

# THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

COLUMBUS, GA

SURVEY  
RESULTS  
ISSUE

*A Letter From Our Pastor*

## The Results of Our Recent Parish Survey

Dear Parishioners,

As part of Holy Family's ongoing commitment to develop stewardship as a way of life, we conducted a comprehensive parish survey in 2015. The survey gave all our parishioners an opportunity to express their views regarding worship, parish life, religious education, outreach, and stewardship.

Thanks to your response, our survey was a success! The parish office received 198 completed surveys. This is a 22 percent response rate, which is over two times greater than the national average of 10 percent. I thank you for your honesty, as well as the time and commitment you made to complete the survey and help our parish become better and spiritually stronger.

The results of the survey are included in this newsletter, and I hope these results will give you a clearer vision of how the parish as a whole responded to each specific question. We also asked you to

respond to a few open-ended questions. Because of space constraints, we could not include each response in this newsletter, but they have been read, reviewed and grouped together based on likeness so that we could determine the top responses for each open-ended question.

As your pastor, I am confident that the information we have gathered through the survey will help guide our parish leadership as we continue to develop stewardship at Holy Family. In the coming year, I hope we all can work together to meet the needs of our parish community and make parish life more rewarding for us all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Dan O'Connell  
Pastor

MAY 2016



## Liturgy

Which Mass at Holy Family do you most frequently attend?

- 36%** Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
- 29%** Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
- 35%** Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

How often do you attend Mass at Holy Family?

- 59%** Every weekend
- 20%** Every weekend and some weekdays
- 2%** Every weekend and every weekday
- 16%** Occasional weekends (once or twice a month)
- 2%** Seasonally (Christmas, Easter, etc.)
- 1%** I no longer attend Mass

I consider myself a member of...

- 99%** Holy Family
- 0%** St. Patrick
- 1%** St. Anne
- 0%** St. Benedict the Moore
- 0%** Our Lady of Lourdes
- 0%** Another church

Please indicate how well the following liturgical ministers enhance your prayer and worship.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Needs Improvement
Fr. Dan O'Connell	52%	35%	7%	6%
Dcn. Arnold Goodman	31%	39%	19%	10%
Ushers	41%	48%	8%	2%
Altar Servers	37%	50%	9%	3%
Lectors	44%	52%	4%	0%
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	49%	48%	3%	0%

The music at the Mass I attend enhances my prayer and worship.

- 48%** Strongly agree
- 9%** Neutral
- 4%** Strongly Disagree
- 33%** Agree
- 7%** Disagree

Do you feel welcome when you attend liturgy at Holy Family?

- 93%** Yes
- 7%** No

Do you have any suggestions to help enhance our Sunday liturgies?

- Adjust/Improve Homilies (17)**
- Improve Music (14)**
- Improve/Train Liturgical Ministers (11)**

## Adult Enrichment (Faith Formation)

Have you attended an Adult Enrichment program at Holy Family in the last five years?

- 28%** Yes
- 72%** No

If you have attended an Adult Enrichment program at Holy Family in the last five years, was it a good experience?

- 75%** Yes
- 25%** No

If you haven't attended an Adult Enrichment program at Holy Family in the last five years, would you consider attending one in the future?

- 76%** Yes
- 24%** No

If you would like to attend an Adult Enrichment program, what areas would you be most likely to participate in?

- 52%** Church Teachings
- 60%** Scriptures/Bible Study
- 27%** Ethics and Morality
- 18%** Marriage
- 22%** Small Faith Sharing Groups
- 48%** Practical Ways of Growing in Faith and Prayer
- 25%** Retreats
- 11%** Other

# Parish Religious Education (K - 9)

*The questions in the shaded area were answered only if one's child/children are currently enrolled in our Parish Religious Education program.*

How would you rate the quality of instruction that our students receive in our Parish Religious Education program?

- 49% Excellent
- 43% Good
- 3% Adequate
- 0% Fair
- 5% Poor

Do you feel that the instruction provided by our Parish Religious Education program is in-line with the teaching of the Catholic Church?

- 87% Yes
- 0% No
- 8% Somewhat
- 5% Unsure

My child is growing in his/her knowledge of the Catholic faith as a result of his/her attendance at our Parish Religious Education Program.

- 57% Strongly agree
- 32% Agree
- 4% Neutral
- 7% Disagree
- 0% Strongly disagree

What do you like most about our Parish Religious Education program?

- 55% Director, staff and catechists
- 55% The families involved
- 76% The children/families learn about their faith
- 38% Meeting times
- 7% Other

How do you think we can improve our Parish Religious Education program?

- 74% Get the parents more involved
- 17% Change the time
- 30% More training and support for the teachers
- 17% Improve the curriculum
- 13% Other

# Holy Family Youth Group

Do you have children in 9th through 12th grade living in your home?

- 12% Yes
- 88% No

If you have children in 9th through 12th grade living in your home, do they regularly attend youth group activities/programs at Holy Family?

- 19% Regularly
- 14% Occasionally
- 67% Never

*The questions in the shaded area were answered only if one's child/children regularly participate in our youth ministry program.*

How would you rate the quality of the youth group program at Holy Family?

- 19% Excellent
- 31% Good
- 13% Adequate
- 6% Fair
- 31% Poor



# THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

What do you like most about the youth program?

- 27%** The commitment and dedication of the staff
- 36%** The variety of activities offered
- 18%** It involves the youth more in parish life
- 36%** The Christian atmosphere in which they socialize
- 36%** Other

How do you think we can most improve the youth program?

- 48%** Involve the youth in the parish more
- 37%** Inform the parishioners more about the program
- 33%** Get more youth involved
- 59%** Offer more activities
- 37%** Improve the current activities
- 33%** Increase the service opportunities
- 33%** Other

If you currently have children in Pre-K through 12th grade in your household and they do not attend St. Anne-Pacelli, what is the reason that they don't attend?

- 7%** Transportation is a problem
- 25%** More academic options at other school
- 0%** Catholic education is not a family priority
- 11%** Cost (I would rather put my money to use in other ways)
- 25%** Cost (I cannot afford to send my child[ren] to Catholic schools)
- 32%** Other

Are you aware that St. Anne-Pacelli has a tuition assistance program for those in need?

- 85%** Yes
- 15%** No

## St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School

Supporting a Catholic school in Columbus is a vital part of Holy Family's mission as a parish.

- 53%** Strongly agree      **28%** Agree
- 12%** Neutral              **6%** Disagree
- 0%** Strongly disagree

Do you have children in Pre-K through 12th grade living in your home?

- 19%** Yes                      **81%** No

If you have children in Pre-K through 12th grade living in your home, where do they attend school?

- 18%** St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School
- 26%** Other Private School
- 53%** Public School
- 3%** Home School

## Parish Life

What is your perception of your role as a member of Holy Family?

- 98%** To attend Mass
- 64%** Participate/volunteer in ministries and social activities
- 83%** Support the parish financially
- 65%** Share my faith with others
- 5%** Other

In your experience, how responsive is our PASTOR to your needs and requests?

- 54%** Very responsive
- 14%** Somewhat responsive
- 28%** Neutral
- 4%** Unresponsive
- 1%** Very unresponsive

In your experience, how responsive is the PARISH OFFICE STAFF to your needs and requests?

- 51%** Very responsive
- 22%** Somewhat responsive
- 20%** Neutral
- 4%** Unresponsive
- 3%** Very unresponsive

What methods of communication work best for you and your family to receive parish information?

- 92%** Bulletin      **23%** Web site
- 18%** Facebook      **1%** Twitter
- 41%** Email      **51%** Newsletter
- 60%** Announcements at Mass

Did you enjoy receiving our parish's new monthly newsletters?

- 93%** Yes      **7%** No

In what medium would you prefer to receive the parish's monthly newsletter:

- 77%** Print (current medium used to deliver newsletter)
- 23%** Online (via email or some other form of electronic delivery)

What information do you want included in our monthly newsletter?

- 92%** Articles about parish groups and activities
- 86%** Comments from our pastor
- 50%** Highlights on various parishioners
- 51%** Information on the finances of the parish
- 40%** Diocesan-wide news
- 63%** Articles of general Catholic interest
- 68%** Explanations of specific Catholic teachings
- 8%** Other

Do you use our parish's website?

- 37%** Yes
- 63%** No

If you do regularly access our parish's website, do you find it useful?

- 61%** Yes
- 38%** No (why not?)

**Website isn't up to date (8)**

**Unaware that parish had a website (7)**

# Outreach

Do you feel that Holy Family does a good job reaching out to the following groups:

	Yes	No	Unsure
Active Parishioners	57%	17%	26%
Inactive Parishioners	8%	22%	70%
New Parishioners	21%	21%	59%
Shut-in Parishioners	23%	10%	67%
Non-Catholic Spouses	10%	21%	69%
The Local Community	40%	13%	48%
The Poor	68%	2%	30%
Other Christian Churches	15%	12%	74%
Other Religions	12%	11%	78%

What more can we do as a parish to reach out to those in need?

- 69%** Increase communications about parish ministries
- 70%** Encourage more parishioner participation
- 46%** Be more welcoming
- 41%** Get more involved in the community

Do you have any suggestions to help Holy Family perform better outreach?

**Communicate better (14)**

**Increase ministry opportunities and programs (9)**

**Encourage people to get involved (6)**





## Stewardship

What is your perception of Stewardship (Time, Talent, and Treasure) when it is discussed?

- 60%** Accept it as a core Gospel value and carry it out in my life
- 8%** Don't really understand what it means
- 28%** Think it's important, but find it hard to implement
- 0%** Feel it's not applicable in my life
- 4%** Feel that it's just another way to discuss fundraising

### Stewardship of Time

How often does your family share a meal?

- 67%** Daily
- 19%** Several days a week
- 6%** Once a week
- 8%** Less than once a week

Do you say grace before meals?

- 78%** Yes
- 22%** No

If you have children at home, do you pray with them on a daily basis (in addition to grace before meals)?

- 42%** Yes
- 58%** No

If you are married, do you pray with your spouse on a daily basis (in addition to grace before meals)?

- 21%** Yes
- 79%** No

In addition to Sunday Mass and grace before meals, how often do you set aside time for personal prayer?

- 81%** Daily
- 14%** Weekly
- 1%** Monthly
- 2%** Every few months
- 0%** Yearly
- 2%** Never

If you have children, do you discuss vocations (Religious Life, Single Life, Married Life) within your family?

- 64%** Yes
- 36%** No

### Stewardship of Talent

In how many parish ministries, committees, programs or events are you actively involved?

- 58%** 0
- 25%** 1
- 11%** 2
- 4%** 3
- 3%** 4 or more

Beyond participating in weekly Masses, how do you rate your involvement in Holy Family?

- 11%** Very involved
- 21%** Moderately involved
- 19%** Somewhat involved
- 36%** Rarely involved
- 12%** Never involved

What single reason (if any) has most prevented you from more participation in parish ministries?

- 4%** Not interested in what the parish offers
- 20%** Health issues
- 29%** Usually unaware of opportunities within the parish
- 31%** Not enough time due to family and work responsibilities
- 1%** Transportation
- 16%** Haven't yet made the effort to get involved
- 0%** Lack of babysitting services

Are you satisfied with your PERSONAL level of involvement in parish ministries?

- 51%** Satisfied with my current level of involvement
- 49%** Would like to become more involved

Are you satisfied with your FAMILY'S level of involvement in parish ministries?

- 33%** Satisfied with current level of involvement
- 31%** Would like to become more involved
- 36%** Not applicable

At what times would you most likely be able to attend parish functions? **(Check all that apply)**

- 19% Saturday mornings      27% Saturday evenings
- 38% After the Sunday Mass I attend      17% Sunday evenings
- 21% Weekday mornings      53% Weekday evenings
- 15% Weekday afternoons

### Stewardship of Treasure

Each parishioner is responsible for supporting our parish financially.

- 60% Strongly agree
- 35% Agree
- 4% Neutral
- 1% Disagree
- 0% Strongly disagree

How often do you make financial contributions to Holy Family?

- 59% Every week
- 5% Every other week
- 13% Once a month
- 12% Monthly (for all the weeks in the month)
- 1% Never
- 9% Other

My household's gross annual financial contribution to the parish offertory represents:

- 1% 0% of my annual income
- 28% 1% - 2% of my annual income
- 23% 3% - 4% of my annual income
- 22% 5% - 6% of my annual income
- 7% 7% - 8% of my annual income
- 17% 9% - 10% of my annual income
- 2% 11% or more of my annual income

How do you determine the amount you contribute in the offertory collection?

- 18% I give a certain dollar amount based on a percentage of my income.
- 53% I have chosen a certain dollar amount in some other way.
- 1% I base the amount on what I think the parish needs.
- 18% I give whatever I can afford that week.
- 10% I don't have a system that determines how much I give.
- 1% I don't financially support the parish.

What is your perception of our parish's current financial position?

- 29% We are easily able to pay our operating bills and put aside money in savings.
- 28% We are easily able to pay our operating bills.
- 4% We barely generate enough revenue to pay our operating bills.
- 1% We are not generating enough revenue to pay our operating bills.
- 38% I am unaware of the state of our parish finances.





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<http://holyfamilycolumbus.myownparish.com/>

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## Weekend Mass

### *Saturday Vigil*

5:00 p.m. Mass

### *Sunday*

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## Daily Mass

### *Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday*

12:10 p.m. Mass

## Reconciliation

### *Saturday*

4:00 p.m.

## Demographics

### Gender

16% Male      48% Female  
36% Husband and Wife Completed Together

### Marital Status

6% Single      73% Married  
13% Widowed      8% Divorced  
1% Separated

### What is your annual household income?

2% \$0 - \$9,999      16% \$10,000 - \$29,999  
15% \$30,000 - \$49,999      23% \$50,000 - \$74,999  
21% \$75,000 - \$99,999      17% \$100,000 - \$199,999  
7% \$200,000 and above

### Age (More than one box was selected if husband and wife completed the survey together)

3% 18-29      5% 30-39  
7% 40-49      22% 50-59  
37% 60-69      34% 70+

How long have you been a registered parishioner at Holy Family?

4% 0 - 1 year      9% 2-3 years  
9% 4-5 years      16% 6-10 years  
62% More than 10 years

## General Information

The things I like best about Holy Family are...

**Buildings and grounds (54)**

**Priests and deacons (34)**

**Welcoming and friendly (27)**

I wish Holy Family would...

**Increase ministry opportunities (33)**

**Improve the liturgy (12)**

**Be more welcoming and friendly (12)**