

Survey Name: Support Survey
2019 Parish Survey - Text Response Only

4. How satisfied are you with the following? - Comments

Answer

[No Responses]

9. Are you a member of the following groups? - Other responses

Answer

Respondent

Basilica Choir!	Anonymous
Pastoral care ministry	Anonymous
Basilica choir	Anonymous
Altar Server Ministry	Anonymous
Ushers greeters	Anonymous
Na	Anonymous
Collection Counter	Anonymous
None of the above	Anonymous
Santa Claus	Anonymous
Basilica Choir, Spirit Ensemble, Simbang Gabi, Stewardship Committee	Anonymous
St Joseph the Helper	Anonymous
Covenant of Love/Date Night	Anonymous
Choir	Anonymous
Simbang gabi	Anonymous
Simbang gabi	Anonymous
Dine & Connect	Anonymous
Basilica Choir	Anonymous
Richard Garden Team	Anonymous
Refugees	Anonymous
Covenant of Love	Anonymous
ART & ENVIRONMENT	Anonymous
Alameda Reads Adult Literacy	Anonymous
Our lady of Guadalupe	Anonymous
Sacristan	Anonymous
Family Mass Ministry	Anonymous
Welcome the Stranger	Anonymous
Funeral ministry	Anonymous
Oakland Catholic Worker	Anonymous
I have been a member of walk for life, pastoral council, and RCIA	Anonymous
We help where we are needed	Anonymous
Choir	Anonymous
Faith formation	Anonymous
CIA, Family mass, Childrens liturgy	Anonymous
Choir	Anonymous
Funeral helper	Anonymous
SVDP	Anonymous
Welcome the Stranger	Anonymous
Pastoral Ministry	Anonymous
SVDp	Anonymous
n/a	Anonymous
Basilica Choir	Anonymous
Gardening group	Anonymous
Music ministry	Anonymous
Welcome the Stranger	Anonymous
Basilica Choir	Anonymous

no	Anonymous
SPRED, Legion of Mary, Confirmation, PCM, Children Liturgy	Anonymous
Music Ministry - Basilica Choir	Anonymous
Simbang Gabi, Pastoral Care, Fatima Group	Anonymous
Welcome the Stranger	Anonymous
none of the above	Anonymous
choir	Anonymous
blank	Anonymous
no info	Anonymous
Volunteer/Usher	Anonymous
Lay Carmelite	Anonymous
Special Needs Inclusion Ministry	Anonymous
None of the Above	Anonymous
Contributor not a member of others	Anonymous
Sunshine Girls Widows Group - 29 yrs	Anonymous
(nothing listed)	Anonymous
(no entry)	Anonymous
(no entry)	Anonymous

10. Do you have any comments on the ministries and groups listed above? - Responses

Answer	Respondent
Not sure what are the goals of the parish for the future and what the plan is for reaching new and younger people who are not church people	Anonymous
The Angel Tree Project and the Basilica Choir are very well organized and fun to be a part of!	Anonymous
The Respect for Life Ministry needs to get more support from the parish. We need to make aware of the parishioners the importance of supporting the ministry.	Anonymous
Not sure why Relay for Life is included, since parish hasn't had a team in several years.	Anonymous
Na	Anonymous
No	Anonymous
None have really appealed to me or drawn me in yet.	Anonymous
No	Anonymous
I feel much more a part of the parish community since the formation of the Young Adults Group. Participating in the YAG is a fulfilling experience for me, though as a single person I sometimes feel that parish activities are geared toward couples and families.	Anonymous
I graduated from SJNDHS. My four children attended SJES and I was very very active with the school and PTA for all those years.	Anonymous
Are these groups that require more growth and participation?	Anonymous
I enjoy all the Ministries and groups I participate in.	Anonymous
I've participated in two ministries, music and Date Night, and both were/are wonderful. I see that other ministries are active and have a good reputation in the parish but don't have direct knowledge through participation. There seems to be a group for just about anyone so I think the parish is doing well in this area.	Anonymous
So many opportunities, so little time.	Anonymous
None	Anonymous
My ministry is not listed; Welcome the Stranger.	Anonymous
No	Anonymous
I wish we could do more community outreach, like hosting Dine & Connect on our grounds. Or hosting Al Anon meetings or AA meetings.	Anonymous
N/A	Anonymous
I have participated in Angel tree and Arts and Environment in the past. I enjoyed being a part of these groups but sometimes found it challenging due to my daytime job and timing when others were retired and preferred daytime meetings.	Anonymous

<p>Many parishes have men's groups that aren't Knights. I go there for better men support Elementary school experience was pretty bad with some of the parents being snobby and non inclusive. Some of those people are ones who like to act like they are very religious but I have been victim of their petty hate. Teacher turnover is ridiculous.</p>	<p>Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous</p>
<p>No comment.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>None</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT RELAY FOR LIFE FOR A FEW YEARS NOW</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>We appreciate the time and energy they invest and are grateful for their contribution to our community.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Was not aware of "New Parishioners" group. Would be interested in participating. Also, a group for those who have returned to the faith after a hiatus would be useful. A Book Club would also be another venue for building community.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>I am interested in a support and social group for divorced Catholics. Years ago the only option was to go to Contra Costa County which was not possible.</p>	
<p>What are the programs for the elderly in our community? The high school has to do service hours, why aren't they doing them in our community?</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Outreach are doing well.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>I love the Young Family Group gatherings, we have fun and also share with other parents, I wish there was a group for adolescents like this so that they could feel that they belong.</p>	
<p>Our lady of Guadalupe is a small group, I enjoy praying the rosary in my language!</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>At times these ministries seem micro-managed by the rectory. It is important for the administration to remember that although our ministries are from the heart that the members are VOLUNTEERS, not rectory employees.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>We support & donate to them however, not a member</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Youth ministry can improve its organization. I have volunteered to help but it can sometimes be disorganized.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Need a Youth Council for teens and college students. We need some way to reverse the "drain" out of the church</p>	
<p>St Joe's is better than most churches, but it could do so much more to retain the youth especially given our relationship with SJND which has really been left untapped.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Given the challenge of engaging young adults in the faith, St. Joseph could emphasize the Young Adults Group at the church more and make continued announcements of its existence and upcoming events. The likelihood of visiting young adults picking up a bulletin or seeing a poster at church are generally pretty low I would imagine.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>I have been involved in many ministries over the years, and for now am less involved due to my work schedule and the fact that I see such conservatism being preached at every turn.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>I enjoy lecturing and working for the Alameda Food Bank and OCW. It is fulfilling.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>I think it is wonderful that there are so many groups to be a part of, and have found myself joining and changing groups over the years as my children grew and our life circumstances/availability changed.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>At one time I volunteered for the hospitality and social committee, but then you had the heads of ministries take this over. I would be interested in this again.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Inquiry sessions and the young adult groups have been very welcoming.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>The Confirmation aspect of faith formation needs to be adapted to teach our young people in a way that gets them inspired and excited about this important Sacrament. I think it would be a good idea to contact SJND high school to make the preparation more like the Kairos retreat, which students love and find transformative.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Yes, walk for life! This is all about abortion even though we are encouraged to believe it's about all life. It isn't! I find it oppressive at best.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>I support some of the above groups with donations including Angel tree, Food bank, bins, Knights, scouts, St V deP, relay for life, AIDS walk, welcome stranger etc.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Personally, I do not care to support some of the groups mentioned. It is because we therefore enable and reinforce people who choose not to work, or are on drugs, or choose to lead criminal lives. They should not be rewarded for behavior that is destructive, not only to themselves, but to others in the community.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>

It would be fun if each group had parties or potlucks to get to know other volunteers within the group. For example, lectors could have a potluck on a year to get to know each other and share stories / tips for being a good lector. This is different than the once a year session where an expert lector comes and talks to us
Anonymous

No experience in any of the above
Anonymous

Difficult to get more young adults to participate. Many stop going to church because of their busy lives, and because they aren't interested. Many went to church as children because their parents made them go. Need to engage them somehow, maybe hosting events with food and drinks.
Anonymous

Social gatherings? Concerts? Retreats?
Anonymous

Not happy that we don't do recruitment drives for all ministries anymore.
Anonymous

None
Anonymous

Why is there a Special Needs Inclusion Ministry when there is already SPRED Ministry? Aren't they the same. SPRED does include special needs people. Seems a little redundant. I do think that the caregivers support group is a good idea but special needs people should probably be in one group. People might not know what group to belong.
Anonymous

I'm not sure where the music ministry goes in the categories above
Anonymous

Would love to see more announcements for the YAG! Perhaps reaching out/ posting flyers in various grocery stores in Alameda, announcements each month from a member of YAG at all masses, more outings, emails to alumni from Saint Joe's High School to increase involvement. I volunteer at the Alameda Food Bank, but not through St. Joseph. I didn't know there WAS a St. Joseph group involved there or at Midway, which is another charity I support. And why is the music ministry not listed? It includes at least 50 people!
Anonymous

I like the Food Bins idea and would like to see that promoted more as I think they get overlooked sometimes. I also like the monthly SVDP collection and Catholic Worker collaboration.
Anonymous

I appreciate the variety of ministries available! To encourage more participation:
Anonymous

- Ministry fair 2-3 times annually
- Allow ministries to be more present at the Mass (rotate ministries on regular cadence during announcements if they have something meaningful to share)
- Ministry handbook (e.g., budget, workshops) could be helpful for leaders

Services for Christmas and Easter used to include brass accompaniment. I miss it.
Anonymous

Adding more opportunities for adults to learn about the faith (e.g. how-to Eucharistic adoration, what is Theology of the Body)
Anonymous

Why was music left out of this survey? Many people choose a mass based on the music. Also, this parish has a very robust music ministry which is never mentioned above or below. The morning masses have been using the same Gloria week after week since 2011 when the New Roman Missal was instituted. Time for some variation?
Anonymous

The Young Families Group has been a great way for our family to connect with similar families and form friendships that are sure to last. Although this ministry is growing our own faith and family culture, we hope the many other families we see each week at church will know about it and feel invited.
Anonymous

none
Anonymous

Not a member of above mentioned groups.
Anonymous

I come to St. Joseph because of the music, both to sing and to listen. I always enjoy the service and the homily. and it is interesting to see the different emphasis and interpretations of the bible passages.
Anonymous

no
Anonymous

none
Anonymous

social Justice - where is it?
Anonymous

St. Joseph's does a great job with all their groups listed above.
Anonymous

I would like to see more people participate in the Mass as ministers such as: Lectors, Eucharistic ministers -so that we can spread the joy of serving the Lord.
Anonymous

Also, I believe that one Sacristan should only be the Sacristan & watch the Mass in case we run out of Hosts or have other problems during communion.
Anonymous

I became active in the church to join the choir
Anonymous

Am a senior caring for a disabled husband. Don't have time for volunteer work. did spend 10 years working Girl Scouts previously.
Anonymous

Including more youth participation in giving back to the community
They seem active and responsive to need. Anonymous
Anonymous

The social justice ministry could do more to promote social justice by promoting policies that address the root causes of injustice in addition to the fine job it currently does on alleviating the consequences (hunger, homelessness, poor health care ...) of injustices. Anonymous
I don't know much about any of them. Anonymous
We need backing from Priest & Staff to promote Walk for Life. Anonymous

I think it's great that we have so many! It gives more folks a chance to share their expertise. Anonymous
I am 83 years old and do not take part in as many activities as I used to. Anonymous
I attend daily Mass. When Sr Toni was here I participated in Ministry of Little Things. Anonymous
I think there needs to be a group focused on Social Justice. Anonymous
I am in the music ministry. David is a very good choir director and he made me feel welcome and valued even though I can't read music well.

There is too much emphasis on Marian devotions and not enough on deepening my faith in God - Father, Son and Spirit. Anonymous
n/a Anonymous
no Anonymous
Love St. Joseph Community Parish and Schools Anonymous
No Anonymous

11. Do you find our parish community welcoming? - Comments

Answer	Respondent
--------	------------

How can we develop a systematic approach to welcoming, informing and integrating new people into the parish? Anonymous

I frequently hear newcomers speak of feeling welcomed. Anonymous
Also, our ushers do a good job

This is some what complicated answer. I have attended SJB for 20+ years but have not connected with any group until the last 4 years. Why did it take this long? I did not reach out to the ministry nor did the ministry reach out to me. I think the turning point was Fr. George having the Volunteer Faire. Anonymous

I don't have people talk to me after Mass generally or notice me. I even have an advantage in that I know longtime parishioners and even go to church with them and still it feels unwelcoming. After more than a year I still don't really feel like I belong here. Anonymous

Greeters at every mass is very welcoming. Chance to talk to priests after mass is very good. Anonymous

To a degree. If I were an LGBTQ person or a woman with a calling to be a priest or a woman who had had an abortion or had been divorced, the answer would not be the same. Even as a single woman I sometimes feel there isn't necessarily a place for me, except in the Young Adults Group. Anonymous

Aside from the long announcements, time could be well used to pray for war crime victims, victims of acts of violence, and forces of nature including a earthquake and typhoons that just hit Japan, I was disturbed that your closing announcer seemed to regurgitate a political figure's view that faithful are now "different" I am a person of faith, and concious. I believe we should be welcoming and spreading the word and teachings of Jesus, not propoganda from criminals like William Barr. Anonymous

Exceptionally welcoming. This is something St. Joe's is known for. Anonymous

Not only in the pews but in Trader Joe's or even on the street. It's like having an extended family in Alameda. Anonymous

Although I was extremely distraught during the masses of Father John Carrillo when he was using combative language towards those who are ProChoice as most people in the community are. He was walking dangerously close to using language that would endanger the non-profit status of the church as became a lot like Pro-Life political propaganda. Anonymous

Acknowledging birthdays, anniversaries, all who partying the mass. Welcoming all visitors
This question makes me very tearful, as this question makes me aware of how much I miss the love, spirit and energy of Father George. Anonymous

Definitely in the past. I haven't been in awhile so I can't comment about the past couple of years. Anonymous

Friendly staff, always smiling. Anonymous

No comment. Anonymous

Sometimes, but I do feel there is a lot of self segregating that goes on after the masses. Anonymous

parents/members very clicky and exclusive the very opposite of welcoming. Anonymous

The greeters really make a difference when you come in for mass Anonymous

Our Parish is very welcoming in all caring ways. Anonymous

I appreciate the diverse ethnic/cultural celebrations incorporated into our masses.	Anonymous
Steve Mullin is the BEST addition to our parish in years! Keep up the good work and inspirational messages at the end of Mass - feels like taking the sacrament with us out to Alameda	Anonymous
St. Joseph does an amazing job of creating an extremely welcoming environment for individuals and families alike. The ushers and greeters and fellow parishioners are all great at making strangers feel welcome (or at least I think we do).	Anonymous
As a member for over 25 years, I have always found St. Joseph's parish to be welcoming. I have also always felt that my contributions have been welcomed and meaningfully received.	Anonymous
somewhat. I felt more connected about 20 years ago when I started coming here. Now I go and want to leave right after mass. feels like a business rather than a community.	
Priests have been wonderful over the years but I am having a hard time understanding reasons/situations for which they move on.	Anonymous
very welcoming	Anonymous
Yes and no. I think we could have more after-mass gatherings where folks can attend and introduce each other over tea and coffee around a table or room. Maybe have paper name tags at every church community social events and we can put under our name what ministry we are part of. Not everyone knows each other. I find that the older folks know each other but not the younger adults (under 50).	Anonymous
Yes, but I have experienced other parishes where the welcome is a bit more more robust, e.g., St. Columba's parish in Oakland, and Newman Hall/Holy Spirit in Berkeley.	Anonymous
I find the people who attend the 7:00 p.m. Mass are very welcoming and friendly.	Anonymous
I like how everyone likes to help when asked. Our greeters are the best.	Anonymous
As a gay person, I have felt extremely alienated by this church. There have been instances of blatant homophobia in homilies, even going as far as to say that people who support gay marriage should not call themselves Catholic. These negative experiences have made me feel unwelcome in the community, and ultimately resulted in me choosing not to attend church at all.	Anonymous
Very.	Anonymous
As active members of the Parish, we recognize and know many people when we attend Mass which makes it feel very welcoming. I hope we seem welcoming to visitors and less active parishoners too. Maybe we can invite Mass visitors to stand at the end for a welcome. For less active parishoners, continuing to offer seasonal food related events could be a good way to connect (i.e., lenten soup, pancake breakfast, coffee and doughnuts).	Anonymous
The greeters are welcoming And the parish provides many oportfor us to get together and celebrate.	Anonymous
Yes, but on Sundays I hope there can be more reverence inside the Basilica. The wonder and awe of the silent presence of Christ in the tabernacle should be enough to make any newcomer feel welcome. Welcome to sit with the Lord first; then make friends.	Anonymous
Sometimes. Sometimes i love St. Joseph community. Occasionally we need to be more open and to give unconditional love to all. God's love grow in stems from love.	Anonymous
Very much so. I feel included in everything the choir does, and welcomed to any parish events i attended.	Anonymous
Greeters	Anonymous
walking into SJB has always felt like being home - it's so warm and happy feeling	Anonymous
I see where people in the church greet only people they know --not everyone.	Anonymous
sometimes a little overbearing. I come to church for peace and solitude -- not for a lot of social contact and overzealous ushers.	Anonymous
Very welcoming	Anonymous
the Greeters at Mass always have a smiling and friendly face.	Anonymous
The parish has been very welcoming to my special needs daughter. She loves her time at Saint Joseph's.	Anonymous
Greeters at the doors are very friendly.	Anonymous
The donuts after Sunday services provide some social interaction but I'm not sure how they work to make visitors or prospective new members welcome. The groups quickly divide into clicks after snatching coffee or a donut.	Anonymous
It used to be.	Anonymous
We need name tags for all parishioners So we know their names. Calling people by name makes them feel welcome. I know peoples faces but not their names.	Anonymous
It's nice to be greeted at the door Especially by the Children.	Anonymous
Parishaners who know me always greet me.	Anonymous
I find them very welcoming.	Anonymous
Yes Now.	Anonymous

Very satisfied	Anonymous
I'm not looking for much here. Some of the attempts strike me as a bit phony. I don't like being thanked for coming to mass.	Anonymous
St. Joseph's has always been a welcoming parish.	Anonymous

12. How can our parish be more welcoming? - Responses

Answer	Respondent
---------------	-------------------

develop regular opportunities to welcome, inform and invite new people to get involved	Anonymous
--	-----------

Every mass we can ask anybody visiting us today. While they standing welcome them and have everybody clap and welcome them. May be assign different ministries(eg: 1st Sundays parish council members take charge, 2nd Sunday different ministry) go to them personally after Mass and talk to them in person.	Anonymous
--	-----------

Reach out to people that you don't know at mass	Anonymous
---	-----------

Na	Anonymous
----	-----------

Each ministry should have semi-annual effort to tell others about their ministry and encourage fellow parishioners to join their ministry. I believe if a parishioner can give to the SJB community they will feel welcomed and active. It can be a small act as picking up collection on a regular basis.	Anonymous
--	-----------

Talk to people around you in the pews before Mass and after Mass, this can't be a facilitated thing, it needs to be a natural thing that springs from the parishioners themselves. This can be reinforced through frequent socials after Masses and having people invite others they have not interacted with much to join them in various activities.	Anonymous
--	-----------

Find activities that are easy to do for community building. Organize activities that families can participate. Organize activities that both old and young can participate. Find volunteers to do simple tasks before or after mass to meet other parishioners. Light refreshments after mass may encourage people to stay after mass to get to know each other	Anonymous
---	-----------

Have more women in positions of power and fight against positions the Church as an institution takes that discriminate against women, LGBTQ people, and divorced people. Widely publicize ways in which our parish is a safe place for children and make sure we are following through with those ways.	Anonymous
---	-----------

I believe the focus should be on the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, of community, charity, acceptance, and love. I have never left mass feeling unfulfilled as I did today. I felt sorry that the pulpit seemed to be used to push right wing politics. The children we're wonderful, the priest and choir as well. Too bad about closing announcer.	Anonymous
--	-----------

At each Mass ask visitors to stand. Ask where they are visiting from. Offer a blessing to all visitors to St. Joseph. Maybe mention at every Mass "if we have anyone attending who is not a parish member, please talk to one of our usher/greeters".	Anonymous
---	-----------

Whenever there is a new presider, it would be great if he were introduced to the congregation.	Anonymous
--	-----------

Unsure. Advertising?	Anonymous
----------------------	-----------

The priests need to stop calling the "extra" attendees at Christmas and Easter "CEO" Catholics.

As a former "CEO" or "Chreaster" Catholic, I find the joke offensive. If someone was thinking of returning to Mass and was using the holiday as a start, they may not return because they are the brunt of a joke.

Just say, "glad to see everyone"	Anonymous
----------------------------------	-----------

Not sure.	Anonymous
-----------	-----------

When we were new at our parish in Arlington, VA, the second Sunday we attended one of the ushers tapped my husband on the shoulder and asked if we would bring up the offertory gifts. Many of us are shy to volunteer; many of us don't feel worthy of the honor; but if someone asks if you would participate, it gives you a wonderful feeling.	Anonymous
--	-----------

Offer Social Action, outreach ministries for those who believe it is part of our baptism to serve and work for others.	Anonymous
--	-----------

I would like there to be a more open and deliberative outreach to those in the LGBT community.	Anonymous
--	-----------

I believe the parish could be more welcoming to divorced and LGBT members of the community as well as those who are of mixed marriage (e.g. Catholic/Jewish faiths).	Anonymous
--	-----------

I have no specific comments. I would offer a comment.... consider reading Fr Don Osuna's book "How Awesome is this Place" about our former Cathedral of Saint Francis de Sales. It discusses and shows how a parish can work, play & pray together	Anonymous
--	-----------

It was hard for me to find my niche since I don't have kids, so not meeting other parents. I was also old for the young adults group and also young for some of the others. I can't be the only single adult who is looking for a social group.	Anonymous
---	-----------

Have more social events to build community. Card game night, dance night, diner and social dance. Trips. Tours. Vacations. Cruise.
SJND and SJES do a good job of doing parties that are fundraisers with good food. This builds community between parents. I think the Church should do that too.
Maybe invite famous christian speakers at a diner event.

Anonymous

Good question--perhaps having a stronger physical presence outside of the door actively welcoming people and calling each person by name if known. More significantly: that the community/leadership really welcome ALL folks of whatever faith and sexual preference and social relationship. Expand type of spiritual offerings (see below).

Anonymous

Have a regular priest like Fr. George who is enigmatic and vocal about us being a welcoming parish, open to all. Inviting church goers to all the events of the parish. Having ministry leaders speak during Mass about why they are involved in their ministry and looking for more people to join.

Anonymous

I am in a Catholic/Presbyterian ecumenical marriage of over 38 years. Often my husband attends Mass with me. I would like to see the non parishioners welcomed in a way that does not see them as outsiders but as fellow members of the Body of Christ. I am a 71 year old Vatican II Catholic who welcomed ecumenism with open arms.
What if we had joyful music playing in the background before mass started.
Everyone seems very friendly and welcoming.

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous

Is there a way to reach out to non-catholics? Perhaps having an open session to everyone and define what Catholicism is. I find that only in Weddings, Baptisms, and Funerals are when others are exposed to Catholicism. I also learn of other religion through this means. We need deeper understanding why we follow a Catholic Faith.

Anonymous

Couldn't fit this in a different area of the survey: I think the fact that the survey lumps ages 45-64 into one group indicates a missed opportunity. I think the spiritual needs of a 45 year old are much different than a 60+ year old. Every other age group listed is 9 years or less.

Anonymous

The parish starts with the priest bring back Father George .

Anonymous

The parish can be more welcoming by not targeting people based off of their identity or beliefs.

Anonymous

have the pastor be more of a presence at SJES (ie: come and speak with students in classroom and get to know the students more)

Anonymous

Parishioners should reach to unfamiliar faces more with a smile and introduce yourself

Anonymous

More breakfasts, donuts after masses, coffee. Something simple like hot chocolate/ hot cider after evening masses. Have parishioners choose music.

Anonymous

I wish there was more participation from the grammar and high school kids and their families. I believe a youthful energy is, in itself, a welcoming energy.

Anonymous

Not sure, frankly.

Anonymous

More outgoing extroverted leaders.

Anonymous

Most of you see the same people at church week after week but don't know each other's names. I think we should all have name tags. Also, this time of the year 5 years ago (2014), photos for the parish directory were being advertised. Before that, photos for the directory were taken in 2009.

Anonymous

Continue to offer engaging ministries to help people feel connected.

Anonymous

If we herd everyone out to the gathering space after Mass, there is always a welcoming environment there. Small groups congregate in the Basilica after Mass making it difficult for others to pray. When Mass has ended, we should "go forth... into the world" not "go to your friend's pew to chat".

Anonymous

New families bring us the gift on the first mass of the month.

Acknowledge new members at every mass - we then stand and welcome them and give a special package with St. Joseph prayer, activities, etc., something with the church finger print on it.

Anonymous

It is waaaay too welcoming. Way too many parties and socials.

Anonymous

more personal contact with new members

Anonymous

We need to evangelize more. get the parishioner to get more involved. need more activities

Anonymous

Fun All parish events, picnics etc.

Anonymous

can't think of anything

Anonymous

One way would be to have people sit in different areas of the church and encourage them to introduce themselves to at least one person at Mass that they do NOT know.

Anonymous

it is very welcoming

Anonymous

More outreach to young Catholics and non-Catholics

Anonymous

I notice that there are no mass/liturgy handouts for adults at the back of the church where latecomers often stand during mass. I would like to see some liturgy directions left there--it would make newcomers who might be "just visiting" feel more in touch with the liturgy (e.g., they could recite the Nicene Creed, etc.).

Anonymous

Perhaps we could have a special visitors or new parishioners area after the Sunday service.

Inquire as to members concerns, or prospective members, and then direct them to parishioners familiar with such concerns.

Outreach

We are welcoming.

I think you are doing a very good job. I do find it hard to understand every word of the homily due to the accent of the priest and the microphone system

The parish reaches out to individuals with different backgrounds. Racial but not financial.

How serious tho depends on who is doing the Liturgy.

The parish helped me grow in my faith journey in the 90's. Putting much more emphasis on Youth Ministry. They are the Future.

LGBT welcomed but not teach life style Not in God's word.

In 35 yrs + I have learned more Bible from outside churches like Protestant, Baptist, TV, etc.

Have Social Justice Group

You could have more family masses and more children readers.

Have more children readers

Maybe a few 'social' events would help. Plenty of spiritual things but you need some light events that bring people together.

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

13. Rate the following statements. - Comments

Answer

[No Responses]

14. Should our parish be putting less, the same, or more emphasis on: - Comments

Answer

[No Responses]

16. How could St. Joseph Basilica better serve your spiritual needs? - Responses

Answer

Respondent

I feel that the St. Joseph isn't as spiritually strong as it was back in the Sacred Heart days. Before 2007 there were many more parish outreach groups - AIDS/HIV committee, the Garden Club and a strong commitment to the Midway Shelter and Alameda Food Bank. This level of commitment has been replaced by endless devotions to this or that.

Anonymous

Teach more about the Holy Mass and the catholic teachings on moral issues will be appreciated

Anonymous

Novenas by outside sources

Anonymous

Better already

Anonymous

More exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and much less parties. Observe prayerful silence before AND after mass. I have noticed a lot of people particularly Filipinos are gossiping inside the church. Dress modestly. One lector wore leggings during during mass as if she was going to the gym. Absolute no-no.

Anonymous

Already satisfied

Anonymous

Improve liturgies and improve hospitality, welcome everyone, offer gatherings after Mass, have ways for people to mingle at these gatherings after Mass even if they don't know anyone yet. Focus on social justice and catholic social teaching. If you do all of this, the rest will follow.

Anonymous

Great and inspiring sermons at Mass. Is liturgy same as Mass?

Anonymous

Special activities for special occasions.

I would like to know more about what effect I as an individual parishioner can have on the Catholic Church as a whole and what effect an individual parish can have. The larger issues going on in the Church often distract me from what is going on in mass and in cultivating my relationship with God, which is unacceptable to me.

Anonymous

Focus on prayer and scripture, support of Pope Francis. Less time on personal opinion, and politicizing the pulpit In the long run, I think there are enough opportunities offered. It's up to the individual to be receptive and participate more.

Anonymous

It would be nice to be a participant in a parish activity instead of being the one involved in making the activity happen. My spiritual needs are sometimes better met when I go elsewhere for mass.

Anonymous

There are plenty of opportunities to receive spiritual strengthening. At this unusual time our greatest need IMO is for a good pastor, well-vetted with no scandals or dark corners in his past.

Anonymous

Anonymous

More informative programs about the Scriptures and the history of the Church. Fewer programs mandating moral choices that are difficult and should be personal decisions, made privately and prayerfully.

Anonymous

more pronounced and inspiring homilies - more specific take aways that can be applied to daily life practices as well as reflection of one's self and others. Fr. John is an excellent example: He read the Eucharistic Prayers with sincere reverence and great cadence. He took his time in consecrating the bread and wine - it was very spiritual. Anonymous

I would like to hear about and know about more male groups. Anonymous

Have bible study or social impact type of group study then projects that meet after the work day. Anonymous

I believe the parish serve my spiritual needs more if there was a greater emphasis on serving those in need and who are vulnerable in our community and beyond. Anonymous

We'll have been through at least eight priests that left after affairs with other men(2), choir leader(1), transfers of some of our best priests, and now George It gets tiring

We should spend money on needed structural work but not unnecessary art work to old basilica altar unless the people pushing for it want to pay Anonymous

I am struggling with my relationship with the Catholic Church as a institution in light of the many abuse scandals of the past few years, and I don't really feel like I have a space to process that. I also need a model in my life for more radical solidarity with the poor and oppressed, but I don't always feel like I get that from our parish. Anonymous

More confession times!!!

Also, homilies do not need to be entertaining. Probably more depth in them, although entertaining homilies could be good for newcomers Anonymous

More rigorous bible study opportunities. A men's group not centered on alcohol (as KoC seems to be). More encouragement to attend Confession. Anonymous

More retreats on prayer that requires group talks and reflection. Anonymous

Doing a good job. Lots of mass times, prayer, faith formation, etc. Anonymous

More reflection groups. A book club that reads and shares books based on spirituality such as Robert Elsberg's The Saint's Guide to Happiness, Gerald May's The Dark Night of the Soul, books by Joan Chittister, ... many possibilities for growth here that mature people beyond Catholic culture to deeper conviction and community. Anonymous

Retreats too! Anonymous

be more inclusive and inviting.....it just isn't Anonymous

Stay out of political correctness. Stick to the teachings of the Catholic church and not to biased interpretation of the scriptures, based on personal agendas. Anonymous

Having a daily mid-day mass. Anonymous

I practice in & out of my church to enrich my spirituality. I am happy when our church helps us to deepen our Spirituality as a parish family.. Often we all stay safe in the familiar of who we are and what we know which can limit our growth and well being. As we have activities to interact with each other we come to realize more within ourselves . Anonymous

Strong Leadership, community involvement Anonymous

More evening groups and/or Bible Study for specific groups - working moms, recent empty nesters, single moms, dads, Single older adults Anonymous

Perhaps I am not looking at the right places, but I would like to have more opportunities for structured scripture study. More talks or one-off events outside of Lent and Advent would be great -- opportunities to deepen my understanding of the faith (outside of Young Adults). St. Joseph offers plenty of devotionals, but not enough further study. Anonymous

I need a new venue to help me grow, a new venue that creates interesting and thought provoking discussion around the tough topics in our church. But everything has become so conservative, that I have become agnostic to the fact that my faith development has stagnated. I am not interested in going backwards to more conservative times. Anonymous

Thinking about the needs of my family and of young people in general, I think the church needs to be more inclusive and responsive to youth in today's world, more inclusive and affirming of LGBT and questioning youth, and more inclusive of women in both church leadership and in addressing spiritual needs. Anonymous

Too many announcements at end of mass. Too many pleas for \$\$\$\$. The Parish should move the Pastor (whoever that may be) back into the Rectory and make the upstairs there more private for clergy. The San Antonio houses were purchased years ago to provide an extra income for the Parish and subsidize maintenance for all the Parish buildings. Anonymous

my oldest child did not enjoy confirmation studies. we were both scolded by the nun who ran it. it occurred in the middle of a sunday for 3 hours! it felt obligatory and punitive. thus my other two children have not been confirmed. Don't make me feel bad for the way i can or cannot participate. Anonymous

#14 - the parish should stop putting emphasis on "different groups of people". Christ gave all of us the same teaching to repent and turn away from sin. He told the apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. He didn't give different instructions for evangelizing single, married, LGBT and others. We all are Catholics. Anonymous

Be supportive of Pope Francis message of inclusivity, love and standing up for the already born, who are less fortunate not just financially but also socially or emotionally.	Anonymous
More participation of women in leadership roles giving retreats, days of prayer and preaching! Surprisingly enough women see things differently!	Anonymous
keep up the good work.	
Better teach us how to defend our church.	Anonymous
It is hard because I can't always participate in groups or meetings because I have been taking classes at Laney College. But it is great that they are offered.	Anonymous
I can't think of anything else. I work full time and cannot participate in more groups.	Anonymous
It is fine now. Thank you.	Anonymous
Bring in more high-tech equipment for video display, inspiring videos, and speakers.	
Change up the music repertoire to focus on pop christian music. Have teenagers from SJND band and other local musicians interpret pop christian songs.	
Put on a show like the high-school does. Show modern Christian movies and have discussions after the movies.	Anonymous
Spiritual reading book discussion clubs	
Host spiritually enriching or inspiring movies within the parish facilities w discussion after. See #26 below for expanded ideas.	Anonymous
Have grief counseling for Catholics around the sex abuse scandals of the Church. Have more open discussion and acknowledgement of the grievous sin of the Church throughout time, and ways to heal and keep the faith.	
Acknowledgement of spiritual pain the sex abuse scandals have caused the Church as a whole and each parishioner individually.	Anonymous
weekday Masses at noon	Anonymous
Maybe suggest/encourage me to stop by and visit during open hours, light a candle, say a prayer, or sit quietly in the pews (is this allowed?)	Anonymous
There is too much emphasis on making the Mass a theatrical experience for lay people without as much emphasis on the sacred, good preaching, and the Eucharist. I want to see an increase in reverence for Christ's presence in the Basilica.	
A lay person (or non-ordained) should not be asked to give testimony as a substitute for the homily.	Anonymous
I would really appreciate if less focus is placed on thanking everyone to come to church. I am not at church to be thanked. The focus should be on Christ and the Eucharist. Sorry to be straight forward but this is a huge turn off for many of the people who dedicate themselves to the church.	Anonymous
If I have questions about my faith how do I get it answered (through the Internet)? There is no current way to have a one-on-one meeting (think like a University session with a professor) or even as an email conversation.	Anonymous
I have found the 'retreats' during Lent the most impactful on my spiritual growth along with the books that are given as gifts at Christmas. More of this would be appreciated and valued.	Anonymous
Provide a Traditional Latin Mass!	Anonymous
Maybe an online series/novena	Anonymous
Bring Father George back!	Anonymous
i feel we are struggling more each day that we go without a replacement for Father George. He was magnetic, exciting, and charismatic and my family misses his presence. Not having been told the issue, not having a replacement in place and not directly addressing the elephant in the room makes us feel devalued as a parish and as parishioners.	Anonymous
I dislike announcements interrupting sacred liturgy. I dislike creeping Protestantism after Our Father (...for thine....)	Anonymous
Have priests work on enunciating. With so many priests from different countries it is hard to understand what they say.	Anonymous
Give me more opportunities to work with outreach services, especially involvement in homeless ministries, food bank, and angel tree. Also bringing in refugee or immigrant families needs for attention.	Anonymous
Comment: With the many changes over my past 36 plus years at SJB "my Faith/ Spirituality" has not depended on the current "regime" as it focus changes depending on "who" is in the driver's seat & their perception of what is needed here. It is still a warm & welcoming parish in which we each can worship in whatever way is comfortable with us.	Anonymous
I think the parish does a nice job offering opportunities... I would like to take advantage of them but find it difficult while holding down a full time job and commuting everyday.	Anonymous
SJB has many opportunities for prayer and devotion (processions, etc.) but would love to see more scriptural study and speakers series (e.g., Really enjoyed the interfaith talks from by Fr. Tom Bonacci)	Anonymous

I dont get much from the homilies. The used to be more interesting, related to current events or teaching /expanding on our faith by imparting theological interpretations.

The children's mass should be scaled back so children understand and are interested in the homily as well as using eucharistics prayers that are at their comprehension level

More availability for adoration

More opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and ongoing learning about the faith

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

The St. Joseph Novena in March was outstanding. These sorts of spiritual renewal encounters are wonderful.

BRING FR. GEORGE BACK TO US.

Q14: Strengthen our own parish first. I'm not sure what age group is most involved/emphasized, but if parents are not strong, the youth will not keep the faith and the young adults will be absent. We cannot forget the aging members of our parish. I think they feel loved and welcomed but if there are some whose names we don't know, let's ask them.

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Have a movie night to share spiritual things for the youth. Have more continuous novenas - prayers to talk to and rosaries throughout the year. Quarterly have more guest speakers, specially around lent to share the word or Advent and to understand the "purpose" and "gifts".

Anonymous

*Answer for question No. 15

I grew up in a protestant Non-denominational church but often accompanied my catholic grandfather to mass on my teen.

I sing with the Basilica choir at 9:30 and the Presbyterian choir at 10:30. It is interesting to compare the readings and liturgy, and learned a lot

Anonymous

1. Lessen the number of socials.

2. Open a 24/7 Eucharistic Adoration

3. Institute the Prayer of St. Michael after every daily and Sunday masses.

4. Remind the congregation to observe silence and refrain from talking BEFORE and AFTER masses as a sign of respect for people who are in the church to commune with Jesus.

Anonymous

keep information current and practical

Anonymous

need more teaching / maybe we should have a retreat

a day retreat for Lent & Advent

invite local guest speakers

grow more on our faith

evangelize more - get all the ministries involved with all the parish functions

Anonymous

meaningful homilies that address today's living

Anonymous

I would like to see classes by the Church to learn more about different Subjects - such as - Reconciliation, Praying,(saying verses praying), studying the gospel etc.

Anonymous

Keep up the good work.

Anonymous

I can't understand the gospel - no one speaks English. get a priest who speaks fluent (non-accented) english.

Even visiting clergy should speak distinctly.

Anonymous

well prepared homilies and good music

Anonymous

Bible studies, talks by catholic speakers like patrick Madrid, Fr. Mike Schmitz and the like

Anonymous

Perhaps more mini retreats with childcare would help us busy families

Anonymous

Less processions-incense-multiple collection-sometime 3 collections. Competent management at Pastoral level.

Limit turn over of key personnel.

Sermons are read from Book-devotions to Saints unknown to me. Unnecessary purchases-e.g. Nativity Creche.

Anonymous

Educated in Catholic school.Constant request for collections like watching a TV commercials.

Feel out of place with the various processions, use of incense, saints never heard of, reading from 3 page-scripts at Mass that is 15-20 minutes long with no personal comments from the priest.

I go to church to pray and reflect - it is not my social club.

Anonymous

Talks by experts on religious matters have done more than anything else to serve my spiritual needs.

Anonymous

Transparency about Father George and that situation. And, reinstating him if he's cleared and finding a new younger, vibrant priest who can connect with the new age of Church goers.

Anonymous

Stay true to the teachings handed down

Teach what has been handed down

Anonymous

Offer more groups like it used to.

Anonymous

Evangelize the people in our pews. Teach Christ's divine Mercy & those that know His Lore will know He can help them leave their sinful destructive ways for peace, joy & love. Only the Church through liturgical worship & sacramental theology can help them become like Christ no matter their category. Stop being afraid to preach boldly in love.

Anonymous

I think they are serving my needs very well.

Anonymous

Choir is great but more engaging homilies would be appreciated. Especially homilies towards the youth in an attempt to evangelize to that particular age group.	Anonymous
"Catholics" some don't know their Bible only Church Missal we read a paragraph or two. Encourage ownership of God's word. We know our Ipad/ipod Can't wait to read. Even read in Church. More important? It says " we fight not flesh & blood but unseen principalities in the Heavens", Who are they? What are spirits Demons curses who has them	Anonymous
Having more time spent on Social Justice	Anonymous
I don't know. It's pretty good.	Anonymous
n/a	Anonymous
see question 26	Anonymous
A bit of quiet reflection time at mass.	Anonymous
Don't know.	Anonymous
I feel that Seniors would like someone to talk about death and dying, what type of care for the future, planning their funeral and not being afraid of talking about the end of days.	Anonymous

17. How likely are to recommend St. Joseph Basilica to: - Comments

Answer

[No Responses]

18. If you hesitate to recommend St. Joseph Basilica, please tell us why..... - Responses

Answer	Respondent
---------------	-------------------

We are not really offering a strong program to any specific group except for the children. The strongest groups are the choirs - Basilica, Spirit Ensemble and Children.	Anonymous
I don't feel comfortable evangelizing	Anonymous
Good parish and community	Anonymous
I am proud of the SJB community. I enjoy being part of SJB community. I don't see myself as trying to convincing someone to attend SJB. If the questions comes up about my religion and the church. I would speak very regard for my pastor and the SJB community. I am an introvert and will definitely will not go out of my way to evangelize Catholicism.	Anonymous
It is the noisiest church in the city of Alameda.	Anonymous
The never-ending sexual abuse crisis. The Church's refusal to ordain women or allow them to be decision-makers. The Church's positions against same-sex marriage & in favor of forcing girls & women to give birth against their will. The Church's positions against divorce, premarital sex, and contraception, even when it may save lives and our Earth.	Anonymous
I don't hesitate.	Anonymous
St. Joseph's is fairly accepting of everyone, but there is still some pressure to make certain moral decisions for others that I (as an older Catholic) feel as a return to the pre-Vatican II prescriptive church.	Anonymous
My peers are interested in doing service in the areas of homelessness, gender and race equality, the crisis at our borders, etc. St. Joseph's does not have a lot of activities to volunteer for in these areas. People I would invite would rather live the example of Jesus, than have it preached to them in liturgy.	Anonymous
As explained earlier, I believe the parish could be more welcoming to divorced and LGBT members of the community as well as those who are of mixed marriage (e.g. Catholic/Jewish faiths).	Anonymous
The pastor's position is currently in transition	Anonymous
I think it is a very welcoming place for everyone. We attend because my husband is not Christian but he still feels relatively comfortable here.	
I think sometimes it feels too comfortable - I would like to be involved in greater social justice efforts and more outreach and acceptance for the marginalized.	Anonymous
There aren't many younger couples- I am not sure how to bring them in but if always encourage them to attend. Before volunteering I thought there was a bit of a pecking order (eg ladies garden club at the top), though not so much now. My recommendation was unqualified for Father George, so naturally I am a bit sullen now.	Anonymous
Only on the past 35 years because, even though its great I feel tge middle aged are forgotten and thats when we need more formation.	Anonymous
I would only hesitate to someone I know is not interested in church.	Anonymous
I don't see a way into community for singles, divorced, and adults without a church. The homilies, except for Fr. George are too often shallow and uninspiring.	Anonymous
see #16	Anonymous

St. Joseph is losing the authenticity of its Catholic identity. Presently, I wouldn't recommend, a friend, to a parish that's not true to the teachings of the church. Our priests & deacon are passionate & true to church teachings. However, our plug-in pastor & the pastoral assoc are disappointing & sub-standard. We need Fr. George to return.

Anonymous

I'm not sure about the Youth group, I know there's one for people on their 20's. I wish there was another one for younger teenagers, the preparation for confirmation is not enough, most people do it for the sacrament but the kids need more support, especially the ones that do not attend catholic school. I do not hesitate as we have a wonderful church and we have been so grateful to be a part of and in welcoming and sharing it with others.

Strong Leadership, community involvement

100% would recommend :)

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

There are really no new and forward looking spaces for single, educated parishioners to continue to develop their faith. I feel like families and married couples are the only ones who are truly welcomed. Older people are already established and do not like changes.

Anonymous

Anonymous

For me, the way I live my religion, as an example in the world, is more important than "recommending/advocating" St. Joseph's to others. I think the underlying message of love and inclusion (which I believe is the case at St. Joseph's) should continue to be stronger than a perspective of moral high ground, a political issue and/or judgement.

Anonymous

stop changing priests
not clear on why priests leave

Anonymous

- the mass is rarely celebrated reverently
- too much focus and emphasis on pleasing people
- homilies are a great opportunities to teach about our faith, moral issues, but mostly we hear boring, forgettable sermons (or jokes)
- eucharistic ministers
- bad, unapropriate music
- clapping, birthday blessings, holding hands during Our Father

For reasons mentioned above on how to make it more welcoming.

Anonymous

Anonymous

Religion is a difficult subject to discuss with others. I'm okay explaining my Catholic upbringing and beliefs but feel I can't impose those beliefs on others. Our son attends SJND and I appreciate he is learning not only about Catholic Christianity but also Hebrew Scripture and other world religions. Maybe offer a book club about world religions?

Anonymous

Sometimes I find the people not respectful of the sacredness inside the church. They are talking loud while other folks are kneeling and trying to pray next to them. The community building aspects, should be done outside the church... Often the folks that are loud are actually folks how are volunteers (eucharistic miniters, sacristans).

Anonymous

Unchurched Adult: I don't have a good feel for how warmly welcoming the community is to those searching but not wanting to be proselytized to.

Anonymous

I rarely have time for spiritual discussion with adults, but if I did, and someone was seeking a parish, I would recommend St. Joseph's.

Anonymous

Church is lacking a permanent pastor.
Fr. George was an excellent priest and now he has been removed. Very sad situation. . .

Anonymous

Nothing

Nothing against SJB, but just in general I am sometimes embarrassed to tell people I go to church.

Anonymous

Anonymous

There is better liturgy and solid preaching elsewhere. Our family primarily attends Mass at St. Albert's Priory (Oakland) because of the reverence for the sacred, emphasis on preaching, and overall liturgical experience - we want to instill in our children a reverence for Christ's presence in the Eucharist.

Anonymous

St. Joseph is great for people who left the church and thinking of coming back. Also might be a good place for someone who may be coming to church on and off. For people who are dedicated I have a hard time being challenged spiritually especially when we are thanked to come to church. The focus has to be on Jesus.

Anonymous

It is more of a shortcoming on our part. We are not trained to evangelize. Is there a way to have a session on Catholic success stories for kids/young adults. For example: entrepreneurs, doctors, nurses, scientists, silicon valley engineers, accountants, etc. and how their Catholic faith helped them to be successful or to thrive.

Anonymous

I think the parish needs to grow in its ministry to & acknowledgment of divorced parishioners & their children. Although the majority of parishioners may be married, it is definitely noticed that homilies & other messaging seems to assume that all are married/kids in 2 parent homes or don't address the different needs of the growing faith of the divorced.

Anonymous

I hesitate to recommend St. Joseph's because I have not felt welcomed by the church and would not want others to have a similar experience. Anonymous

I'm not really into evangelization personally. It makes me feel uncomfortable. If someone asks my advice I will engage with them but I would never bring it up myself Anonymous

Shy about my faith, wish I was more open about it. Wish I learned more about outreach and simple ways to make it "normal" to talk about faith. Anonymous

The lack of leadership and the neglectfulness of the diocese in addressing our void. I'm very disappointed bc I believed we had developed a nice momentum under F. George and it has quickly wound down. It feels just like it did when F. Rich left and it took us years to recover from that. Anonymous

We seem to cater to certain minorities, but not others. Our parish should be from as varied backgrounds as our priests have been. Also, in devotional activities, there isn't an attempt to involve younger people. It is all "gray-haired" people doing the rosaries, daily mass, liturgical duties, etc. That doesn't seem inclusive. Anonymous

Like any business organization there are many "clicks" that have developed here which have a tendency to "not welcome" new members without tough scrutiny! You feel like you have to belong & be "accepted" by the "in crowd" to be able to function in these groups! That needs to be addressed. There is not a great deal of oversight of these ministries. Anonymous

N/A Anonymous

This survey did not let families with children pick more than one age group for the children...? Many families have children of multiple age groups! Also the survey did not let people state that they attend liturgy more than 4 times in 4 weeks. What about the daily mass participants? Anonymous

No traditional Basilica choir - Gregorian Chants are like the angels singing in the church. If I have a non-Catholic friend, I'd take them to Mass at St Joe's, but I'd be more excited to take them to St Dominic's. Anonymous

This is the noisiest church EVER. There seems to be no respect for people who are praying the rosary or in silent prayer due to gossiping, and mindless chatter inside the church. The noise comes from the elderly particularly the Filipinos (the noisiest group). Anonymous

I do not want to see St. Joseph Basilica become a conservative parish --- move forward NOT backward Anonymous

I make it a practice not to discuss religion with friends and acquaintances. feel that everyone should decide for themselves. Anonymous

Being married with a family I do not know enough about the programs for singles to speak to them. In the case of unchurched adults, I think my recommendations would depend upon the specific needs of the unchurched adults that I was approaching--but SJB is very friendly and accessible to those seeking spiritual nourishment Anonymous

Five Principals in last 8 yrs for both schools--Use of "acting" Principals for both. Pastor not competent in his Management Role. Anonymous

see above Anonymous

Parishioners are too comfortable with existing social inequities that lead to homelessness and crime. St. Barnabas, at least in the recent past, has been much more engaged in promoting the welfare of the working and nonworking poor, especially regarding housing. Anonymous

Currently I'm skeptical about St Joseph moving away from Catholic Doctrine. Preach about compassion & spiritual warfare lest we become a social club that does a bunch of good deeds & no religion due to zero understanding of the spiritual battles that occur daily. Give us some tools thru knowledge. Knowledge is power! Anonymous

I feel like if someone is unfamiliar with the Catholic Church they should fully experience a Catholic Mass to the highest degree. While people say looks don't matter, in this context I feel like the most visually appealing way to introduce someone into the Catholic Church should be through the Cathedral of Christ the Light. Anonymous

Our Nation in near collapse, news ringley Government fighting. We need God. Bring Him Back. Anonymous

Lack of leadership roles for women, the need for married priests as an option, the sexual abuse crisis (which touched my family directly) makes me hesitate to evangelize in any parish. At my last parish I was yelled at by a committee member and it has made me hesitant to get too involved. Anonymous

n/a Anonymous

Too much self-congratulation feel. Anonymous

Liturgies have some strange local variants. Anonymous

Too much pastor as showman(may be a moot point). Anonymous

22. What is the primary language spoken at home? - Responses

Answer	Respondent
English	Anonymous
English and German	Anonymous
English	Anonymous

English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
Capampangan	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
Filipino	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
Cantonese	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English and Spanish probably equal.	Anonymous
vietnamese	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English, McGaffish	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English and Tagalog	Anonymous
English and Spanish	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English and Tagalog	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
Tagalog	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
Vietnamese	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English and Spanish	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
Filipino	Anonymous
English	Anonymous

English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
ENGLISH	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
ENGLISH	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
Spanish	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
French	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous

English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English, Spanish	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
ENGLISH	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
ENGLISH	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
Tagalog	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
Tagalog/English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English & Tagalog	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
English	Anonymous

English	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
Emglish	Anonymous
english	Anonymous
American	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
Tagalog	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English, Spanish, French	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
Spanish	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous
English	Anonymous

23. To which ethnic group do you belong? - Other responses

Answer	Respondent
Italian	Anonymous
Cuban	Anonymous
Human	Anonymous
Filipino	Anonymous
Filipino	Anonymous
Canadians	Anonymous
Filipino	Anonymous

25. What do you think St. Joseph Basilica does well? What could we do better? - Responses

Answer	Respondent
Outlined above - stronger social action groups and even though the music is currently the best thing about St. Joseph Basilica it could be strengthened as well.	Anonymous
Holy Mass lively. But people needs to learn about the Mass. May be more teaching on it to make our parishioners more passionate about our faith	Anonymous
Very welcoming community if you participate in a ministry. Get more people involved in ministry	Anonymous
More organized social times before and or after mass. Getting to know and converse with other parishioners	Anonymous

It appears that there are many ministries going on and lots of activities in SJB. I wonder if there is a way to determine if these ministries are going strong, stagnant or floundering. I think it is critical that young families, young adults are invited to be part of the community. Find ways for the young family and young adults to participate.

Anonymous

Doing well: Solemn Liturgy, availability of Mass, informative weekly bulletin.

Do better: Lessen the parties. Increase exposition of Blessed Sacrament

Anonymous

I like the music offered at the 7pm Mass and that is the best in this area for contemporary music. Sometimes I wish the tempo could be picked up a bit but otherwise it meets my needs and desires.

Also currently appreciate the acceptance of all cultures within the community

Hospitality, welcoming folks, encouraging mingling, ...

Anonymous

Father George is very friendly so are the other priests. There are many more organized activities for families than before. There is a youth choir and children's choir to get the kids and parents engaged and Spirit Ensemble to get young adults engaged. May be some activities for the retired and seniors. They may have both time, money and health.

Anonymous

There seem to be lots of opportunities to involve children and make them feel welcome, which I think is great. I know this is unlikely, but I would like St. Joe's to stand against the larger Church's positions on sex & gender.

Women are not inferior to men. Sex between consenting, thoughtful adults is not evil. Forced pregnancy and birth is cruel.

Anonymous

Does well: Liturgy, Ministries, youth involvement.

Could do better: involvement of individuals with special needs.

Anonymous

I felt that Father George had been doing a great job at including everyone and providing opportunities in many ways for everyone to feel welcome and included.

I like the little processions and liturgical active participation.

I would like to hear more of the traditional, old hymns and music at Mass.

Anonymous

Accommodate to wishes of various ethnic groups

Anonymous

Welcoming people, Christmas and Easter liturgies, supporting multiple ministries, praying for the sick and being a community are special strengths.

I'd like to see lay scripture reflections again. Also, we need better ventilation and ramps in the church. And we are the St. Joe's Community, not just a building.

Finally, we need Fr. George back.

Anonymous

I think there are some exceptional groups in St. Joseph, but I believe all the groups share one thing in common:

Lack of growth. Many groups are stagnant and/or share the same active members in other ministries. We struggle in attracting/inspiring new people to get involved. If we don't do that, people will burn out.

Anonymous

I love the way the clergy and everyone is very accessible and friendly

Anonymous

Father George is welcoming and appreciative. He is also honest and credible.

Anonymous

It is a welcoming parish, with so many special observances for different ethnic groups. The priests have done a great job involving more people in volunteering etc.

I feel like we need more social activities for singles - not activities around scripture study or other religious topics.

There is ministry can just be community.

Anonymous

We do many things very well. What we need to do better is acquiring and retaining new members, and I'm not sure how best to do that. Steve Mullin said it takes a welcoming community, good music, and good homilies to do this. I think we are welcoming; music is good (but could be better supported); and we need a good pastor like we thought we had.

Anonymous

Openness. Quality of Masses--this after the Family Mass last Sunday was riveting. And we do this sort of thing often enough. Miss the dancing on appropriate feasts tho. Acceptance. Of anyone who comes both to Mass and to other groups. And a willingness on the part of members to listen and try to understand even if the speaker is difficult.

Anonymous

Everything

Anonymous

St. Joe's is great at community building, many ministries, provides lots of opportunities for parishioners to become actively involved - there is something for nearly everyone. However, there seems to be clans of people that stick together. We are diversified, but we stick with our own kind. I see people for years and yet do not know them.

Anonymous

We do community well. We could do outreach better. We could reach out on one important issue that we never touch: Environmental Catholicism in light of Climate Crisis and Laudato Si.

Father George has brought the joy back into worship, and his welcoming spirit infuses the community as a whole. His absence is very debilitating.

Anonymous

The church is very inclusive and welcoming. I appreciate being a member and it motivates me to give back.

Anonymous

<p>The community is very good at keeping the activities within the church going - liturgies, existing ministries, celebrations of different ethnic groups, RICA. We could be better about reaching out beyond the church community - homeless encampments, trips to border towns in crisis, trips to prisons, becoming prepared to shelter victims of disasters.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Love children and family participation. Activities during the weekends. Charismatic kids group sounds amazing. Would love to incorporate more songs during mass, that are more joyful, that make us clap, dance, such as the charismatic children group is doing.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>The community is kind, warm, and takes pride in creating a beautiful sanctuary space to worship.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>I think St Joseph's is a very friendly community! I have been a member for probably 30 years. I think St Joseph's should welcome those who are non-catholic, who attend mass as a guest of a parishioner; having said that I'm not sure how I would go about implementing that?</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>i've always felt the parish wants to get better and by virtue of this survey, St. Joseph's is telling me it wants to improve This is great!</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Being welcoming! Q? Why do we have separate music for Sat, Sunday & 7pm Sunday?</p>	
<p>Our masses might include (how do I put this) more spirit & joy. This is why I suggest the book...about St Francis de Sales Cathedral</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>My kids all did 12 years of catholic school I don't know any of their friends or former classmates who go to mass or identify as Catholic</p>	
<p>The amount the bishop wants for his appeal is ridiculous Friendly, accessible, sincere, well-attended and fairly engaged</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>We could be more committed to social justice, serving and advocating for our community beyond the congregation, especially the needy and marginalized (homeless, LGBT, undocumented)</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Well: Excellent community. Family-like feeling when we attend Mass Donuts! Basilica e news & bulletin keeps us informed</p>	
<p>Could do better: More confession times Less applause at mass, condense the announcements at the end especially during family mass as there are lots of children</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Volunteer community is wonderful. Mass is excellent, if a bit somber. Maybe too much emphasis on brokenness. Outreach opportunities, especially for young people, are lacking. Habitat for humanity, charity trips to Africa, volunteering in soup kitchens- these should be promoted and or planned more. More pipe organ please!</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>I think hospitality is good. I like how innovative St. Josephs is, they are very open to suggestions. I really like how Steve puts emphasis on thanking the parish. At times I feel there was a lot of praising on Alter Servers, choir etc. Our service should be a humbling service without constant praise.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>Lots of events. But I think newcomers may feel overwhelmed, and not fit in, unless they become very active, because SJB is so tight-knit. Encourage new people to come to mass to see how we worship. It would be helpful for new people to go to mass with a "buddy" to guide them through the mass and know what to do. Or offer missals, tutorials. i think it's actually pretty diverse.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>i think it's so important to have passionate priests who can deliver clear, thoughtful sermons! otherwise, everyone falls asleep. Liturgy well Love the 7:00 pm mass with music.</p>	<p>Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous</p>
<p>We should have more ministries involving our Youth and Young Adults and to see more of their presence or participation on Sunday masses. We need to do something to see more young families coming to Sunday mass with their children more often than Family Mass Sunday.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>St. Joseph is very welcoming, vibrant and lively. We are long-time parishioners and feel the parish is in a great place -- very inclusive to young and old alike.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>
<p>It is very welcoming. Wonderful homilies. Great music. Inviting special liturgical services during church seasons (Advent, Lent). Community building activities such as International Day and Feast Days are wonderful.</p>	<p>Anonymous</p>

I like being able to enter the church when I am able to say a rosary in the silence of the church. I love silence - my world is otherwise so noisy	Anonymous
So glad the Steve Mullin is here.	Anonymous
It has some parking.	Anonymous
Sense of community/shared faith. Welcoming, diverse community. Addressing concerns and reactions to the recent allegations against Fr. George forthrightly, fairly and supportively.	Anonymous
I really like the friendliness and welcoming of people at the door.	Anonymous
I love Father George and am devastated that he is gone. I also love Steve Mullin and hope that things can continue in the same direction as before.	Anonymous
All are welcome. Greeters to a great job.	Anonymous
It is an organized parish	
Thank you to all the volunteer and staff!	Anonymous
We have a wonderful sense of community at St. Joe's. To the extent that can be strengthened and enlarged that would be great. I think we need to try to involve the grammar and high school students more often.	Anonymous
St Joseph is a welcoming and connected parish. We can always keep growing & opening our hearts to deepen our Faith in connection to God as brothers and sisters of faith. We need priest & staff to guide us along the journey together.	
Bringing activities where we interact more with each other as it is easier to be safe and interact with the people w	Anonymous
My experience with St. Joes (based on comments made at the pulpit and unanswered emails to ministry groups) is that there is a strong bias in favor of families who attend St. Joes Elementary School versus families who attend public school but are registered parishioners. It's discouraging.	Anonymous
Homilies could use a lot of improvement, more community input	Anonymous
Holiday celebrations are done well, and it's nice on how they include the different cultural backgrounds found in our parish	Anonymous
lively and welcoming to families. youth ministry is an important aspect of why we joined - appreciate how feedback is incorporated. music ministry is wonderful too and would welcome traditional songs (david haas) with modern touch in addition to modern music. i like the diversity of the priests and staff and congregation, and the newsletter.	Anonymous
The Confirmation process needs to be modernized for today's youth. Teens who have grown up in Catholic Schools need a more meaningful Confirmation process. AND, there is very little effort to keep high school teens involved in the parish post Conf. We have a gem of an opportunity to do that with SJND. Then we lose them to college.	Anonymous
St. Joseph does anything related to children's liturgy extremely well and provides than enough opportunities for devotionals. Focused outreach to young adults could be better.	Anonymous
Well--welcome people Mentor new religious	
Could do better--register parishioners	Anonymous
St Joe's fulfills my basic spiritual needs: Mass on Sundays, nice atmosphere in the Basilica, priests who care about their parishioners. But I feel like the priests are caught between what the American bishops are preaching about getting back to more conservative times and what their parishioners really need, for things to be shaken up.	Anonymous
Welcoming at the door when you enter the church on Sunday masses	Anonymous
I enjoy attending the mass on Sunday.	Anonymous
Does well: mass, homilies, ministries, welcoming access to priests, & other religious & staff, music, inclusion of older adults, baptisms, RCIA, Angel giving, school/parish community interconnections and more.	
Could do better (not just St. Joseph's but the church in general): inclusion of women leaders, gender awareness, and LGBTQ inclusiveness.	Anonymous
the building is beautiful	
i appreciate the ability to go into the basislica on my own to pray in silence outside of mass hours	Anonymous
Planning to build a high altar is a great idea.	
As parishioners we could receive more instructions regarding importance of going to a monthly confession, receiving the Eucharist only in a state of grace, Church's teaching on moral issues.	
Also bringing back communion rails would be a great idea.	Anonymous
They are welcoming to strangers. They also share their culture with celebrations where everyone is welcome.	Anonymous
Positive: Hosting events to build community, including families and highlighting children at mass, beautiful grounds and basilica. Room for improvement could be outreach to Alameda.	Anonymous
provide a welcoming gathering space	Anonymous

St. Joe's has always had a great sense of community. I think activities like El Rancho help bringing everyone together

Anonymous

A greater awareness of social justice issues re women! Women are still 2nd class citizens in the Catholic Church, very sad!
We have no women preaching/ giving reflections even on Mothers Day or Marion Feast Days! There are no or very few women invited to give Lenten talks or any talks . There retreats for women led by women!
Thank you for
You involve us.

Anonymous

I particularly like how at each mass you thank us for choosing to attend.

Anonymous

The parish is very well run and welcoming. When we first moved to Alameda I tried a few Catholic churches and felt the most at home at St. Joe's.

Anonymous

preparation for masses, specially the musical aspect that I REALLY ENJOY!!
various ministries

Anonymous

Great liturgy and music groups, many celebrations throughout the year. I wish we could keep the same pastor longer.

Anonymous

Father George has done an excellent job of getting the young people involved and excited about being part of the parish.

Anonymous

Father George was building a great sense of community and giving great homilies. I can't say as much of the new priests / deacons. It's difficult to understand their english and sometimes I don't get their homilies message and their stories don't relate to our American life. Use modern metaphores like Jesus did at his time so we can relate.

Anonymous

Does Well:

Music at liturgy

Devotional services

RCIA

Inclusion of primary and high school kids

Outreach to elderly and home-bound

Parish social events

Could do better:

Broader outreach to the disenfranchised

Expand more non-mass services/events w/in chapel/school

Explore expanding meaning of being Catholic

Social Justice outreach

Anonymous

In the absence of Fr. George, it has been difficult to reconnect with the St. Joe's community. I wish the Diocese would have assigned a well known priest to fill in during the investigation, someone like Fr. Matthew, Fr. Thi or Fr. John. There have been a lot of balls dropped including the altar server coordination, which was doing so well prior.

Anonymous

wonderful priests and deacons

Anonymous

Liturgies are good. I would like to see us do more ecumenical services with the local Protestant churches to strengthen the Christian Community of Alameda. Ecumenical means celebrating what we share and respecting our differences. We used to have more services in Alameda, e.g. Peace in No. Ireland between St. Joe's and First Presbyterian.

Anonymous

Great at hospitality. Need to work on getting more new parishioners, especially young adults.

Anonymous

WE can have a Spanish mass once a month.

We can have a Filipino mass once a month.

We need more Knights of Columbus.

We can play christian rock music in the background before and after church.

Anonymous

I'm glad they are taking the accusations against Fr. George seriously and appreciate the updates on the situation.

It makes me feel secure that they would not try to cover up any "scandal" which gives churches a terrible reputation. I'm glad they are being open about it.

I think the young families group is fantastic.

Anonymous

Does well

Community outreach and various ministries for everyone.

Needs work

Please remember many of us are at the church since we love Jesus. Sad to see many of the parishioners do not realize that being a Eucharistic minister is not the norm and receiving from the tongue is equally as acceptable.

Anonymous

We love that St. Joseph Basilica supports all cultures' way of celebrating their Catholic Faith (Our Lady of

Guadalupe, Simbang Gabi, etc.).

Anonymous

I think we still need to work on getting more parishioners actively engaged. I remember long ago when we had everyone learn about & then sign up for a ministry right as a part of mass. We had huge sign up posters all over the church & everyone had a pencil & signed up right there. It gave the expectation that as a member, you were active!
Church and grounds are beautiful

Anonymous
Anonymous

Outreach ministries are done well both to the sick and adult confirmation.
Not that St. Josephs does not do this but engaging and energizing the young people and young families to participate and attend mass regularly is a big challenge in this fast paced world we live in.

Anonymous

St Joseph offers good ministries, masses and are always friendly. I would like to see more retreats for the High School and for the adults. Also, it would be nice to have some powerful catholic speakers speak to the High School and day field trips to places of need. Our students need to start building good values...

Anonymous

Great Elementary and High School! I sometimes can't get my head around some of ethnic celebrations. They are great but only touch on certain groups.

Anonymous

The parish does the liturgy well: I like going to early-morning mass at St. Joseph. I appreciate how they acknowledge and support the ethnic variety within the parish.

Anonymous

Bring our Father home. We need our spiritual leader back. Steven is nice but not our Father. Our need is beginning to fray. Is anyone (the Bishop) listening?

Anonymous

Their Spirit Ensemble that leads music at the Sunday 7 p.m Mass

Anonymous

We do parties well but we all pretty much stick with the people that we already know rather than reaching out to someone who is sitting alone.

Anonymous

Homilies, so memorable! Evening masses have awesome music. Bright church. Welcoming ushers and greeters. I like how they let you greet each other before mass.

Anonymous

The schools are great but there needs to be more inclusion of those families (if they are paying parishioner rates, they should be in church each week). I also love the addition of Steve Mullins ~ he is a bright spot right now. I like the after mass gatherings in the gathering space. I also wish Sister Asha would be more proactive w the elderly.

Anonymous

Doughnuts, etc. after the masses, however, more outreach to people sitting down welcoming them.

Anonymous

Greets people at door well. Liturgy could be more traditional: less guitars, more Gregorian choir.

Anonymous

We could welcome the stranger and newcomers better. We do have a nice music ministry though, but the sound system is terrible. Also, we need better choir seating, so the sound isn't off to one side. And get new carpets and new kneelers.

Anonymous

Has changed the "face" of our parish in welcoming many more ethnic groups then before & their traditions to share. The 7 pm mass for the "young people" has also attracted many "older adults" who enjoy the refreshing music and exuberance shared by the young members. We need more joy in our practices & more "ACTUAL outreach to parish members in need

Anonymous

I believe SJND is a welcoming community made up of some good people.

Anonymous

Does well: Offering a broad variety of ministries, RCIA, YAG (I might be biased haha), devotionals (e.g., Rosary), food.

Could do better: Mentioned in other responses. Also, finding news ways to engage Catholics who attend Mass but do not get involved in any other ways. Difficult, but so important. Think all churches need to work this.

Anonymous

Basilica choir is great. Love when Alex or Claudia cantor. Don't see need for two cantors at same mass entoning same verse or gospel acclamation. Hard to understand and voices dont blend well.

Make homilies applicable to our daily lives.

Announcements at end of mass seem misplaced. Ive been to other parishes that do it first

Anonymous

Great ministry leaders who care and are truly invested in the parish. Good variety of ministries

Parish needs to be more sensitive to the current investigation of the pastor. Current leadership talks about him as though he has done nothing wrong ("He's in Rome now," "He's done a great job of fostering community", etc.). We need a pastor!

Anonymous

ENCOURAGE AND MAINTAIN A COMMUNITY.

Anonymous

SJB is so friendly, so welcoming, and does a great job attracting families. It'd be great if every family could commit to more than just Sunday Mass.

Anonymous

Have a church picnic with volleyball, etc. Have good ministries, participate and be active. Attract more Spanish community. Don't rush the mass specially when back-to-back events.

Anonymous

Strengthen each and everyone's faith.

Anonymous

I sense a strength in multicultural connections and events, particularly with the Filipino community.	Anonymous
May I suggest that if you are going to give a book to the parishioners as a Christmas gift, let it be The Power of Silence by Cardinal Robert Sarah.	Anonymous
community involvement	Anonymous
do better - Not so many things happening at Mass on same day! Procession, rosary, survey info, homily, announcement at the end of Mass - should NOT be a time for Pastoral Associate to homilize.	Anonymous
SJB does everything well that I see.	Anonymous
do well -make people feel welcome when they come to Mass	
better - we have lots of older folks involved -need more involvement by 25-45	Anonymous
More education for the parishioners of all ages	Anonymous
Liturgy and Choir	Anonymous
good homilies but could give more teaching at Masses about the Catholic faith, rules etc. Many people don't know the main truths about our faith.	
like the Eucharist - why we receive Communion etc.	Anonymous
parties are good	Anonymous
diversity and inclusion	Anonymous
Cut out the double collections and focus more on stewardship	Anonymous
good liturgy	Anonymous
community outreach - have the schools participate & interact with local care facilities. Explain/teach more about correct standards, Traditions of the Church/Catholic faith, Kneeling, standing, sign of the cross/ crossing in front of the Altar,	
children should not Play in the Holy Water etc.	Anonymous
parish is very welcoming. I guess it just needs to have some stability right now --- Pastors/Priests are coming and going. needs consistency.	Anonymous
I love the way families and children are nurtured and I think that SJB is moving in a great direction WRT special needs parishioners and their families. We need to continue down this path and continue with developing our resources and outreach and educating those in the parish who might not be as familiar with special needs.	Anonymous
Active Ministries	
Children's Mass	
Good Priests-Deacons	
Outreach	Anonymous
Get more priests like Father Sunil Orathel is inspiring and not reading from prescribed, Standard Sermons. Deacon Peter L is also making meaningful sermons.	
Parents & staff are very upset with the revolving door of principals & constant changes. SJES is losing it's reputation!	Anonymous
I enjoy the adult choir at the 9:30 mass and often sing with them in the spring.	Anonymous
Well: many things - liturgy, trained and enthused altar servers, young families group, arts & environment, music, greeters, donut ministry,	
Do better: inviting those who do not know God, the Holy Spirit and Christ to get to know him in His church and through the sacraments	Anonymous
Revere the Church. Elevate our Priests & magisterium. Preach to inspire holiness. have praise & worship evenings once a month outside of Mass. We are a welcoming parish which is why we have been growing. Our people need to fall in love with Christ & His Church.	Anonymous
We need to rent out the property currently occupied by the pastor/priests. All priests should be living in the rectory! The rectory can be modified if there are privacy or owner issues. The financial benefits would be enormous.	Anonymous
I think the schedule of Masses is helpful.	Anonymous
PROS:	
Great choir	
Great readers	
Great speakers...(most of the time)	Anonymous
Why stop at 84. I'm 84 I speak/council to friends in Alaska, Florida, Boston & Ferndale. My friends are from Jordan, Holland, Iran & China. We have many Ethnic parties & cultures. Should get into other parts of Bible not spoken Old Testament has great stories pointing to Messiah, Noah, Mathusela, Enoch, etc.	Anonymous
-Ushers and greeters are very welcoming and organized.	
- Welcome the Stranger is a good ministry.	
- Steve Mullin should stop acting like a Priest.	Anonymous

We have good masses. Everything is good about this parish.	Anonymous
The grief support group has been extremely helpful when I lost my brother-in-law. The pastoral administrator has been very good at keeping me informed of upcoming events and in the process involved in the investigation of Father George. The Pastoral Care Ministry has been so welcoming, especially Sister Asha.	Anonymous
It's good to ask for input.	
Running a church and a school is impressive.	Anonymous
Welcoming	Anonymous
Keeps community active. Keep up the good work.	Anonymous
We do parties well. We could have more days of retreat.	Anonymous
Inclusive, loving, diverse, caring	Anonymous
Good mass times for busy people.	
Homilies usually okay except for jokes.	
Gone overboard on devotions at mass.	
Less applauding for all ministers all the time. Save for special occasions.	Anonymous
Welcoming community especially for families with young children.	Anonymous
Alter serving	Anonymous
I think the parish supports the schools quite well, maybe a little reserved toward the public school children who are certainly part of the parish. Don't forget the Seniors. That's where the parish always mentions "Don't forget us in your will". They've always been forgotten otherwise.	Anonymous
I am feeling like a sheep without a shepherd since Father George left. We have no primary spiritual leader to lead us. As time goes on, it feels less and less like a connected community.	Anonymous
26. Where would you like to see St. Joseph Basilica in the next 5 years? - Responses	
Focusing its attention on Evangelization and Social Service	Anonymous
See above	Anonymous
St. Joseph Basilica is a welcoming place for Alameda city. All our parishioners are passionate about our catholic faith and want to spread the good news. Our church should be filled with young people and ready to evangelize at least whole Alameda city	Anonymous
More parishioners who make a commitment by registering	Anonymous
Yes	Anonymous
I think SJB should expand its horizon to reach out to both catholic and non-catholics in our community. For example in the homelessness arena. Provide some type of ministry to help in this area invite young adults to brainstorm ways we can help. Not \$ but creative volunteer energy.	Anonymous
A greater focus on children/families, youth, and young adults. We will always have older adults and they will come no matter what because of the community, so the population that need to be focused on are those that are fragile in their connection to the church.	Anonymous
Vibrant community of faith. Reaching out to the outer community to bring more souls to God.	Anonymous
I would like to see St. Joseph become a force for inclusivity, a place where Catholics and non-Catholics feel they can come for spiritual guidance without feeling like they are being judged because of how God made them or because they don't believe there's anything wrong with how they choose to express their love for another consenting adult.	Anonymous
In five years I would like to see St. Joseph as an all inclusive Parish where people of all languages, races, genders and intellectual abilities can be under one roof and worship as the children of God.	
I would like all people to find the same spiritual home that I came to know and love over the past 4 years!	Anonymous
I am against doing any more remodeling of the Church unless it needs it structurally. Keep all the buildings and grounds in good shape and VERY CLEAN. No remodeling.	
I would like to continue to see a united, welcoming, happy Church unit.	
I am glad Steven Mullin is back. He is dynamic, forward, spiritual and upbeat.	Anonymous
It would be great if we were worried about enough seating for the crowds at all masses.	Anonymous
I would absolutely love to see more young adult activity and involvement with other groups.	Anonymous
Unsure, until Fr George returns	Anonymous
Spiritually inviting, welcoming to back pew Catholics, passionate parishioners, oh no, I just described a born again church	Anonymous
A sustainable parish, with income coming from more sources than today. likely our weekly deficit is due to the high cost of living, the demands on families' budgets, cost of the schools etc.	
A complete remodel may not be in best interest Fix/upgrade what needs it and make a few changes, but not multi-million redo that parish has to pay for	Anonymous

With full pews at every Mass. Again, I'm not sure how to do this and we are fighting the societal trend that's almost worldwide except apparently in Africa. Might need to merge with one or more of the other Alameda parishes if they're in the same situation.

Anonymous

On San Antonio Street standing tall, doors open to the most varied congregation I have ever seen in a Catholic church. Celebrating saints of every land and supporting parishioners with what they need to be closer to God no matter where they come from

Anonymous

Yes

Anonymous

I have no confidence in surveys. Not possible to satisfy every wish. Raises expectations and frustrates. I appreciate Fr. George and his inclusive sense of family. He likely will not be back. Too bad. I pray for our parish. Bless all who are in leadership.

Anonymous

I commend the Parish Pastoral Council for making efforts on creating a road map of where we want to be. Unfortunately, the effort will go nowhere, because there is inconsistency in the Church Hierarchy. We may have pastor that supports it, but (please see printed document separately submitted with completed comment)

Anonymous

Stronger emphasis on youth, more support for the high school, active outreach ministries including an environmental ministry. Continued financial health; and continuing emphasis on joy in worship. A sister relationship with a church in Kerala, India.

Anonymous

Out in the surrounding community, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, being friends to the lonely and rejected. Healing others with our compassionate presence. Not solving all the problems of the world, but helping even just one other person outside of our comfortable community.

Anonymous

With Father George at the helm. We miss him terribly!

Anonymous

I would like to see the community grow even further in sharing 'the brotherhood of our fellow man' with each other. I like to reach out to those who look 'a little lost', at mass.... maybe they are new too our community and just need a 'friendly smile'....I think we do that, maybe keep in mind, and do it more?

Anonymous

Be more inclusive of others who have felt the Church doesn't want them.

Anonymous

Hold onto what we have and periodically add some spirit and JOY!

Anonymous

With 430 sat mass
7am daily mass
Stable priests
Men's group

Anonymous

The Catholic Church as a whole needs to interrogate the power dynamics that have allowed for decades of abuse and cover ups. We at St Joseph should be able to clearly understand to what extent we inherit those dynamics, how we may perpetuate them and how we plan to deliberately counteract them.

Anonymous

I would like to see more young families and young newlywed couples at SJB. More music in major keys (this could make Mass a bit happier). More volunteering and outreach. A stronger emphasis on individual confession. An occasional Latin Mass. Father George!

Anonymous

Hopfully rotate leadership and allow for new sacristians, or even outreach for new Eucharistic Ministers. Having more connection with public school families and not only Catholic school families from the priests.

Anonymous

Not sure. Happy how it is. Maybe more diversity among the parishioners.

Anonymous

i miss father george. i hope we can have resolution on the matter soon.

Anonymous

Women in leadership roles.

Anonymous

More registered parishioners and higher percentage of families attending Sunday masses and contributing regularly towards our weekly budget either by Faith Direct or envelopes.

Anonymous

With a lively and stable pastor and principals for the school communities

Anonymous

Growing families, treasuring the elders and the history they bring, and keeping the emphasis on our faith and our inclusion in its practice.

Anonymous

Develop a retreat program, build community, have women in more leadership roles, have a spirituality that is less devotional and more mature and out reaching.

Anonymous

Get with the times, it's 2019. Priests should be married, divorced, gay whatever.

Anonymous

Pretty much as it is.

Anonymous

I would like to see both schools and the parish working together instead of fighting each other. I went to both school over 25 years ago and all fundraisers were done together and shared. We should be one community working together and supporting each other. The elementary school and high school should work together and have overlapping progra

Anonymous

More in-depth scripture studies. For ex.Theology of the Body, more on teachings & writings by Pope John Paul II, Emeritus Pope Benedict & Pope Francis. Love & Marriage, more on the importance of chastity.

Anonymous

A church that continues to welcome people and enables us to put our faith into action

Anonymous

I personally don't think that the capital campaign for the new altar falls within Christ's mission to serve the underserved. I'd prefer to know that when I donate money, it goes to helping people as opposed to building and remodeling costs.

Anonymous

Continuing our journey together as a parish family & helping each other in ways congruent with our faith. Having priest that enrich & guide our understanding of our faith. Continue to be a happy, loving, caring, connected church for all people to thrive as we age into the future ...A Blessed Church with caring Parishioners working together. ǒŸ†

Anonymous

Please be more welcoming to those who, for whatever reason, have chosen to send their kids to public schools. No judgment, no exclusions from ministries or athletic activities. When I was growing up, I attended public school, attended church weekly, participated in children's ministry and CYO. My teammates were a mix of Catholic and public school

Anonymous

Stronger community, more participation, involvement

Anonymous

Under the stewardship of a pastor who is able to work collaboratively with all segments of the SJB community - the schools, the board, the parishioners and the office staff - without any conflicts cropping up within those groups.

Anonymous

add marriage encounter programs. bring someone like Adam back to youth/teen ministry. What happened with Father George? more progressive and accepting of differences and not subscribe to overly conservative practices that puts off younger people.

Anonymous

I would like to see St Joe's be a vibrant community for teens and young adults that goes beyond just the Youth Band. These young people are the future of the Church! Involve them in service, retreats, coordinate more with the school, hire a YOUTH COORD or combine efforts with the Campus Minister at SJND.

Anonymous

As a young adult, I would love to see St. Joseph become a destination that young adults specifically seek out in the East Bay and would go out of the way for. In interactions with many young adults in the SF Bay Area, churches like St. Dominic's and Star of the Sea are places that people in SF seek out because of their vibrant young adults groups.

Anonymous

Focused on new insights, willing to have tough discussions, welcoming all people (including LGBT folks) and focused on a new way of thinking, not regressing to the past.

Anonymous

Continuing on its present course. I enjoy St Joe's

Anonymous

Continuing all the great things that St. Joseph's currently does so very well, and growing in inclusivity, community service, and interfaith work, contributing even more to social justice, respect and peace within our families, local communities and in our broader world.

Anonymous

I would like to see a Pastor that cares about the Parish, treats his employees with respect , especially women teachers and Parish staff. I would like to see a collection two or three times a year for the schools. We are educating the future parishioners and we should be nurturing that cause as a Parish.

Anonymous

not sure
i think i will practice on my own
i like the feel of St Alberts-smaller, sweet elderly persons
More younger families.
Continue to grow among young adults
as it is now, a vibrant church of all ages, incomes and colors.

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Dare I say it that I would love to see changes that allow priests to be married and female priests. At times I have have been curious about the Episcopal church that my husband grew up - their viewpoint seems much more modern. Religion needs to be old and new at the same time.

Anonymous

I AM HAPPY THE WAY IT IS !!

Anonymous

I appreciate the parish and people here. I hope we can continue to grow in faith and friendship.
Even more emphasis on young adults.

Anonymous

Anonymous

More modern. Using social media. Pop-christian music. Great speakers. Actively involved in solving problems in our community (e.g., ghettos at Home Depot, helping folks with depression, loneliness, immigrants, folks looking for work, kids who need mentors. More potlucks.
More participation from high-school students. Debates on Christian topics.

Anonymous

I would like to see it known it as a vibrant, open, & spiritually alive community, inclusive in its outreach/membership; more active with the arts e.g., poetry, music, and artistic offerings w/in chapel/school; more collaborative with other non-Catholic parishes/communities and co-sponsor/host inter-faith services.

Anonymous

I'd like to see the Church have a priest who is a strong community and spiritual leader, have that priest stay for a long time to nurture this community after a painful event. I would like to see more activities for young parishioners. I would like to hear of more service opportunities hosted by the Church for the poor and hungry.
More young adults, teens, and young families attending.

Anonymous

Anonymous

Filled with kids running around. More youngsters attending all masses. Bigger families attending mass.	Anonymous Anonymous
I would hope Father George comes back. We love Pope Francis because he exemplifies Jesus' teaching of Love and specifically Unconditional Love. We don't get to really understand this at all with old Catholic dogma. Love thy neighbor (but can't be LGBT, Trump supporter, drug user, mental health). In the next few years, there will be fewer Catholics but more people searching to be Loved.	Anonymous
Part of increasing engagement comes from deeper relationship building as once people build relationships w/others they will want to participate more with those they know. I would like to see our parish a place where everyone knows everyone's names.	Anonymous
More vibrant than ever with all ages of people. Stop excusing people who are only Catholic on paper or CE Catholics. Future of Catholicism relies on re-engaging the faithful.	Anonymous
It's slowly going in right direction but could be more inclusive & celebratory with other ethnic groups. Growing, strong, faithful.	Anonymous Anonymous
Church Renovated/Expanded Every parishioner registered. In my opinion, if you don't register then you already have one foot out the door ready to run.	Anonymous Anonymous
More involved! Under strong leadership, schools actively involved w. masses and the community in general, more youth and young families.	Anonymous Anonymous
Get a Latin (Tridentine) rite mass at least once per week.	Anonymous
More updated in terms of technology and more welcoming to new people of all backgrounds and needs. More interaction between the younger generation (schools) and older members. Programs around families having oversight to family members-parents needing assisted living, hospice care; parish nurse program-screenings & immunizations- getting to mass rides for home bound parishioners-	Anonymous Anonymous
I really admired the efforts to help settle refugee families (Welcome the Stranger) and would like to see that continued. Continuing to live the gospel and be Christ to others. Visible signs would be growth in Mass attendance + increased active members (involvement in ministries). Also, an outward focus on our neighbours and reaching uncatechised people. As a young adult myself, trying to grow the ministry, I would love to see more engaged YAs in the pews!	Anonymous Anonymous
Money is tight. Let's take care of seismic improvements and on going maintenance. I dont see need for the other proposed renovations.	
Top notch music program. Well trained lectors who read well, have proper expression so the message of the scripture is evident. Delete the word "men" in the Nicene Creed. "For us and our salvation"	Anonymous
True to the teachings of the Church, robust ministries, lots of involvement, but not spreading ourselves so thin that we can't focus on our mission. For example, sometimes we try to cram more than one theme in a weekend and it dilutes the message. Greater focus is appreciated.	Anonymous
Can't wait to see the new altar and have Fr George back. Seems like a full church most Sunday Masses, so SJB is obviously doing lots of things really well. More Bible Studies with strong leaders would be great. Maybe find a way to have a rainy/cold day gathering space so we can continue to have coffee and fellowship through the winter.	Anonymous
Have a "donation fair". We have access that can benefit others. Do more community work, evangelization and to win the lost. God works with us in Him we live more. Take the gospel to the streets. have a deanery to feed the poor and reach the next generation more, more youth activity not just the school.	Anonymous Anonymous
More prosperous and able to help more people in need spiritually and physically.	
Thank you for providing a happy, comfortable place and "ambiance" where I can sing and learn and find friends. I am happy to talk to anyone and expand my answers if it would be useful.	Anonymous
A holy church who has a deep love for the Holy Eucharist.	Anonymous
slow growth	Anonymous
Moving forward into this century	Anonymous
safe and secure buildings	
more young 15-25 involved in Masses	
and Fr. George in the rectory and on the Altar	Anonymous

I would love to have us return to normal with a regular Pastor. Either have Fr. George back or get a new Pastor. Anonymous
Doing more with youth and elderly Anonymous
More kids Anonymous
having more young catholic families and individuals attending Mass. Anonymous
Including more Young Adults, thru education about the Catholic faith & Starting with families Anonymous
To have our hearts on Fire for Jesus and Mary. Anonymous
A survivor parish - Anonymous

I would like to see it more actively involved in pushing for the social change needed to promote equity and strengthen our communities and businesses. Pope Francis has highlighted many opportunities to better regulate capitalism to promote equity and St. Joe's could seize these opportunities to support the Pope. Anonymous
Growing, vibrant, prayerful, rooted in Christ and His teachings Anonymous
The evangelization of the outside community will happen when our own people know enough & love Christ enough to care about the salvation of souls. Anonymous
Financially stable by completing the above action I think we can approach this goal realistically. We can then do more in the community such as helping the homeless, etc.

**As a side note we should get rid of All carpeting in the Church before someone gets hurt! Anonymous
I hope we have a permanent Pastor in the future. Anonymous
Renovated
More youth & young couples growing in their faith within SJB Anonymous
Address Social Justice issue. Anonymous
About the same as it is. Anonymous

Women with the proper training should be permitted to reach and become deacons according to my study of church history. This should happen at St. Joseph. . . . Less fund raising. It seems it's brought up at every mass lately. Anonymous

No apparent need for changes but very happy to see parish Council looking ahead and making recommendations. Anonymous
Progressed Anonymous

Less devotionals. More scripture study. Need to reach the young adults. After confirmation they disappear. Anonymous
Going to the Catholic High School doesn't help. Maybe they need to put on plays like the 4-12-year-olds. They need SOMETHING. Anonymous
More inclusive, a reflection of how society is changing. Anonymous
A recorded mass on TV Anonymous

More senior events. They are the people who are the foundation of St. Joseph's. Of course we need the spiritual events. Very important. But not as many of the older traditions. Seniors still like to meet and greet old friends. St. Joseph's has always been like my family but due to physical problems I seem to only get to funerals now. Anonymous

Respondent

Respondent

Respondent

Respondent