

## DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY

*Discover what makes the people of St. John Bosco parish unique in our journey of faith.*



### St. John Bosco At A Glance

**212**

Total number of surveys completed, representing 67% of the average Sunday Mass going parishioners

**81**

Men who completed the DMI

**98**

Women who completed the DMI

**54%**

of people who completed the DMI are over 66

**64%**

of people who completed the DMI are married

**1,415**

Total number of registered adults at our parish in 2021



**ALL THINGS NEW**

STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

### What is the DMI?

This past Spring, parishioners here at St. John Bosco 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 in the archdiocese participated in the DMI Survey. This is above the national average for other dioceses who have taken the DMI nationwide. Scan here to see the rest of the archdiocesan-wide results!

### Our Community

Last spring our parish had the opportunity to participate in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey. More than 200 adults in our parish - or about 15% percent of parishioners - took the time to give their feedback. The national participation average is between 7-10 percent, so this puts St. John Bosco 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.



*For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new: "Now I am making the whole of creation new." But there is no new humanity if there are not first of all new persons renewed by Baptism and by lives lived according to the Gospel.*

**Evangelii Nuntiandi #18**



## KEY FINDINGS

St. John Bosco helps people grow closer to Jesus

### Key Observations:

- All survey results have to be interpreted remembering that most respondents (88%) attend Mass at least weekly.
- Our parish is mature with 51% having been members for over 20 years.

### SPIRITUAL GROWTH

#### **Key Finding:**

Most have encountered Jesus (35%) and another 36% report their relationship with Jesus is most important. Also, 35% feel their spiritual life is growing at a steady pace. However, 43% are looking to grow more and few have attended retreats/classes/etc. – a great opportunity for the parish to work on.

### CORE TEACHINGS

#### **Key Finding:**

Overall, parishioners believe in core Catholic teachings like the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the authority of the Church. However, some of our younger respondents report they do not know in response to these core teachings. And parishioners who don't report their Catholic faith as important also tend to not know or even disagree.

### MISSIONARY IMPULSE

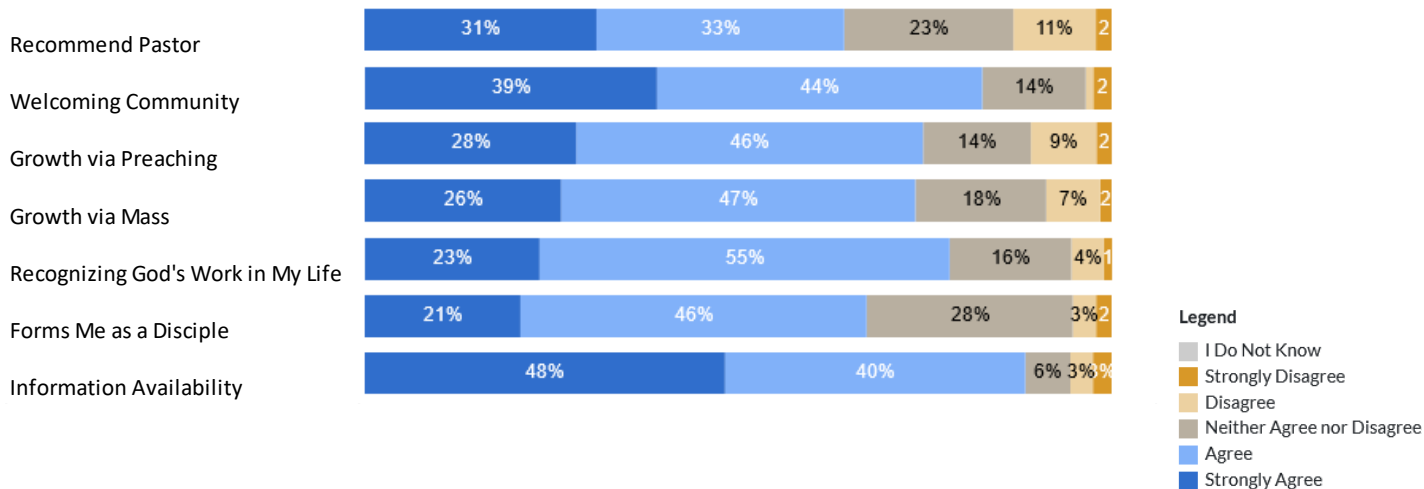
#### **Key Finding:**

Sharing Jesus doesn't tend to be heavily integrated into parishioner lives. Parishioners may share their faith a couple times a year, maybe quarterly, but very few do so daily, weekly, or even monthly. Yet 96% recognize one of their most important responsibilities is helping children in their care know Jesus.

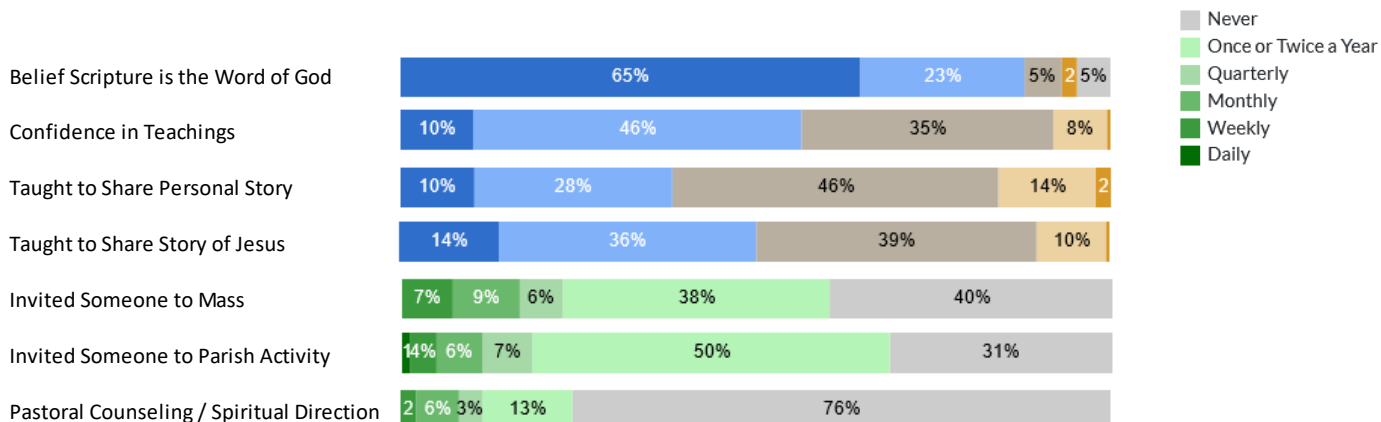


## KEY STATS

**Drivers for a parishioner to recommend their parish to a friend and to indicate the parish is helping them grow spiritually:**



**Drivers for a parishioner to share a personal witness story:**



*I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.*

*lov of the Gospel #27*



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are fundamentally a spiritually sound parish, with a solid foundation in Catholic teaching, we are welcoming, friendly, and with the assistance, and with guidance from the Archdiocese we can develop an evangelization program that would allow us to be viable for many years into the future.

The parish has recently instituted several practices that have expanded the spiritually of our parish: monthly Adoration and Benediction, monthly rosary before the 8:00 am Mass on Sunday, deacons participating at the altar in daily Mass, the acknowledgement of minor feast days during daily Mass. Our daily Mass attendance is up approximately 25% from pre-pandemic numbers.

Fr. Weber has also instituted a practice of outreach to new members of the Maryland Heights community with an introductory letter, inviting them to attend various parish social events, and to register at the parish if Catholic. This represents one of our key drivers as a very welcoming parish community.

-St. John Bosco All Things New Committee

Fr. Joe Weber  
Deacon John O'Hara  
Lou Stamm  
Jake Spooler  
Tracy Stemler  
Chelsea Herbst  
Innocent Lau

## NEXT STEPS

- DMI results have been reviewed and considered among other information to draw conclusions about the current state of the parish and parish life. Feedback from our parish was submitted to the Archdiocese.
- Initial model development at the Archdiocese level will continue through August. These initial models will become available to parishioners after August.
- September through November will feature parish listening sessions to give feedback on the initial models.
- December through next March will continue model refinement incorporating the feedback. Next April and May, the implementation plan will be made. The full new Archdiocesan structure will be announced May 28, 2023.

**We are seeking your feedback in regards to this planning process!**

You may **remove this sheet** from the DMI survey results and submit to the parish rectory, offertory baskets, or email responses to [sjb@stjohnboscostl.com](mailto:sjb@stjohnboscostl.com)

- 1.** What do you think are the top priorities for evangelization in your parish that should be invested in moving forward? (i.e. youth ministry, family ministry, young adult ministry, marriage ministry, etc...)

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- 2.** What do you think are the top priorities/opportunities for your parish to provide outreach in your community? (i.e. food pantry, service projects, St. Vincent de Paul, etc...)

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**Thank you for your feedback!**