

Saint Ann Town Hall Meeting

Out of all that we do, what could we do better?	
Answer Options	Response Count
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<i>answered question</i>	49
<i>skipped question</i>	9

- We could all give a little more time to our church.
Wish there were more opportunities to get together socially. Then people would take more ownership in their parish by knowing their neighbors.
- Programs for teenagers. Need to have more young adults in church and in parish programs.
Adult choir - I applaud the people we have, but we need more. Encourage others to join. Need more "excitement" in the liturgies; ours are quiet and somber. Get people to sing; encourage them to stay until the end of mass and not run out while some of us are singing the closing hymn.
Invite music students to sing with the adult choir.
As I mentioned above, we need more programs, get more people involved, find out what they want/need. It's not easy.
Not enough out-reach programs - good to get adults and young adults involved.
- Tone down Deacon Dan a little bit when he is talking to the kids in one of his homilies
- We need to come together more as a community. Monsignor's homily from last week really struck a chord with me.
The religious education program needs to improve:
 1. I don't think the kids learn what it really means to be a Catholic. What are the most important things to being a Catholic?
 2. It needs to expand to adults. I don't believe that most adults understand what it means. More and more i think we are like the Pharisees. Trying to follow rules but not really understanding what Jesus and the church actually teaches.
- Install a better sound system so we can hear the sermon.
- The CCD program for middle & high school students struggles to engage the young adults in our parish. The kids have too many distractions and activities, so CCD becomes a "chore", one more thing to squeeze into a busy schedule. Perhaps their interest in Catholicism would be enhanced by including an introduction to other world religions?
- The CCD program for the middle & high school students struggles to engage the young adults of our parish -- the kids have many distractions and interests/activities, and CCD is often viewed as a "chore", one more thing to squeeze into a busy schedule.
- I do think people of my age find it difficult to hear Monsignor's WONDERFUL homilies. Although I can understand why he wants to be 'with the people' in the aisle, parishioners behind him cannot hear him, I do think we'd all hear him better if he spoke from the Pulpit.
- I feel that St Ann's might be a little disconnected from the needs right in our back yard. I suspect there are families in need and also people suffering from issues such as drug

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abuse, opioids, or other issues of our day - It's not obvious to me that we really show we care - we are so modest as people and while I see announcements I don't always see the energy or activity. I sometimes wonder if there's something to get involved in --but I'm never sure how to find out.

I have felt that it is hard to get involved in things unless you are a parent or retired. For those of us who work fulltime but still might want to be involved, it seems like it's hard to know where the need is.

I'm unclear how much we are still participating in ecumenical activities in town.

- I don't know exactly, it seems harder and harder to get families involved because of all their activities, maybe change the Mass schedule so there can be a 5:30 on Sunday and only have one in the morning, say at 10 a.m..
- Reach out to new members, young families and people of different abilities.
- I can't think of anything
- Nothing.
- More interaction with the pastor
Too many Masses performed by the priest in residence
More opportunities to get together as a community
The clothing drive is lots of work and doesn't take in much money -- we should just give the clothes away.
- It is very good
- Be sure to specifically welcome any and all visitors to mass at St. Ann's. Especially during the summer when there are so many tourists in town. It enhances the sense of community in our church and in the town. (Who knows - maybe they will remember our beautiful church and want to have a wedding here :)
Somehow if our priests could have a more personal touch during mass. More smiles, more personal greetings - even more reflections on common struggles people have in their everyday lives.
Increase our collections and erase the deficit we are now running in the parish.
Encourage young families to bring their children to mass consistently and grow the next generation of parishioners.
- This is small and a side issue, but I have trouble with coffee hour because it is really a time for our kids to eat lunch. They come to coffee hour and have a lot of desserts. I am concerned it is not healthy and would love to see coffee hour really provide more of an actually lunch meal, with the sweets as a dessert offering. I think the effects on blood sugar, etc., of just having sweets are problematic and it poses an issue for me because I

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want to be part of the community but struggle with my kids eating dessert at 11 am before lunch, etc.

- How nice it would be to talk about and encourage Adoration of the most Blessed Sacrament. We have First Friday mornings with few attending. Sometimes I think it's just because people don't read the bulletin or are working and can't attend. I think everyone knows in their hearts how precious this quiet time with our Lord is. And how spiritually our parish would grow! Perhaps there could be other times when people aren't at work. Is there a way to inquire of parishioners if there is a time when they would want to participate?

And also the Rosary. All in our country right now have to be so fearful of ISIS and the possible threat it brings. We all know praying the Rosary is more powerful than any destructive weapons and can turn hatred into love.

How about having a Rosary night each week or each month for this purpose and invite all Berkshire County to join us.

We did just that once years ago when there was a threat to our safety and so many people joined us that they had to pray outside. Our Blessed Mother took care of the threat. It was dissolved.

- Expand our ministry to actively include immigrants, or new Americans, to acknowledge their particular needs and reach out to them-make friends with them.
Reach out to elders in our community-Curtis---Turnure Terrace, and those living alone in other types of housing.
- Make sure we have a plan/budget on hand to do what is necessary. Of course, we need the people to understand that we need their financial support to take care of what is needed.
- Teach the word of God. Read the Bible slowly and deliberately with discussion and questions. Not the opinions of man but the Word of God. Directed by someone who knows the Bible or is open to research the Word of God. Small groups open to all at any time. No preregistration or attendance requirements just a dependable place and time open to all. Supply Bibles for those without. Do this slowly and methodically.
There are many poor and needy people in Lenox. Because we consider ourselves an affluent community we seem to think they are not here and we need to go outside our community to help. Truly this is an error. People need to open their eyes and look beyond the blessing of God that they may have. We are blind.
- Expand the roles of Deacons.
Re-establish the children's Mass.
Consider consolidating 9:45 and 11:15 Sunday Masses to 10 AM.

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Encourage more involvement of parents for their children to be altar servers.

Encourage more involvement in ALL activities of the parish, especially participation in any one of the various Parish Council commissions. Summer Festival help.

More outreach to youth, young, middle age, elderly, single, widowed, special needs, disabilities.

Carpool service for those who can't get transportation to church.

Schedule monthly or bi-weekly parish/community events, utilizing the Family Center, for we so strongly fought.

Tri-church (St Ann, St Vincent, St Patrick) activities 2-3 times a year.

Pot luck dinners.

Music events, dances, monthly.

Religious retreats 1-2 times a year, as we had with Vinny Flynn.

Guest music artists.

Continuing year round scripture study.

More open and welcoming pastor.

- Have more of a "community" feel in the parish, a time or place where younger families or older parishioners could come together and get to know each other, come up with things that they would like to do in the parish for the surrounding communities and the parish itself. Right now I feel a big disconnect. When I am at mass, I'm there, mass happens and most people leave. There is just a few who stay behind every week, but they are either all "friends" or involved in their own conversations, etc. It would be nice to have the younger parishioners feel more like they are "part" of the St. Ann community. Whenever I attend Monsignor's masses, it always seems like he is in a rush (except for his homily, which is thoughtful, insightful and always a learning opportunity) I don't like to feel like we're just there to get our weekly obligation over with. I wish that more people would volunteer for the adult ensemble, but that the music department or ensembles are never abolished because they bring so much to the masses. In fact, I would like to hear more music at the respective masses!
- Reinvigorate the adult choir! The "St. Ann's Ensemble" seems like a fig leaf for a dissolved choir. Have Ron Ramsay play at all Masses. I'd like to see St. Ann's have more community outreach efforts in the Lenox community. What can we do, perhaps banding together with other faiths, to actually produce some concrete improvements in Lenox?

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When the collections are taken, many people seem not to contribute. Maybe efforts to get 100% participation in every collection would help.

I miss the sense of warmth and personal touch we used to have in the Masses. Msgr. John's homilies are great and full of insights, BUT what means most to me in a parish priest is sensing an EMOTIONAL COMMITMENT to the parish. Being there for us. Sharing of his experiences in life. I don't feel ANY OF THAT from Msgr. John - this seems like another (important, but still just another) responsibility he has assumed, and he's already delegating a lot of it to Fr. Richard! Another way to put it is, this seems like a visiting assignment rather than a full commitment to us. Find a way to connect with us, and be connectible!

- using name tags, greet people as they enter St. Ann's for Mass
- More faith formation for adults.
I suspect that if more were known about how the adult population in our Parish would respond to opportunities for faith formation a program could develop.
Adult Faith Formation is part of the curriculum in many Theology Schools teaching Religious Education.
- Adult Faith Formation, Opportunities to for group reflection on The recent encyclicals of Pope Francis on the Weather and Family.
- - Mass volunteer coordination could be better. Seems like lately we are lacking altar servers, readers, and Eucharistic Ministers. I know it's a lot to ensure you're watching the schedule and then trying to coordinate coverage if you're going to miss a weekend can be a real pain. If there was a better way to coordinate between altar servers for example (ie instead of me having to call 5 different people... maybe we collect email addresses or setup something on the website that we can send each other notifications through that there potentially is a mass uncovered).
 - Getting more volunteers for events. Seems like it's always the same people.
 - Getting folks to actually make mass a priority and fill seats.
 - Finding times for CCD class. Seems like every time we've had (after school on weekdays or Sunday before mass) has its drawbacks. Not sure what the answer is here.
- Need to somehow reach out to the youth of the parish. Would love to see a Christian Youth Group, but don't know if kids would really attend with all of the other distractions and events going on in their lives. Need to get kids involved. If involved, you're invested. CCD on Sunday mornings for 3rd thru 5th graders is a conflict with youth ensemble rehearsal. Not sure how to rectify that.
- Does a Parish Council exist at St. Ann? If not, then one should be established.

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- I would like to see one Mass (at least) with less music. Sometimes it feels like people are singing, just so they can be heard. Parts of the Mass, the words could be said, not sung.
- I wish we could find a way to bring more of the young adults and older teens into parish community activities, younger children and young parents seem to be well represented but the older teens or young adults seem to fall away, particularly after CCD.
Use the microphone more consistently so sermons can be heard well.
Find a way to optimize financial support for the parish.
- We believe that with the current leadership, attention is given to all the needs of the parish. We are happy with the way it is.
- Explore ways that young people could become more active and interested other than ccd classes. Ex: Have at least 2 high school students become members of the Parish Council.
- Do we have social events for the following groups? Middle School and High School
What about single adults - all age groups - but particularly young unmarried people?
Do we have "volunteer" services that could be performed these groups?
- Reach out to Parishioners and ask them personally what they can or will do to participate in the many tasks that need attention. Be specific!
- You all get a HUGE "A" for EFFORT! It can never be said that you don't try to get everyone involved- BUT...
Sometimes it's just not fun. I wish I had an answer on how to make it fun for adults. You might say, Church isn't supposed to be fun, but maybe it could be from time to time.
- Would like to see CCD kids and program integrated more into the parish as a whole.
- I would like to see more opportunities for women to serve. There is a huge resource in the parish that is not being tapped.
- Focus as a Community on the recent encyclicals of Pope Francis... Develop more of a social outreach beyond our support for the Food Bank
- Not sure that I can see where.
- EDUCATION specifically CCD
Reaching out to disenfranchised Catholics
More definition around what are the privileges and obligations of being a "registered" member of the parish
Reaching out for more people to be involved in the music ministry
Reaching out for more young people to be involved in the liturgy and parish life
- Pray for current events!! For example, today I felt there should have been a public prayer for the victims of the Orlando shooting in the prayer for peace. We need to connect to what is going on around us! In the past (not St Ann's) when the 9/11 happened there was

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no prayer service or community gathering for the parish I was in. We need to come together as a community committed to support, justice and peace for all people..

- We need to find ways to be more of a christian community, like the early church. We are too distant from each other.
There needs to be more teaching and sharing by parishioners on what it means to us to be a Christian. There needs to be more learning from each other. Attending mass and thinking about our faith 1 hour/ week doesn't cut it.
- develop more of a community among parishioners
- well, this is a hard question, Have morning Mass a little later (8am ?) & that is probably not possible as people have to go to work. But i would like it. Perhaps we need to create a more warm & welcoming atmosphere to everyone especially children
- Priest be more friendly to the congregation
- One aspect of the liturgy that I enjoyed was having the children participate by coming up to the altar for the sermon. If that isn't possible, another way of envoy ing them would be nice.
- It would nice to honor our Catholic heritage and traditions more at mass. My family and I would appreciate having the Traditional Latin Mass available at least once in a while. Also, has the parish considered beginning a perpetual novena to a Saint? These can be very helpful to the spiritual life of the parish.
- The upper teens and young adults seem to need choices and groups to bond through.