

Below you will find the comments left on the post-its following the Liturgy summit. An attempt was made to group together different thoughts into sub categories.

DIRECTION OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

CONTEMPLATION

Contemplation: Time after communion is time for contemplation, but it is totally unstructured. The Rosary is another means for prayer and contemplation, but it is not done in a large way... could be done before mass each weekend.

We do a good job of having quiet time during liturgy so we can contemplate.

WELCOMING

Our church is not welcoming. We can't know each other. Could finally funerals be listed in bulletin, weddings, baptisms, 1st communions? When my family returned to saint John, the only welcome we got were envelopes in the mail

Hold social gathering for parishioners to meet other parishioners, have some refreshments

We should be more personally welcoming to new congregants through a welcoming committee. Our largeness is a disadvantage,

Parish is very welcoming to everyone

LECTOR / HOMILIES

The Lector is not reading for him/herself but for the masses. He must pronounce the final constant in each word before the hearers can know the meaning of the word. It also slows the pronunciation for the hearers can process it.

The Holy Spirit is your best friend, especially if there is no time to prepare a reading. Lectors need to read the reading at least three times. Where is the author going? What is his main message? What is the emotional context?

Infusing the homilies with the scriptures and ways to get more knowledge of how to carry it into then next week

Priests need to give more time to homily

I like to be a leader. I have training in drama and music so I want to be a lector and a cantor. I like to inspire others.

Would love to have Childrens' Liturgy return, at least to 10am

Speak and do God's will. Be an example

YOUTH

Encourage young people to be active

Need more young people at Mass, how can this be done

The coffee after Mass encourages much more communication between parishioners promoting participation in the parish.

Participating today are parishioners 45 – 80 years old. How do we encourage young parishioners

AMBROSE

Father Ambrose is so great (Please speak more slowly during homilies) I want to hear you, I think of God in my life because of you.

Father Ambrose is a wonderful addition to the Church. AMEN.

OTHER

Love the image(?) of the reading

Doing well- see improvement during past decade

- Involve young people such as altar servers
- Substantial improvement in bulleting and website- more comprehensive, esp. bilingual bulletin makes us one congregation.
- Explanation of Sunday readings
- Flocknotes
- Mass streaming

Reactivate/ promote small groups

Good service to the community compared to other parishes

I'm here because I thought I should. I want to be well informed as a parishioner, a better lector, a person who feels saved and hopeful for eternal life, confident

The Eucharist is the Body of Christ- Reverence in Church in the presence of the blessed Sacrament- the true Body and Blood of Christ. Reverence is needed when we come to Holy Communion,

Some ministries are not well known so people don't know about them. We need to make them more visible and welcoming of new members

LOVE FOR SCRIPTURE

LECTORS

Through the Spirit, lectors know what they are proclaiming. People listen.

Nice to have ENERGY from lectors and celebrant

We hear, we listen to the word of God. Why read it? Reading detracts!

Lectors: Read with joy and with expression, (Tell a story)

MUSIC

The Music is chosen carefully to reinforce the message of scripture

Music is thoughtfully planned to match the liturgy

Uplifting opening song sets mood and invites people to join

PROJECTING READINGS

Readings projected on the screen since we have people who are visual and others are auditory.

The seeing of the readings & the listening at the same time is a positive/ Would encourage us to somehow try to connect the assembly with the reader in some way

The addition of displaying the readings has helped the congregation to focus on the readings. This has been very helpful.'Having scriptures projected on screen allows us to read them

STOP PROJECTING CAMERA VIEWS

possible to change the congregations focuses from the screens- to on the center, liturgical reader, priest during Gospel

In order to facilitate personal connections between ministers and the congregation, stop broadcasting the mass on screens inside of Church

SCRIPTURE PREVIEW IN LECTOR WELCOME

Welcome intro of the lectors includes references to upcoming scripture readings

Introducing the scripture messages at the beginning of Mass – gives a focus for the congregation throughout Mass.

In weekly liturgical minister e-mails, having weekly readings within the message helps me to focus and reflect

HOMILIES

Also, homilies focused on Readings, St. John's does this very well.

I challenge you to tell more real stories of today's life related to the readings

readings/ Gospel/ Need to relate Gospel to everyday life,

The word related to our lives. Have it be truly a living word

Have sermons on real example of our community service ex: Vincentian In-Service

I challenge you to tell more real stories of Today's life related to the readings

LOVE OF SCRIPTURE

We need more spiritual nourishment as a parish / The Word of God nourishes the soul / Reminders of the importance of Scriptures, meditating on them, and using them in our daily lives

Saint John provides lots of opportunities for sharing the Word - Bible Study, reading in printed bulletin and e-bulletin, lectors read with authenticity, priests include readings in content of the homilies.

Encouraging love of Scripture

Why do I become a lector? I enjoy reading Scripture, I used to read a lot of literature when I was in high school and I developed the interest to read scripture

NOTES TO LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Greeting people- letting them know that they have been noticed and are a vital part of the community

We are going back to the 1950's as for the Mass – bell ringers? Altar servers? Is the priest our servant?> The 1950's were not all that good

Be mindful of the diversity of our community

Be visible volunteers. Be an enthusiastic volunteer.

Be polite. Express through our actions a love for God

Share the space in our hearts for the Holy Spirit

Every Sunday, when I leave mass, I am feeling at peace and closer to God because of the beautiful liturgies we have here.

EMPOWERED PARTICIPATION

BREAK-OUT CONVERSATION

Have opportunities for short breakout discussion at liturgy – either at the welcome or sermon-because we can learn from our neighbors like we're doing today

During the sermon, have a breakout session

Once in a while, have a discussion question after a reading ex. "Turn toward your neighbor...'

Ask questions during the homily

EMPOWER

We empower the baptized by our example as ministers of the Church

Empower through liturgy

Empowerment- what is our call to action

Empower the people by giving them the authority to act. Action groups to accomplish a need outside standing service group like KofC, Liturgical, etc. Have Service Sign-up Sunday for food collections etc

Empower the baptized by knowing who God is in our Lives. Have a purpose-driven life

Empower people by continuing to emphasize that each of us has gifts to offer one other so people will want to use their gifts in the parish

INVITATION

Personal invitation

We can certainly do better by approaching people and asking them if they are available to volunteer in any particular ministry. The most that they can say is "no."

Invite parishioners to service by calling them at mass or ministry fairs

We used to do a better job inviting others to join various ministries in bulletin and from pulpit

FORMATION

Need more catechesis about our priesthood by virtue of baptism

Education – show linkage between the parish's acts of service and scripture (community cares, casseroles, etc.

In order to empower our people, the parish should make a deliberate, conscious effort to increase focus of all ministries and education programs to the Eucharist and liturgy as the source of grace that enables us to be true disciples / ministers . The grace is not only realized in the Eucharist but also the

community that gives strength and support beyond the liturgy to deal with daily struggles and challenges us to celebrate the good things

Make sure everyone is fully trained in their ministry

Need your consciousness of that word and what it means to say Amen to that

CALL FORTH

Communicate more with the congregation and encourage them to volunteer their talents

During Mass, ask each person to commit to one service they can put into action that week. Make a connection between the Church and the world

Hold more recruitment events to gather people together, increase their interest in the liturgy and educate them about diverse roles within liturgy

WELCOME

Welcome new people, new ministers. This parish does this well

Have greeters at each mass to make people feel welcome, some masses have several greeters, some have only 1, maybe the EM's could add this to their responsibilities

Lectors should go back to old pattern of personal introduction to promote community and family

Be inviting. Say hello. Welcome others into our group.

YOUTH

Bring back the very young ones attending Sunday school during the mass. Our young ones are our future, involve older children as altar servers

To capture our young parishioners, have a monthly (at least) mass to participate in the liturgy. Encourage parents to bring and stay for this

In order to encourage family and youth participation, consider eliminating the overlap between Sunday religious education and Sunday mid-morning Mass (religious education ends after the start of the 10am Mass)

Have a children's mass where kids actually participate. Like being trained early as altar servers, reading liturgy, singing, etc.

MUSIC

Keep music joyful

After communion – What is the purpose of a meditation song. Seems odd the congregation applauds – it is not a performance

Go over new music prior to Mass

Ask congregation for song requests

Encourage people to sing, cantor announces song, raise hands and smile, look at people, step away from the mic, hand out hymnals

When changing common settings for different seasons, project Congregational version of music so people can learn new melody

Beautiful, joyful, love-filled music inspiring people to serve God

We need more songs like “I’m gonna let it shine”/ Parishioners love it

OTHER

Although not liturgy, the Holy Grounds café has been a wonderful gift for strengthening community, I’m not sure we are getting to know new folks, we are getting to know people better.

Communion is our spiritual bond, our strength, our nourishment

The use of screens takes away from the congregation fully participating in the liturgy

Promote ministries individually, collectively during homilies

People need to be more involved in the Church

We should have gotten more notice about this meeting. Two days is not enough.

When I think of action and contemplation, I realize that we don’t actively promote contemplation at liturgy. How can we build in a few minutes for this at Mass