

St. Thomas Becket Worship Survey

Presented

October 5, 2017

Thank You!

The Worship Commission and Parish Pastoral Council would like to thank the parishioners who responded to our Worship Survey in early 2017.

The survey was inspired in part by a book called Great Catholic Parishes¹. The author suggests parish leaders to spend time and energy to find out what works best for YOUR parish as an important step to creating a great worship experience. Important areas to consider informed the basis for our survey:

Music – recognizing taste in sacred music, like taste in other forms of music and prayer, is eclectic and very personal.

The **physical space** can communicate a welcoming or an unwelcoming spirit, a healthy, well-kept grounds can express the health of the church they decorate.

The sacred synergy of intentional **hospitality**, inspirational **preaching**, and high-quality music makes Mass relevant in people's lives.

We also sought to understand more who is worshipping with us and how we might serve them better. Overall, we gained many affirmations, insights and suggestions that can help as we grow and evolve the Worship Experience at St. Thomas Becket. Following is a summary of the main themes uncovered. A more detailed summary is also available.

¹ Great Catholic Parishes by William E. Simon, published 2016

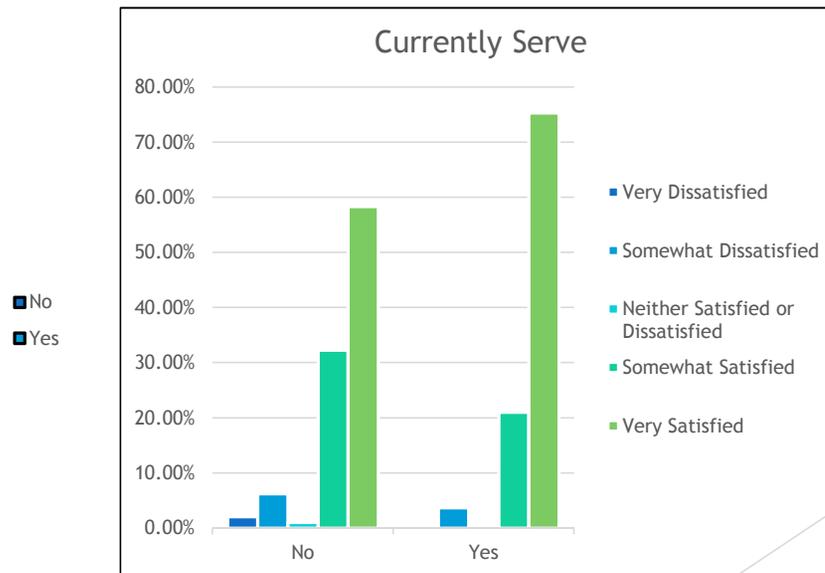
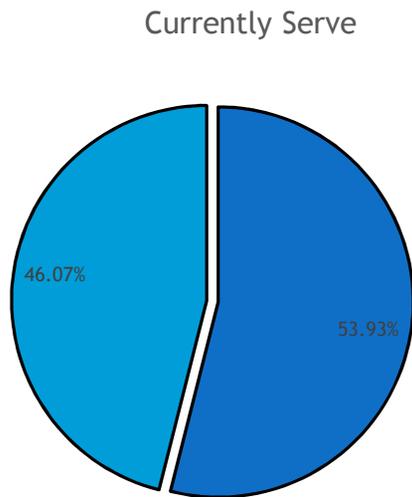
Our Findings

Overall, 93% of St. Thomas Parishioners are Satisfied or Very Satisfied with their current worship experience. The responses provide these themes for use as we go forward.

Aspect of Worship	Strengths	Areas for Growth
Environment	There is great appreciation for the seasonal liturgical decorations and settings	Some updates would be appreciated as funds are available
Hospitality	The “feel” of the parish is welcoming and friendly	Not all favor nametags, but it is not a deterrent
Liturgical Ministers	Serving in a ministry leads to higher level of satisfaction	We can make it easier to volunteer - logistics and level of commitment
Music	Our blended approach of traditional and contemporary music	Continue to find a balance of fresh selections that are approachable to sing
Preaching	Homilies are a main reason to worship here	Some report that occasionally homilies can “wander”

Stewardship from Serving

There is positive connection between serving in a worship ministry and satisfaction with one's worship experience. There is opportunity to engage more parishioners in a worship ministry.



Who Responded?

- ▶ We are very grateful for the 178 parishioners of confirmation age or older who took time to complete the survey online or in paper form.
- ▶ This response represents approximately 18% of our average weekly attendance at Mass and therefore can be considered statistically representative.
- ▶ Ninety-eight (98) responders also provided additional comments which are reflected in the findings if provided by more than one responder.