

Summary of St. Brendan's Parish Survey Results

There were 60 complete digital responses, 6 complete paper responses, and 1 partial paper response for a total of 67 responses.

Personal Information

My age is:

0%	12-17
0%	18-24
10.45%	25-40
8.96%	41 -55
38.81	56-70
41.79%	71+

I am:

43.28%	Male
53.73%	Female
0%	Non-Binary

I am:

7.46%	Single
71.64%	Married
1.49%	Partner
11.94%	Divorced
5.97%	Widowed
0%	Other

80.6% of respondents are over the age of 56.

The number of children living in my home, by age group, is:

0-2 years olds :	4
3-5 years olds :	2
6-11 years olds :	6
12-18 years olds :	7

16.42% of respondents (11) have children living at home, with an average of 1.7 children per household. 76.92% of respondents between the ages of 25 and 55 have children living at home.

I have been a member of St. Brendan's for: *

5.97%	Fewer than 2 years
40.30%	2-5 years
20.90%	6-10 years
16.40%	11-20 years
13.43%	20+ years
2.99%	Not a member

46.27% of respondents have been at St. Brendan's for less than 6 years.

Pre-Covid, I usually attended services *

86.57%	Most every week
10.45%	1 or 2 times per month
0%	A few times per year
1.49%	Rarely

While St. Brendan's was closed and live-streaming only, I attended online services: *

65.67%	Most every week
10.45%	1 or 2 times per month
13.43%	A few times per year
8.96%	Rarely

In the future, I plan to attend services: *

82.09%	Most every week
14.93%	1 or 2 times per month
0%	A few times per year
1.49%	Rarely

20.9% of respondents who attended St. Brendan's every week pre-Covid attended live-streaming services less frequently. Most respondents hope to return to frequent attendance in the future.

When I attend church, I usually prefer the following service: * (multiple selections allowed)

29.85%	Sunday 8 am (in-person)
65.67%	Sunday 10 am (in-person)
11.94%	Sunday 10 am (live-streaming)
1.49%	Wednesday 7pm
1.49%	Weekdays Morning Prayer 8:30 am (via Zoom)
1.49%	Other: "Saturday option would be nice"

How active were your children in Pre-Covid Sunday morning activities

18.18%	Very Active
18.18%	Active
45.45%	Not Active
18.18%	N/A

How active do you hope for your children to be in future activities?

27.27%	Very Active
54.44%	Active
18.18%	Not Active
0%	N/A

81.71% of respondents with children hope that their children will be active or very active in the future.

Your Views of St. Brendan's Church Life

How important **TO YOU** are these aspects of church life? *

The top two most important aspects of church life:

- Worship
- Preaching

Very important aspects:

- Spirituality
- Social Interaction and Fellowship
- Music
- Communication
- Pastoral Care
- Community Outreach

Important aspects:

- Church Growth and Development
- Lay Leadership
- Spiritual Guidance
- Stewardship
- Administration
- Children and Youth Engagement
- Multi/Cross-Cultural Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Adult Education
- Sunday School

Least Important Aspects:

- Ecumenical/Interfaith Partnerships
- Organized Prayer Activities
- Evangelism

Families with children felt that children and youth engagement was more important than Sunday School.

These are the same categories, but now, how would you rate **the quality of these things at St. Brendan's?**

Excellent aspects:

- Preaching
- Worship
- Music*
- Communications

Excellent/good aspects:

- Lay Leadership
- Social Justice Advocacy
- Community Outreach
- Pastoral Care
- Administration
- Spirituality
- Spiritual Guidance
- Church Growth and Development
- Social Interaction and Fellowship
- Stewardship
- Organized Prayer Activities

Many respondents did not evaluate the child/youth categories, as well as evangelism, organized prayer activities, adult education, ecumenical/interfaith partnerships, and multi/cross-cultural ministry.

More respondents with children rated children/youth engagement as Fair/Poor than respondents without children. Respondents with and without children had a similarly wide spread of Excellent/Good/Fair in evaluating Sunday School and Youth Ministry

Respondents rated St. Brendan's as good/excellent on their top important aspects. (With the possible exception of children/youth categories, to which not all respondents provided a rating).

Expectations of the Personal Role of the Priest-in-Charge

Listed below are a number of aspects of parish ministry. Recognizing that no one can excel in or place high priority on all of these, please indicate how important each of these should be in selecting a new part-time priest-in-charge. Consider only the personal role of the priest-in-charge; assume that he/she will utilize the other clergy and staff appropriately.

Most important aspects:

- Preaches engaging sermons
- Strives to create a church climate that encourages and embraces people's differences.
- Models his/her commitment to the Lord's work in everyday life.
- Personally ministers to the sick, dying, and bereaved.
- Establishes an effective program to visit members of the congregation, such as the sick, home-bound, and hospitalized.
- Works to retain members.
- Actively reaches out to bring new members into the church.
- Fosters fellowship at parish gatherings.
- Supports organizations and activities within the parish.

Important aspects:

- Interests and recruits capable people in church activities.
- Is committed to lay participation in worship services.
- Works closely with the vestry in creating and implementing a long-range plan.
- Talks with individuals about their spiritual development, religious life, and beliefs.
- Counsels people about their personal and moral problems and major decisions of life such as marriage, vocation, etc.
- Encourages a mixture of time, talent, and financial stewardship within the congregation.
- Promotes full lay leadership in all aspects of parish life.

What are two or three characteristics you hope to have in a new priest-in-charge?

Top types of comments:

- Engaging speaker, strong sermons
- Thoughtful, considerate, kind, friendly, empathetic, caring, loving
- Approachable, engaging, personable
- Inclusive, welcoming, open minded
- Spiritual, faith (shows their own spirituality/faith, helps to foster it)

Other common comments:

- Sense of humor, fun to be with
- Relates bible/theology to everyday life
- Genuine, down-to-earth, relatable, authentic
- Engages/supports children and youth
- Energy and enthusiasm, charisma
- Open to new ideas, stretches us
- Is a good leader
- Supports lay leadership

Some other repeated comments:

- Is a good listener
- Honest, moral
- Inspiring
- Organized
- Appreciates traditional liturgy

Additional Comments

If you like, you may answer these optional questions to share your feelings about and wishes for St. Brendan's.

What are one or two key strengths of St. Brendan's Church?

Overwhelmingly, the most frequent comment was:

- Welcoming, inclusivity, open, accepting of differences/diversity.

Other top comments:

- Social justice, outreach, engagement in the community
- The people, congregation, community
- Members care for and support each other, loving
- Friendliness and fellowship

Other comments:

- Mix of traditional and contemporary worship
- Liberal / progressive theology
- Lay leadership
- Sermons

What are one or two opportunities for improvement at St. Brendan's?

Respondents included a wide range of comments. The most frequent comment evoked a desire to see more/broader engagement/participation of all members (as well as a resumption of activities post-Covid). Other shared concerns were engagement of children and youth, growth, and stewardship.