



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Summary of Input Sessions

10 Willow Avenue • Baltimore, Maryland 21206 • 410-665-1054 • www.smaparish.org

Question 1 - From your perspective, what are those areas of our parish that you are most impressed with?

- 5 Contemporary Mass (should be promoted in the community.)
- 5 Buildings and grounds well kept.
- 3 Driveway great
- 2 School - students and faculty
 - Adult Education (need more in the summer)
 - Outreach to Latino Community - welcoming gesture to go
 - Very friendly and welcoming Spanish community
- 3 Children and adult programs
- 2 Priest acknowledges people after Mass.
- 8 Interior of Church.
 - Temperature of church - good.
- 5 Welcoming.
- 2 Comforting.
- 3 Children went to school here.
 - Former Parish Council member.
- 2 Well-rounded
 - Youthful
- 3 Amazed at amount of programs
- 3 Working together
- 4 liturgy well planned to make lives more fruitful.
 - No disgruntled words.
 - Church has nice acoustics.
- 3 Thoughtfulness of Pastor's words.
 - Positive comments about CCD and other religious programs.
 - Liturgy well planned to make lives more fruitful.
 - Music
- 2 Invitation
- 2 Children's liturgy of the word
- 2 11:30 contemporary music ensemble Mass
 - General spirit of the Mass
 - Family oriented feel
- 3 Feels like home
 - People open up about themselves, if asked.
 - Can tell quality and type of student comes from here.
- 2 Clergy team is excellent.
 - Ministers are excellent, also.

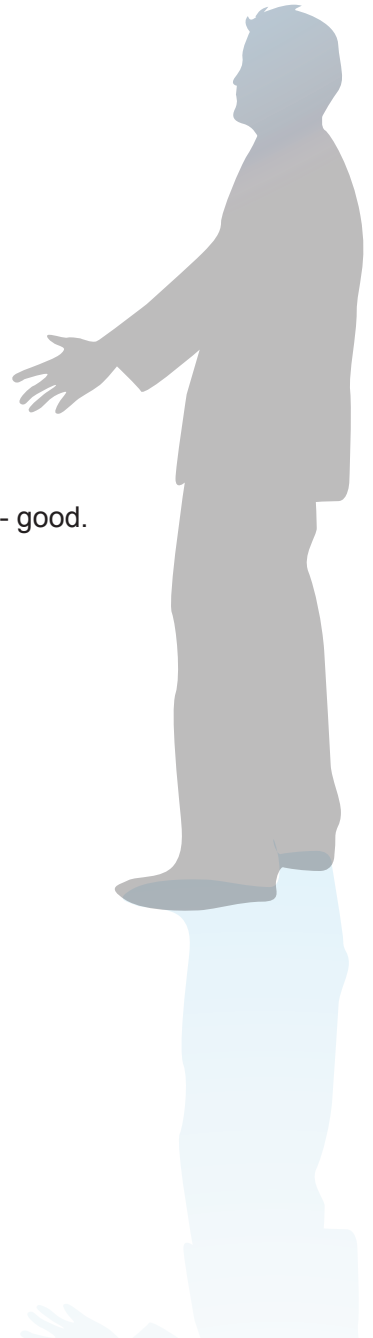


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- 5 Liturgy and Masses on Sunday - traditional and welcoming.
- 5 Welcome committee
 - Turnout at Mass
- 3 School program and GLP, as well as other programs such as Scouts.
- 5 Mass offerings (i.e. folk and kid Masses)
 - Statue of Mary
 - Parish Center
 - Stop light at Belair Road
 - Parking
- 2 Be sensitive to requests for money (particularly given the current economic environment).
- 2 Improve/increase electronic communications
 - Bazaar.
 - Charity outreach
 - Helpful - accessible
 - Spanish Mass.
- 2 Old church - school attached.
 - Coffee and donuts
 - Friendly community
- 2 Fr. Proffitt very approachable.
 - Little better for the handicapped.
 - Different age groups - diversity.
 - Explanation classes for those who did not attend Catholic school - good.
 - RCIA
 - Staff





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Question 2- In regards to how we welcome, invite, and make people feel “wanted” here in the parish, please comment on what experiences you may have had.

Welcoming Committee I.D. badges are not large enough.

Fr. Proffitt knows a lot of people by name

Need pamphlet rack in the back of church

Acoustical problem with pulpit mike.

Parking area in front of school a great improvement

Need quiet area for small children

Should have more activity for children when they go into the sacristy during the Gospel at 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Baby sitting room in the Youth Room during Mass.

Coffee after Mass gives newcomers a chance to meet.

Parish directory not published.

Send parishioners a directory of committees.

Have always felt welcome

Gathering of Catholic families - Spaghetti Dinner wonderful

Letters addressed personally to individuals appreciated.

Ushers greet people well (4:00 p.m. Mass)

Ushers don't greet until you speak to them (4:00 p.m. Mass)

Difficult to say hello to those we do not know

Pancake Breakfast suggested.

Grandparents Day

Greeted warmly

Wonder how they pick people to bring up gifts.

People ask how someone is doing if they noticed they had been absent from church.

Dick Davis is very welcoming

New members reassuring

Children's liturgy

Fr. Jim's letters welcoming new parishioners inviting

Letters and telephone calls welcoming

Priest outside of church welcoming people after Mass.

Fr. Jim and Deacons Henry and Gonzalo are outside after Mass - even at Masses they don't celebrate.

Fr. Jim is a hands on Pastor and exhibits exuberance.

People/scouts outside of the parish seem to know St. Michael's - Overlea.

School and geography nice

Values are instilled here

Grounds/landscaping/facilities



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Environment good for the kids/feel part of the parish
Greeters and Welcoming Committee - great
Accommodating (i.e. when it comes to Baptisms
Spanish service
Number of Masses.
Youth Group - outreach
Functions not well attended because both parents work
Received personal cards - Baptism, First Communion
Easy to register
Prayer group to pray with the dying
Parishioner to visit other sick parishioner in hospital
Rids to hospital/doctor
Simple Lenten meals
Spaghetti Dinner success - brought everyone together
Need more community food sharing
Community spirit lacking
Invitations to come see us - lacking. Input Session invite good
Why have you stopped coming to Church. No one asked.
Homilies: Thrown out all responsibility rules/ accountability,
too much love others, help others, tell people they do not
have to have responsibility, needs balance.
Fr. Proffitt not very approachable
Bulletin - welcome new family
Announcement of gatherings
Student involvement
JoAnn Ibex wonderful
Music welcoming.





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Question 3- What advice and recommendations do you have for us to improve this area of welcoming, greeting, involving and engaging more people into the life of our parish.

- No group recognition for young families
- 2 Announcements from pulpit before Mass recognizing the Holy Name and Sodality members at their Mass on the first Sunday of the month.
- 3 Recognize new parishioners by asking if any are present or make an announcement
Have a "new parishioner" pew
Why? Catholic a good program. Another way to meet people
Need clipboards at further input sessions
- 4 More activities for families with young children
More sensitive mike at the podium
- 2 More community involvement Homilies on web site (verbal and/or written)
Keep being a friendly parish to everyone
From the pulpit, everyone should be encouraged to greet others
Involve students in greeting process
Best education (from the school)
- 2 Invite someone to speak from the pulpit about an upcoming program - more people would participate.
- 3 Need program for people with drug and alcohol addiction
St. Joseph's has nice message on their sign
Sound system difficult in church
Speakers need to speak clearly and project
- 3 Programs need to be scheduled to consider the elderly - daytime.
Carpool/bus needed from Abingdon for school students needed
- 2 Fundraiser - Pancake breakfast
- 3 Baseball/softball volleyball team in school/parish
Outings for altar servers/sacristans - volleyball in the gym, trips
Public Relations to the community to draw people in
- 3 Signage promoting events
Reach out to diverse population
Fundraiser - Flea Market
Sell stuff for reasonable prices - Grandma's Attic
Substance abuse help needed ; known to be ignored in one instance
School should handle substance abuse
School should educate parents
Invite parents into the school/parish to see changes, etc.
- 2 Offer rides to people who need them
Keep events consistent dates each year



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- 3 Volunteers needed
 - Keep the ushers on the job
 - Upgrade gym kitchen
 - Grandparents aid teachers
- 2 Let all who are at Mass know they are equal and should not wait for someone else to be friendly first.
 - Fundraiser - dinner
 - Need to educate Catholic faith - How should Catholics share their faith?
 - Some ministries need to be brought out into the open - maybe spotlight a different group in the bulletin each week
 - The youth, especially the Girl Scouts, need to be promoted
 - Mail bulletin to the community
 - Parish is as healthy as the community
 - Why are people sending their children elsewhere (like St. Joseph's Fullerton) when they live close to here? Don't want what happened at other schools (St. Anthony's and Most Precious Blood) to happen here.
 - It seems that St. Michael's is hardly mentioned in the Catholic Review and other media
- 2 Advertise what we have in the community.
 - Need more interests listed in the parish registration - like the parish survey
 - Find out about projects that need to be done in the parish
 - Find out parishioners' skills
 - Need way to find people who don't have listed skills who want to help
 - Call goes out to parents of baptized children who made need help with baby sitting
 - Meet and greet introductory activities (at the beginning of meetings)
 - Increase advertising and news
- 3 Youth group for high school kids
 - Adult get-togethers and dinners
- 2 Welcoming guests at Mass
- 2 Quiet room for children
 - Class reunions at St. Michael's
- 2 Have people at every Mass for greeting
 - Silence cell phones and pagers, perhaps announce it prior to starting
- 2 Visit new members personally - invite personally
 - Health fair - flu shots
 - Practical workshops - cooking, woodworking, etc.
 - Update we bsite
 - Monthly reception for new members
 - Youth group needs to be more community active



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Offer room after funeral for reception where church provides ice and cups and volunteers serve catered food. Have list of caterers

Have ushers for large, known funerals

Overlea Community Assn - no St. Michael's representation (2nd Tuesday/month)

Negative comments about Spanish/English Mass combination

Demographics changing in St. Michael's Church?

Time limit on homilies

Conversation/debate with Pastor based on Sunday homily

Sunday evening Mass

General bus tours

