

ONLINE ASSESSMENT COMMENTS

WORSHIP and LITURGY

Personal Worship

Please share additional comments you have related to any questions on Personal Worship

- Daily prayers at home.
- When unable to attend mass in person, I do participate via livestream and occasionally will watch livestream masses on other days.
- worship for me has become very conservative within in Ascension, since the parish was established. Fr. French use to say if you want private prayer go to your bedroom and prayer, we are community and we pray and celebrate together with joy. No joy in today's church. Too traditional.
- My weakness in this area is a personal failing; not something the Parish can improve.
- AFF Monday Zoom sessions provide me with additional time for prayer, fellowship and worship.
- Personal daily prayer and scripture readings in the six-minute reflections in the "Little Books" are important parts of my life.
- More adoration would be great
- Why are stations of the cross only offered during lent? Adoration is only offered once a month, if I am unable to make it I either wait another month or find somewhere else to attend. The Rosary as a group is not offered...for a while a small group were doing it prior to Mass, but that is a difficult time to focus with everyone coming in and getting settled.
- Have been a participating member for 28 yrs and attended mass weekly, including during the entirety of COVID. But, in the aftermath of COVID, I no longer feel welcome in this parish and am looking for another church home.
- Enjoyed the virtual Rosary
- We have been unable to regularly attend mass for several health (surgical and viral) reasons during the COVID-19 pandemic. We follow "Heart of the Nation" Sunday Mass when we cannot physically attend mass.
- Enjoy reading the little black book, Marry Day by Day, Jesus calling, Our Daily Bread
- NONE
- I have difficulty driving at night and am not able to attend many growth opportunities.
- In college
- Saying the Rosary, Attending the Stations of the Cross; Praying at the Mary Prayer Garden.
- I feel that one of the best opportunities I have is to be a member of the Men of Faith. It provides both companionship and worship. I encourage this kind of activity for all men.
- Encourage continued Adoration times.
- People yap and rely too much on others to understand the natural energies through nature and the basic energies of life.

- Since the pandemic, I have watch mass with Father Mike Schmidt on You Tube, I also have a bible app on my phone that I try to read daily.

Liturgical Worship

Please share any additional comments you have related to any questions on Liturgical Worship

- Sometimes I feel like am at a concert with the liturgy stuck in. Priest should dictate the Mass, not the music. Music should not be the focal point. (As an example, the piano player receives the Eucharist along with the Deacon so they can get back to playing music.)
- Music is the best!
- Most homilies are helpful. Guest homilies by rieligious are relevant and interesting.
Relate the Bible readings to current life.
Homilies should be like Goldocks-----NOT TOO LONG not too short. just right.
How do you act in traffic? in the parking lot? in family car trips? at work? at sports events? with your spouse? with your chidren/parents? in church? in an airplane/train/subway/bus?
- Sunday mass is enhanced when there is a good homilly. Only one person delivers a homily were the folks can realate their lives to. The readings are forever being interpreted as historic events and Jesus;s goodnes. Homiley' should relate to the gosple message and then to todays events of how we can be a better society. Political, without naming parties, how we can improve the hate that surrounds the world today. Not water into wine.
- Music in liturgies is vibrant but homilies, not always. The Children's liturgy is kid friendly but not the regular Mass. Homilies are inconsistent in helping me understand scripture and growing my faith.
- The mass should be more connected to real life and real experiences.
- I am inspired by Fr. Daniel; I am not inspired by Fr. Joe... he is an academic level beyond relating to me.
- I appreciate the Spirit-filled homilies. I would benefit from additional time for reflection and prayer after receiving Communion.
- The music keeps me engaged in the mass as a participant. Most homilies' help me to further understand the Word and are very important to me. The only recommendation I have is to go back to the 0845 mass vice 0815 and if that is a burden on our clergy, which I believe it to be, decrease masses on Sunday to two vice three.
- Homilies are too focused on praising the congregation
- Over the last year or so, the focus of our church has not seemed to be on celebration of Mass....it has been on everything else going on and the Mass is just a place to announce things, share the vision instead of simply focusing on the Mass itself. Announcements at the beginning are important and helpful to know what all is going on the upcoming week at our Parish, but the "second talk"what sometimes ends up sounding like a second homily from a parishioner at the end of Mass has seemed to over shadow what we just experienced. Once we have celebrated the Eucharist, that should be our only focus, the high point of the Mass.

- I have always actively participated in the Liturgy and miss the connection that comes from participating in the Mass. I sometimes find it difficult to remain engaged during the homily due to the language barrier.
- The music, songs, and singing at Ascension are the best! When I'm traveling and attend Mass elsewhere, I realize how blessed and spoiled I am by Diane Nestor and her talented team !
- My measure of the effectiveness of a liturgy is how joyful I feel upon leaving. I almost always feel joy upon leaving Ascension. Thank you.
- 8:15 is hard to make. Enjoyed having the 8:45.
- NONE
- The music tends to be too loud. It is beautiful and spiritually uplifting.
- Say the complete psalms, not only just one verse
- We have great liturgies however, I think we should not rest on our laurels. We should investigate how we can make them even better.
- As a parent with young children, I find myself avoiding mass if I know it will be lengthy. I avoid certain pastors because I know their homilies are very long and repetitive. If I were single, this would not be an issue. However, Ascension services tend to be over an hour long...and it is just so stressful with little kids. I try my best, but I am a human being...we are human beings....and sometimes, the message gets lost when mass drags on and on. The teacher in me just frustrated by our leaders lack of understanding of the average attention span.
- Priests and certain Deacons add most value to the liturgies and homilies. Disappointed that Nuns and Sisters are not included in the comments and prayers during Sunday Masses.
- We have been singing the same "Glory to God" every Sunday since I joined the parish. It has become very mundane. It would be nice to change to another ""Glory" to keep us awake and engaged. The lights should be flipped several times to get talkers attention b4 Mass. Also the greeting neighbors b4 Mass breaks my prayer set.
- I would like to see more contemporary Christian music. We need to be able to engage and keep the youth and younger adults. We seem to be going backwards.
- I do not believe our parish communications is integrated enough, and I believe the announcements, sermon, and other weekend communications are well integrated.
- I prefer a bit more traditional Mass, but what Ascension offers is good.
- Sometimes the music is a bit... much. I enjoy a rousing chorus and clapping occasionally, but a sense of reverence is also appreciated.
- My answers are really It depends and sometimes.

FORMATION/EDUCATION

What faith related topics would you like to see presented to ADULTS?

- More on scripture and prayer
More on tools for evangelization
- Current events and how our faith influences them
- I would like to know more about how to invite/engage those who have left the church. I would like to participate in more bible study opportunities. I would like to explore the Mass more deeply.
- speakers who have matured, and their teachings are above the high school level. Teachers who speak with joy and challenge others to new insights.
- The important of Mary in the church
- Bible Studies and studies that coincide with the Liturgical calendar have been well received and I would like to have these continued.
- Importance of joint faith in marriage.
- Apologetics
Church History
Systematic Theology
Catholic Social Teaching
Moral Theology
- Good News of unconditional love (not transactional love). Active presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in each person. Improving your personal relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Truly trusting in God in your daily life.
- Ignatian spirituality, more Bishop Barron
- From the Pastor, clear and loving explanations on the church's teaching on the (a) Dignity of Human Life vs Abortion; (b) on natural law and what is misguided about homosexuality and gender confusion. (c) What is also God's stand on heterosexual wrongdoing like couples living together and the importance of courtship, marriage and the dignity of women. These must be mixed with clear presentations of the wonderful good news of Jesus and how we need to give our lives to Him; if we understand His love and sacrifice for us; then we will want to live our lives in a way pleasing to Him.
- The Early Church Fathers
- The real presence in the eucharist, the role Mary plays in our church, the Biblical foundation of our church
- Short, but interesting study of specific topics relating to the bible. Finding ways to connect parishioners in social ways.
- Social justice topics- gun laws, food desserts, homelessness
- Apologetics!! How to defend my faith to others
A revisiting of the Catechism - a refresh of the basics of the sacraments, the meaning and symbolism of all of our Mass components
- You do a great job of providing faith formation programs to us. It might be helpful to have practical tips on HOW TO broach the subject of faith with family members and others who seem distant from faith. It's easy to say, go out and evangelize; it's another thing to know how to do that. Although, I think the witness stories during Mass help us think about how we would describe our faith journey to others.
- John, Paul & sacrament of marriage
- I don't have any one topic. Just keep doing what you do for all. Adults, High School, Middle School and Grade School.

- Living as a single catholic
- BIBLE STUDY
- End of life decisions
- I have belonged to a number of Catholic churches which makes it difficult to answer these questions as stated. For example, I learned about Confirmation from my church in MA. I answered the questions as if it stated-My Catholic Church as opposed to Ascension.
- n/a
- Relationships with Jesus and Holy Spirit; Spiritual formation/transformation
- Basic Catholicism 101 (re-fresher course); Identify my gifts; more on prayer and the Holy Spirit
- how to be more Christ like in an immoral world.
- Deep dives and understanding on specific biblical events, history, and Biblical application to practical life events. Great example would be Aaron Banyai's talk to Family Faith Formation groups in Dec 2021ish(?) timeframe.
- N/A at the moment (I'm only 18 and in college)
- Adults need to be taught how to read the Bible more.
- Perhaps a presentation on the transformation from Jewish worship traditions to the catholic mass....what the two faiths share as well as ways they differ (some are obvious, others subtle)
- What walking in the way translates in our daily lives.
- How Roman Catholics see themselves amongst other religions. Similarities, differences, Trend of our Church with the directions as shared by the Pope and Vatican
- Deepening the relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Understanding Spiritual gifts
- How To Meditate\
- I really do not understand the Holy Spirit
- How not to be money-mongrel scumbags and repent for their evilness towards others and how that past journeyed to their current position in life on the backs of others.
- Review all Catholic teachings as it relates to me, at this current time.
Review the steps of confession & penance.
Review how to pray the rosary & other prayers

What faith related topics would you like to see presented to HIGH SCHOOL students?

- Importance of staying in touch with family/parents/grandparents to learn from their experiences with life and current changes in society.
- I would like them to hear what they can do to stay connected to their faith once they leave high school. I would like them to be presented with appropriate moral or ethical dilemmas that they might experience in the work world to help them figure out a Christian response.
- Good confessions
How to pray after receiving communion
- The importance of service.
- Formation of Christian leadership
- Responsible choices based on faith
- I believe that all Catholics, including high school students should be reminded or taught about the Mass-- parts of the Mass, Jewish tradition, and why we & Priest do what we do. Ascension Press' "Altarations" is an excellent program to share. Encourage Mass attendance and reading the Bible.

- Respect for others of different faiths and nationalities
- Apologetics
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Theology of the Body
- Good News of unconditional love (not transactional love). Active presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in each person. Improving your personal relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Truly trusting in God in your daily life.
- Something that helps them stay connected to their faith in the midst of the distractions of culture
- The same topics as mentioned about in an age appropriate manner. It is the high and middle schoolers who are most a risk to the darkness of our society's cluster of death.
- The real presence
- Tolerance
- N/A
- Social justice topics- same as adults. These kids are smart and opinionated. They need to be educated for their challenging future
- That is a great question to ask high school students. It's so important to provide this age group with what they need to continue/solidify their faith formation. It can't be stale, but something that touches both the heart and the mind.
- Sacrament of marriage
- BIBLE STUDY
- Free will
- n/a
- Start the faith teaching at an earlier age (not 3-4 years after they have experienced the academic/scientific "where is the proof" mindset)
- a deep understanding of the Ten Commandments and how living them will ensure a happy life.
- Additional focus on Biblical history, and deeper understanding of links Biblical events to Church sacraments; deep understanding on the Catechism and how it builds on Biblical foundation, thorough familiarity of Bible
- Facing trends against the Church and how to combat them
- Children should continue to be taught how important God is in our lives.
- Are they introduced to campus ministry leaders while in YOA? Is there a Faith formation program/group for those students who don't attend college, or maybe attend a technical program/apprenticeship after high school? Are we losing them after Confirmation/YOA because there's a gap?
- Taking choices in life to the Word of God to obtain God's guidance.
- Respect of one another. Companionship and Friendship. Marriage. Values of being a human being (person) in the image of God. Nature as a gift from God. Importance of sharing talents and faith and skills with one another.
- The love that God has for each of them, no matter what their lives look like.
- Knowing Jesus and the Holy Spirit
- More adult mentoring
- Church history, both the good and bad so we can grow by learning about the good and the True and what is True Doctrine. But we also need to learn not to repeat the bad.
- Less play and more reasoning and less preaching of the bible and how it could fit into a kids adult life
- Morality based on the teaching of the church AND praise and worship/fellowship opportunities that allow for deep faith connections with their peers

What faith related topics would you like to see taught in Ascension's MIDDLE SCHOOL program?

- Value of faith on a practical level---principles, values, staying connected with the church
- I would like them to learn about the Holy Spirit and how the Spirit acts in their lives. I would like them to hear/discuss topics like care for the earth that they can impact with their lives.
- Servant leadership
Value based decision making
What are the strategic long range decisions you will make in your life?
- The importance of service
- Practicing your faith in every day living
- Kindness toward others. What would Jesus do in dealing with other children
- Continue encouraging Mass attendance and share "Altarations" as identified above.
Encourage reading the Bible.
- Respect for others of different faiths and nationalities
- Introductory Systematic Theology
 - Trinity
 - Christology
 - Ecclesiology
 Deepening Personal Prayer
 - Personal Piety
 - Stages of the Spiritual Life
 - How to make progress in the Spiritual Life
- Good News of unconditional love (not transactional love). Active presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in each person. Improving your personal relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Truly trusting in God in your daily life.
- Same as above
- the real presence
- Tolerance
- N/A
- Same topics as adults and high schoolers, but less intense. They need to be in the conversation
- New Testament
- BIBLE STUDY
- Making choices in daily life
- n/a
- Presence of and relationship with Jesus/Holy Spirit; you are a beloved child of God the Father
- how God sees His children. how to see themselves as the image of God.
- Basic understanding of the Catechism, more understanding of Biblical history, identifying / linking Biblical events to Church sacraments.
- N/A (I did not participate in that program)
- Children need to be taught about God and how important faith is in our everyday life.
- Guidance to reading the Bible everyday and how trusting in God's word can protect them.
- Above topics, at middle school level.
- No recommendations

- The same as above, however less rigorous basis. In other words, teach at their level, but teach church history.
- Less play and more reasoning and less preaching of the bible and role of church
- How to attend adoration, how to pray the rosary, how to answer specific questions about the Catholic Church with clarity and confidence.

What faith related topics would you like to see taught in Ascension's ELEMENTARY school program?

- Christian values, honesty, integrity, kindness
- I just want them to know how much God loves them and they should always turn to Him.
- Why does Jesus expect you to be a good person
 - Several basic prayers
 - The sacraments
 - The beatitudes
 - How to read certain passages in the Bible.
- The importance of service
- What it means to be a practicing catholic
- Set at faith based education
- Continue to encourage Mass participation and reading the Bible.
- Definitely NOT memorization of church laws/rules/statements, but an understanding of our faith in terms that fit today's society and their age level. Stories that relate to them to promote an understanding of our faith and its journey.
- Introduction to Prayer
 - Who is Jesus, how do we enter relationship with him
 - Why should we trust God

Who is God

What did God do

-Creation

-Redemption

Who are we as

-created

-redeemed

-children of God

-members of the body of Christ

Introduction to Sacraments and the Spiritual Life

- Good News of unconditional love (not transactional love). Active presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in each person. Improving your personal relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Truly trusting in God in your daily life.
- Same as above
- the real presence
- Tolerance
- N/A
- Sharing, respect, consequences of actions

- Bible stories
- BIBLE STUDY
- What love looks like
- n/a
- Whatever topics that set the foundation for 18 above
- how God loves all his children.
- Stuff we probably already do - basic Biblical and Church history.
- N/A (I did not participate in that program)
- Children need to be taught about God.
- God is true and faithful to those hat love him and others.
- Above topics, at elementary school level.
- No recommendations
- The same as above, however less rigorous basis. In other words, teach at their level, but teach church history.
- Less play and more reasoning and less preaching of the bible origins