

St. Peter's conducted a parish survey this fall to help our faith community ascertain what is working well and what opportunities exist to better minister to our members and the greater community. The survey was well received, as evidenced by the 300 responses that were received from young and old, single and married, parishioners with children in St. Peter's School and in Sunday School. Respondents also provided over 1,000 thoughtful comments and ideas to support their responses. This report is an initial summary of the results; more information will be provided in the upcoming months.

The survey revealed numerous areas where parishioners expressed strong satisfaction, such as Mass and liturgies, a beautiful and well maintained church, pastors and staff who are caring and responsive, the array of ministry and volunteer opportunities, and Christ-centered preaching:

The survey also revealed areas where parishioners would like to see improvement, such as support for families with young children during mass, Sunday school, an appropriately functional kitchen and restrooms in the hall, greater transparency on parish finances, and full accessibility for persons with special needs.

Overall, parishioners reported a high level of engagement with parish life and stated that the parish provides spiritual and community nourishment for them. Following are some additional high-level observations from the survey:

Community & Communication: Many respondents expressed a strong desire to have more ways to participate in the church community, both within specific groups (e.g. single adults, working women) and among various groups, including inter-generationally. It's a wonderful sign of the vibrancy of our parish that so many people want to get to know others and experience Christ through each other. A number of people expressed a desire for improved communication regarding the happenings and projects being undertaken within the parish.

Families & Education: Many commented on the vibrancy of the families with children in our parish and agreed that we should do more to accommodate their needs especially during Mass. Many said the liturgy could be more meaningful to children and families, with suggestions of a Children's Mass, a Children's Choir, and other ways to involve children of various ages in masses. Many voiced the blessing of a Catholic school and the high priority to celebrate and resource it, with more opportunities for mutual enrichment between parish and school. There were concerns raised about the Sunday School and the need to make that a priority for forming our children in the Catholic faith.

Mass, Music, Liturgy and Confession: Parishioners expressed a broad diversity of opinions on their desires for Sunday Mass, including music and the liturgy. Comments included a variety of thoughts on the styles and tempo of music, the focus and lengths of homilies, increased opportunities for Confession and Holy Hour, and the number and types of visiting priests. Many agree that St. Peter's is serving their needs well by providing convenient mass times and Christ-centered preaching.

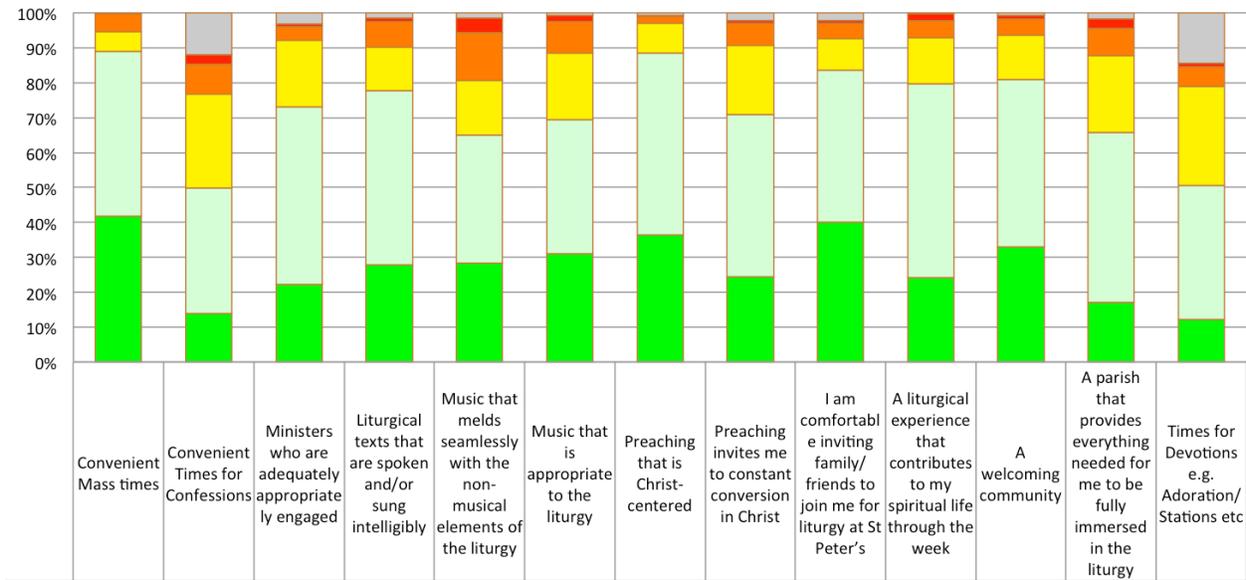
Sound and Facilities: A key theme of the survey was the continued need to improve our sound system and other facilities. Being able to hear the celebrant is critical to participation in the mass, so improving the sound system will be an ongoing priority. Many respondents recognized the ongoing need to maintain our historic building and grounds. In addition, specific mention was made regarding repairs and improvements to the church hall, especially the restrooms and kitchen.

Social Concerns & Justice: Many respondents indicated a strong commitment to and interest in participating in parish efforts to minister to those in need in our parish, in our Capitol Hill community, and around the world. Suggestions were made for a variety of ways to increase and improve these opportunities.

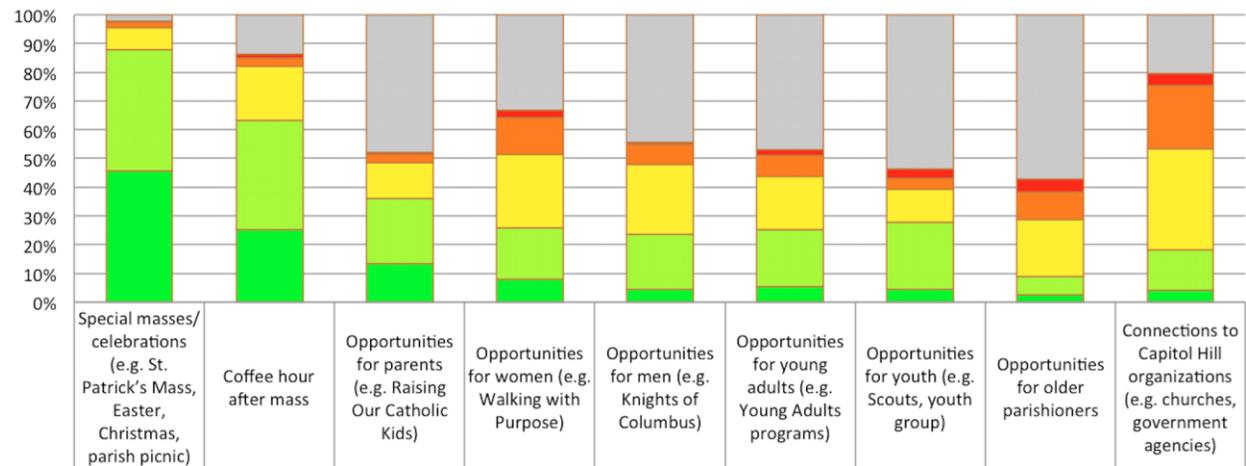
The survey has provided important and useful insights on St Peter's strengths, its opportunities and its aspirations for living the Gospel. The input provided by parishioners will play a critical role in our ongoing strategic planning process. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to share your views and opinions -- more information will be coming in 2018!

Sample of Detailed Results from Two Highly Relevant Questions

Q12: St. Peter's is serving my (and if applicable, my family's) needs well with:



Q 26: St. Peter's is serving my (and if applicable, my family's) needs well with:



	N/A
	Strongly Disagree
	Disagree
	Neutral
	Agree
	Strongly Agree