Parish Profile St Pius X

Diocesan Survey - spring 2024

Respondents 224 out of parish attendees list of 420

Demographics in comparison with Diocesan average – (20,005 responses)

St Pius has more people in the over 65 category but has similar in the 18 to 35. Our smaller group is in the 35 to 64 age group. We have more single individuals, and fewer immigrants. About half of our parishioners have been with the parish over 21 years. This increases to 80% if you include all those who have been with the parish over 6 years.

Pastoral Priority #1 - Forming Missionary Disciples

In comparison to the diocese at large, a large percentage of our parish believe their faith practice and spiritual growth has remained the same. (49%) with 46% stating it is improved. We have high participation in prayer, and daily mass. Average participation in reading scripture and retreats. And lower participation in bible study, Rosary, Reconciliation and Eucharistic adoration. The three top elements of parish life that had the greatest impact on their faith practice were mass, receiving holy communion and prayer. This mirrors the diocesan responses.

Our knowledge of basic tenets of the Catholic faith is generally high. We have less confidence in the statements

1. I believe the sacraments are necessary for our salvation
2. I believe the church with its teaching authority is essential to my relationship with God

There is strong agreement that our parish supports education in the faith and celebrating a spiritual experience at mass including the homily

Sharing the gospel in multiple ways is generally done through demonstrating my faith through actions of charity and offering to pray for someone. Our parish encourages the respondents to share their time, talent and treasures but there is less confidence in our parish helping to share the faith directly through sharing the story of Jesus or explaining Catholic beliefs and practices.

Pastoral Priority #2 - Be a Church of Encounter and Witness

Our parish mirrors the diocese in finding our parish a safe and welcoming place to practice the faith. We also mirror the diocese in being less confident in our parish support for finding friends in the parish, promoting vocations, and learning about indigenous communities. Our parishioners are very happy with our communication (97%)

The qualities of leadership that are exemplified within St Pius X leadership are identified as People oriented, spiritual and Joy filled. These differ from those at the diocesan level where servant oriented is recognized more highly and people oriented less.

Our leadership is seen to include individuals of all ages and diverse ethnic and cultural roles. We are held back from leadership positions because of the busyness of our lives. We have a higher number of parishioners who find health issues are a barrier to involvement.

We see ourselves as reaching out to the wider community through support for those experiencing poverty and supporting the missions. We are less certain of the events to invite others to experience the faith through events or targeted outreach to inactive Catholics.

Pastoral Priority #3 - Strengthening Family Life

We see ourselves as a parish that provides pastoral care for individuals who are homebound, sick or dying. We also see ourselves as strong in protecting those who are vulnerable. We are seen to accompany people at all stages of life.

We are less sure that we offer ways for families to celebrate faith at home. We identify a weakness in providing accommodations and pastoral care for those with disabilities.

Only 13% of our respondents had children under the age of 18 compare with 29% in the Diocese. Our respondents agreed that our parish supports their efforts in teaching their children and forming the faith. Of note there was more support from the parish than the schools. Our respondents also had a stronger response to forming their children and influencing their religious choices.

St Pius X parishioner aspired to the following three goals in strengthening family life

Engaging families and youth meaningfully; practicing the faith’ and accompanying people at all stages of life. The third goal is not among the top goals at the diocesan level.