



## Thriving Parish Assessment Tool

### REPORT – ALL PARTICIPANTS

TOTAL RESPONSES: 102

The Thriving Parish Assessment utilizes the 13 characteristics of parish thriving, drawn from research studies and the vision of the Church, as benchmarks to assist our discernment about the future of our parish community. For each of the thirteen characteristics, we are asking you to rate two things:

1. How **important** is the characteristic for the life of our parish community? (Low importance means that you believe the parish will be healthy without this characteristic; high importance means that the parish, in your opinion, cannot thrive without this characteristic.)  
On a scale of 1 to 5: 1 = low importance; 5 = high importance
2. How **effectively**, in your opinion, is the parish currently implementing the characteristic in its life and ministries? (poor means that it is hard to tell that this characteristic matters to the parish; excellent means that any observant visitor would be able to see that this characteristic is important to the parish.)  
On a scale of 1 to 5: 1 = poor; 5 = excellent

Please skip any questions that you don't know how to answer.

#### Before the merger, I was a member of...

- 46 - Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
- 55 - St. Joseph Parish
- 1 - No response

#### Select the one that best identifies your role at the parish.

- 44 - I attend church, but I don't participate in any other ministries.
- 45 - I volunteer for one or more ministries, but I am not the designated leader of any ministry.
- 8 - I am a volunteer leader of at least one ministry.
- 2 - I am a paid staff person.
- 3 - Other:

Importance	Characteristic	Implementation	Gap
4.53	1. Members of all ages have access to religious education that helps them follow the way of Jesus in their daily lives.	3.73	0.80
4.49	2. The parish creates a powerful experience of God in worship through meaningful rituals, relevant preaching, and inspiring music.	4.01	0.48
3.94	3. Members are encouraged and empowered to apply their faith in God to the way they view and respond to local, national, and international events.	3.39	0.55
4.21	4. The parish makes it easy for unaffiliated persons, moderately affiliated persons, and full members to participate in parish ministries.	3.79	0.42

4.48	5. There is a strong leadership team led by an effective Pastor who together equip and empower volunteer leaders and leadership teams in the parish.	3.77	0.71
4.35	6. The parish has a reliable and proven system for planning and decision-making.	3.62	0.72
4.22	7. The parish displays a willingness to be innovative and adaptive in its response to changing times and circumstances.	3.57	0.65
4.42	8. The parish engages dynamically with its neighbors through volunteer service, generous giving, and formal partnerships with outside organizations to address real needs.	4.06	0.36
4.52	9. The parish has a strong commitment to hospitality and safety for children and vulnerable adults.	4.03	0.49
4.17	10. The parish is committed to justice, to being open to diversity, and to keeping its focus on caring for the needs of the world's most vulnerable populations.	3.77	0.40
4.05	11. The parish communicates a strong sense of its identity in terms of its history, its current mission and values, and its vision.	3.58	0.47
4.23	12. The parish uses a wide variety of digital media to communicate its message.	4.13	0.10
4.10	13. The parish is committed to listening and learning in both individual interactions and community development.	3.54	0.57

**Please feel free to add any comments on any of the characteristics that you would like to share with the planning team. Please identify the characteristic by its number in your comments.** 18 responses

I gave a 1 for implementation of characteristic #2 because we need a new sound system. The music, rituals, and preaching are all good, but you can't always hear what is being said. It's either a need for a new sound system, or better training for those who don't know how to use a microphone, especially women and children. Men usually do well.

#6: just as doctors are not equipped to make business decisions, clergy are not. Financial decisions should benefit community before parish.

Very pleased with St. Joseph Parish, adoration, garden, and pre-school. Wish Saturday mass would change to 4:00 pm. Thank you..

We need to improve our communication.

I think we are doing a great job of combining parishes

#7. More efforts to bring in none Catholics and none practicing Catholics into the faith residing in Austintown.

I don't think it's right to change our name. I am not happy with this at all! I understand merging to 2 parishes but not to change the name! To me it'll always be St. Joseph!

I attend mass mostly online and follow our Facebook page and to me it seems like Facebook is only focused on IHM and not St Joseph. I am a St Joseph parishioner and have no interest in IHM and am really disappointed that IHM is all I ever read about. I guess I wouldn't feel this way if it wasn't so obvious that IHM is the focus. I do not understand why there cannot be one church? My daughter attends CCD and now I have a hard time getting her there because she does not like CCD anymore. She tells me every Sunday how CCD is not the same.

All Participants, P2

#1: As long as Mass is available location does not matter to the newer generations moving forward.

#13: I spoke to many leaders on implementing ideas but fell on deaf ears. They say yes but that's it!

11 & 12. I was very confused about how the merger was going to be implemented. It seems to be evolving, but it's definitely a work in progress. Appreciate the planning team's request for input. Thank you.

The parish needs to engage young adults, families and working adults. Most programs are offered during the day when many people are working or attending school.

#12 - Older parishioners do not use digital media

I love IHM however the merge of certain ministries were very difficult for me and my family. The CCD merge in particular. As much as a welcoming merge was encouraged, it did not happen that way. Also I do not feel that St Blaise has enough ministries geared towards young parishioners. They are the future of our church yet there are not many ministries for them and quite frankly they are not always welcomed. As a church, we need to welcome them and accept them for who they are. There have been many teenagers who have been looked down upon because of either the way they dress when they come to church or because of their sexual orientation. For example, a post was put up about what the parishioners did during the summer. A parishioners comment was deleted due to the fact that it showed them with a pride flag behind them. As a church and as Pope Francis says all are welcome. I think we need to show it because that's what we preach!!!

What are we doing for our teenagers? After Confirmation, we rarely see some of these teens.

#10 sounds like a current day comment. Yes we need to care for others but no politics should be involved. Side comment- wish we would pray also for the religious women who have guided us for years. Also why were we not praying for the Pope's health every week before he passed. We thought that was strange.

The parish has lost its identity, is not cohesive to its parishioners and is now modeled on after St. Joseph's and not I H M and its Traditions.

Been a member since 1956. Married here 1966. At age 80 I am not involved as when I was younger

Start up Bingo

All Participants, P3