

# Executive Summary

June 2020



**Saint James  
Catholic Church**



## Purpose, Methodology, Validity

**The purpose** of the survey was to gather parishioner feedback to help assess how we can become even closer to Christ, one another, and live out the Gospel through the many ministries of our Parish.

Parishioner responses will help guide the planning process intended to assist the Parish leadership in meeting the current and evolving needs of parishioners and others in our community entrusted to our care.

### **The survey addressed the following pillars:**

- Communication
- Evangelization
- Fellowship
- Formation
- Operational Vitality
- Stewardship as a Way of Life
- Worship

### **Methodology**

During March 8-22, 2020, the parish-wide survey was offered to all registered parishioners. The survey was done primarily online, however paper copies were made available to those who requested them. Thirty-seven paper surveys were returned and then incorporated into the tabulated results. Four hundred and three surveys were completed. Saint James has approximately 1,335 registered households and a total of 403 surveys were completed.

### **Validity**

The Saint James Parish survey was completed by 403 respondents. Based on the total number of Saint James registered parishioners, there is a greater than 95% confidence level that the 403 responses represents a valid sample size based on statistical norms.

All age groups were represented in the survey responses. 88% of respondents indicated they attend Mass daily or weekly. Survey responses were received from a representative cross-section of parish school households, public school households, and non-school households. Respondents have been registered members of Saint James for an average of 25 years.



# Strategic Planning Team

Saint James is grateful for the wisdom, insight, and detailed practical assistance of the Strategic Planning Team.

Special recognition goes to Tink Guthrie, Vice Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Louisville, for being key to this critical undertaking. Tink continues to play a major role in guiding and leading us. Saint James is blessed to work with such a dedicated and knowledgeable person.

## The full team members include:

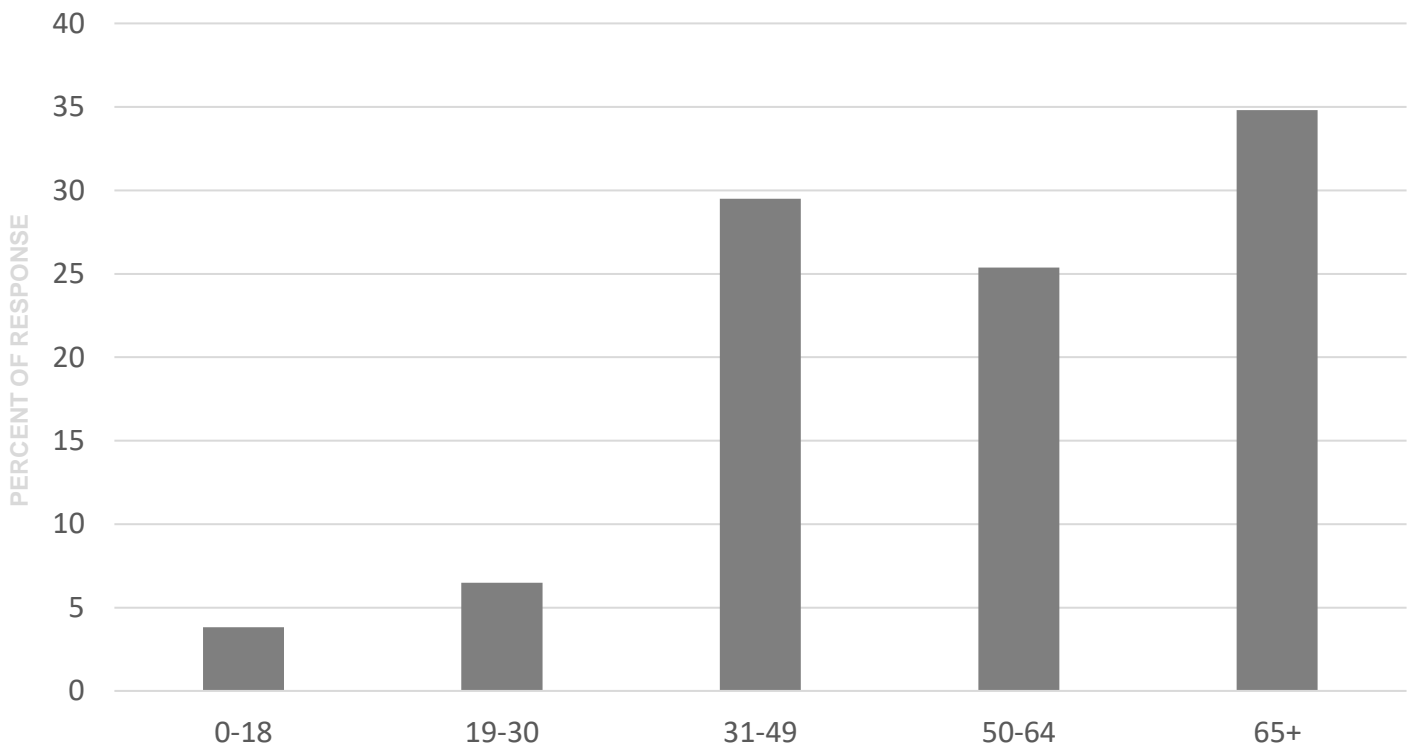
<b>Very Reverend Martin Linebach</b> Pastor	<b>Father Scott Murphy</b> Associate Pastor	<b>Father Kirby Rust</b> Associate Pastor	<b>Sister Marie Hannah, O.P.</b> SJS Principal	<b>Geoff Clark</b> Chair, Parish Voice
<b>Lou Edmondson</b> Chair, Parish Pastoral Council	<b>Grace Filburn</b> Youth Representative	<b>Andy Medders</b> (ret'd) <b>Jamie &amp; Angela Hobbs</b> Chairs, Faith Formation	<b>Jennifer Moran</b> Director of Mission Advancement	<b>Mimi Pike</b> Chair Social Concerns/Outreach
<b>Paula Knowles</b> Chair Stewardship/ Mission Advancement	<b>Jeff Lanz</b> Chair, Worship	<b>Dr. Coty Oropilla</b> School Board Liaison	<b>Cheri Ellis-Reeves</b> Parish Council Secretary	<b>Greg Schreacke</b> Chair, Finance Council
<b>Lorna Vertrees</b> Chair, Parish Life	<b>Chris Bauer</b> Parishioner and Strategic Planning Advisor	<b>Dr. John Godfrey</b> Parishioner and Strategic Planning Advisor	<b>Eric Filburn</b> Parishioner and Strategic Planning Advisor	<b>Randy Moore</b> Parishioner and Strategic Planning Advisor
	<b>Yana Whelan</b> Parishioner and Strategic Planning Advisor	<b>Tink Guthrie</b> Vice Chancellor Archdiocese of Louisville	<b>Rick Hoefler</b> Parishioner and Manager of Survey Monkey	



# Survey Responses

## 2020 Parishioner Survey

What age group best describes you?





# Communication & Evangelization

## 2020 Parish Survey Responses

Summary Response %'s = (agree + strongly agree),  
(disagree + strongly disagree), (neutral + not sure)

### COMMUNICATION

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL
The current parish communication is delivered accurately.	81%	5%	14%
The current parish communication is delivered consistently.	79%	7%	14%
The current parish communication is delivered timely.	82%	5%	13%
The current parish communication is easily understood and aesthetically pleasing.	79%	5%	16%

What are the primary forms of communication you rely on for the information you need and desire from St. James Catholic Church?

Weekly parish bulletin	75%
Weekly electronic newsletter	69%
Mass announcements	58%
Emails from parish	39%
Parish Website	20%
Word of mouth	18%
Text messages from parish	12%
U.S. Mail Service	3%
YouTube Channel	2%

Which social media option would you most prefer for parish information, if offered by St. James Catholic Church?

Facebook	51%
Instagram	9%
Other	6%
Twitter	3%
Podcast	3%
Do not use social media	28%

### EVANGELIZATION

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL
I would be interested in a training program for St. James parishioners to learn how to evangelize to other who don't know Jesus Christ.	37%	13%	50%
I would participate in a process to welcome back those who have left our parish.	50%	8%	42%
I would help our parish evangelize by:			
Praying together for people to come home to the faith.	75%	3%	22%
Equipping parishioners to be faith-focused leaders in our church.	53%	4%	43%
Learning ways to become more involved in church unity.	69%	2%	29%
Equipping parishioners to evangelize in their everyday lives.	58%	3%	39%
Teaching practical ways to share our faith with others.	64%	3%	33%
St. James ministry programs offer opportunities to share our Catholic faith by helping serve those in need.	84%	1%	15%



## Faith Formation & Fellowship

### 2020 Parish Survey Responses

Summary Response %'s = (agree + strongly agree),  
(disagree + strongly disagree), (neutral + not sure)

#### FAITH FORMATION

Sufficient efforts are made to develop/sustain formation and education for:

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL
Youth (13 and under)	59%	6%	35%
Teens (14-18)	52%	7%	41%
Young Adults (19-30)	45%	8%	47%
Adults (31-59)	59%	5%	36%
Seniors (60 and over)	53%	5%	42%

In the future, I would be most interested in programs/events that focus on:

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL
Sacred Scripture	75%	3%	22%
The Sacraments (including Mass)	78%	2%	20%
Morality, the intersection of faith and reason (science)	70%	5%	25%
The role of faith in our everyday lives (social lives, politics, etc.)	79%	3%	18%
Prayer	86%	1%	13%
Doctrine (what we believe)	80%	3%	17%

I consider St. James School to be a ministry of the parish.

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL
I consider St. James School to be a ministry of the parish.	85%	2%	13%

#### FELLOWSHIP

I feel welcomed and have a sense of belonging at St. James.

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL
I feel welcomed and have a sense of belonging at St. James.	81%	9%	10%

Sufficient fellowship opportunities are available in our parish for:

	AGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL
Youth (13 and under)	42%	11%	47%
Teens (14-18)	42%	7%	51%
Young Adults (19-30)	38%	7%	55%
Adults (31-59)	55%	8%	37%
Seniors (60 and over)	53%	2%	45%

Did you attend the first annual St. James picnic in 2019?

Yes – 63%      No – 37%

Do you anticipate attending the St. James picnic in 2020?

Yes – 82%      No – 18%





## **Worship & Operational Vitality & Stewardship**

### **2020 Parish Survey Responses**

Summary Response %'s = (agree + strongly agree),  
(disagree + strongly disagree), (neutral + not sure)

#### **WORSHIP**

	<b>AGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
The church building at St. James enhances my relationship with God.	77%	6%	17%
The music program at St. James positively contributes to my worship of God.	57%	23%	20%
The content of homilies enhances my worship experience.	79%	8%	13%
All age groups feel included, with ample opportunities to participate in weekly Mass.	65%	13%	22%
The parish provides sufficient opportunities to more fully develop my prayer life.	86%	4%	10%
I believe the church building is reasonably accessible for physical disabilities.	83%	5%	12%
I am satisfied with my experiences of Mass at St. James Church.	75%	15%	10%

#### **OPERATIONAL VITALITY**

	<b>AGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
The exterior of our parish grounds and buildings are well maintained.	96%	1%	3%
The interior of our parish grounds and buildings are well maintained.	92%	2%	6%
The parish's current \$6.5 million debt places significant financial strain on funding present ministries/programs, and on future needs.	64%	6%	30%
I would consider supporting another capital campaign with a 3-year commitment to reduce the \$6.5 million debt of St. James.	37%	22%	41%
I support the long-range goal and the accompanying financial obligation of having the church and school located on one campus in the future.	51%	20%	29%
The Robin Brooke land was purchased in 2007 to house the full St. James campus. What timeframe should the parish target for this transition?			
5 Years	39%		
10 Years	27%		
15 Years	14%		
20+ Years	20%		

#### **STEWARDSHIP**

	<b>AGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
Our household is engaged in the annual stewardship renewal at St. James.	78%	5%	17%
I see participation in stewardship as a means to express my faith in action.	85%	1%	14%
Stewardship materials help me identify where my talents can be used.	76%	3%	21%
Our parish ministries, social activities, and financial responsibilities rely entirely on my stewardship and the stewardship of others.	87%	2%	11%



# Our Path Ahead

---

The Strategic Planning Team will continue to develop a strategic action plan that supports and complements the survey results.

We eagerly await the arrival of our new pastor to lead us through this next phase.

This Executive Summary will be distributed through the weekly email news (on-line). Fifty print copies will be available for those who prefer this medium.



**Saint James  
Catholic Church**