



BLESSINGS
DREAMS &
CHALLENGES

Blessings, Dreams, and Challenges: Our Parish Responds!

In an effort to listen and reflect upon on what Saint Benedict parishioners consider to be the strong points of the parish (“Blessings”), their hopes for the future (“Dreams”), and obstacles to achieving those dreams (“Challenges”), the Parish Pastoral Council solicited input over a three-month time period via a simple survey. We had a ten-percent response rate. After condensing responses (the number in parenthesis represents how many times a similar response was received), Pastoral Council members prioritized responses into the following list, with “Blessings” being listed in random order. The priorities below will assist in developing our parish budget for the coming Fiscal Year (beginning July 1, 2017). Thank you! -- Fr. Tom

“Blessings”

SPIRITUAL

Intimacy of the worship space. (5)

Parish missions and adult education opportunities. (2)

Statuary and votive candles.

Traveling Mary statue.

COMMUNITY

The diversity of parishioners. (16)

Warmth and hospitality when one enters the church. (10)

Good priests and deacons. (8)

The Safe Environment program.

Pancake breakfasts. (3)

Coffee and donuts following Mass.

Listing “Anniversaries” in the bulletin.

Good information on the parish web site.

Annual ecumenical celebrations with local congregations.

Youth program.

Father-daughter dance.

Ministry and Steward-of-the-Month listed in the bulletin.

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Openness of parish staff to new ideas.

Allowing babies to remain at Mass.

Lovely gardens.

Location of the parish.

Zumba classes.

LITURGICAL

Mass times and number of Masses on Holy Days. (12)

Good music groups. (6)

Eucharistic Adoration. (3)

Beautiful stained glass presentations. (4)

Lenten soup suppers and Stations of the Cross. (3)

Men's and women's small faith sharing groups.

Altar server program. (2)

Parish missions and retreats. (2)

FAITH FORMATION

The community aspects of Super Sunday, "Second Course," "Ben's Bash," and Knights of Columbus dinners. (14)

Family-based faith formation classes. (8)

SCHOOL

Having a Catholic high school. (8)

Relationship between the parish and the school. (2)

MINISTRIES

The support of parishioners who give generously to support our many parish ministries. (6)

The Archangel Attic. (5)

Outreach to the poor and needy who come to our doorstep. (5)

Wonderful youth minister.

Enthusiasm of the young people.(4)

Evangelization Team. (3)

Counseling engaged couples.

The *Casti Conubi* presentations. This changed our marriage for the better.

Clare House Meals Ministry.

Outreach to Bean's Café.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The small size of the church. It is lovely and it is paid for. (2)

The elevator.

MISCELLANEOUS

Maintain wooden "Saint Benedict's" sign in front of the Church building.

Presence of the Blood Mobile.

"Dreams"

SPIRITUAL

A Sunday evening Mass, especially during the summer. (8)

Eucharistic Adoration. (4)

Early weekday Mass so parents could attend.

A thriving reconciliation movement and active home group faith sharing.

Increased participation in the monthly Patriotic Rosary.

COMMUNITY

More engagement in Stewardship and the life of the parish. (4)

More involvement in the parish by younger parishioners. (2)

Have our youth involved in weekend Masses.

The “joyful noise” of the little children at Mass.

Parishioners need to reach out to one another and meet new people. Have a “Name tag Sunday.” (3)

Encourage people to start conversations with others who they don’t know in the social hall and foyer.

Ask people who are sick (or their children are sick) to please stay at home as an act of charity.

Better use of the former nursery so that Mass could be more peaceful. (3)

Increase Mass attendance by 100%. Evangelization at a grass-roots level.

Involve “revenue-producers” in setting parish budget goals, so that their goals are not artificially-raised and then the members feel poorly about not being able to meet the goals.

Pay off the mortgage on the gym. (2)

More control of children by their parents at Mass.

Encourage Priests and Deacon to attend coffee and donuts.

Help transform the Sand Lake Community into a more charitable place to live.

Free donuts!

Priest should speak on Safe Environment periodically from the pulpit.

LITURGICAL

Revise the very confusing process of receiving Holy Communion. (8)

A new sound system for the church. (7)

Having a crucifix behind the altar without taking out the stained glass. (5)

More opportunities for Confession.

Ask a wider variety of people to bring up the gifts. Seems the same families are repeatedly asked.

More diversity in music at Masses. (3)

To hear more on Catholic Social Teaching from the pulpit.

A guitar/folk Mass, or at least one targeting youth. (2)

Simpler and more reverent Mass parts.

A periodic "Healing Mass" for those who are suffering.

Young couples (ages 20-30) Bible study.

Return the choir to its original location in the church.

Celebrate Masses at 8:00am, 10:00am, and Noon now that faith formation time has changed.

Replace stained glass behind the altar. (2)

Two kneelers for those wishing to receive Communion on their knees.

To be able to sing Mass parts in Latin.

Have a monthly Mass in Latin.

Parishioners to come inside the church from the foyer.

More explanation and use of the Prayer Chain and traveling Mary statue.

Explain the purpose of any changes in the Mass.

Liven up the Masses and get more parishioners singing.

Encourage more new altar servers to sign up.

FAITH FORMATION

Better attendance in faith formation program and Vacation Bible School. (2)

To have a well-planned, fruitful faith formation program for PK-12 with well-trained teachers. Support the teachers through sending them to the LA Congress.

Additional adult faith formation classes, especially Church history. (2)

A support group for the divorced.

More fellowship (small group) opportunities.

A mentorship program for young couples with children.

Teach the truth of the Eucharist to our fellow Christians.

To see consistent guidelines on Confirmation throughout the Archdiocese.

Allow Faith Formation students to keep their textbooks so families can build a complete set.

Changing parish faith formation to a different day or time on Sunday. (6)

SCHOOL

Active engagement with Lumen Christi. More Masses at which the students participate. (3)

Invite our Catholic students to take more leadership roles in our Sunday liturgies.
We need to better support Catholic education and fill our school. (5)

Encourage archdiocesan support for the school so the responsibility does not fall only on Saint Benedict's.

New vans for transporting students.

Daily Mass attendance by Lumen Christi students.

More arts-related classes at the school.

A program of services to the elderly by Lumen Christi students.

Tuition-free school. (2)

MINISTRIES

Increased youth involvement. A more passionate and contemporary youth program.

More volunteers for Super Sunday.

List the members of the Pastoral Council in the bulletin.

A support group for older women.

More interaction with the Samoan and Filipino communities. Would like to be able to sing at Mass.

More Ecumenical outreach.

An annual talent show of youth.

Have trained Sacristans in place of the Mass Coordinators.

Increase Mass attendance by 100%. Evangelization at a grass-roots level.

Lay presiders at our Sunday celebrations should the priest need to be away.

Outreach by our youth and families to Providence Hospital Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Remodeled kitchen with more storage. (5)

Paint the rectory. (4)

Easier access to parish offices.

More handicapped parking spaces.

Repair the floor in the arctic entryway and touch up the paint so that it looks better. (2)

Better maintenance of buildings and grounds.

Ceiling fans for use in the summer.

A cry room. (4)

An Adoration Chapel on NW corner of the church. (2)

Small chapel next to the church for Adoration. (3)

A larger narthex.

New tables in the parish hall.

New lighting in the parish hall.

Expanded Archangel Attic.

A bigger church. (7)

A real kitchen over at the gym with ovens, stove tops, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS

Expand parish office hours to five days per week.

Start a community vegetable garden.

Start a "Trivia Night."

Counseling services for troubled marriages.

Move parish picnic to an off-site location.

For the Archdiocese/Parish to hold a dialogue with LGTB members.

Ask AB Etienne to encourage USCCB and Holy Father to allow the ordination of female deacons.

“Challenges”

SPIRITUAL

Increase number of faith-sharing groups.

The secularization of our culture. How can we make the Kingdom more visible?

COMMUNITY

Engaging more parishioners. (6)

Diversity is our strength but also a challenge. Would like to see greater participation of cultures across the parish.

Higher financial giving by all parishioners. (5)11

Invite post-Confirmation age youth to specific involvement in the life of the parish so they don't get left out.

Need a real connectedness between parish and school.

Invite non-parent, parishioners to the School Board for better outside expertise.

Welcome all new parishioners and continue to celebrate the diversity of the parish.

Encourage new volunteers so we don't get “volunteer-fatigue.”

Better communication on upcoming events.

Foster greater connection between parishioners.

Favoring homeschoolers and Lumen students over public school children.

Catholics leaving the church for other religions or atheism or agnosticism.

People who do not believe in the real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Racist comments coming from some parishioners.

Very conservative feel to the parish. May keep people with more liberal views at a distance.

Allowing the gun show twice a year on our campus – seems incongruous to our mission as Church.

Do we have too many fundraisers in the same month?

Clean gum off of pews and envelope holder.

Need more explanation and continual use of the meal trains.

Educate people on the lower entry way as an “echo chamber” and to therefore be more quiet when entering the church building.

LITURGICAL

Insufficient number of ushers and Extraordinary Ministers serving at Masses. (2)

The organ blocks view to the altar.

More training in reverence to Jesus in the Tabernacle for our altar servers.

Teach whether Extraordinary Ministers may give a blessing during Communion.

A subculture within the parish that want pre-Vatican II values back in the church. We need to come together always as one in the Body of Christ.

Could the choir and organ be moved to a new location?

People should genuflect before entering the pews.

No clapping at Mass when welcoming visitors. (2)

FAITH FORMATION

We need to support our youth better as they are the future of our church. More than just doctrine. (2)

New adult education presenters, giving the others a break for a little while.

Need a better time for “Super Sunday” as it disrupts family time on Sunday.

SCHOOL

Few parish families seem to support the school. Building the school’s student numbers is critical.

Too much turnover in school leadership and staff.

Want to see parishioner tithing go to a thriving school.

Part of the community is divided over the Catholicity of the school. Some families are very conservative and talk poorly about the school.

More Lumen parents to staff the Archangel Attic for share hours. (2)

Hire a PR/Fundraiser for Lumen Christi.

MINISTRIES

More parishioners to participate at Mass and in parish ministries. (5)

Not enough members in the music groups.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Proper slope and railings for special needs access in front of church.

Spending money on changing the interior of the church (specifically the stained glass) when we have so many other projects that need attention.

The curbs that people have to step over.

Need better parking lot, sidewalk, and general building maintenance.

Upgrade the parish office entrance area with a larger window to make it more inviting.

Remove clock in the back of the church.

Limited access for wheelchairs going to the upper bathrooms.

A better layout for the parking lot so people knew where and how to park their cars. (2)

MISCELLANEOUS

A changing table in each of the downstairs bathrooms.

Open office five days or week.

Have text messages from parish contain the most important item first, followed by more information.

Explain One Bread, One Body goals and use money for what is told to the parish.

New web site. (2)

Downsize the bulletin.

No plastic covers on the hymnals.

Limit the number of Second Collections.

Possible overage of staff.

Don't use clear tape to decorate in the sanctuary.