

## Liturgy Committee Report on the 2018 Lenten Survey

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Table 1. The Portrait of Mass Attendance by Respondents to 2018 Lenten Survey

7:15 MASS		9:30 MASS		11:45 MASS	
Parish Membership	Age Group	Parish Membership	Age Group	Parish Membership	Age Group
Occasional Attender, Not Member (including Missing) N= 2	<30	Occasional Attender, Not Member (including Missing) N= 8	<30 N= 1	Occasional Attender, Not Member (including Missing) N= 2	<30
	30-59 N= 1		30-59 N= 1		30-59 N= 1
	≥60 N= 1		≥60 N= 5		≥60 N= 1
	Msg.		Msg. N= 1		Msg.
Member under 3 yrs.  N= 2	<30	Member under 3 yrs.  N= 7	<30	Member under 3 yrs.  N= 2	<30
	30-59		30-59 N= 4		30-59 N= 1
	≥60 N= 2		≥60 N= 3		≥60 N= 1
	Msg.		Msg.		Msg.
Member 4 to 10 yrs.  N= 1	<30	Member 4 to 10 yrs.  N= 18	<30	Member 4 to 10 yrs.  N= 0	<30
	30-59		30-59 N= 10		30-59
	≥60 N= 1		≥60 N= 7		≥60
	Msg.		Msg. N= 1		Msg.
Member 11 or more yrs.  N= 6	<30	Member 11 or more yrs.  N= 75	<30 N= 1	Member 11 or more yrs.  N= 6	<30
	30-59 N= 2		30-59 N= 6		30-59 N= 3
	≥60 N= 4		≥60 N= 68		≥60 N= 3
	Msg.		Msg.		Msg.
Total N= 11		Total N= 108		Total N= 10	

7:15 Mass: The respondents are predominantly older and long-standing members of the parish. Newer members are older.

9:30 Mass: The respondents are predominantly older and long-standing members of the parish. Newer members are comparatively younger (under 60 years of age) but members of less than 10 years are only one-third of the respondents. There was only one respondent under 30 years of age.

11:45 Mass: The respondents are predominantly long-standing members of the parish. Half of the respondents are under 60 years of age, making this the youngest Mass congregation but numbers are small.

Table 2. The Ordering of Mass Characteristics by Mass Congregations

Survey Question: 'I attend this liturgy because of (check all that apply):

Style of Liturgy; Time at which it is scheduled; Sense of Community; Music; Involvement of Children; Lay participation; Personal Encounter with God; Other (these are listed after table).

7:15 Congregation Respondents		9:30 Congregation Respondents		11:45 Congregation Respondents	
Characteristic	Responses	Characteristic	Responses	Characteristic	Responses
Style	9/11	Community	101/108	Encounter with God	7/10
Scheduled Time	9/11	Style	92/108	Style	4/10
Community	9/11	Music	90/108	Scheduled Time	4/10
Encounter with God	4/11	Lay Involvement	67/108	Community Sense	4/10
Other	3/11	Encounter with God	56/108	Music	4/10
Lay Involvement	2/11	Scheduled Time	48/108	Other	2/10
Music	2/11	Children	34/108*	Lay Involvement	0/10
Children	0/11	Other	20/108	Children	0/10

\* Almost one-third of these positive responses about the involvement of children came from respondents under 60 years of age, half of whom selected the involvement of children (9/15).

### 7:15 Other Responses

I even like the smaller setting in the foyer. / Father / Mass

### 9:30 Other Responses

The people. / I appreciate the social justice perspectives. / Ecumenical spirit at times. / Our pastors. / It's awesome. / Homilies.

Friendship. / Was about Dick's sermons, but Ray is good, too. / Feminist social justice. / Homilies. / Quality of celebration.

Great networking. / Inclusive peace and justice themes. / Lay homilists, Fr. Ray. / Celebrants- all. / Like-minded community; priests, Dick and Ray. / I believe the liveliness of the community gives the encounter with God. / People, different committees, outreach / Because the choir is at 9:30, but still miss having midnight Mass. / ASL / Contemplative

### 11:45 Other Responses

close to home / I'm a lector, Eucharistic minister

**Table 3. Satisfaction with liturgical celebrations in general at St Vincent by Mass Congregations**

Mass Congregation	Missing	Very Satisfied		Mostly Satisfied		Mostly Dissatisfied		Very Dissatisfied	
7:15 (N= 11)	0	8	73%	3	27%				
9:30 (N= 108)	2	87	82%	15	14%	3*	2%	1*	1%
11:45 (N= 10)	0	9	90%	1	10%				
Missing (N= 1)	0	1							

\* All these individuals have been members for over 11 years; the ‘very dissatisfied’ one attended both the Saturday Vigil and Easter Sunday Mass and reported to be ‘very satisfied’ with both of them; of those ‘mostly dissatisfied’ one attended the Saturday Vigil only, reporting to be ‘very satisfied’; one attended Easter Sunday only, reporting to be ‘mostly satisfied’; and one attended none of the Easter services.

### 7:15 MASS CONGREGATION

#### Satisfied Experiences:

Community coming together to pray and understand the gospel, discernment and course correction in my life, Fr Ray’s great homily and reflections / Thoughtful homilies / Priest who loves the Lord; just a wonderful group of people and Father is such a kind and loving Shepherd. / My faith family I get to spend time with them. / sermons and community

#### Unsatisfied Experiences:

GPS tells me to turn L on Front Street from Fayette but..

### 9:30 MASS CONGREGATION

#### Satisfied Experiences:

Rituals good, I feel the presence of God through other people. / The celebrations are very satisfying. / All Souls, First Communion, Easter bring tears to my eyes. They are wonderful celebrations. / Love the St V’s community. / Very welcoming. I was by myself, yet I didn’t feel lonely because I felt at home with my community. Fr. Ray gave a very nice msg. on Easter. His humility and down to earth presence are so appreciated by me. / Good homilies- connected to real life experiences. Music. The community is friendly, hospitable, social-justice-

focused and participates. Personality of the presider- warm, authentic, relational. / Sense of community, social justice focus. St Vincent's is remarkable as a spiritually fulfilling parish. The energy is unique. I have attended Catholic Churches my whole life and therefore experience is behind my opinion. / Social, lively, quiet reflective prayer. / Spiritual. / Community, beautiful liturgies, music. / Close, spiritual connections with others; challenging homilies. / So pleased that we will celebrate our two pastors together in June and how welcoming they are to each other. Bravo, Fr. Dick and Fr. Ray. / hearing the word interpreted by Fr Ray and the congregation / Love the 'theology' of this community, the homilies, strong connections made among word, community, sacraments, and music. / Solid liturgical thinking behind celebrations. / The celebrations are engaging, thoughtful, prayerful, inclusive, and fun! / Music, celebrations, friends. / Community. / Community, prayer, great music, inspiration. / Involvement, relevance to daily living. / A homily that reaches into the soul through the heart and intellect. / Time to contemplate. I liked the extended moments of silence after communion- the 'language of God' – everything else is a poor translation. / Community. / Spiritual enrichment. / Connecting my daily life in the readings; strong connection with my faith community. You are doing a great job, thank you! / The way this community will come together, despite our differences when the chips are down. / People's participation, creativity in liturgy and the way the word is proclaimed; diversity of expression and members united in worship. True Church! / All expectations are being fulfilled. / I enjoyed all the services. Fr Ray you are extraordinary. You seem to let the Holy Spirit speak through you. / I like the variety in how liturgy is presented. / Participation, community. / Liturgy, music, lay participation, sense of community. / Community, spirituality, joy, happiness. / Sense of community, liturgy and music / being part of a community has always been one of the things that I love about this parish. / A genuineness, sense of community, diversity of people and a welcome-ness to all, participation of the community in the Mass. / To personally get something out of the liturgy. / Community is great. / Sense of community, this Mass is celebrated from a deep focus of love for God and each other- Please continue the 3 minutes of silence/contemplation following communion. / Being a member of St V provides a truly Christian experience. The community encourages and supports and enables me to be more Christ-like. Warm, engaging community- Father Ray truly speaks from the heart and shares great insight into what it means to be Christian in today's world and our environment in particular. / The ability to meet everyone, spirituality and share God's gifts, especially the gift of the Eucharist. / In general, my family chooses to go to St V's over other Catholic Churches in Baltimore due to the feeling of welcoming, of social justice activities, of progressive mindedness, of many activities you can get involved with if you choose; the openness of the members, the retreats, are great as ever the (undecipherable) offered. / Fr. Ray's homilies greatly moving. /

**Undercroft Comments:** Ditch the church upstairs and continue to have Mass in the undercroft- better atmosphere. / In general, I like having liturgy downstairs. It's homier, and people seem to participate more. / Just about being in the undercroft for Mass in general, I really appreciate having a play area for the kids, because I have notice that there are fewer moments of upset among the kids and I think it is important that they are with the congregation throughout and not separated in glass enclosed room or such. So maybe consider bringing this back upstairs when the ceiling is repaired.

### Unsatisfied Experiences:

Rarely more than a hand-full of Black, Hispanic, Asian participants. / The length of the Mass can be a challenge for children. / Length of the Mass. I'd like to see some portions moved to the end of Mass for folks that have to leave. / The voices of lay people, especially women. / Music is very good but not as good as it used to be... too much 'red book' type music- conservative. I like it lively. I love Negro spirituals. / Solve the audio problems, produce a parish directory- electronic or print. / There is NO excuse why the Mass starts late. / Inclusive language for God. / Some sort of elderly outreach program. / The Prayers of the Faithful go on way too long. / ↓ better sermons, more to the point, more pertinent, Fr Ray: please stop making up words! / Homilies are repetitive in that they all have a similar inward-turning theme. I tend to find myself drifting off midway through. / I wish that more people would be involved in the church as opposed to the few (undecipherable) folks who do most of the work. / One BIG complaint: the political innuendos (refugees, illegals,) intertwined in offertory/penitential petitions. Other political statements during other services, like "finding light in darkness," I consider these anti-Trump comments, which are INAPPROPRIATE during a Mass celebration.

### 11:45 MASS CONGREGATION

#### Satisfied Experiences:

Receiving the word of God / Spiritual vitality and community celebration / Lively homilies, community and worship opportunities /

**Unsatisfied Experiences: none noted**

Table 4a. Attendance at the Friday Overnight Vigil by Time in Parish

Membership	Number Attending
Not member +missing	1
Under 3 yrs.	1
4-10 years	3
11 or more yrs.	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

Of these 21, 14 attended the overnight vigil, the Saturday Vigil Service, and Easter Sunday Mass; 2 attended the overnight vigil and only the Saturday Vigil Service; while 5 attended the overnight and only Sunday Easter Mass. Those attending all 3 services were predominantly members of the parish for over 11 years (N= 13).

Table 4b. Satisfaction with the Friday Overnight Vigil at St Vincent by Mass Congregations

Mass Congregation	Very Satisfied		Mostly Satisfied		Mostly Dissatisfied		Very Dissatisfied	
7:15	2	100%						
9:30	15	88%	2	12%				
11:45	2	100%						

**Satisfied Experiences:**

Interesting and spiritual / Vigil on Friday worked well! / Hearing reflections, experiencing stories / Sharing perspectives, the experience itself / Good sharing / Seeing how different parishioners presented scripture / Celebration, joy, community spirituality / Being on Fri into Sat I finally got to stay all night- yeah! / Intimate feel / Lively reflection and fellowship / The reflections were truly inspirational; they were personal, contemporary and very spiritual

From non-attender: Keep the overnight vigil of hours on Good Friday so the dedicated souls can continue to experience it.

**Unsatisfied Experiences:**

Could have been more time for silent prayer but sense of community made up for it / Would have liked more quiet, personal reflection time / Need more quiet private time to reflect and pray / There was a lack of quiet space but that was because of our temporary limitations / [Wish I had, can't participate because of childcare responsibilities]

Table 5a. Attendance at the Saturday Vigil Service by Time in Parish

Membership	Number Attending
Not member +missing	4
Under 3 yrs.	4
4-10 years	6
11 or more yrs.	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

Table 5b. Satisfaction with the Saturday Vigil Service at St Vincent by Mass Congregations

Mass Congregation	Missing	Very Satisfied	Mostly Satisfied	Mostly Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
7:15 (N= 3)	1	2 100%			
9:30 (N= 53)	3	40 80%	10 20%		
11:45 (N= 4)	0	3 67%	1 33%		

### Satisfied Experiences:

I liked the fire. / Loved this service! Hope we continue this. It had scriptures of the vigil, light from the fire in church, blessing of the water, beautiful full Mass (I had stopped coming on Holy Saturday). This also started at a good time- 8 pm. Best Easter celebration. / Complete liturgy vs. prior fragmented one where about 80% only got the morning experience. / Keep Fri and Sat liturgy. Please don't return to old all nite Sat. / It was a great idea to have this so everyone didn't have to cram into the one service on Sunday / Blessing of the fire / water; beautiful liturgy felt like a family get-together / Different, but wonderful; looking at things with new eyes was beneficial / Solemn, celebratory- rich in scripture and tradition / The use of the lower chapel did not take away any of the Easter joy because the community would not let it! / All wonderful! / Very uplifting / A beautiful service / Very beautiful and shorter than I expected / Joy, happiness, celebration, community, spiritually rich tradition / The litany of saints was great / Love the music, people, worshipful spirit, joyfulness / It is very rewarding to experience every aspect of the liturgy on one night- new fire, paschal candle, renewal of vows, Exsultet, etc. The choir and music add a lot to the liturgy.

### Unsatisfied Experiences:

A bit too long. / Need to insert short verbal summary of the overnight vigil hour reflections into the homily. / A bit long / The lights were not turned off during the Exsultet and entrance from outside / A little hard adjusting to the Resurrection Mass at night / I don't like the abbreviated readings but am adjusting. / Too long / I was experiencing a personal passion / I would have liked a more broad selection of OT readings / The choir did not participate in the water rites or sprinkling / Hearing traditional reading all in same service but not all (I think there was to be 7, but only 4); but at the same time, I missed the expanded time for reflection on each reading as presented overnight Sat to Sun, as has been the St V tradition over the recent years. / Sometimes pomp and circumstance take precedence over spiritual experience, i.e. Easter Vigil; doesn't make sense to sing about Easter morning at 11 pm on Saturday night; / It just seemed so structured and lacked spontaneity that I am used to, 2.5 hours is a bit long for an evening service / Missed having the chrism in the baptismal font, otherwise was satisfied with the vigil, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday evening vigil mass I have attended. /

Table 6a. Attendance at the Sunday Easter Mass by Time in Parish

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Number Attending</b>
<b>Not member +missing</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Under 3 yrs.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4-10 years</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>11 or more yrs.</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>

Table 6b. Satisfaction with the Sunday Easter Mass at St Vincent by Mass Congregations

<b>Mass Congregation</b>	<b>Missing</b>	<b>Very Satisfied</b>	<b>Mostly Satisfied</b>	<b>Mostly Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>
<b>Missing (N= 1)</b>					
<b>7:15 (N= 2)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>		
<b>9:30 (N= 83)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>11:45 (N= 9)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>		

**Satisfied Experiences:**

The Mass was beautiful / The joy of the day; the litany / Sunday Mass was beautiful / Music- Skip- the litany of the saints!! Involvement of children/ families- bringing up the eggs; we liked helping w/set-up too / It was fine since I attended Sat pm, which I preferred. Glad there was one Mass starting at 10! Adaptation of breakfast was fine. / Great sense of community celebration! / Very faith-filled + joy-filled, In spite of our limited downstairs space, all worked well- the service, the brunch, the egg hunt / Sheer joy of the day / A sense of Christ experience and resurrection I experienced that.- thank you- it was all satisfying / Community, parade, candles / Loved Skip and the children / Like the 5 ramblings (sic)!; music / Celebration! / joyful celebration / Beautiful celebratory spirit with our community; music was wonderful / All wonderful / Very uplifting / For all the services the marvelous choir did us proud. You are the best! / Big crowd, good sense of community, liturgy, and music / I wasn't burnt out from having the vigil the night before. Great attendance. / Joyous celebration on Easter morning; very well attended / Celebration, joy, spiritually rich, happiness / I am always looking for a celebration of community particularly at the high holidays. We had an out of town visitor. I was very happy to share the community spirit with her and

my family. Nothing was unsatisfying. / A true joyfulness of Easter, loved the litany of the saints, the candles, blessing of all and of each other with holy water, enjoyed simple but bountiful brunch after Mass. / Rousing- Skip inspires me with his beautiful gift / Homily related to the Easter story and today's world / I was thankful for the renewal for baptisms / The whole experience / Everything / Service was very, very nice. / Warmth, inclusiveness / Happy to see most of the community was together and it was as joyful as ever / Celebration of the resurrection with such joy / Sharing the full liturgy with so many other people was terrific; the music and choir added a lot. / I liked the way the Easter morning included the readings from the overnight. /

### **Unsatisfied Experiences:**

The Mass was very long / The length of the service is sometimes an issue for our family and other friends we have introduced to St Vincent's / The Mass ran a bit long, but I am sure all present felt blessed / Did miss being in church / Music wasn't as exciting as from evening before; should have practiced the first song or chosen another. 'Sons and Daughters' not lively / Too long- some shortening would not reduce quality / I was busy setting up; could move breakfast line faster if we plan for it. / Missed going to the Saturday night vigil but I was not going to go to two Masses and I missed the connection to the all-night vigil, there was an attempt to connect but it wasn't the same. / More lilies.

Other: I felt unable to comment. Any shortcomings were mine.

## Comments on Other Lenten Services Comments on Other Lenten Services

### **Stations and other**

The Stations and the Wednesday discussions were powerful and moving.

### **Palm Sunday**

#### *Positive*

I attended; was sufficient for my needs. / Loved the experience. / Very good. / Loved one Mass at ten. / Beautiful! / Well done / Fantastic! / Wonderful! / Wonderful! / Wonderful! / Went well. / Went well in spite of challenge of new location. / Love Palm Sunday- a critical part of why I attend St V. It is the best part of the community and can be used to attract new (undecipherable) / Loved the procession around the block. / Enjoyed the parish members who read the Passion but missed participating as part of chorus / Service was wonderful. / Very good. / St V's presentations/services are generally outside the box, very engaging and meaningful. / Rich liturgically, the choir and music add a lot to the richness. Even despite the different location this year, the service was wonderful.

*Negative*

Why read the entire Passion when we are going to experience the rest of the week? /

**Tenebrae**

Tenebrae was a very profound and moving service. Good last year upstairs, good this year downstairs. / Tenebrae was beautiful and moving. / Worked well with Men's Chorus, good turn-out. Very spiritual and beautiful work. / Always a 'must attend.' / Beautiful! / Fantastic / Wonderful! / Wonderful! / Went well. / So lovely- prayers and music from all men's choir. / Went well in spite of challenge of new location. / Wonderful if I say so myself. / Tenebrae was great! The BMC was a pleasant addition. / More lively this year because of the men's chorus. / Very good. / St V's presentations/services are generally outside the box, very engaging and meaningful. / Rich liturgically, the choir and music add a lot to the richness. Even despite the different location this year, the service was wonderful.

**Seder and Holy Thursday***Positive*

Seder was great; I missed the dancing. There was ritual, community and fun. / Having Seder in the same space as liturgy worked better than expected. The caterer was a great development. If there is anything that could be done to allow Holy Thursday liturgy earlier, it would be great. It turns into a long night as is, which is probably why so many leave after Seder. / Seder was great! I love doing interfaith activities and sharing in my St V family tradition. / Seder and Holy Thursday were very organized and were fantastic. / Loved the experience. / Good kid involvement. Well transitioned; recycling needed after Seder. / Went well in a challenged situation. But I do like the meal better when we cook it. / Wonderful; however, the community continues to ignore the request to recess in silence. / Very good. The Seder was almost like always, but I really missed the dancing. / Adaptation in undercroft was very good. / Wasn't sure how these would work out given the space problem but, as usual, everybody was flexible and helpful, and it worked out well. / Went very well. Communion was most difficult to do but went OK for first time. Those giving out bread should not run ahead of those doing the wine. "Tell verbally" for everybody to remain in seat for communion. / Wonderful family celebration. / Done well, food was good, service was very rewarding. / Very spiritual, warm communication / Always a 'must attend.' / Beautiful! / Terrific! / Seder was great and the segue to Holy Thursday was flawless. / Seder was very well managed under circumstances! A+ meal was delicious. / Well done / Fantastic! / Wonderful! / A long time commitment but I wouldn't give up any part! / Wonderful. I would suggest a less sweet Kosher wine for Seder. Surely there is a good wine available. / Wonderful! / Went well. / Worked well with changes, thank you, Mary Rose / Went well in spite of challenge of new location. / I liked staying downstairs for Holy Thursday after Seder, it made the transition much smoother and more relevant. / Love the Seder- a critical part of why I attend St V. It is the best part of the community and can be used to attract new (undecipherable) / Great

again as well / Seder went well as did the Mass. The transition from dinner to Mass was practically flawless. I would come again. / Seder was great experience. Yes- love everything about St Vincent's. / Very good. / Rich liturgically, the choir and music add a lot to the richness. Even despite the different location this year, the service was wonderful.

*Negative*

I would have attended Holy Thursday- had planned to- but by 8 pm- too exhausted. It's a lot to do Seder and Holy Thursday on same night in the same space. / Do not shout at us and scold us during the meal. Use a bell to get our attention, then one hand up for silence if SILENCE IS REQUIRED. Do not make us all be silent so that you can tell us to be silent in 5 minutes.

**Good Friday**

Good kid involvement. / The children's service was good, and the children appreciated the whole idea. / I like the idea of a commissioning for the (overnight) vigil but felt it broke the 'sense of solemnity and deepening quiet' by placing it at the end of the service. Think we need a musical (instrument only) for retrieval of communion from altar of repose. / Beautiful! / Fantastic! / Wonderful! / Wonderful! / Wonderful! / Went well. / Went well in spite of challenge of new location. / Children Service was very well done; very simple but spiritual; age appropriate for children and adults; wish more had attended; focus was solely on Passion which is what GF should be / Very good. / St V's presentations/services are generally outside the box, very engaging and meaningful. / Rich liturgically, the choir and music add a lot to the richness. Even despite the different location this year, the service was wonderful.

*Negative*

Attendance was particularly low because it was scheduled late to accommodate the overnight vigil- should start earlier.

**Other Notes:**

No time to complete (survey) during Mass. Put out next week and give us 1 week to complete thoughtfully. / Thank you for your thoughtfulness and work. / Thank you! / Entire adaptation of undercroft has been wonderfully amazing! / Thanks for all the work / Thanks to all the people who decorated, cooked, moved chairs and tables so that everything went smoothly. / The volunteers who made the logistics work this week should be commended, especially the Pastoral Associate. It was an Easter miracle! / I enjoyed everything but had to study for exams; thank you for all / Everything was good. Thank y'all. / For a small community we do a lot. That's great but maybe we should think about if it is too much. People are worn out by the time Easter comes. /

I thought the photographer intruded on the solemnity of the services... click, click, click. What does he do with all those pictures, and how many does he need anyway? Signed Steve McDaniel with Happy Easter and April Fools Day!