

In December of 2025, Eric Clark spoke to the St. Blaise parishioners about the work of the planning team. He helped parishioners understand the nature and content of the team's work and urged their ongoing participation in the planning process. It was a snowy weekend with low Mass attendance, but we still received 112 responses on a short survey that invited parishioners to prioritize five strategic directions the parish intends to take that are proven to help Catholic parishes thrive in these times of rapid church decline.

The following are the five plan categories Eric asked parishioners to prioritize on a 1-5 scale with 1 being the highest priority and 5 being the lowest priority:

Listed in priority order...

1. Opening our doors and being more welcoming to people who have found it difficult to accept the Catholic Church
2. Developing leaders in the church who listen and respond effectively to parishioners and the community around us
3. Developing religious education opportunities for all age groups
4. Using our outward reaching faith to help Austintown become a stronger community for all of its citizens and visitors
5. Learning how to interpret current events through our faith

SURVEY STATISTICS:

Total of 112 responses including both churches (67 from St. Joe and 45 from IHM)					
	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4	Cat 5
Both Churches total Scores	277	283	346	361	413
Both Churches Average	3.1	3.2	3.9	4.1	4.7

