

OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

3570 KING WILLIAM AVENUE, WEST POINT VA 23181

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS: SATURDAY 5:30 P.M.

SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.

11:30 A.M. (SPANISH MASS)

WEEKDAYS: 8:30 A.M. Tuesday - Friday

HOLIDAYS: 8:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.



PARISH OFFICES at the MERCY CENTER

207 W. Euclid Blvd., West Point, VA 23181

Phone: 843-3125

Fax: 843-9158

Office Hours: T W Th 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Parish e-mail : olbs@olbs-catholic.org

Parish Web address: www.olbs-catholic.org

PASTOR

Rev. Oscar Paraiso

757-778-5118

Rectory

843-4231

Office

843-3125 ext 102

Email: oparaiso@richmonddiocese.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Pam Watkins

843-3125 ext 101

Hours: T-W-Th 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Email: adminassistant@olbs-catholic.org

BUSINESS MANAGER

843-3125 ext 104

Bob Ryalls

757 207-0215

E-mail: businessmgr@olbs-catholic.org

COORDINATOR of CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Erin Hayden

843-3125 ext 103

Email: DRE@olbs-catholic.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Leda Zaginaylo

757 870-2516

Email: music@olbs-catholic.org

PRESCHOOL TEACHER/DIRECTOR

Vangy Lawson

843-4177

Email: preschool@olbs-catholic.org

GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTER

Frances Thornton

843-4339

Hours: M 10 am - 2 pm

W 12:30 pm - 2:30 p.m.

van den BOOGAARD HALL RENTALS

Janice McGowan

843-2870

Email: hallrentals@olbs-catholic.org

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Also by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday and Tuesday

Mercy Center Chapel

First Friday Adoration in the church

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

RECITATION of the MOST HOLY ROSARY

6:30 p.m. Every Friday in the church

OUTREACH

A food basket and donation box are in the church entry. Your donations provide the means to give direct help to the needy. We collect food on the first weekend of the month.

INFANT BAPTISM

Parent preparation classes are required for each couple planning to have their baby baptized. To schedule a preparation session, please call the church office.

MARRIAGE

OLBS sponsors a preparation program for couples who intend to marry. The Pastor must be contacted at least six months prior to the date of the wedding.

RECEPTION into the CHURCH

Those inquiring into the Catholic Faith or seeking communion with the Church are invited to contact the Parish Office. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is offered.

The mission of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, centered in the Eucharist, is to love God and His people and to extend His love to others through service and prayer.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 30th & May 1st, 2022

Saturday, April 30

5:30 pm Mass Offered for Mildred Hite (RIP)
by Knights of Columbus
& Offered for David Seckora (RIP)
by Jeanie Sturtz

Sunday, May 1

9:00 am Mass Offered for a Special Intention
By Edna Trudeau
10:15 am Children's Faith Formation
10:15 am Adult Faith Formation (MC)

Monday, May 2

No Mass
12 pm – 10 pm Adoration in Chapel

Tuesday, May 3

8:30 am Mass Offered for Mary Klisiewicz (RIP)
by Bob & Lorraine Ryalls
12 pm – 10 pm Adoration in Chapel
4:30 pm Adult Faith Formation (Hall)

Wednesday, May 4

8:30 am Mass Offered for Patricia Seckora
Anniversary of Death
by David Seckora
& Offered for Sylvia Lug for
Healing
by Tom & Rowena Fauber

Thursday, May 5

11:00 am Mass Offered for Richard & Anna
Kozlowski (RIP)
by Joe & Linda Drexler
& Offered for David Seckora (RIP)
by Tom & Rowena Fauber

Friday, May 6

8:30 am Mass Offered for Mildred Hite (RIP)
by Bob & Lorraine Ryalls
& Offered for Sonny Boy Lug (RIP)
by Tom & Rowena Fauber
6:30 pm Most Holy Rosary

Saturday, May 7

5:30 pm Mass Offered for Yolanda Arci (RIP)
by the Watkins Family
Offered for David Seckora (RIP)
by Virginia Kopacki

Sunday, May 8

9:00 am Mass Offered for Herbert Sturtz, Sr. (RIP)
Anniversary of Birthday
10:15 am Children's Faith Formation
10:15 am Adult Faith Formation (MC)

Hearing Assistance

If you are having difficulty hearing the Mass in Church, please arrive a few minutes early and speak with one of the ushers, as the parish has purchased hearing assistance devices for our parishioners. Just ask one of our ushers how it works. You can even use your own earphones to plug into the device.

Special Collection

Diocesan Collection for Ukraine & Eastern Europe

If you missed the special collection last week to offer support for Ukraine and wish to contribute, please consider making a donation.

The Richmond Diocesan collection will be for both the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and the Archdiocese of Kosice in Slovakia, whose efforts are to reach those suffering in Ukraine and assist the millions who have fled into adjoining countries.

Further, 80% of the funds will go to the networks the Church in Central and Eastern Europe have established with Ukraine. The Diocese of Kosice shares a border with Ukraine and has experienced an influx of refugees.

Parish Synod Questionnaire Summary

Results Sent to Richmond Diocese

The insert in today's bulletin is a multi-sheet copy of the Parish Synod questionnaire as was sent to the Richmond Diocese. Parish Council wishes to share the results of the Synod Questionnaire with all parishioners. It is in the format the Diocese asked for which corresponds with three sections of questions. Please note that parishioners' responses have been condensed and summarized because each section was limited to 500 words. Many responses were similar and combined to conserve the number of words. If you wish to see a summary with all individual responses, they can be made available to you if you let the Church office know.

Annual Parish Scholarship

Every year the Parish offers a scholarship to a qualified high school senior who is a member of OLBS Parish. If you are interested, please call Tiffany Smith for an application at 804-840-7984.

A Peek at Upcoming Events

Tea with the Blessed Mother-

Calling ladies of All ages!! You are Invited to join us for "Tea with the Blessed Mother" on May 21st from 11 am to 2 pm.

Bring your favorite Tea Sandwich, Tea Cake, Tea Cookie or Tea Favorite!!

Register in the back of church or call the office @ 804-843-3125. This is a great mother / daughter opportunity! A social event to honor our Blessed Mother.

All Hostesses and anyone that would like to help, are encouraged and welcomed to join!

Questions call: Erin (804)-366-4435

May 21st – Tea & Coffee with the Blessed Mother.

May 28th – Rise Against Hunger

Rise Against Hunger

We will have a meal packaging event at the hall on May 28th from 10 a.m. until?? We will need many volunteers as we package 10,000 meals to be shipped to the poorest countries or those in most need. Sign up is by the meter bank in the back or you can register online. Invite a friend to help! It's a fun way to work together for good.

Pleaseregister:

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/OurLady2022>

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The Year of Grace, with Divine Mercy

Trust, according to St. Faustina, means neither pious feeling nor intellectual acceptance of the truths of faith, but a lifelong attitude toward God, which is realized in doing the will of God contained in the commandments, the obligation of one's state of life, or recognized inspirations of the Holy Spirit. The one who learns the mystery of God's mercy knows that His will aims only at the good for each person in the perspective of eternity, and, therefore, that person accepts it as a gift and fulfills it with trust. As Sister Faustina wrote in her Diary: there is one word I heed and continually ponder: it alone is everything to me; I live by it and die by it, and it is the holy will of God, it is my daily food. My whole soul listens intently to God's wishes. I do always what God asks of me, although my nature often quakes and I feel that magnitude of these things is beyond my strength: (Diary, 652). In the spirituality of St. Faustina, the term "trust" determines her attitude to God, whereas the word "mercy" means her attitude towards her neighbor. The source, model, and motive for human mercy is Divine Mercy.

Lay Ministers Needed

We are in need of more lay ministers for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ushers/Greeters. It seems our numbers have dwindled over the past two years when changes were made due to the pandemic.

Our most urgent need is for the Saturday evening masses. When I took over the scheduling several years ago, my goal was to have each person only scheduled one time per month. That goal has not been possible on Saturdays (and some Sundays). If you regularly attend the Saturday mass, please give serious consideration to joining one of these ministries. Of course, I can use Sunday ministers as well.

Thank you for praying on this request and let me know if you have an interest. I will put you in touch with the proper person for training before scheduling.

Pattie Vadas
pbv0806@yahoo.com
804-241-5009

FAITH FORMATION

Upcoming dates for May Calendar:

Youth Group – May 1st

Youth Group- May 15th

No Sunday school classes on Mother's Day, May 8th.

Tea with the Blessed Mother May 21st.

Last Sunday School Class for this year is May 22nd.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging May 28th.

Vacation Bible School

The date is set,
and it will be here before we know it.

We will hold VBS July 25th – July 29th.

Many volunteers are Needed!

Please consider giving of your time and talents to help promote the faith to our parish children and community.

Contact: Erin Hayden at 804-843-3125 or 804-366-4435.

Thanks to All Helping on Easter Food Baskets

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our parish family, \$1, 220.00 in donations was raised for the Easter Food Baskets for the needy.

Many thanks to Jennifer Brown, Maximus Brown, Justin Burch, Quan & Sandy Lam Dinh, Erin Hayden, Joshua Hayden, Samantha Hayden & Novella Robinson, Suzanne Hayden, Misael Hernandez, Deidra Kopacki, Jonathan Kopacki, Mason Kopacki, Mary Leigh McDonald, Tiffany Smith, Linda Via, and Scott Watkins for shopping for, putting together, and (in some instances) delivering 10 Easter Food Baskets to needy families in our community.

A special thanks to Bob Ryalls for providing the boxes for us and Lorraine Ryalls for donating goody bags for each of the children to brighten their Easter.

Also, a special thank you to Quan & Sandy Dinh for providing a wonderful lunch for everyone who worked on Saturday!

Saint of the Week

St. Athanasius

Feast Day- May 2nd

St. Athanasius, also known as Athanasius the Great and Athanasius the Confessor, was a bishop and doctor of the church. He is called the "Father of Orthodoxy," the "Pillar of the Church" and "Champion of Christ's Divinity." Athanasius became one of the most dedicated opponents of the heresy of Arianism. Much of his life was a testimony to the divinity of Jesus Christ. Born in either 296 or 298 in Alexandria, Egypt to a prominent Christian family, Athanasius received a wonderful education in Christian doctrine, Greek literature, philosophy, rhetoric and jurisprudence.

He was well studied in the Hebrew Scriptures and the Gospel accounts and the Christian texts which would later be recognized by the Church as the canon of the New Testament. He credited the confessors during the Christian persecution under the Roman Emperor Maximian as his teachers of theology. Athanasius befriended many monks and hermits of the desert, including St. Anthony. After a life of virtue and suffering, this intrepid champion of the Catholic Faith, the greatest man of his time, died in peace on May 2, 373. St. Athanasius was a Bishop and Doctor of the Church.

Diocesan Annual Appeal

God's mercy transforms our lives, and calls us to gratitude and generosity. Renewed in our gratefulness for the Lord's many gifts, please support our Annual Diocesan Appeal. Our parish's goal this year is \$12,370.00.

Check out our \$5 Book Table and give yourself some worthwhile reading!

There is a variety of books to choose from. Feed your soul with good things!

Priests for Life

Pro-Peace and Pro-Life

On receiving the Nobel Prize for Peace, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta had the courage to say to the leaders of political communities: 'If we let a mother kill the fruit of her womb, what is left to us? It is the principle of abortion that endangers peace in the world'. It is true! There can be no true peace without respect for life, especially if it is innocent and defenseless as is that of the unborn child. Elementary coherence requires those who seek peace to safeguard life. No pro-peace activity can be effective unless attacks on life at all its stages, from conception until natural death, are as energetically opposed." (St. John Paul II to The Members Of The Italian Pro-Life Movement, 22 May 2003).



NOTE: The Church of St. Therese in Gloucester is seeking a faithful and passionate Catholic who loves Jesus and His Church for full-time employment as the Coordinator of Youth Ministry. The successful candidate will be one who strives to lead a life of personal holiness and has a shepherd's heart to search out and lead teens closer to Christ. He/she must have the energy to build a youth program from scratch. Applicants should have at least a Bachelor's Degree in a related field and a minimum of three years' experience in youth ministry. The position is responsible for overseeing the middle school and high school programs with vision, including sacramental preparation for Confirmation, with special attention given to empowering lay leadership among both adults and teens. Salary and benefits consistent with diocesan guidelines, qualifications, and experience.

Send cover letter, resume, and Richmond Diocesan application to the pastor, Fr. Gregory Kandt, at fr.gregory@stthersglo.org. For more information, you can call Father Gregory at 804-693-9043.

Collections for April 24-25

Week's Amount

Parish Operations	\$ 3,780
Supplement Collection	20
Total	\$ 4,800

Restricted, Special Use, or Send Out of Parish:

Good Neighbor Center	\$ 1,000
Capital Campaign	\$ 10
Ukraine Special Collection	\$ 1,280

Thank you for supporting our Parish!

Attendance

April 13 th	Tenebrae	29
April 14 th	Holy Thursday	
	Mass of Lord's Supper	74 **
April 15 th	Good Friday	
	Passion of the Lord	98 **
April 16 th	Easter Vigil	
	Saturday Mass:	129
April 17 th	Easter	175
	Spanish Mass	No Mass

** THE ABOVE ARE CORRECTED ATTENDANCE NO'S

April 23 rd	Saturday 5:30 pm Mass	64
April 24 th	Sunday 9:00 am Mass	118
	Spanish Mass	No Mass

St. Theresa & St. John Kanti Cemeteries

Please be aware that no permanent plantings of any flowers, shrubbery, or trees are permitted in the cemeteries. Such items will be removed. If you have planted something and wish to keep it, please remove them as soon as possible.

Any questions should be addressed to members of the Cemetery Committee or see the posted rules on the bulletin board in the Church foyer.

May Wedding Anniversaries

Greg & Denise DePompeo	May 2, 1981
Pat & Wini Barron	May 14, 1966
Chris & Barbara Hite	May 15, 1982
Joe & Mary Pincus	May 15, 1993
Brian & Hope Kopacki	May 17, 2008
Dexter & Pam Dix	May 24, 1992
Jim & Pattie Vadas	May 27, 1972

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

New members are asked to register at the Parish Office in the Mercy Center.

We invite all parishioners to join a ministry.
Contact the Chairperson of the ministry or call the Parish Office at
804.843.3125

ALTAR LINENS
Linda Drexler 843-2541
vintagenotes@verizon.net

ALTAR SERVERS
Joe Drexler 843-2541
liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org

ARTS & ENVIRONMENT
Rowena & Tom Fauber 725-6110
artsenvironment@olbs-catholic.org

BELL CHOIR

CANTORS/CHOIR
Leda Zaginaylo 757 870-2516
music@olbs-catholic.org

CEMETERY COMMITTEE
Gary Silvia 757-303-8576
cemeterychair@olbs-catholic.org

CHURCH HISTORIAN
Linda Drexler 843-2541
historian@olbs-catholic.org

CLEANING COORDINATOR

FACILITIES COMMITTEE
Jim Pyne
facilitieschair@olbs-catholic.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Richard Duke 843-3125
financechair@olbs-catholic.org

HISPANIC MINISTRY
Nanci Hernandez
Jose Velasquez
hispanicministry@olbs-catholic.org

HOSPITALITY
Glenn & Kay Shaw 843-3476

JUSTICE & PEACE

KNIT, PURL & PRAY

LAWN MOWING COMMITTEE
Eric Ellingson 843-2184
ericellingson@verizon.net

LIBRARY
Linda Drexler 843-2541
vintagenotes@verizon.net

LITURGY COMMITTEE
Joe Drexler 843-2541
liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org

MINISTRY SCHEDULING
Pattie Vadas 843-4082
pbv0806@yahoo.com

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS
Margaret Varboncoeur 843-2867

PARISH COUNCIL
Tiffany Smith 840-7984
parishchair@olbs-catholic.org

SACRISTAN
Joe Drexler 843-2541
David Seckora, Sacristan Emeritus
Marguerite Sturtz, Sacristan Emerita

YOUTH MINISTRY
Erin Hayden
DRE@olbs-catholic.org

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PROVIDENCE FORGE, VA 23140
(804)966-1600

Father Jakubowski Council #8116



*New Members Welcomed
*Hall Rental Available

Contact
Janice McGowan
(804) 366-4124



PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND GOOD HEALTH

Emily Adams
Sharon Adams
Elizabeth Alley
Camb Ashley
Candace Barefoot
Virginia Becker
Paulette Berberich
Tom Berberich
Linda Blevins
Ron Blevins
Linda Burch
William Bush
Kathryn Carson
Kevin Carson
Lucy Carson
Tim Collier
Meredith Crowe
Eric Crump
Vincent D'elia
Denise DePompeo
Dale Dippre
Dexter Dix
Larry Dzula, Jr.
Andy Eshelman
Michelle Eshelman
Amanda Fincher
Don Fitzgerald
Cris Gay
Kelli Gaeta
Margaret Geron
Jim Gregory

Pat Hinkle
Kelly Hipple
Laurie Hite
Ellen Horseman
Gail Justin
Bob Kay
Bill Kessler
Gloria Kojcsich
Bonnie Kopacki
Joyce Kostrzewa
Gordon Langston
Helene Lawrence
Richard Lawrence
Patricia Lanuza
Ashley Larson
Melissa Leger
Philip Liberato
Denise Mason
Matt Matula
Lanci McCloud
Mary Leigh McDonald
Kenny McGinley
Beverly McGowan
Patrick McGowan
William Madigan III
Ron Martz
Jackie Mierle
Clara Morrow
Randy Morrow
Specialist Mullins
Larry Newtzie

Andrea Payton
Ka'varus Penticolas
Brett Pickens
Patricia Pilog
Pam Rigsby
Mark A. Roane
Vickie Roane
Leonard Romano
Debbie Royals
Jack Scaife
Barbara Schafer
Kay Shaw
James Simmons
The Solak Family
Levi Sturtz
Jim Tokarz
Mae Touray
Taylor Trimbath
Gloria Wajciechowski
Francis Watkins
Emmett White
James Wills
Bill Webster
Andrea Berberich Wilson
Mary Wilson
Lois Wilson
Robert 'Bobby' Wilson
Jody Zogran

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Major Jonathan Culberson
Specialist Sydney Gay

Parish Synod Questionnaire Results Sent to Richmond Diocese

Parish Council wishes to share the results of the Synod Questionnaire with all parishioners. What follows is the format the Diocese asked for. Please note that parishioners' responses have been condensed and summarized because each section was limited to 500 words. Many responses were similar and combined to conserve the number of words. If you wish to see a summary with all individual responses, they can be made available to you if you let the Church office know.

1.) How many Synod Consultations did your parish or community hold?

Three (1 English, 1 Spanish, 1 Vietnamese)

2.) What was the total number of unique participants?

32

3.) What feedback do you have to report from the conversations centered on the theme of Communion? (Synodal Themes 1, 2 and 4)

Traditional Perspective

Many parishioners like the small-town, more traditional Catholic values and Masses of our Parish. There is diversity in the Parish as shown by white, Hispanic, and Vietnamese ethnicities. There is a great desire to reconnect with fallen-away parishioners and a number of suggestions to put a plan in place. There is a feeling that ministries to those in the greater Catholic and non-Catholic community would go a long way toward showing our Parish as welcoming, outgoing, and putting our Faith into practice, such as the following:

- Keep traditional Catholic customs that connect us to our roots.
- Emphasize Evangelization: Home visits, acquire a vehicle for shuttling persons to medical appointments and transport to Mass, a mailing campaign, holding community dinners and making more use of the parish hall (ethnic dinners, international dinners, picnics).
- Expand involvement with the area Christian denominations (food for needy, involvement in area Ministerial Association, continue or expand the Parish preschool program).
- Need to inform parishioners of Parish needs and explain how we need help filling roles.
- One (or more) Mass in English that everyone is expected to attend and include all ethnic groups to attend. Offer English classes at different times in parishes.

Non-Traditional Perspective

From the more non-traditional perspective we received a lot of input regarding how we can work on relations with those outside the church as well as how we can work on the relationships among those in our parish. These include meals and gatherings, providing transportation to Mass and events. We include the following statements:

- Distribute pamphlets and information about the Catholic faith within the greater community.
- Intermingle the different ethnic and languages within each Mass service.
- Sponsor English classes within the Parish.

4.) What feedback do you have to report from the conversations centered on the themes of Discussion and Dialogue? (Synodal Themes 3, 6 and 7)

Traditional Perspective

Over many years, two or three priests have done irreparable harm by driving away parishioners, many who were generational families, by their interpretation of Church dogma, their personal actions or behavior, and lack of empathy to parishioner concerns. Communications and problem solving are critical to the spiritual health of parishioners' retention or bringing the fallen-away back.

- Items such as town hall meetings, reenforcing the suggestion box, mediation with pastor and a couple parishioner reps, and/or use of Parish Council members, were all mentioned.
- "Mediation" team of the pastor and lay persons to deal with parishioner concerns.
- Hold "Town Hall" meetings, focus groups, or planning teams to work on parish needs and concerns.

The majority of responses were to become more involved in larger issues of society. A caveat needs to be that Catholic social teachings and the Church's stand on the various issues must be foremost in parishioners' approach to these larger issues. Where possible, work together with other Christian denominations in the area: can achieve more of larger issues of society by joining forces. Here is the list of issues parishioners feel we should be involved in, from highest responses to lower number of responses:

- Bereavement group
- Ride sharing for parishioners in need
- Meals on Wheels
- Hunger
- Abortion
- Then the opioid crisis, women and family shelters

Non-Traditional Perspective

From the non-traditional perspective, there was input regarding relations with those outside the church while working on relationships among those in our parish. In addition, there was interest in modernizing the church interior, using more digital communications, update musical selections, and holding these kinds of surveys on a regular basis. Some comments were:

- Getting leaders together and work with other denominations to provide meals or shelter for the needy, provide combined prayer opportunities.
- Obtaining feedback from parishioners including anonymously through a suggestion box or frequent listening sessions or focus group-style lunches.
- Mailing campaign detailing what the parish has to offer.
- Mount television monitors in pews to offer "close caption" in languages.

5.) What feedback do you have to report from the conversations centered on the themes of Participation and Mission? (Synodal Themes 5, 8-10)

Traditional Perspective

There are important education or re-education needs in the Catholic faith that appear to be lacking in the basics of the Faith and traditional values. Another question is how to minister to a number of ethnicities with language barriers. There is a need to develop and expand lay leadership. The younger generation is the future of, not just our parish, but the Church as a whole. We need to appeal to younger age group because they are our future. Seek ways to increase priestly vocations, retain those that are priests, and make sure they have training in interpersonal relationships before they start interacting with a wide range of people in parishes and the greater communities. Comments include the following:

- Parishes should not be separated into groups because of ethnicity, age groups, or Latin rites, but should all worship as one English-speaking church (USA). Have one Mass for all.
- Discontinue live streaming because it is not a substitute for the Eucharistic celebration.
- Continuing education in Catholic fundamentals should be incorporated into the Mass, such as in homilies or a presentation after Mass, by either a priest, deacon or a lay person.
- Emphasize the Catechism and make it available.
- Expand the role of the laity and deacons to minister to parishes.
- Training materials, contact persons and learning opportunities should be provided from the Diocese for the various lay ministries and lay leadership.
- Don't dilute what Church stands for and believes; go back to the foundation of the Church and its basic teachings; mixed messages from the Church hierarchy are very problematic. Pope and Church hierarchy make statements that confuse people and make them question Church positions.
- Sunday School programs need to stick to the basics of the Faith and move away from "touchy-feely" teachings that don't prepare them for knowledge to carry them into their future lives.
- Lack of understanding the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist leads to what we are seeing in declining attendance and secularism: missing Mass, avoiding Reconciliation, not seeking continual religious knowledge, and not emphasizing vocations become the norm.
- Relativism – that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to current culture, society, or historical context – is becoming pervasive in modern Catholic thought and will degrade basic Church beliefs.
- Hold the hard line against pro-abortion politicians, use of stem cells, allowing speakers that have non-Catholic points of view.

Non-Traditional Perspective

See the final thoughts and feedback section for the non-traditional perspective

6.) What were the central idea(s) surrounding your parish/community's discussion of the Fundamental Question? ("A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, 'journeys together': How is this 'journeying together' happening today in your particular Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together?")

The Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament parish community response was split fairly evenly between a "traditional" viewpoint and a "non-traditional" one. For that reason, each of the three parts of the Synod summary is divided into the two viewpoints.

The **traditional** responses emphasized holding to the current conventional Mass as conducted in OLBS, the Church holding to and not watering down Church teachings and doctrine to appease modern secular trends, continue allowing some Latin usage, combining all ethnicities into one Mass celebration, and increasing evangelization and pulling in fallen-away parishioners. Messaging from the Church hierarchy needs to be unified and always in line with Church teachings.

From the **non-traditional** point of view, comments were made such as updating the church interior and lighting as well as mixing in more modern Christian music, advertising who we are to the greater community as well as fallen-away Catholics as a form of evangelization, greater use of technology, and intermingling the different ethnic music and parts of the Mass to appeal to our diverse parish. From a broader Church perspective, there are themes of what the Church should do to overcome challenges such as decline in membership, lack of vocations, appeal to youth, engaging with or accepting those who are on the fringe: divorced, remarried, or those Catholics forced to live together unmarried so as to continue to receive the sacraments; same sex couples, the LGBT community; unmarried couples or parents. Several responses on the future of the clergy suggested the Church consider women deacons, shorter deacon preparation, and allow priests to marry.

Most responses felt the parish needs to be involved in some of the important needs of our local community and the social issues of our time: abortion, bereavement, hunger, transportation for those in need for medical or church activities, and divorce issues. There is a need for members to gather (more than ever in the post-pandemic), whether for meals or special projects where a lot of parishioners can participate. There is a need for lay leadership training, ministry training and outside expertise – perhaps from the Diocese – to grow and participate.

7.) Do you have any final thoughts or feedback that your parish/community would like to share with the Diocese?

Non-Traditional Perspective: Continuance from the Participation and Mission theme (Part III)

Comments received included input regarding more adult religious education and formation classes or information – parents need to take a role in their children’s religious knowledge and education. Catechesis on Transubstantiation followed by opportunities for Adoration, ways to advertise and outreach to the greater community, take a more proactive approach to ministry participation. Further examples include the following:

- Keep bringing new members into the Church, any age but especially youth, to be active and fill the various roles.
- Make it easier to convert. The RCIA program is too long and complex and needs to be more private instructions.
- The Church should better identify where it needs to focus and provide a good action plan for those issues.
- Have more training to empower people to take ownership in the parish and feel competent to step into roles. Continue to make efforts to explain the various ministries and ask individuals directly for their help. Set training dates for leadership or ministry growth.
- May need to abandon some ministries with little participation and try new ministries that address issues that parishes may not have.
- More family-focused activities outside of church services and religious ed.
- Diocese needs to provide assistance and guidance to set up or reform various new or existing ministries.
- Incorporate more technology in Mass and educational opportunities.
- Reach out to local colleges.
- Consider women deacons.
- Provide a way for divorced, remarried Catholics to return to full Communion in the Church. Too many couples do not remarry but live together so they can continue to receive the Eucharist. We keep divorced, divorced and remarried, and those living together as persons on the fringe; is this what Jesus would want? To be unaccepting of other lifestyles?
- Be more accepting of people’s differences (for example, LGBT, same-sex unions, women’s roles, those that left the priesthood)
- Allow married priests. We ordain married Episcopal ministers as priests. There are 120 married priests in the country. Too many priests leave the priesthood for marriage.
- Allow “worker” priests that get out among the greater community and the public. This occurred in Europe in the mid-20th century. Jesuits have been scientists and educators for centuries.
- Shorter time and less-involved training to become a deacon.