



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.

FEAST OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION
OF THE LORD
AUGUST 6, 2023

OLL Community Survey - Faith Formation

This is our third summary of the OLL Community Survey conducted in May to better understand the needs of our members and the community at large. Over the last two weeks we have outlined our methodology and the survey's purpose. Last week we noted a remarkably high satisfaction rate with your experience at Mass but also identified four areas where we will focus our attention on improving; these included:

- Sense of community and belonging
- Spirit of hospitality and welcome
- A music program that is engaging and uplifting
- Meaningful and inspiring homilies

If you missed those first two reports, the bulletins are available to view or download from the parish website: <https://www.ollparish.com/about-us/bulletin/>

Faith Formation for Children and Families

During the pandemic, when we were unable to hold in-person sessions for children or teens, we adapted by providing additional online faith formation resources for parents and children to use at home. One of the consequences of that loss of direct contact that the survey revealed is that, aside from preparation for First Sacraments (Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion) and Youth Confirmation, many parents are not aware of the religious education programs we now offer for children and families. Listed below are the education programs we measured for children and the percentage of respondents not aware in parentheses. *Please note these questions were only shown to those households with children (30% of our parish.)*

- Faith in the Home (*available on OLL website*) (52% not aware)

- High School Discipleship Group. *Faith based discussions twice per month on Sunday evenings.* (50%)
- Middle School Youth Group for 6-8th graders. *The group gathers every Sunday, between Masses, from 10:15-11:00.* (37%)

- Faith Formation in person sessions during the school year for children preschool – 5th grade (*these will resume next fall*) (34%)
- Vacation Bible School (*one-week camp for children K – 5th grade*) (24%)

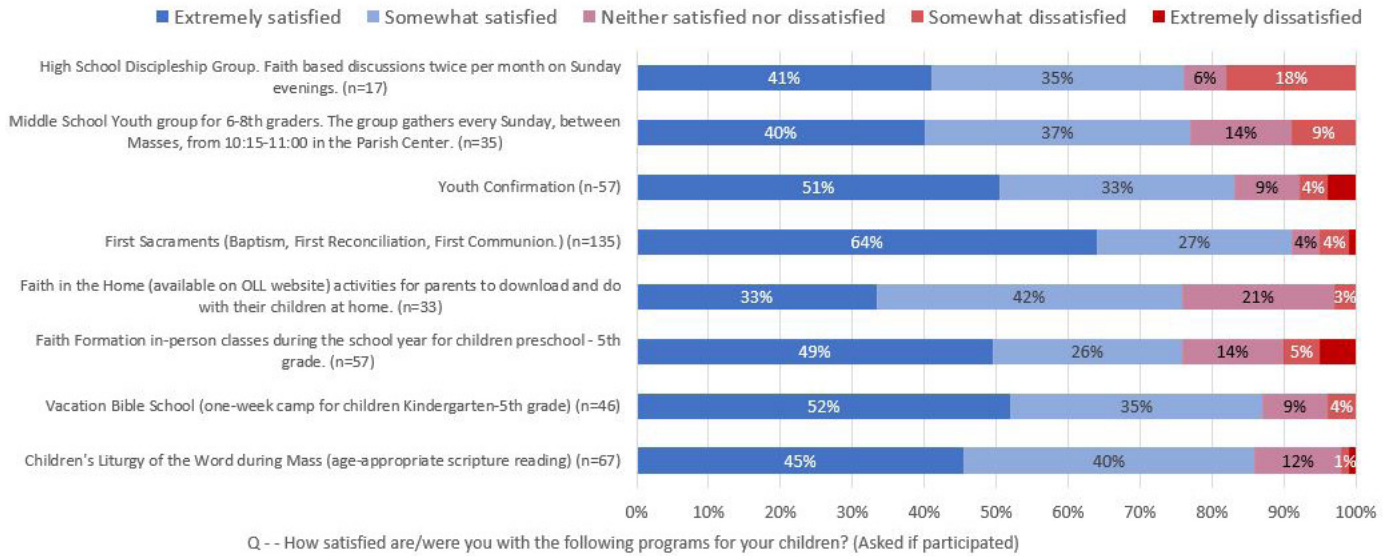
- Children's Liturgy of the Word during Mass (*age-appropriate scripture presentation for children ages 4 - 9*) (23%)
- Youth Confirmation (12%)
- First Sacraments (*Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion*) (4%)

The good news is that parishioners who were aware and have had children participate in these religious education programs gave them high marks overall with at least 80% satisfied in all cases:

(See Graph on Page 3)

Changes Coming this Fall. Survey participants offered many helpful suggestions and recommendations that will be taken into consideration by our new coordinators, Melissa Hanifan and Krista Bryant, as they launch renewed *Life Kids* in-person sessions this fall. We will need more parents and adults to step up to be catechists and aides to help the program grow and succeed. Additionally, our nursery for children 9 months to 4 years old will reopen next month to allow parents of these littlest ones to attend Mass or serve in one of these programs.





Faith Formation for Adults

Our Lady of the Lake offers a variety of faith formation opportunities for adults and faith sharing groups for men and women. The survey showed that most parishioners are at least aware of these formation programs or have participated in them. Similarly, the programs we measured are listed below with the percentage of respondents not aware in parentheses.

- Self-directed formation and courses (*The Search, The Case for Jesus, and Bible Studies, etc.*) (40%)
- Small Faith Sharing Groups (*In homes or at the church for reflection and study*) (26%)
- Women's Faith Groups (*Second Saturday Sisterhood, Walking with Purpose, etc.*) (26%)
- Study and formation groups (*Vatican II Study, Church History, The Catechism in a Year, etc.*) (25%)

- Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (*Previously called Rite of Christian Initiation - RCIA*) (16%)
- Topical seminars and presentation (*Catholic social teaching, Lenten programs, guest speakers, etc.*) (15%)
- Men's Faith Groups (*Knights of Columbus, DOGS, Guys Seeking God, etc.*) (10%)
- Retreats (*ACTS Retreats, Annual Men's or Women's or Couples' Retreats*) (9%)

The survey revealed high satisfaction with our adult faith formation options. Those who participated and were not satisfied were asked to provide feedback. Our staff is reviewing these recommendations which will help us improve our adult faith formation efforts in the future.

Final Report: Pastoral Council Recommendations and Next Steps.

- Tom Tomaszek, Pastoral Associate



July 22nd - Sept. 4th

Our Summer Food Drive is in full swing and is making a difference to help our local families.

Most needed food items this week: *Hearty soups and crackers, canned fruit and vegetables.*

SUMMER FOOD DRIVE
 "Go to the poor, you will find God."
 - St. Vincent De Paul

Wine & Cheese Hospitality after 5pm Mass Sat. August 12



Come downstairs and enjoy hors d'ouvres and drinks and spend some quality time with your OLL family. Contributions of appetizers are appreciated!