

**2008 US Congregational Life Survey: Your Congregation's Responses**

R1046: Church of Holy Apostles, McHenry, IL  
1,312 worshipers in your congregation completed surveys

Thank you for taking part in this survey. Your answers will be kept completely anonymous. Fill in one circle per question unless instructed otherwise.

**You and Your Parish**

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

This is my first time .....	3%
Hardly ever or special occasions only.....	4%
Less than once a month.....	2%
Once a month .....	2%
Two or three times a month .....	16%
Usually every week.....	61%
More than once a week .....	12%

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

Less than 1 year .....	9%
1-2 years.....	15%
3-5 years.....	15%
6-10 years.....	23%
11-20 years.....	32%
More than 20 years.....	1%
I am visiting from another parish or church.....	4%
I am visiting and do not regularly go anywhere else .....	1%

Q-3. Are you currently a member of this parish?

Yes .....	77%
No, but I'm in the process of becoming a member .....	4%
No, but I regularly participate here .....	8%
No.....	11%

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

Yes, in adult faith formation programs or CCD classes.....	12%
Yes, in other prayer, discussion, or Bible study groups.....	19%
Yes, in clubs, social groups, or other types of groups.....	24%
No, we have no group activities.....	11%
No, I am not regularly involved in group activities .....	49%

Q-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.) ♦

Yes, in outreach or evangelization activities.....	18%
Yes, in community service, social justice, or advocacy activities of this parish .....	13%
No, we don't have such activities .....	7%
No, I am not regularly involved.....	68%

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- Q-6. Do you currently have any of the following roles here? (Mark **all** that apply.) ♦
- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| Liturgical (Reader, Eucharistic minister, music minister, liturgy planning).....                       | 18% |
| 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;<br>parish fund-raising)..... | 3%  |
| Leader of a group (prayer, discussion, Bible study, youth).....  | 5%  |
| Other role not listed here (specify): _____.....   | 14% |
| None.....  | 65% |
- Q-7. To what extent do the worship services or activities of this parish help you with everyday living?
- |                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| A great extent..... | 55% |
| Some extent.....    | 32% |
| A small extent..... | 8%  |
| Not at all.....     | 5%  |

### About Your Faith

- Q-8. How often do you spend time in private devotional activities (such as prayer, meditation, reading the Bible alone)?
- |                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Every day or most days..... | 47% |
| A few times a week.....     | 20% |
| Once a week.....            | 7%  |
| Occasionally.....           | 17% |
| Hardly ever.....            | 6%  |
| Never.....                  | 2%  |
- Q-9. Over the last year, how much have you grown in your faith? (Mark only **one**.)
- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| No real growth.....  | 8%  |
| Some growth.....   | 42% |
| Much growth, mainly through <b>this</b> parish.....        | 33% |
| Much growth, mainly through other groups or churches.....  | 5%  |
| Much growth, mainly through my own private activities..... | 11% |
- Q-10. Which statement comes closest to your view of the Bible? (Mark only **one**.)
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| The Bible is the word of God, to be taken literally word for word.....  | 16% |
| The Bible is the word of God, to be interpreted in the light of its<br>historical context and the Church's teachings..... | 63% |
| The Bible is the word of God, to be interpreted in the light of its<br>historical and cultural context.....               | 14% |
| The Bible is not the word of God, but contains God's word to us.....  | 3%  |
| The Bible is not the word of God, but is a valuable book.....   | 1%  |
| The Bible is an ancient book with little value today.....   | *   |
| Don't know.....   | 4%  |

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Q-11. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: “All the different religions are equally good ways of helping a person find ultimate truth”?	
Strongly agree .....	16%
Agree.....	35%
Neutral or unsure.....	22%
Disagree .....	21%
Strongly disagree .....	6%
Q-12. Do you agree or disagree: “My spiritual needs are being met in this parish”?	
Strongly agree .....	39%
Agree.....	46%
Neutral or unsure.....	12%
Disagree .....	2%
Strongly disagree .....	1%
Q-13. Which one of the following best describes your readiness to talk to others about your faith? (Mark only <i>one</i> .)	
I do not have faith, so the question is not applicable .....	1%
I do not talk about my faith; my life and actions are sufficient .....	10%
I find it hard to talk about my faith in ordinary language .....	12%
I mostly feel at ease talking about my faith and do so if it comes up .....	60%
I feel at ease talking about my faith and seek opportunities to do so.....	18%
Q-14. Have you ever had a conversion experience or a moment of decisive faith commitment?	
Yes .....	48%
No .....	28%
Not sure.....	24%

**About Your Involvement**

Q-15. Are you involved in any community service, social service, or advocacy groups <i>not</i> connected to this parish? (Mark <i>all</i> that apply.)	◆
Yes, social service or charity groups .....	29%
Yes, advocacy, justice, or lobbying groups .....	4%
No, I’m not involved with such groups.....	70%
Q-16. Would you be prepared to invite to a Mass here any of your friends and relatives who do not now go to church?	
Yes, and I have done so in the past 12 months .....	46%
Yes, but I have not done so in the past 12 months.....	38%
No, probably not .....	8%
No, definitely not .....	1%
Don’t know .....	6%

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Q-17.	In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following? (Mark <i>all</i> that apply.)	◆
	Loaned money to someone outside your family .....	32%
	Cared for someone outside your family who was very sick .....	18%
	Helped someone outside your family find a job .....	28%
	Donated or prepared food for someone outside your family or parish .....	50%
	Will vote or did vote in the 2008 presidential election .....	78%
	Donated money to a charitable organization (other than this parish) .....	72%
	Worked with others to try to solve a community problem.....	18%
	Contacted an elected official about a public issue .....	18%
	Contributed money to a political party or candidate.....	9%
	Spoke at a decision-making meeting of this parish.....	6%
	Went on a mission or service trip.....	6%
Q-18.	How satisfied are you with what is offered here for children and youth (less than 19 years of age)?	
	Very satisfied .....	35%
	Satisfied .....	34%
	Mixed feelings .....	7%
	Dissatisfied.....	1%
	Very dissatisfied.....	*
	Not sure or not applicable .....	23%
Q-19.	Do you have any close friends in this parish?	
	No, I have little contact with others from this parish outside of activities here.....	16%
	No, I have some friends in this parish, but my closest friends are not involved here .....	21%
	Yes, I have some close friends here as well as other close friends who are not part of this parish .....	53%
	Yes, most of my closest friends are part of this parish .....	10%
Q-20.	Does this parish have a clear vision, goals, or direction for its ministry and mission?	
	I am not aware of such a vision, goals, or direction.....	13%
	There are ideas but no clear vision, goals, or direction.....	7%
	Yes, and I am strongly committed to them .....	32%
	Yes, and I am partly committed to them .....	34%
	Yes, but I am not committed to them.....	15%
Q-21.	Which <i>one</i> statement best describes your involvement in the making of important decisions in this parish?	
	I have been given the opportunity and often participate in decision-making .....	5%
	I have been given the opportunity and occasionally get involved in decision-making.....	14%
	I have been given the opportunity but don't usually get involved in decision-making .....	44%
	I have <i>not</i> been given an opportunity to be involved and this is fine with me .....	30%
	I have <i>not</i> been given an opportunity to be involved and I am not happy about this .....	7%

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Q-22.	Do you have a strong sense of belonging to this parish?	
	Yes, a strong sense of belonging that is growing.....	42%
	Yes, a strong sense—about the same as last year .....	27%
	Yes, but perhaps not a strong as in the past .....	10%
	No, but I am new here.....	6%
	No, and I wish I did by now.....	4%
	No, but I am happy as I am.....	5%
	Not applicable.....	6%
Q-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 <i>two</i> .)	◆
	Traditional hymns.....	47%
	Choruses or praise music.....	32%
	Contemporary hymns.....	35%
	Other contemporary music or songs (not hymns).....	17%
	Sung responsorial psalms and other parts of the Mass .....	11%
	Classical music or chorales.....	7%
	Contemplative chants (Taizé, Iona).....	1%
	Music or songs from a variety of cultures.....	9%
	Gospel music.....	7%
	No music or songs.....	1%
	Don't know .....	5%
Q-24.	Do you agree or disagree: “In general, there is a good match between our parish and our pastor or pastoral leader”?	
	Strongly agree.....	67%
	Agree.....	23%
	Neutral or unsure.....	8%
	Disagree.....	1%
	Strongly disagree.....	*
	There is currently no leader here.....	*
Q-25.	Which of the following aspects of this parish do you personally most value? (Mark up to <i>three</i> .)	◆
	Wider community care or social justice emphasis.....	22%
	Reaching those who do not attend church .....	16%
	Traditional style of worship or music .....	20%
	Contemporary style of worship or music.....	24%
	Celebrating the Eucharist or receiving Holy Communion.....	57%
	Social activities or meeting new people.....	11%
	Sermons or homilies .....	37%
	Bible study or prayer groups, other discussion groups .....	11%
	Ministry for children or youth.....	18%
	Prayer ministry for one another .....	10%
	Practical care for one another in times of need.....	11%
	The parish school or pre-school.....	6%
	Openness to social diversity.....	10%
	Adult faith education.....	7%

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

No, I've come here for most or all of my life .....	4%
No, before coming here I had not been going to church for several years.....	10%
No, before coming here I had never regularly attended.....	6%
Yes, immediately prior to coming here, I was going to church somewhere else.....	80%

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

Another Catholic parish .....	88%
Assembly of God .....	*
Baptist .....	1%
Episcopal.....	*
Lutheran .....	2%
Methodist .....	1%
Nazarene .....	—
Non-denominational .....	2%
Pentecostal .....	*
Presbyterian.....	*
Seventh-day Adventist.....	—
United Church of Christ.....	*
Other (please specify): _____ .....	2%
I did not attend another church before coming here .....	5%

**About You**

Q-28. In what year were you born?

Age (years)	
15-24.....	10%
25-44.....	33%
45-64.....	38%
65 and older .....	20%

Q-29. Are you . . .

Female.....	62%
Male .....	38%

Q-30. What is your employment status? (Mark *all* that apply.) ♦

Employed or self-employed <i>full-time</i> .....	51%
Employed or self-employed <i>part-time</i> .....	16%
Unemployed.....	4%
Retired.....	18%
Full-time homemaker.....	9%
Student .....	7%
Other (please specify) : _____ .....	3%

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Q-31.	What is the <i>highest</i> educational level you have completed?	
	No formal schooling .....	1%
	Primary school through 8th grade (K-8) .....	4%
	Some high school .....	3%
	Completed high school .....	32%
	Trade certificate .....	8%
	Associate degree .....	13%
	Bachelor's degree from a university or college .....	25%
	Master's, Doctorate, or other graduate degree .....	14%
Q-32.	What is your present marital status? (Mark only <i>one</i> .)	
	Never married .....	12%
	In first marriage.....	60%
	Remarried after divorce .....	10%
	Remarried after death of spouse.....	1%
	Living in a committed relationship .....	4%
	Separated.....	1%
	Divorced.....	6%
	Widowed.....	6%
Q-33.	Do you have a spouse or partner who is also completing a survey here?	
	Yes .....	51%
	No.....	49%
Q-34.	What is your race or origin? (Mark <i>all</i> that apply.)	◆
	Asian or Pacific Islander .....	2%
	Black or African American .....	*
	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin .....	16%
	Indian (American) or Alaska Native .....	1%
	White or Caucasian .....	82%
	Some other race (please specify) : _____ .....	1%
Q-35.	Where were you born?	
	In the United States.....	83%
	In another English-speaking country .....	2%
	In a non-English-speaking country .....	16%
Q-36.	Where were <i>your parents</i> born?	
	Both born in the United States .....	72%
	Only father born in the United States.....	2%
	Only mother born in the United States.....	4%
	Both father and mother born in another country .....	22%
Q-37.	Where did you live when you were 5 years old?	
	In the United States.....	84%
	In another country .....	16%

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Q-38.	When you were 5 years old, was English your primary language?	
	Yes .....	81%
	No.....	19%
Q-39.	Which statement <i>best</i> describes the people who <i>currently</i> live in your household?	
	I live alone.....	10%
	A couple without children.....	26%
	One adult with child/children.....	4%
	Two or more adults with child/children.....	51%
	Some adults living in the same household.....	9%
Q-40.	What is the ZIP Code where you live?	
	[Tabulated separately]	
Q-41.	About how much do you give financially to this parish ( <i>not including school tuition</i> )?	
	I give 10% or more of net income regularly .....	7%
	I give about 5% to 9% of net income regularly .....	28%
	I give less than 5% of net income regularly.....	33%
	I give a small amount whenever I am here .....	24%
	I do not contribute financially here.....	8%
Q-42.	Which of the following describes your total annual household income before taxes?	+
	Less than \$10,000 .....	6%
	\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....	12%
	\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	19%
	\$50,000 to \$74,999 .....	22%
	\$75,000 to \$99,999 .....	16%
	\$100,000 to \$124,999 .....	13%
	\$125,000 to \$149,999 .....	5%
	\$150,000 or more.....	7%
Q-43.	How many people in your household (including you) are:	
	Respondents with at least one household member:	◆
	Less than 6 years old.....	16%
	6 to 12 years old.....	30%
	13 to 18 years old.....	31%
	19 to 24 years old.....	16%
	25 years old or older .....	94%
Q-44.	How many people in your household (including you) participate here:	
	Respondents with at least one household member who participates here:	◆, +
	Less than 6 years old.....	16%
	6 to 12 years old.....	28%
	13 to 18 years old.....	29%
	19 to 24 years old.....	10%
	25 years old or older .....	94%

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Q-45. How many children of any age do you have, whether they live at home or elsewhere?

Number of children

0 .....	19%
1 .....	11%
2 .....	27%
3 .....	22%
4 or more.....	21%

Q-46. How many of your children of any age *live at home* with you?

Number of children

0 .....	46%
1 .....	18%
2 .....	18%
3 .....	12%
4 or more.....	7%

**Some Final Questions**

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

+

Strongly agree .....	28%
Agree.....	46%
Neutral or unsure.....	23%
Disagree .....	3%
Strongly disagree .....	*

Q-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?

+

Participate more .....	28%
About the same participation .....	45%
Participate less .....	14%
Not applicable (been coming less than 2 years).....	13%

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

+

Yes, to a great extent.....	36%
Yes, to some extent.....	32%
Yes, to a small extent.....	12%
Not at all.....	7%
Don’t know .....	12%

Q-50. How often do you experience the following during worship services at this parish? (Mark *one* response in *every* row.)

A sense of God’s presence

+

Always .....	55%
Usually.....	31%
Sometimes .....	12%
Rarely.....	3%

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Q-50. How often do you experience the following during worship services at this parish? (Mark *one* response in *every* row.) [Cont.]

Inspiration	+
Always .....	37%
Usually .....	43%
Sometimes .....	18%
Rarely.....	2%
Boredom	+
Always .....	1%
Usually .....	4%
Sometimes .....	28%
Rarely.....	67%
Awe or mystery	+
Always .....	14%
Usually .....	26%
Sometimes .....	40%
Rarely.....	20%
Joy	+
Always .....	34%
Usually .....	43%
Sometimes .....	18%
Rarely.....	5%
Frustration	+
Always .....	1%
Usually .....	3%
Sometimes .....	24%
Rarely.....	72%
Spontaneity	+
Always .....	9%
Usually .....	22%
Sometimes .....	47%
Rarely.....	22%
A sense of fulfilling my obligation	+
Always .....	37%
Usually .....	40%
Sometimes .....	15%
Rarely.....	7%

Q-51. Do you agree or disagree: “Only followers of Jesus Christ can be saved”?	+
Strongly agree .....	24%
Agree.....	22%
Neutral or unsure.....	18%
Disagree .....	27%
Strongly disagree .....	10%

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Q-52.	Of the following, which <b>one</b> best describes your opinion of the future directions of this parish?	+
	We need to get back to the way we did things in the past .....	7%
	We are faithfully maintaining past directions .....	15%
	We are currently deciding on new directions.....	21%
	We are currently moving in new directions .....	27%
	We need to rethink where we are heading .....	6%
	Our future is very unclear or doubtful .....	1%
	Don't know .....	23%
Q-53.	How long does it usually take you to get here?	+
	1-5 minutes.....	20%
	6-10 minutes.....	30%
	11-15 minutes.....	23%
	16-20 minutes.....	16%
	21-30 minutes.....	6%
	More than 30 minutes .....	5%
Q-54.	Over the last two years, has there been any conflict in this parish? (Mark only <b>one</b> .)	+
	No conflict that I am aware of .....	49%
	Some minor conflict.....	21%
	Major conflict.....	3%
	Major conflict, with leaders or people leaving.....	3%
	Don't know .....	24%
Q-55.	How important is this parish community in your life?	+
	Extremely important .....	27%
	Very important .....	35%
	Quite important .....	23%
	A little important.....	12%
	Not at all important .....	3%
Q-56.	To what extent does the pastor or pastoral leader here take into account the ideas of those who worship here?	+
	A great extent.....	56%
	Some extent.....	22%
	A small extent .....	4%
	Not at all.....	1%
	Don't know .....	18%
	There is currently no leader here.....	—
Q-57.	Which of the following is the best description of the style of leadership of your pastor or pastoral leader?	+
	Leadership that tends to take charge .....	14%
	Leadership that inspires people to take action .....	58%
	Leadership that acts on goals that people here have been involved in setting .....	14%
	Leadership where the people start most things .....	1%
	There is currently no leader here.....	*
	Don't know .....	13%

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Q-58.	Do you agree or disagree: “God is directly involved in worldly affairs”?	+
	Strongly agree .....	42%
	Agree.....	34%
	Neutral or unsure.....	17%
	Disagree .....	5%
	Strongly disagree .....	1%
	I don’t believe in God .....	*
Q-59.	Do you agree or disagree: “God is angered by human sin”?	+
	Strongly agree.....	29%
	Agree .....	34%
	Neutral or unsure .....	20%
	Disagree .....	13%
	Strongly disagree .....	3%
	I don’t believe in God.....	*
Q-60.	Which of the following terms best describes your current stand on theological issues?	+
	Very conservative .....	11%
	Conservative .....	43%
	Right in the middle .....	34%
	Liberal.....	10%
	Very liberal .....	2%

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