

# 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/1<sup>st</sup> 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
- Hymns 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:

- 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)
- 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

## 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

## **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