

Now it's your turn, St. Paul's.....We want to hear from you!

45 parishioners attended this session.

Strategic Planning Listening Session Monday April 11 6:00-8:00 pm, Parish Hall

We recently shared the results of the strategic planning survey; now we want to hear from you about some of the key issues you identified. We will break into separate “circles” to discuss three different topics; there will be enough time to share your thoughts on each topic-- **Hospitality & Growth**, **Ministry** and **Worship & Music**. The questions we will discuss are:

Hospitality & Growth

- What things make people want to come to St. Paul each week?
- Why do you continue to be a member of St Paul?
- What parts of our worship do you find particularly welcoming, or not welcoming?
- What do you think would make St Paul attractive to people who are not members?

Ministry

- What does ministry mean to you?
- How would you like to be involved in ministry?
- What other types of ministries would you like to see at St. Paul?

Worship & Music

- In our worship service, is there anything you would change?
- What role does music play in worship? How do you see music enhancing worship?

Schedule

6:00	Welcome & blessing and overview of planning process and tonight's ground rules
6:20	Visit your first Listening Session circle
6:50	Visit your second Listening Session circle
7:20	Visit your third Listening Session circle
7:50	Wrap up and final blessing

Ground Rules

Be sure to visit all three Listening Session circles

Share your thoughts – there are no right or wrong answers

Listen to others with respect

It's okay to have difference perspectives

Tonight we're sharing ideas, not trying to find a solution

Not everything we discuss will get done, but your input will be used to help make decisions

Worship & Music

Music

- Stick with familiar songs – singable, limited range, we know the tunes,
 - “Songs that all Catholics know”
 - The repetition and ritual of known/core music is welcome and meaningful
 - If we add new songs, these might be played before Mass to help familiarize them
 - On occasion, have the school children run the whole Mass
 - “if you sing, you pray twice”
- Add more joyful & upbeat songs especially during the processional
 - Speed up tempo, especially in the Alleluia
- Use more instruments – piano, guitar, violin, drum and others.
- Add more contemporary / folk music
 - Can include younger musicians
 - Link to school music program?
- Invite everyone to sing as part of worship – it’s hard if you don’t know the song
- The music and choir can lift everyone and lifts worship
- Involve the children’s choir (practiced)
- Balance the music choices to appeal to children, young adults, more traditional, chants
 - Should we seek a different music subscription service?
 - We try to limit the amount of social justice in the songs
- We do have parameters on our music choices
- Piano needs repair or replacement
 - The organ too? Add a dehumidifier?
- Should we add professional musicians? Limited interest, but definitely more interest in a call to talented parishioners first
 - A praise band may attract young musicians?
- Change the space:
 - Can we move the choir and instruments to the choir space? Better acoustics, but is this unaligned with Diocese policy?
 - Should we reconfigure the current choir space to make it more usable and accessible?
- “We’re blessed to have Patsy”

Worship

- Offer a children’s mass – Every group offered this
 - Mixed reviews on timing -- every Sunday at 9am, Periodically, Wednesday’s school mass
 - Appropriate content, foundational faith education
- It sometimes takes a long time to get the Eucharistic ministers in place during mass and the pace lags
- We should offer personalized prayers of the faithful to our community – military, addictions, school children, growth of the community
- Invite everyone in attendance to reach out in introduction / welcome at the beginning of Mass
- Dress codes
 - Ushers look ragged

Notes from April 11 Listening Session at St Paul

- Those who participate in the liturgy should be dressed to meet minimum standards (dress shirt, no shorts, no flip flops)
- We need to organize the usher efforts: role, timing, dress code, welcoming
- The handicapped door in the choir area does not work
 - We should also have an usher there to assist entry and exit at this door
- Address needs of parents with young children
 - Rocking chairs in the back of the nave would be welcoming & encourage parents to stay
 - A crying room (with TV link?) might be helpful.
 - Would the vestibule (with doors to the nave closed) or small room off the vestibule serve this purpose?
- Encourage people to sit in the front
 - Ushers
 - Rope off the back rows until they're needed
 - Father can invite people to move up
- Collect / tithe after the service instead of during service
 - Are there alternatives to the basket?
- The church is always beautiful – compliments to Mrs. Fiore!
- We should have a nicer lector that's fitting with the rest of the church
- The sound system / acoustics need a check
 - It's hard to hear speakers
 - The organ can overwhelm singers and on its own can be too loud
 - The "whisperer" is helpful – is this widely accessible?
- Include Baptisms in the Mass
- Hold a Latin Mass? Not much interest and the Diocese has assigned this to two churches
- Return the Blood of Christ to the congregation
- Add expository preaching that highlight our reasons / Catholic being
- Recognize visitors & birthdays
 - Choir to sing a welcome?
 - Get name & contact info from visitors
- Personally visit parishioners who have not attended since Covid

Ministry

*Items with *** mentioned several times*

What does ministry mean to you?

- Service to the church
- Activities
- Involvement
- Giving back to the Parish
- Service rooted in faith and prayer
- Being a piece of the puzzle
- Gospel in action
- Giving back
- Reaching out
- Serving
- Listening
- Sharing talent
- Being actively involved
- Fellowship
- Study groups
- Being fed – feeding others Tools for welcome, inclusion, service

Notes from April 11 Listening Session at St Paul

- Using gifts God gave us
- Catholic outreach
- Serving sick
- Keep it simple
- Gives sense of deeper belonging to church
- Service to group because you belong to the group
- Love & show mercy – living your faith
- Obligation entrusted to us by Christ in order to share
- Broader than & inclusive of Parish

How would you like to be involved in ministry?

- Suggestion boxes
- Conscious efforts in identifying parishioners gifts
- More pulpit encouragement in using gifts
- Graphic design
- Gardeners
- Handymen
- Writers
- Faith sharing blogs
- Bakers
- Sew, cut prayer blankets
- Music
- Have kids do a bulleting
- Singers
- Invitation to be Lectors or Ems 2-4 times/year
- Parish to be more vocal about opportunities
- Teaching & Learning
- Advertise list of ministries
- Recruiting fait / Ministry Sunday
- Advertise Diocesan opportunities
- Regular invitations
- Emails
- Getting out more to community
- Welcoming ministry
- Communion to sick
- Communication – what ministries do we have? Points of contact? Other social media
- Put back in the Bulletin
- Ministry Fair
- Newborn moms
- Death bereavement
- Marriage difficulties
- Usher ministry
- Desire to learn
- Assess needs of surrounding communities
- More service opportunities
- Elderly assistance ministry – Knights will help, nurses have helped
- Seek out poor in the Parish boundaries
- Serve bereaving

What other types of ministries would you like to see at St Paul?

- Bulletin had ministry leaders and contacts – bring it back
- Identifying new parishioners & get them plugged in
- Hospitality
- Prayer blanket
- Young children / adolescent / young adult ***
- Ministry to serve St Vincent's – NICU blankets, service for St Vincents
- Scouts
- Join efforts with other parishes
- Ministry that supports the school ***
- Nursing ministries
- Service ministry – identifies local needs, invites parishioners to participate – meals for local nonprofits, etc.
- Youth ministry ***
- Paid ministers
- Combine with other parishes (Youth ministry)

Notes from April 11 Listening Session at St Paul

- Adults can volunteer with youth ministry
- Visitation ministry – elderly, sick
- Prison ministry
- Opening parish hall to community to give elderly place to go – BINGO
- St Matthew’s “Young at Heart” for elderly
- Singles / widows group
- Small group dinners based on share experience (e.g., young marriers, new parishioner)
- Medical personnel service – “health check”
- Military groups
- Respite care service ministry for caregivers
- Focus on St Vincent de Paul – make it more robust
- Identifying newcomers – Welcoming Committee – don’t lose those who have come to the Church
- Youth ministry
- Fellowship ministries
- Bible studies
- Notifying of new & deceased parishioners
- Tapping into Diocesan & larger Church (CRS) ministries
- Hire youth minister
- Vocations ministry
- iCare
- Hospitality ministry
- Welcoming Catholics who return
- Faith formation
- Legion of Mary
- Prayer ministry

Hospitality & Growth

*Items with *** mentioned several times*

What makes people come to St Paul each week?

- Beauty of the church
- Jesus
- People
- Friendly people
- Kindness
- Location
- Beautiful organ
- Fr George
- Walking distance
- Daily mass
- Eucharist
- Spiritual home here on earth
- Family legacy
- Down to earth
- Back to basics
- Fr George
- Caring
- Adapting to special needs of members
- Act of Kindness of Fr George
- Fr George
- Habit
- Convenience
- Warmness
- Honor the Lord
- Possible children involvement
- Full obligation
- Availability
- Family atmosphere
- Tied in with school
- Homily
- Dedication to Parish
- Fellowship
- Relationships
- Beauty of the church, traditional ***
- Fr George ***
- Holiness of Family ***
- Sanctuary
- Flowers
- Braided palms
- Spiritual process
- Cooperation of people
- It’s my Parish. It’s where I belong. ***

Notes from April 11 Listening Session at St Paul

- Pride

- People

Why do you continue to be a member of St Paul?

- Travel time
- Sense of family
- Nothing to keep me from not coming
- Fr. George
- Ministries
- Part of my make up
- I grew up here
- Dense of community
- Daily adoration
- Daily mass
- Proximity
- People
- Very welcoming
- Lots of opportunities
- It's my Parish!
- Spiritual food
- People
- Legacy
- Second family
- Very strong presence of the Holy Spirit
- Lots of things to do
- Geographical community
- Second home
- God told me to stay here
- Family feel
- Feeling of belonging
- Comfort
- General support
- Seeing people you worship with out in the community
- Feel like it's home ***
- Where I belong ***
- Way the Mass is presented
- Where would I go?
- Feel established
- Comfort
- Friendships
- Providence
- Relaxed ***
- Fell like Jesus lives here
- We started our family here and are growing our family here
- Location
- Because of School

What parts of our worship do you find particularly welcoming or not welcoming?

Welcoming

- You can reach out & touch someone
- Exchanging Sign of Peace
- Sign of Peace
- Support of members i.e., breakfasts, socials, funeral receptions
- Availability of Sacraments
- People/Staff are great
- Enjoy music
- Social hours
- Progression of seasons
- Father out front
- Things out front to make people stop & visit i.e., snacks
- Rosary before Mass
- Receiving of Communion
- Fr George is welcoming

Not welcoming

- Prefer offering pick up is not during Mass
- Fall short of being welcoming to people who we don't know
- Locked doors
- Don't like audio system
- Clear audio system
- Need new member Dinners
- Need welcome committee
- Get back to normal worship – move past Covid
- Some music doesn't hit me right
- Need more community events
- Hear more familiar songs
- Too easy to slip out of Mass / too easy to come & go
- Need updated music

Notes from April 11 Listening Session at St Paul

Welcoming

- So many familiar faces
- Comforting
- Nothing I dislike
- Most like the homily
- Attractiveness of the community
- Bringing back 9am children's mass ***
- Children's choir
- Move involvement of children in mass
- Readings
- School mass
- Attendance at daily mass
- 11am Children's Mass
- Indian music in Mass

Not welcoming

- More welcoming to visitors
- We need a young adult group
- Understanding Father from the pulpit
- Updated sound system
- Empty pews
- Need another date & time for adoration
- Parking lot is difficult
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What do you think would make St Paul attractive to people who are not members?

- Develop usher group
- Greeters
- Take down names of new members & contact info
- Welcoming event for new members
- Greeters
- Beauty of church
- Need to acknowledge people and get to know their names
- Checking on others
- Need newcomer committee
- Church doesn't take strong position one way or another
- Doing things outside of Liturgy which messes up quiet time
- Something for school age children who don't go to SPS
- Welcome packets
- Bring in more young families
- Youthful / joyful music
- Children's mass may bring in more families
- Event where this is a dinner and classes for children and adults during the week. Topics: financial, religious, city event – market to Navy base
- Bible study sessions
- Need to generate sense of obligation to attend
- More involvement in community events
- Family picnic event in Spring
- Contemporary service
- Open Parish Hall for various events
- Increase Baptism
- Socials after church – immediate events
- Praise & Worship
- Update of website with info
- Re-do Parrish director
- Games
- Increase student population ***