

# DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY

## FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK

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This past February (2020), our parish took part in a 75-question survey administered by the Catholic Leadership Institute. The purpose of this survey was to give us a deeper perspective on four key areas in our parishioner's lives:

- *Personal Beliefs (doctrine)*
- *Personal Prayer and Spiritual Life (habits)*
- *Missionary Discipleship (outreach)*
- *Catholic Journey (growth)*

### These Results Have Value.

This data comes to us at an important time. Following the recommendations of our four Working Groups earlier this Spring, we are taking some time this Fall to reexamine our Mission and Core Values as a parish. Parish leadership hopes to further engage with you to receive your feedback about these important questions in the upcoming weeks.

**198**  
**RESPONDENTS**

198 people took this survey, which is a good sample size both in respect to our number of registered families (405) and our average Sunday Mass attendance (~500 over a weekend).

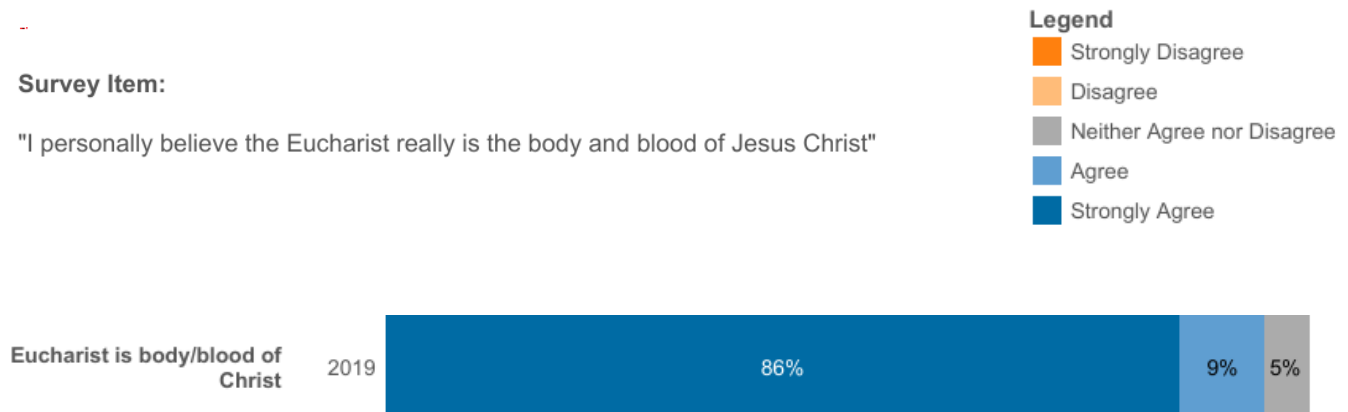


**RELIABLE DATA**

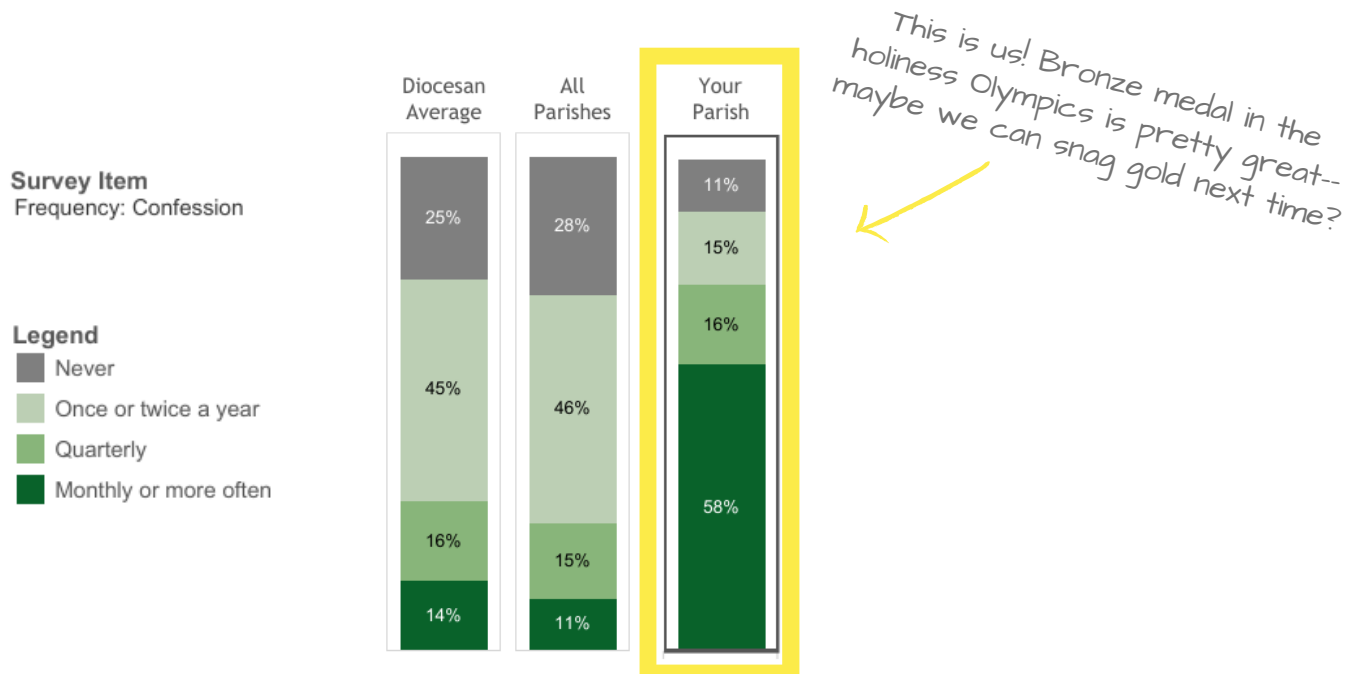
The Catholic Leadership Institute considers anything over 10% of average Sunday Mass attendance as statistically significant.

# REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

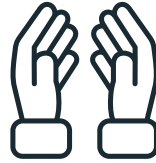
There are a lot of statistics circulating about what Catholics believe about the Eucharist. A 2019 Pew Research survey suggests that just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that “during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus.” Here’s what St. Mark’s survey respondents said:



Our parish isn't just strong in areas of doctrine; St. Mark's far exceeds local and national averages in things like frequency of personal prayer, recognition of Church Authority, Adoration, and other Catholic devotions. In fact, our parish's reported frequency of Confession puts us as the **THIRD HIGHEST EVER** to take this survey--that's third out of over 1,255 parishes nationwide!



# 81%



81% of those at St. Mark's agree or strongly agree that their Parish helps them actively grow as disciples of Christ. This is way above diocesan and national averages. Onward, Christian Soldiers!

76% of those at St. Mark's strongly agree or agree that their Parish provides them ample opportunity to serve others. (For those not yet involved, check out our website or call the Parish Office to learn more about our parish's ministries.)



82% of those at St. Mark's strongly agree or agree that St. Mark's has helped grow their prayer life. Of the 82%, 44 said "strongly agree". This is double the diocesan and national averages!

## THERE IS STILL WORK TO DO.

While St. Mark's lowest responses still met both Diocesan and National averages, we still have work to do. Our Lord doesn't call us to settle for "average"; He calls us to be saints! Here are some areas that we could improve:



*Although 69% of those surveyed either agreed or strongly agreed that our parish provides transparent financial information, we need to be more intentional to share with the parish relevant financial data. Questions about finances can always be sent to [ourfuture@onestrongfamily.org](mailto:ourfuture@onestrongfamily.org)*



*46% of those surveyed either agreed or strongly agreed that our parish "equips me to have conversations about faith with family and friends by teaching me how to share my personal witness." While events like our Bible Study are popular (76% agree/strongly agree that our parish helped them grow through Scripture study!), it's clear that we can do more to provide the tools needed to proclaim the Gospel.*

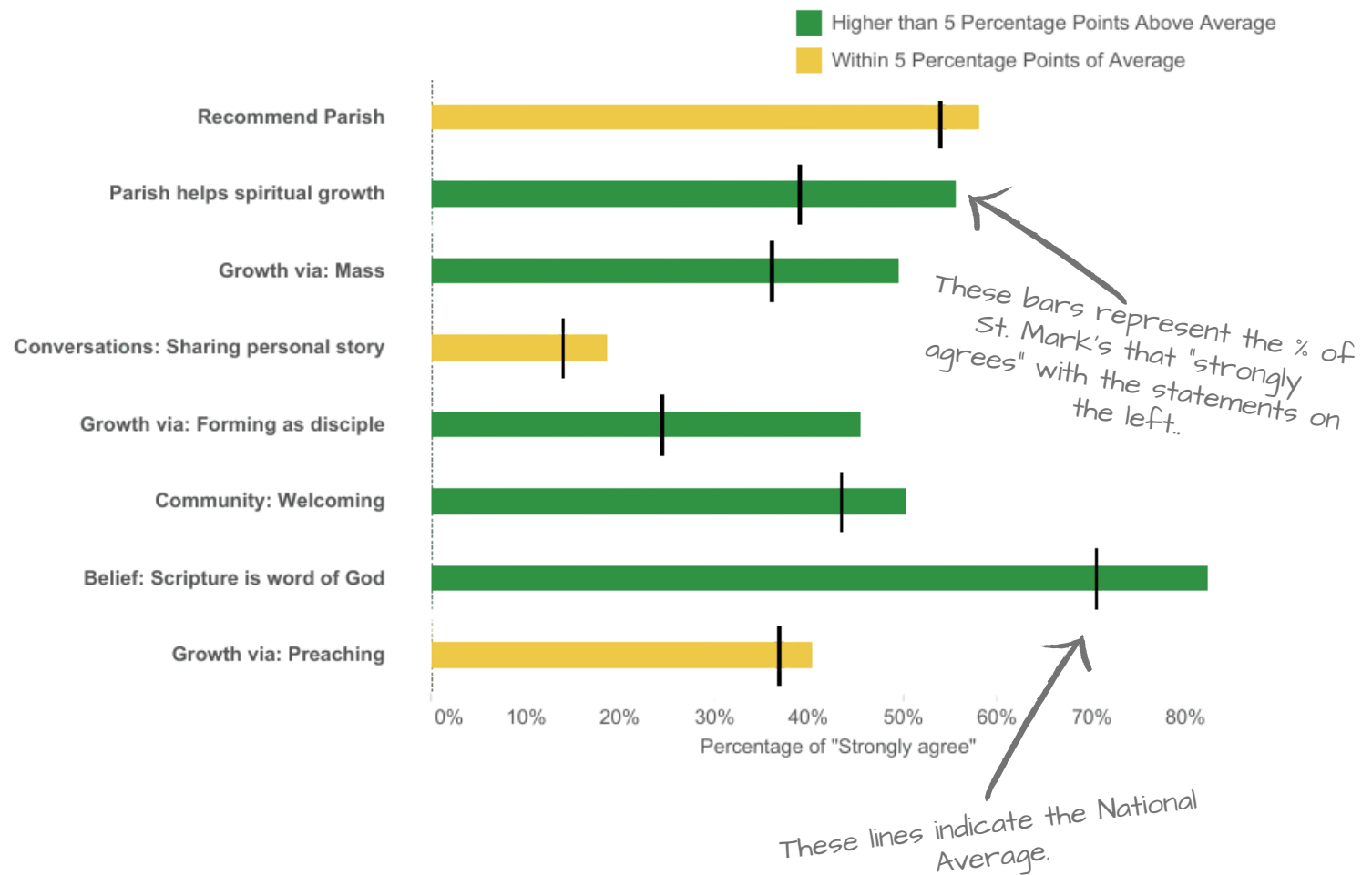


*92% believe that, as parents, they are responsible for "helping their children know Jesus". But only 52% agree that St. Marks is providing sufficient tools to carry out this charge. How can we do more to support parents to disciple their children?*

# STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

The Catholic Leadership Institute measures the strength of a response by calculating the percentage of respondents who "Strongly Agreed" to each statement in the survey. The chart below highlights eight questions that the Catholic Leadership Institute thinks are particularly important areas of focus for parishes. In EVERY SINGLE AREA, our parish responses either meet or exceed the averages on the national level.

Statistical significance calculations comparing parish sample to all parishes (by 'Strongly Agree' percentage)



We have so much to be grateful for here at St. Mark's! Our clergy, our community, our beautiful buildings, new babies, seasoned parishioners—the list goes on! Who made these results happen? The answer is clear: you did! It is through your dedication to Christ and His Church that St. Mark's is such a special place to pray, to find fellowship, and to raise a family. We did this together! But the reality is that God Himself did this. These results reveal the many graces which God has poured out upon our parish family. And He desires to continue to do His unique work in and through us. How can we share the gift of our parish with others this year?