

FALL 2018 *PULSE OF THE PARISH* NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS
SUMMARY – *WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS*
St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Cincinnati Ohio – Sunday, March 24, 2019

The celebration of weekly Sunday Eucharist is the most important and central event in a Roman Catholic parish. Thus, it is not surprising that many comments were made about worship. Dozens of individual comments (many more than seen here!) have already been shared with both our Worship Commission and Music Ministry for their reflection and consideration as they continue to evaluate our liturgical practices in light of Church teaching as well as grow in their liturgical knowledge as they strive to serve our worshipping assembly as best they can.

MASS TIMES

The vast majority of comments indicate that our variety of Mass times (weekend and weekdays) is very good and much appreciated.

Comments mentioned with some regularity:

- Do our Sunday Mass times minimize parking lot congestion (especially before/after 10:15am Sunday Mass)?
- Could there be a non-morning weekday Mass for the benefit of those who work during the week?
NB A weekly 7:00 pm Mass on Wednesdays and on First Fridays has been scheduled. Unless a monthly Lighthouse Renewal Community Mass or a holyday vigil or evening, the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at these evening Masses.

SACRAMENTS

The vast majority of comments indicate that sacramental celebrations (especially First Communion and Confirmation) are well done.

Comments mentioned with some regularity:

- Baptisms during Mass are great – why not more often?
- Baptismal font is totally lost – could we ever get a huge font in the main body of church?
- Love having multiple times a week for confessions, could there be even more confession times?
- Coming from another parish, we were surprised First Communion/Confirmation preparation does not include families more
- Great sacramental preparation for special needs children
- Can we offer the Sacrament of the Sick more often?
NB Yes, at most weekday evening Masses (see above).

DEVOTIONS

The comments made (about novenas, rosary, Eucharistic adoration, May Crowning, etc.) were positive.

Comments mentioned with some regularity:

- Could we have more Eucharistic Adoration?
- Could we ever have neighborhood Masses or rosaries?
- Could church be open more for prayer, even 24/7?

TEXTS

Comments mentioned with some regularity:

- Personal witnesses at Mass are better than plain announcements
- Can there be less (or no) announcements at Mass? People should read the bulletin!
- Could we do vocation prayer more often?
- It is good to pray for the sick, but the many names read (which are sometimes mispronounced) gets very tedious week after week
- Could we have larger print hymnals and worship resources?

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Comments mentioned with some regularity:

- Greeters are great – can we expand and strengthen this ministry?
- We need more ushers so the collection does not take so long, especially when there is a second collection
- It is unfortunate when we don't have enough communion ministers at some Sunday Masses
- Communion procession is sometimes too long
- Very awkward ministering wine while walking backward in back middle sections of church
- Engravings on communion plates and cups are hard to read and we look stupid holding vessels up to see where we are supposed to go.

NB Our Worship Commission is already looking at the issues regarding the communion procession at Mass.

- Altar servers are good but sometimes seem hesitant in what they are supposed to do and when
- Have different families bring up offertory not just the ushers or the same families
- Gym shoes and blue jeans on ministers is sloppy – minister dress code needed?
- Could we have online ministerial sign-ups?

NB Our Worship Commission is actively looking into online ministerial sign-ups.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The vast majority of comments indicate that the different musical styles are great, all of our musicians are great and our music is very uplifting.

Comments mentioned with some regularity:

- Why don't we use the hymn boards?
- Some parishes have weekly programs or project the music on large screens so everyone can participate better
- Music (singers and instrumentalists) sometimes seem to overpower the voices of the assembly's singing
- Couldn't we have more eclectic choices of music – some contemporary and some traditional – at all Masses?
- Like quieter Masses, can we have a totally quiet Mass?
- We miss the “youth Mass” and contemporary music at 7:30pm Mass on Sunday each week
- Liturgical dancers are well prepared and do a fine job

ART & ENVIRONMENT

The comments made were very positive that the church is always decorated nicely and appropriately.

Comments mentioned with some regularity:

- Moving tabernacle to center was good but there's no room to genuflect on the top step
 - Crucifix is not central and is not visible to the most of the right side of church
- NB Our Worship Commission is actively looking into better crucifix placement and lighting.*
- Handicapped accessible lectern/sanctuary would be nice
 - Stained glass in big central window does not match stained glass in the rest of the church
 - Banners with names in church (All Souls, graduates) are hard to read names
 - The “No Cell Phone” signs at the entrances are uninviting

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Comments mentioned with some regularity:

- Our Masses used to be more crowded – how is it we have more parish families and less people in church?
- Mass participation (i.e. singing, responding, etc.) is usually, but not always, very good
- People leaving Mass before it's over is a poor witness to guests, visitors and children
- Some people dress inappropriately for church
- Too noisy in church before, during and after Mass – reverence is so lacking at St Ignatius
- Nice to invite folks to get to know each other after Mass
- Laminated sheet or booklet for children to follow Mass better would be beneficial
- People don't genuflect properly when they come into or leave church

OTHERS

Comments mentioned with some regularity:

- Could we ever have a “dry Mass” to explain the Mass?
- Grateful for Children’s Liturgy of the Word at 1015am – why just at one weekend Mass?
- Some like bells rung during consecration and some don’t
- Some like children on the altar (occasionally during 10:15am Mass) and others find it distracting
- Vocation chalice program should be promoted and used more
- The cry room is often crowded with people who don’t need to be in there since their children are not misbehaving – sound system is poor in cry room – bathroom smell in cry room is not good
- Sound system needs to be checked
- Do we ever use incense on feast days? Could we ever have a “High Mass” with candles and incense, etc.?
- Some churches have hearing devices for older and hearing-impaired – why don’t we?
- Have we ever considered having a Spanish Mass?
- Could more Masses, especially funerals and weddings, be online?
- *Circle Song* at final school Mass is great but we need a space big enough for the whole school and guests to see it
- Could we re-pad the kneelers? Could we get padded pews?