- Bulletins
- Alpha
- CCD
- Many ministries
- That Man Is You
- Alpha
- Diocesan retreats
- Instruction of mass
- Mary and Me conference
- OCIA
- Spiritual quality of priests
- Knowledgeable and willing clergy
- Bible study
- Connect groups
- Parish and Dioceses website
- Diversity
- Bible studies
- Great ministries
- Alpha
- Church teaching is good (real presence)
- CCD Growth
- Homilies are well liked
- Our pastors and their homilies are always engaging, giving the people something to think about
- Diversity/personality/skills to provide and deliver learning opportunities
- Formed (Saint Augustine Institute)
- Alpha
- Religious Education
- Jeremiah Team
- Homilies
- Walking With Purpose
- Youth group
- Bible studies
- Men’s spiritual Group (TMIY)
- Bible study
- Homilies relevant to daily life
- Priests
- Organizations
- Numerous ministries
- Relevant homilies, both priests
- Alpha
- Religious Education programs
- Homilies
- TMIY
- Strong homilies
- Bible study
- Youth group
- Lots of opportunity
- Youth and CCD

Weaknesses:

- Fear to volunteer
- Spanish mass
- Some parishioners not looking to learn
- Small faith groups
- Series on Catholic Social teachings
- Shorter commitments, mini courses
- Lack of youth involvement
- Lack of participation
- Need more awareness of youth involvement
- No Spanish mass
- Apathy
- Alpha needs to reach beyond church
- History of the church
- Education at night
- Delegation of duties
- No adult faith formation
- Time demands
- Lack of youth ministry
- Lack of meeting space
- Ministry fair
- Afraid to commit
- Don’t understand the Order of Mass
- Adult catechism classes
- Too many ministries
- Daytime sessions, need evening
- Getting people involved
- Sharing between groups
- Adult education
- Education of the Catechism
- Promote the Bible teaching/books
- Be available to those lower on the tree
- Education on ministries available

Weaknesses (continued):

- Both priests need to be involved, not just one
- Homilies need to be more specific (abortion, theft, morality)
- Publish/promote types of ministries
- Childcare to bring more families into the ministries
- We don't see Father Anthonio around a lot
- More encouragement to attend ministry events
- Encourage more youth to participate in all ministries
- We don't know how to reach the "checked out"
- Repetition in CCD, middle school, needs to change it up
- Older parishioners have problems with technology (they need workshops)
- Need more witness to the consumption of the Eucharist
- Need More leaders/teachers to provide learning opportunities

Opportunities:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">-OCIA for members, structured refresher-Mass, dress code expectations-Training program-Date night-Use "Hollow" app-OCIA-Build back the library-Sacramental courses-Better teaching of the Eucharist in CCD-More workshops for individual ministries-Online Bible study-15-30-minute teachings-Numerous classes-Strong & growing OCIA program-Social gatherings-Bible studies-Adult Bible study-Stories of conversion classes, why be catholic?-Abundance of opportunities (needs published more)-After mass, social gathering where each ministry has representation to answer questions and welcome people-Adult opportunities at different days and times and online-Communicate all the wonderful ministries we have, by highlighting in the bulletin/marketing-After confirmation, bring them into the discussion of service-Purpose for the 40+ community, give them a focus-Legion of Mary distributes Miraculous medals/rosary. Perfect opportunity to evangelize-Marriage programs to equip couples/families with different tools to navigate family life challenges (FPU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Use social media-What is on parishioner's minds?-Family events, more night socials-Spanish mass-Adult and Children classes-Teach apologetics-List of holy books for seasons-Prayer cards-More social gatherings-Adult catechism-Open talk, why are people leaving?-Numerous ministries-Strong and growing religious ed programs-Learning about confession-Dinners and socials-Ave Maria University close by-We have a nice audio/visual |
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Threats:

- Not a deep enough bench, need to replace
- Not inclusive to all folks, "cliquish"
- After confirmation (education)
- Busy with own priorities
- Resistance to change to new teachings
- Security
- Lack of advertisement outside of church
- Attitude that "others can do it, not me"
- Miscommunication
- Cost
- Discussing own gifts to share
- Burn out from the people doing too much
- Burn out, too few people doing too much work
- Time constraints, perhaps smaller 'chunks' of time to learn
- Continue using the same people, may get burnt out
- Lack of awareness for need of lifelong learning in regard to faith
- People tend to be quiet, fear of making a mistake, or saying something out of line
- New blood not made welcome by leaders of ministries
- Leadership remains in the hands of the few, so new folks don't feel they have the knowledge or "right" to challenge the incumbent
- Have more volunteer opportunities, maybe even get snowbirds & visitors to volunteer while they share their time with us
- Threat of skepticism
- Social media
- Lack of commitment
- Not enough time
- Elderly "I've done my time."
- Burnout
- Need for young parents' involvement
- Personal commitment
- Time
- Volunteer
- Unwillingness

PILLAR OF SERVICE

Strengths:

- Ministries
- CCW
- Brining communion to the homebound
- Strong in faith to lead in core leadership
- Welcoming spirit
- Food pantry
- Good hearts (generous people)
- Great staff
- Volunteer rate
- Reaching outside to serve food pantry/moms
- Table of plenty
- Diaper Drive, Baby things
- Nursing homes
- Homebound ministry
- Pro Life – 40 days
- Many ministries, a blessing
- Availability of time
- Food Pantry
- Leaders of ministries
- Encouragement, Support
- Food pantry
- Pregnancy outreach
- Choir
- Strong nucleus motivated to serve
- FMSC
- Many ministries
- Very welcoming at mass
- Good financial support
- We pray big, big Masses
- Free Bread
- Bootstraps
- Food distribution
- Walking With Moms
- Numerous and varied groups/ministries
- Very welcoming
- Diaper Drive
- Ministries that reach outside of parish
- Many opportunities for involvement

Weaknesses:

- Lots of opportunities
- Welcoming
- Welcoming/Hospitality
- Volunteers feel “burnt out”
- Not knowing what youth group does
- No one on staff for service
- Who are the parish staff?
- Many ministries, too confusing
- Announce ministries that need support
- Volunteer opportunities for busy families
- Peoples personal/perceived handicaps
- No parish council
- Lack of space for group functions
- How do we show our joy?
- Movie and date nights
- Are we having fun? We need more fun.
- What and where is the need
- Small and short staffed
- Father’s willingness to support lay initiatives
- So many opportunities to serve outside of mass
- Religious Ed & Youth Group (service opportunities)
- We have a vast amount of ministries, opportunities, and strong teams
- SKD has a reputation of being friendly to new parishioners, and greeters have a lot to do with that!
- Welcoming a big plus, especially with our congregation size
- Need more volunteers (not the same faces)
- Lack of volunteers, (# of parishioners high, volunteers low)
- Need more publicity/social media in regard to community service
- Lack of parishioner support in education, same people always
- Evening meetings for groups or on Saturday so people with families/work can join
- Need to make the work of the different groups known and understood
- Lack of missionary vision, Eucharistic vision, and belief
- Need strong commitment to recruit and spread the word
- New members: Find out where their strengths are and direct them to those organizations
- We do not express the joy in evangelization
- Parishioners not aware of the ministry’s functions and objectives
- Homilies do not often speak frankly/specifically about social issues, offending parishioners?

Opportunities:

- Invitations for volunteers
- Ministry fair
- Involve youth groups in committees
- Ministry fairs
- Childcare for evening classes
- Helpful ministry (food for sick, shelters)
- Lapsed Catholic outreach
- Training programs
- Educate during the homilies
- Explain volunteering brings grace
- Marriage mentoring
- Family events
- Build up our social media for the youth
- Mission trips (short term) to local sites

Opportunities (continued):

- Multi-ministry involvement
- Many ministries
- Immigration
- Youth can work with adult
- Develop one ministry per month/week in depth in the bulletin
- Use methods other than Facebook to promote activities/services
- Numerous information sources, bulletin, Flocknote, Facebook
- Open communication regarding why people leave/serve families with mental illness
- Go to the busy middle-aged churches, why are they there and not here
- Help people with finding volunteers with skills in needs of handman, mechanic, electrician, plumber
- Look for more opportunities to share their personal experiences of their service opportunities

Threats:

- Complacency
- Better training programs
- Many do not share in a strong faith
- Bad press
- Unknown ministries
- Clicks
- Not open to new ideas
- Reluctance of parishioners to commit
- Older demographic
- Safety
- Time commitment
- Difficulty to sign up on the website and the diocesan requirements to join certain ones
- Groups "clicky", makes new people or others feel uncomfortable
- Gossip in the ministry kills, people don't want to serve with a gossip
- Ministries geared towards the retired, middle-age missed
- Same faces volunteering, especially Sunday mass
- More volunteers
- Vocation
- Lack of volunteers
- Cultural values have changed
- Personal excuses
- Security of parish
- Burn out
- Time
- Not trying
- Aging population
- Fear of involvement

GENERAL COMMENTS

(These were listed on the back side of the SWOT summaries, in no particular order)

- Not enough spiritual advisors
- Need a parish mission and pilgrimage
- Advertise what each ministry does
- Daily evening mass, or at least a few
- Drive assist for those in need
- Adult catechism
- Testimonies
- Homebound ministries, those forgotten about
- Do we even have a fellowship?
- Maybe offer tech help from the youth group
- Social media platforms besides FB need utilized to recruit more youth
- Have a "personal" section in the bulletin "Getting to know your parish staff" Put a picture with the column so parish can get to know people that make up the staff and leaders