



DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY

Discover what makes the people of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish unique in our journey of faith



IHM At A Glance

404

Total number of surveys completed, representing 58% of our average Sunday Mass-going parishioners

139

Men who completed the DMI

225

Women who completed the DMI

96

Those between ages 18 and 55 who completed the survey

269

Those 56 and older who completed the survey

114

Respondents who have been members 20 years or more

885

Total number of registered families

What is the DMI?

This past Spring, parishioners here at IHM and across the Archdiocese of St. Louis were invited to share their thoughts, reflect on their spiritual growth as well as provide parish leadership with invaluable insight regarding their parish's strengths and opportunities through a survey, the Disciple Maker Index (DMI). The DMI survey is designed to capture information regarding attitudes and beliefs, relationship and satisfaction, participation, and demographics using a quantitative tool that can be used for benchmarking and trending information.

Based on the average October Sunday Mass count from 2015-2021, about 60% of Mass-going Catholics participated in the DMI survey. This is above the national average for other dioceses who have taken the DMI nationwide.

Last spring our parish had the opportunity to participate in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey. More than 400 adults in our parish—or about half of our registered parish families—took the time to give their feedback. The national participation average is somewhere between 7-10%, so this puts Immaculate Heart of Mary above the national average.

The Disciple Maker Index contained 75 questions designed to provide an opportunity for parishioners to reflect on their individual spiritual growth and overall parish effectiveness.

These Results Have Value

This data comes to us at an important time. Following the recommendations of our Pastor and the All Things New committee, we are taking some time to reexamine our Mission and Core Values as a parish. Parish leadership hopes to further engage with you to receive your feedback about these important questions in the upcoming weeks.



ALL THINGS NEW

STEADFAST IN FAITH
FORWARD IN HOPE

REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

There are a lot of statistics circulating about what Catholics believe about the Eucharist, which is a core teaching of the faith. A 2019 Pew Research survey suggests that just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that “during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus.” Here’s what Immaculate Heart of Mary respondents said:

Survey Item:

“I personally believe the Eucharist really is the body and blood of Jesus Christ.”

Legend

- I Do Not Know
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree



In the Archdiocesan-wide responses, 68% strongly agreed, which indicates the faith in our parish is more active than average.

Survey Item:

“I would recommend my parish to a friend.”



The vast majority of our parishioners agree with this statement. A like number of parishioners also would recommend our pastor.

Our parish isn’t just strong in areas of doctrine; Immaculate Heart of Mary respondents also scored very high in areas of personal prayer and Mass attendance, taking their faith seriously.

Survey Item:

“How often did you participate in Mass attendance over the past year?”

Legend

- Never
- Once or Twice a Year
- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily
- Group Daily, Weekly & Monthly



329 of the 404 respondents—or 91%—attend daily or weekly Masses at IHM

Survey Item:

“How often did you participate in or attend Individual prayer time with God?”



Of the 404 respondents, 320—87%—spend time with God in prayer either daily or weekly



91% of those at IHM agree or strongly agree that they are welcomed and accepted.



92% of parishioners agree or strongly agree that their parish helps them grow spiritually.



89% agreed or strongly agreed that our parish provides opportunities to serve those in need.

THERE IS STILL WORK TO DO

While IHM parishioners scored at or above the Archdiocesan and national averages in areas of personal belief and living out the faith, we still have work to do. Our Lord doesn't call us to settle for "average;" He calls us to be saints! Here are some areas that we could improve:



The vast majority of respondents have a personal belief in our core Catholic teachings, and for the most part actively live out their faith. However, most of our parishioners have never invited someone to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

Here are the top 3 things to promote vocations, as recommended by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

1. *Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.*
2. *Teach young people how to pray.*
3. *Invite active young adults and teens to consider a vocation.*



Opportunities to step away from our everyday routine to renew and energize our faith on a spiritual retreat are abundant in the greater St. Louis area, however 71% of our parishioners have never attended a retreat. From silent, solitary retreats to those involving larger groups, many opportunities are available, including ACTS, White House, Marianist Retreat Center, and the Hermitage to name a few. Call the parish office for more recommendations.



One of the areas that our parish "falls short" is equipping our parishioners to have conversations about our faith with family and friends. We all have a path on which we are walking toward our goal of eternal life with God, and for all of us it includes stories of love, grace, strength, healing forgiveness, and hope. We need to do better in teaching each other how to share our personal witness story. Our strong belief in Scripture as the very word of God is a good place to start. Also, seeking pastoral counseling or spiritual direction helps us to gain confidence in sharing how God has been working in our lives.

It all begins with a relationship. The Lord longs for you to receive His love. Spend time with God daily; share your heart with Him. Learn to spend time in silence. From there you'll notice ways God is trying to love you.

—USCCB Office of Vocations