

Feasibility Study Update: Needs Assessment & Strategic Planning

The re-formed church building project Feasibility Study Committee and others were busy over the summer supporting a Needs Assessment. What's a Needs Assessment you ask? A Needs Assessment is a strategic planning technique used to determine priorities, for our parish in this case. It was completed as a part of the Feasibility Study to begin to assess the level of support for a building project. That goal was achieved and has also yielded a wealth of additional insight about the priorities of a broad cross-section of our parish members. One hundred eighty (180) parish members selected based on their interest and knowledge in the six specific areas related to the church being evaluated in the Needs Assessment and were invited to participate and share their opinions at two events. One hundred ten (110) parish members came on June 30th and ninety (90) on July 14th where they met in small and large groups to share their opinions and insights about parish needs and priorities. Their input and recommendations were focused in the areas of: 1) Prayer & Worship, 2) Faith Formation, 3) Buildings & Grounds, 4) Human Concerns, 5) Catholic School and 6) Finance & Stewardship. These meetings were followed by a Town Hall meeting held on August 19th where all parishioners were invited to provide input on the recommendations and priorities of the earlier meetings. Eighty (80) parishioners participated in the Town Hall meeting.

"I was happy to be able to participate in the Needs Assessment process and provide input into shaping the priorities and future direction of St. Gabriel. Those participating were enthusiastic to share their opinions and it was remarkable how the small groups came to very similar themes independently." Mike Gorichanaz, parish member for 24 years