



US Congregational Life Survey

ST JOSEPH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2008
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT

649 total responses.
ID Number: R1077

You and Your Parish

1. How often do you go to Mass at this parish?

- 1% This is my first time
- 3% Hardly ever or special occasions only
- 1% Less than once a month
- 2% Once a month
- 6% Two or three times a month
- 73% Usually every week
- 14% More than once a week

2. How long have you been going to church at this parish?

- 5% Less than 1 year
- 10% 1-2 years
- 11% 3-5 years
- 16% 6-10 years
- 22% 11-20 years
- 33% More than 20 years
- 2% I am visiting from another parish or church
- 1% I am visiting and do not regularly go anywhere else

3. Are you currently a member of this parish?

- 86% Yes
- 2% No, but I'm in the process of becoming a member
- 7% No, but I regularly participate here
- 6% No

4. Are you regularly involved in any group activities here? (Mark all that apply.)

- 9% Yes, in adult faith formation programs or CCD classes
- 10% Yes, in other prayer, discussion, or Bible study groups
- 27% Yes, in clubs, social groups, or other types of groups
- 10% No, we have no group activities
- 54% No, I am not regularly involved in group activities

5. Do you regularly take part in any activities of this parish that reach out to the wider community (community service, social justice, advocacy, outreach, evangelization)? (Mark all that apply.)

- 18% Yes, in outreach or evangelization activities
- 8% Yes, in community service, social justice, or advocacy activities of this parish
- 11% No, we don't have such activities
- 67% No, I am not regularly involved

6. Do you currently have any of the following roles here? (Mark all that apply.)

- 14% Liturgical (Reader, Eucharistic minister, music minister, liturgy planning)
- 3% Sacramental (preparing children or adults for sacraments)
- 4% Education (teacher in parish programs or parish school)
- 5% Member of a leadership group (Parish Pastoral Council or Finance Council; parish fund-raising)
- 3% Leader of a group (prayer, discussion, Bible study, youth)
- 13% Other role not listed here
- 70% None

7. To what extent do the worship services or activities of this parish help you with everyday living?

- 57% A great extent
- 30% Some extent
- 7% A small extent
- 6% Not at all

About Your Faith

8. How often do you spend time in private devotional activities (such as prayer, meditation, reading the Bible alone)?

- 51% Every day or most days
- 16% A few times a week
- 3% Once a week
- 19% Occasionally
- 8% Hardly ever
- 3% Never



9. Over the last year, how much have you grown in your faith? (Mark only one.)

- 12% No real growth
- 40% Some growth
- 30% Much growth, mainly through this parish
- 7% Much growth, mainly through other groups or churches
- 11% Much growth, mainly through my own private activities

10. Which statement comes closest to your view of the Bible? (Mark only one.)

- 22% The Bible is the word of God, to be taken literally word for word
- 57% The Bible is the word of God, to be interpreted in the light of its historical context and the Church's teachings
- 13% The Bible is the word of God, to be interpreted in the light of its historical and cultural context
- 2% The Bible is not the word of God, but contains God's word to us
- 1% The Bible is not the word of God, but is a valuable book
- <1% The Bible is an ancient book with little value today
- 4% Don't know

11. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "All the different religions are equally good ways of helping a person find ultimate truth"?

- 14% Strongly agree
- 36% Agree
- 24% Neutral or unsure
- 18% Disagree
- 8% Strongly disagree

12. Do you agree or disagree: "My spiritual needs are being met in this parish"?

- 34% Strongly agree
- 53% Agree
- 10% Neutral or unsure
- 3% Disagree
- 1% Strongly disagree

13. Which one of the following best describes your readiness to talk to others about your faith? (Mark only one.)

- 1% I do not have faith, so the question is not applicable
- 12% I do not talk about my faith; my life and actions are sufficient
- 11% I find it hard to talk about my faith in ordinary language
- 61% I mostly feel at ease talking about my faith and do so if it comes up
- 16% I feel at ease talking about my faith and seek opportunities to do so

14. Have you ever had a conversion experience or a moment of decisive faith commitment?

- 39% Yes
- 36% No
- 25% Not sure

About Your Involvement

15. Are you involved in any community service, social service, or advocacy groups not connected to this parish? (Mark all that apply.)

- 26% Yes, social service or charity groups
- 4% Yes, advocacy, justice, or lobbying groups
- 72% No, I'm not involved with such groups

16. Would you be prepared to invite to a Mass here any of your friends and relatives who do not now go to church?

- 38% Yes, and I have done so in the past 12 months
- 41% Yes, but I have not done so in the past 12 months
- 11% No, probably not
- 1% No, definitely not
- 8% Don't know



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17. In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following? (Mark all that apply.)

- 24% Loaned money to someone outside your family
- 22% Cared for someone outside your family who was very sick
- 24% Helped someone outside your family find a job
- 44% Donated or prepared food for someone outside your family or parish
- 80% Will vote or did vote in the 2008 presidential election
- 74% Donated money to a charitable organization (other than this parish)
- 18% Worked with others to try to solve a community problem
- 15% Contacted an elected official about a public issue
- 10% Contributed money to a political party or candidate
- 5% Spoke at a decision-making meeting of this parish
- 4% Went on a mission or service trip

18. How satisfied are you with what is offered here for children and youth (less than 19 years of age)?

- 29% Very satisfied
- 41% Satisfied
- 8% Mixed feelings
- 2% Dissatisfied
- 1% Very dissatisfied
- 19% Not sure or not applicable

19. Do you have any close friends in this parish?

- 13% No, I have little contact with others from this parish outside of activities here
- 20% No, I have some friends in this parish, but my closest friends are not involved here
- 56% Yes, I have some close friends here as well as other close friends who are not part of this parish
- 11% Yes, most of my closest friends are part of this parish

20. Does this parish have a clear vision, goals, or direction for its ministry and mission?

- 16% I am not aware of such a vision, goals, or direction
- 12% There are ideas but no clear vision, goals, or direction
- 34% Yes, and I am strongly committed to them
- 26% Yes, and I am partly committed to them
- 11% Yes, but I am not committed to them

21. Which one statement best describes your involvement in the making of important decisions in this parish?

- 6% I have been given the opportunity and often participate in decision-making
- 12% I have been given the opportunity and occasionally get involved in decision-making
- 41% I have been given the opportunity but don't usually get involved in decision-making
- 32% I have not been given an opportunity to be involved and this is fine with me
- 8% I have not been given an opportunity to be involved and I am not happy about this

22. Do you have a strong sense of belonging to this parish?

- 42% Yes, a strong sense of belonging that is growing
- 33% Yes, a strong sense--about the same as last year
- 12% Yes, but perhaps not as strong as in the past
- 3% No, but I am new here
- 3% No, and I wish I did by now
- 4% No, but I am happy as I am
- 3% Not applicable

23. While you may value many different styles of music, which two of the following do you prefer at the Masses you attend? (Mark up to two.)

- 62% Traditional hymns
- 25% Choruses or praise music
- 25% Contemporary hymns
- 10% Other contemporary music or songs (not hymns)
- 12% Sung responsorial psalms and other parts of the Mass
- 7% Classical music or chorales
- 1% Contemplative chants (Taizé, Iona)
- 10% Music or songs from a variety of cultures
- 7% Gospel music
- 2% No music or songs
- 4% Don't know



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24. Do you agree or disagree: "In general, there is a good match between our parish and our pastor or pastoral leader"?

- 41% Strongly agree
- 39% Agree
- 13% Neutral or unsure
- 4% Disagree
- 2% Strongly disagree
- 1% There is currently no leader here

25. Which of the following aspects of this parish do you personally most value? (Mark up to three.)

- 12% Wider community care or social justice emphasis
- 14% Reaching those who do not attend church
- 40% Traditional style of worship or music
- 11% Contemporary style of worship or music
- 61% Celebrating the Eucharist or receiving Holy Communion
- 14% Social activities or meeting new people
- 39% Sermons or homilies
- 10% Bible study or prayer groups, other discussion groups
- 13% Ministry for children or youth
- 4% Prayer ministry for one another
- 9% Practical care for one another in times of need
- 16% The parish school or pre-school
- 7% Openness to social diversity
- 6% Adult faith education

26. Before you started coming to this parish, were you going to church anywhere else?

- 22% No, I've come here for most or all of my life
- 8% No, before coming here I had not been going to church for several years
- 4% No, before coming here I had never regularly attended
- 65% Yes, immediately prior to coming here, I was going to church somewhere else

27. Before you started coming here, what type of church did you attend? (Mark only one.)

- 78% Another Catholic parish
- <1% Assembly of God
- <1% Baptist
- <1% Episcopal
- 0% Lutheran
- 1% Methodist
- 0% Nazarene
- 1% Non-denominational
- 0% Pentecostal
- <1% Presbyterian
- 0% Seventh-day Adventist
- <1% United Church of Christ
- 4% Other
- 15% I did not attend another church before coming here

About You

28. Age of worshippers:

- 7% 15-24
- 22% 25-44
- 45% 45-64
- 26% 65 and above

29. Gender of worshippers:

- 62% Female
- 38% Male

30. What is your employment status? (Mark all that apply.)

- 52% Employed or self-employed full-time
- 14% Employed or self-employed part-time
- 3% Unemployed
- 23% Retired
- 6% Full-time homemaker
- 6% Student
- 3% Other



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31. What is the highest educational level you have completed? (reported for worshippers age 25 and older)

- <1% No formal schooling
- 1% Primary school through 8th grade (K-8)
- 4% Some high school
- 30% Completed high school
- 8% Trade certificate
- 12% Associate degree
- 24% Bachelor's degree from a university or college
- 20% Master's, Doctorate, or other graduate degree

32. What is your present marital status?

- 13% Never married
- 61% In first marriage
- 8% Remarried after divorce
- 1% Remarried after death of spouse
- 2% Living in a committed relationship
- 1% Separated
- 7% Divorced
- 7% Widowed

33. Do you have a spouse or partner who is also completing a survey here?

- 51% Yes
- 49% No

34. What is your race or origin? (Mark all that apply.)

- 2% Asian or Pacific Islander
- 1% Black or African American
- 13% Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- <1% Indian (American) or Alaska Native
- 85% White or Caucasian
- 3% Some other race

35. Where were you born?

- 86% In the United States
- 2% In another English-speaking country
- 12% In a non-English-speaking country

36. Where were your parents born?

- 62% Both born in the United States
- 5% Only father born in the United States
- 7% Only mother born in the United States
- 26% Both father and mother born in another country

37. Where did you live when you were 5 years old?

- 87% In the United States
- 13% In another country

38. When you were 5 years old, was English your primary language?

- 82% Yes
- 18% No

39. Which statement best describes the people who currently live in your household?

- 10% I live alone
- 28% A couple without children
- 5% One adult with child/children
- 46% Two or more adults with child/children
- 12% Some adults living in the same household

40. Most often reported ZIP codes of worshippers:

- 76% 6484
- 7% 6418
- 5% 6401
- 3% 6483
- 2% 6478
- 1% 6477
- 1% 6468
- 1% 6770
- 1% 6460
- 1% 6489

41. About how much do you give financially to this parish (not including school tuition)?

- 7% I give 10% or more of net income regularly
- 33% I give about 5% to 9% of net income regularly
- 33% I give less than 5% of net income regularly
- 19% I give a small amount whenever I am here
- 7% I do not contribute financially here



42. Which of the following describes your total annual household income before taxes?

- 5% Less than \$10,000
- 11% \$10,000 to \$24,999
- 23% \$25,000 to \$49,999
- 16% \$50,000 to \$74,999
- 16% \$75,000 to \$99,999
- 12% \$100,000 to \$124,999
- 8% \$125,000 to \$149,999
- 9% \$150,000 or more

43. Respondents with at least one household member: (adjusted for multiple responses per household)

- 9% Less than 6 years old
- 21% 6 to 12 years old
- 28% 13 to 18 years old
- 20% 19 to 24 years old
- 97% 25 years old or older

44. Respondents with at least one household member participating here: (adjusted for multiple responses per household)

- 8% Less than 6 years old
- 22% 6 to 12 years old
- 28% 13 to 18 years old
- 15% 19 to 24 years old
- 97% 25 years old or older

45. How many children of any age do you have, whether they live at home or elsewhere? (adjusted for multiple responses per household)

- 22% None
- 12% One
- 34% Two
- 16% Three
- 16% Four or more

46. How many of your children of any age live at home with you? (adjusted for multiple responses per household)

- 48% None
- 20% One
- 23% Two
- 6% Three
- 2% Four or more

Some Final Questions

47. Do you agree or disagree: "In the past year we have grown in unity and strength as a parish community"?

- 21% Strongly agree
- 51% Agree
- 23% Neutral or unsure
- 4% Disagree
- 1% Strongly disagree

48. Compared to 2 years ago, do you think you participate in activities of this parish more, less, or about the same amount as you did then?

- 24% Participate more
- 55% About the same participation
- 12% Participate less
- 9% Not applicable (been coming less than 2 years)

49. Have this parish's leaders encouraged you to find and use your gifts and skills here?

- 16% Yes, to a great extent
- 33% Yes, to some extent
- 20% Yes, to a small extent
- 18% Not at all
- 13% Don't know

50. How often do you experience the following during worship services at this congregation? (Always or Usually)

- 85% A sense of God's presence
- 73% Inspiration
- 7% Boredom
- 39% Awe or mystery
- 72% Joy
- 8% Frustration
- 30% Spontaneity
- 83% A sense of fulfilling my obligation

51. Do you agree or disagree: "Only followers of Jesus Christ can be saved"?

- 20% Strongly agree
- 25% Agree
- 24% Neutral or unsure
- 25% Disagree
- 7% Strongly disagree



52. Of the following, which one best describes your opinion of the future directions of this parish?

- 12% We need to get back to the way we did things in the past
- 23% We are faithfully maintaining past directions
- 13% We are currently deciding on new directions
- 21% We are currently moving in new directions
- 11% We need to rethink where we are heading
- 3% Our future is very unclear or doubtful
- 18% Don't know

53. How long does it usually take you to get here?

- 28% 1-5 minutes
- 40% 6-10 minutes
- 18% 11-15 minutes
- 9% 16-20 minutes
- 2% 21-30 minutes
- 1% More than 30 minutes

54. Over the last two years, has there been any conflict in this parish? (Mark only one.)

- 59% No conflict that I am aware of
- 18% Some minor conflict
- 2% Major conflict
- 2% Major conflict, with leaders or people leaving
- 19% Don't know

55. How important is this parish community in your life?

- 29% Extremely important
- 34% Very important
- 23% Quite important
- 14% A little important
- 1% Not at all important

56. To what extent does the pastor or pastoral leader here take into account the ideas of those who worship here?

- 35% A great extent
- 33% Some extent
- 10% A small extent
- 3% Not at all
- 20% Don't know
- <1% There is currently no leader here

57. Which of the following is the best description of the style of leadership of your pastor, minister, or priest?

- 26% Leadership that tends to take charge
- 40% Leadership that inspires people to take action
- 16% Leadership that acts on goals that people here have been involved in setting
- 1% Leadership where the people start most things
- 2% There is currently no leader here
- 15% Don't know

58. Do you agree or disagree: "God is directly involved in worldly affairs"?

- 40% Strongly agree
- 40% Agree
- 16% Neutral or unsure
- 3% Disagree
- 1% Strongly disagree
- 1% I don't believe in God

59. Do you agree or disagree: "God is angered by human sin"?

- 33% Strongly agree
- 40% Agree
- 14% Neutral or unsure
- 9% Disagree
- 3% Strongly disagree
- <1% I don't believe in God

60. Which of the following terms best describes your current stand on theological issues?

- 11% Very conservative
- 47% Conservative
- 32% Right in the middle
- 8% Liberal
- 1% Very liberal