



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

St. Patrick Church Synthesis Report Synod 2021-2023

June 8, 2022

St. Patrick Church

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Synod 2021-2023

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St. Patrick Church

Synthesis Report

Synod 2021-2023

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Introduction

The Process

The synodal journey for St. Patrick Church began when several members of the congregation attended a training session on the Synod Preparatory Document at St. Ann's Church sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of St. Thomas on November 10, 2021. The three-hour session was an introduction to the synodal process that would continue throughout the next few months.

On February 4, 2022, the Diocesan Committee met to discuss the kickoff of the Synodal process for the diocese. It was decided that there would be a special Mass on March 20, 2022, where the representatives of the respective parishes would attend and be recognized, thus formally commencing Synod 2021-2023 for the diocese. Due to unforeseen circumstances the special Mass and the official commencement of the Synodal process was cancelled.

On March 23, 2022, the St. Patrick Leadership Team consisting of the parish priest, the co-chairs of the parish Synodal Team and a participant in the initial training session, met to plan the beginning of the parish synodal process. They immediately identified the parish Synodal Team consisting of a diverse group of parishioners representing different ages, genders, and racial and cultural affiliations.

After the March 31, 2022, meeting, the Leadership Team commenced contacting parishioners to serve on the Synodal Team and introduced the congregation to the Synod process after each Mass. Announcements about the Synod process were also included in the church bulletins.

Subsequent weekly meetings of the Leadership Team were spent finalizing the Synodal Team and organizing for the initial meeting on April 20, 2022. That meeting consisted of an introduction to the Synodal process, the Vatican website resources, and material provided by the diocese. On April 21, 2022, Fr. Cyprian Tatah led a discussion with the Synodal Team and St. Patrick Parish Council about their attitudes toward their parish.

During the April 26th meeting the Synodal Team was organized into three committees:

- Promotion & Logistics Committee
- Survey & Synthesis Committee
- Special Synodal Session Committee – session scheduled for May 22, 2022

Realizing that the diocesan synthesis report was due to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on June 30, 2022, the Synodal Team made following decisions:

- To use anonymous questionnaires to facilitate openness in responses and meet the self-imposed deadline of May 31, 2022, to collect feedback.
- Administer the surveys in groups to allow for discussion.
- Limit the number of questions to eleven to facilitate completion of the survey.

By May 10th the Synodal Team finalized the survey, displayed posters, included the survey in the bulletin and made announcements at weekend Masses. As a result, the subsequent sessions yielded 95 surveys:

- May 13th - St. Patrick Elementary School Students (23)
- May 17th – St. Patrick Church Ministries (28)
- May 21st – Saturday Evening Mass (13)
- May 22nd -Sunday Morning Mass (24)
- Responses to SurveyMonkey Surveys (3)
- Responses to Adobe Fill-in Surveys (2)

Reflections and Challenges

Given the decision to use surveys, the process did not expressly embrace the themes of communion, participation and mission. There were occasions however that those themes were evident during this process.

- During the meeting with Fr. Tatah the members of the Parish Council and the Synodal Team responded to the following questions:

Question: What do you like about St. Patrick Catholic Church?
Responses: Expressions used to describe their experience - Family, Faith, Home, Ministries, Unity, Beauty, Commitment to ministry, Love for the Parish, Heart, Support of Parishioners.
Question: How would you improve St. Patrick Catholic Church?
Responses: Passing the baton of faith “Participation of Youth.” Too stringent on rules as it relates to unwed parents. Need to be forgiving. Showing compassion to those who made mistakes along the way. Need a diaconate program – more men to participate and allow women to enter. Outreach-visitation of sick and elderly and more involvement of spiritual community. Evangelization. More parishioners’ commitment needed. Improve/update filing census of all baptized and all parishioners, so we can reach out, especially when they stop attending Mass. Re-evangelization needed especially of Godparents and sponsors of the Confirmed. Welcome and forgive them, Be inclusive.

- During the Synodal Team’s meeting to discuss the composition of the survey questions, there was a lively exchange of ideas about reasons for inclusion or exclusion of certain questions.
- During the meeting with the members of the ministries there were discussions about various questions on the survey.

Prior to commencing our survey of the parishioners, we realized that there would not be many respondents between the ages of 18-44 because of the absence of high school, college students and young adults in the congregation. Representatives from those age groups were included in the Synodal Team in hope that we would be able to leverage their contacts to augment the numbers. This was not realized.

The special Synodal session after Sunday Mass was designed to provide an opportunity for the congregation to engage in communion, participation and mission. Most of the participants ate the food, drank the refreshments, filled out their surveys and left. Consequently, the engagement we had hoped for did not materialize.

We also designed surveys for surrounding Christian churches in the hope that we would get their perspective on possible community issues on which we could collaborate. Due to the impending deadline for drafting the synthesis report, these surveys were not administered.

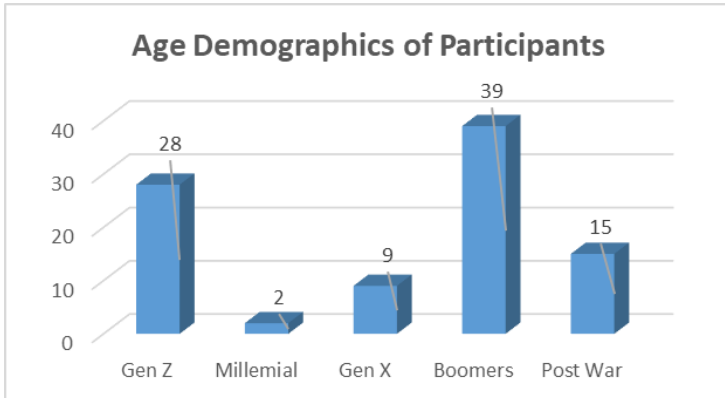
The synthesis report was drafted by the Survey & Synthesis Committee, reviewed and ratified by the St. Patrick Synodal Team on June 8, 2022.

Discernment of Collected Contributions

Demographics of Survey Respondents

Question 1 – Indicate your age group.

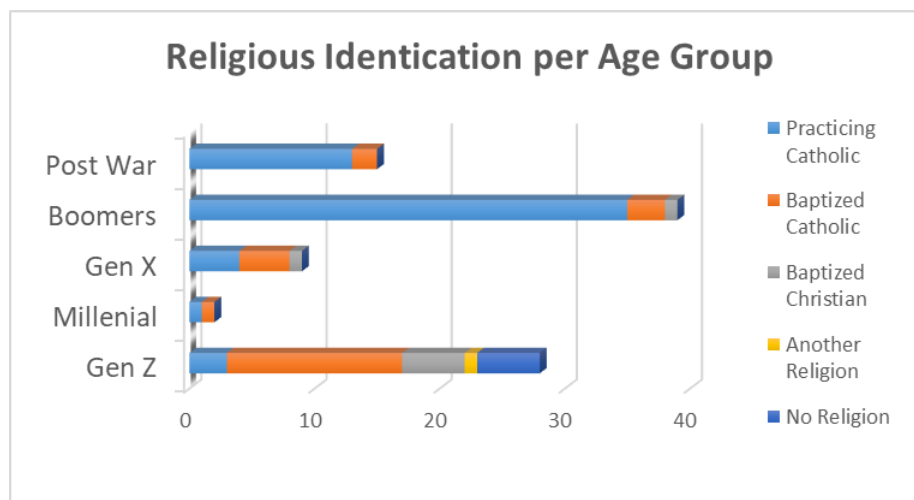
As we had predicted the survey of St. Patrick Church congregation yielded very few members of the Gen Z (ages 10-25) and Millennial (ages 25-41) age groups. We augmented our Gen Z respondents by asking 6th through 8th grade students at St. Patrick School to complete the surveys.



Group	Age Range
Gen Z	10 – 25
Millennial	26 – 41
Gen X	42 – 57
Boomers	58 – 76
Post War	77 – 94

Question 2 - How would you classify yourself?

In response to how each age group viewed their religious affiliation the data is as follows:

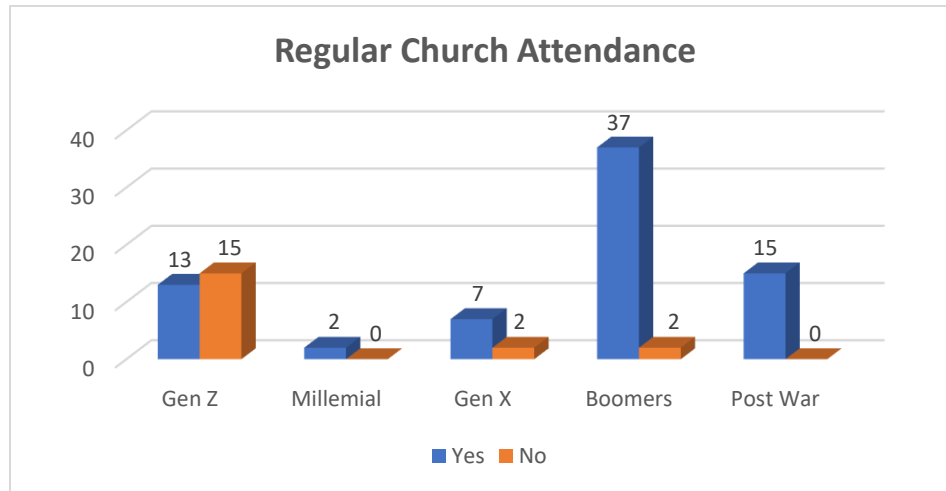


Of the Gen Z population only 3 young people of 28 considered themselves “practicing Catholics.” For the Boomers (90%) and Post War (87%) populations the vast majority considered themselves “practicing Catholics.”

How the Respondents Feel About St. Patrick Church

Question 3 – Do you attend church regularly?

In response to this question 54% of the Gen Z answered “no,” which is consistent with the low percentage (11%) that identified as “practicing Catholics.” In the written responses to why Gen Z did



not attend church regularly. The primary reasons for not attending church were: †

- Their family no longer goes to church
- No desire to attend Mass
- Too busy to attend Mass

Almost all of the Millennial through Post War age groups indicated that they regularly attended church.

Question 4 - What do you like most about St. Patrick Church?

In response to this question the following positive qualities were attributed to St. Patrick Church: †

- The feeling of family and comradery among the congregation
- The beauty of the altar and church
- The choir
- The service (i.e., the Mass itself)

Question 5 - In what ways can we improve St. Patrick Church?

In response to this question survey participants recommended the following improvements for St. Patrick Church: †

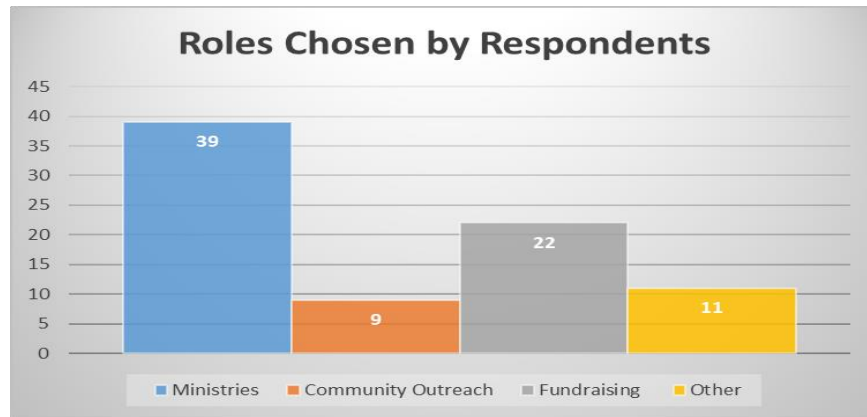
- More of the congregation should join a ministry
- Sponsor activities that promote fellowship
- Augment organ with other instruments

†in the order of frequency mentioned

- Establish a children’s choir
- Reconnect with people baptized in the church
- Engage in community outreach to attract new members
- Air condition or add more fans in the church
- Targeted activities to
 - Attract youth and families
 - Attract more male members to the church

Question 6 - What role would you be willing to play in improving St. Patrick Church?

1. **Ministries (Hospitality, Sacristan, Choir, Cleaning, Social Event Planning, Decoration, Lectors, Men’s Fellowship, Charismatic Prayer Group, Sacred Heart Society, Shut-Ins, Visitation, Youth Group)**
2. **Community Outreach**
3. **Fundraising**
4. **Other**

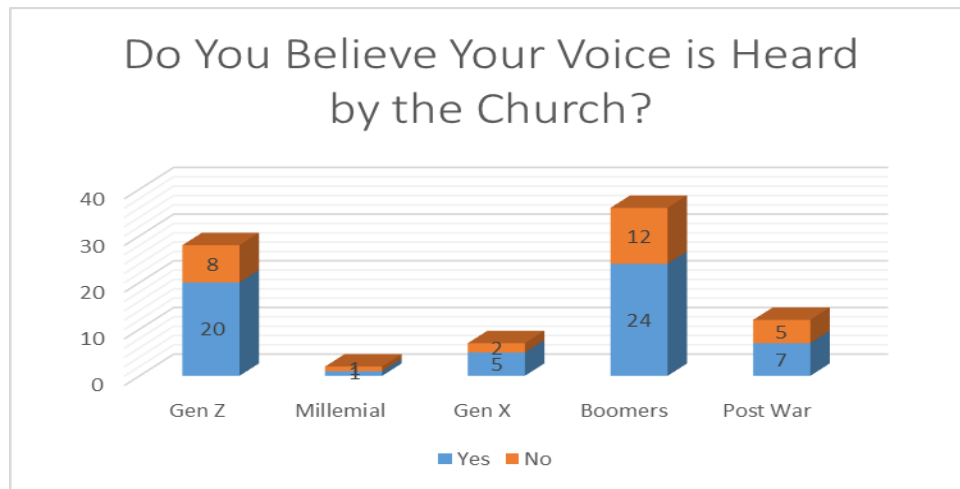


Of the 6th to 8th grade respondents of St. Patrick School, six students expressed interest in becoming alter servers, two of whom who do not regularly attend church. Three other students expressed interest in being members of the youth group or lectors. These students may represent young people who are interested in becoming active participants in the church congregation.

Fifteen existing members of ministries offered to perform community outreach or fundraising in addition to their current duties. The challenge to sustaining this level of volunteerism is that 70% of the survey participants currently engaged in the ministries are 65 years or older.

Respondents' Perceptions of the Catholic Church

Question 7 - Do you believe that your voice is heard by the Church?



Two-thirds of the respondents felt that their voices were listened to by the Catholic church. For the third that believed their voices were not heard, they gave the following reasons: †

- Students indicated that they were too young
- Only certain individuals in leadership positions are heard
- Concerns are not addressed by priests and others

Question 8 - How can the Church become more involved in community outreach?

In response to this question respondents made the following suggestions: †

- Sponsor family-oriented community activities
- Get to know our neighbors around the church
- Visit shut-ins
- Fundraising to help the needy
- Tutoring of neighborhood children and adults

†in the order of frequency mentioned

Question - 9. Are there traditions, policies, and practices that you believe the Church should reconsider?

No

Yes, If so, what?

Sixty-nine percent of the survey participants answered “no” to this question, the other thirty- one percent listed the following traditions, policies, and practices that the church should reconsider: †

- Allowing women to be deacons
- Allowing priests to get married
- Allowing contemporary gospel music during Mass
- Accepting members of LGBTQ community
- Clarifying certain church practices:
 - Treatment of marriages outside the church
 - Practices concerning baptism

Question 10 - What relationship would you like to see our Church have with our brothers and sisters of other Christian denominations and other religions?

In response to this question respondents made the following suggestions: †

- Maintain a strong and friendly relationship with other religious denominations
- Invite other denominations to attend Mass
- Sponsor joint community activities to promote fellowship

Question 11 - What social issues do you think the Church should provide more guidance?

Almost all of the survey participants responded to this question. There was a myriad of responses of areas that the Church could give more guidance. Below is the list of those areas: †

- Position on the LGBTQ+ community
- Activism in combatting racism and sexism
- Activism in reducing crime/gang violence
- Guidance on marriage and parenting
- Guidance on family planning and abortion
- Activism in preventing domestic and child abuse
- Activism in promoting mental health
- Activism in helping the impoverished

†in the order of frequency mentioned

Conclusion: Next Steps

The Synod Team will schedule monthly thematic sessions for the congregation to meet to discuss the issues and recommendations received as part of the Synod survey process.

When we meet, we will schedule a person(s) from the appropriate Church or Government departments (e.g., Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services or VI Department of Human Services) to discuss the services that they provide that is germane to our topic. In this way our congregation will be able to offer guidance to existing services to those in need.

For those recommendations that our congregation will undertake in partnership with another entity or on our own we will develop an implementation plan listing milestones and the responsible parties. The group responsible for the task will report monthly to the congregation on the progress of the project.

By leveraging the talents of our congregation, we should be able realize the increase in fellowship, community engagement and growth of our faith community.

APPENDIX

Summary of Survey Responses

1. Please indicate your age group:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
12 - 17 years old	26	28%
18 - 24 years old	2	2%
25 - 34 years old	0	0%
35 - 44 years old	2	2%
45 - 54 years old	9	9%
55 - 64 years old	16	17%
65 - 74 years old	24	26%
75 years or older	15	16%

2. How would you classify yourself?

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A practicing Catholic	57	59%
A baptized Catholic	27	28%
A baptized Christian	7	7%
A member of another religion	1	1%
No religious affiliation	5	5%

3. Do you attend church regularly?

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	75	79%
No, why not?	20	21%

Why not, because I don't have a ride to go.

My parents don't go to church.

On Thursday

My parents aren't Catholic.

I don't have time.

My family doesn't go Church anymore.

I don't have time.

Because I don't want to.

Because I do not have time.

Because my mother is really busy.

I don't want to.

Because I don't really want to.

Too busy.

Other parishioners sometimes prevent me from attending church regularly.

Not a member visiting with my brother.

I don't get the energy but I had once when I was younger. Also too when I go to church for a special holiday you getting judge by other people who go there regularly.

Too lazy, and boring

No excuse I'm working on coming more often.

Please play soothing gospel music before Mass to put you in the right frame of mind.

service is kind of boring and could use an upbeat approach

I have for most of my life. In the past few years , I have come to realize the church is not willing to listen to its congregation, to take responsibility for sexual abuse sins and open its heart and arms to women leaders. It weighs heavy on my heart. The focus should be social justice not always worship.

Routine, rituals and biases

4. What do you like most about St. Patrick Church?

I like how all the ministries and catholic charities are all like one family. I like that our church make it a welcoming parish for our visitors.

What I like most about St. Patrick's church is the altar.

I like that we get to worship Jesus.

It has a nice altar.

I like that it is productive and that we can go to the Church regularly.

The beautiful altar.

The church

The singing (drums the most).

I like the inside of the church.

That the Mass is not too long.

The way we praise the Lord.

Nothing

Nothing

The altar looks beautiful.

The altar and the designs.

The Pope, the Priest and the decorations.

The thing I like most about the Catholic Church is the choir.

I like that the Church is very beautiful.

I like that the Church hours aren't too long.

The altar design.

Nothing.

Nothing.

I like it because positive, the responsibility with God.

The music ministry.

There is an order to the Mass making easier to attend.

It feels like a family.

I fell in love to the Holy Mass ministries and the friends I made along throughout the way over years.

Strong faithful parishioners , parishioners represent the Frederiksted community.

I've never felt that I was being judged by the priest or congregation.

There is a sense of teamwork and dedication to the church as a whole.

The music!!!! The people, the building, the pastor

We as people can come together and worship.

The togetherness of the members, the friendship

The liturgy.

Everything etc.

The participation in the Mass, the music, the pastor

The parishioners, the church itself

The way we show reverence and worship God.

I feel about St. Patrick's Church like a family church where we gather to praise God

Attending service

The building which is not the church. Too many fanfare, some think they are superior to other.

It gives a sense of security being a member of this community. Dislike the repeated 'leadership' in all groups. Same people all the time.

Music ministry, Liturgy, the people, and traditional blended worship

Received all my sacraments here, the beauty of the church, its accessibility to my home.

The friendliness of the parishioners, the fact that i know and have known them for a long time. Willingness of the parishioners to work together.

What I like the most is the presence of Jesus, the beauty, the reverence, the liturgical celebration, music, choir, feeling of home and family.

Church is uplifting by the music, organist and choir . People are friendly, you feel at home.

I like St. Patrick's church walk-in tradition of our baptism practice.

Everything ; service, how Mass is celebrated.

The preaching, the music from the choir, its teachings and people.

I like St. Patrick church because regularly church and I see God in me all the time.

The services.

Settings, organist, choir.

Most of the people, the music, the liturgy, the pastor, the atmosphere in a beautiful church

The people.

It is my church home! It is where I was baptized , made my first communion, first reconciliation and confirmation. This is where I was educated , it is where I feel at home.

It is my home church.

Not my first time here. I like the history of the church, being one of the oldest in St. Croix.

I love the closeness of the parishioners, and the happy feelings of I have where to attend Mass.

The service, the people.

The services.

Go to communion, the church tells us how to go out in life
A family group of parishioners.

How everything is laid out and the décor of the church.

I don't attend church so I can't really say.

My nephew attends school here, so I'll make it my home.

It remains a parish and sustaining the storms throughout the life.

I like the fact that children get to participate in church activities.

It's been my church since grow up. Over the years have had & known many priest of different cultures that have brought?

I have always been a Catholic and unless something drastic happens I am true to my Catholic church in my area I live.

The people

The service, the faithful community

The beautiful altar

Everything

women are engaged in church activities

I feel comfortable serving God here.

I feel the service is held in a good time frame and renovations made church brighter and more cheerful

Singing/service

Tony Murray

The togetherness and the community of worship

Singing and music

The congregation comes today

It's very warm, welcoming, everyone seems to be nice to each other

The gospel explanations

Music Ministry

Lovely parishioners, faithful people, beautiful church, devoted attendees, love the organ (when it doesn't drown out the choir), choir is lovely.

The people.

Nice congregation. Too bad the pastor was railroaded out of the parish.

The lively services and many opportunities for worship.

The adult choir and the organist, the various ministries, the youth's participation, our present church building and the church community.

I like the sense of community. I have met people who have played instrumental roles in the lives of my children. During most of my 30+ years of attending church at St. Patrick's I have had a good relationship with most of the pastors, priests and deacons, several of whom I consider dear friends.

5. In what ways can we improve St. Patrick Church?

We can improve and increase our numbers of Sunday School students.

The way we can improve St. Patrick's church by having a choir.

I think the church is fine as it is.

We can improve the church by having more volunteers.

You can improve St. Patrick's Church by allowing students to choose if they'd like to participate or not. Because people like me normally have an issue reading to a lot of people.

Have a bus pick up people without rides.

The space

Less singing

More church services, 2 days a week.

I don't know

Everything we do in Church doesn't need to be improved.

Nothing

I don't know

There are no ways to improve the Church, cause it's perfect.

more fun activities.

I do not know.

Make more people altar serve.

We can improve the Church by stop forcing children to be part of the ministries.

I think that the church needs to be cleaner.

Get some AC.

Adding more fans.

It's already good.

I think you can improve the parking lot.

Motivating the youth.

Be more community affiliated in terms of celebrating or advocating health issues.

I think we need to worship more with other Catholic Churches. We should include a praise and worship session before Mass.

The music before Mass . I would like to see praise and worship happening. I'd like to see a real welcoming of parishioners and visitors, learning names ,making them feel valued through fellowship.

Priests and deacons can work on pronunciation and add community worries and joys to homily. Add trees and plants to show we love God's creation.

Re-introduce the children choir, create fellowship opportunities, create a payment portal so that parishioners can title even when they do not attend Mass.

We need young people, we need more upbeat music, we need to do socials, get together, some people can be more friendly and stop judging others.

By more people participating in church activities.

More outreach programs, more social events.

By involving the youth in various ministries.

Coming together in different groups, different ideas

There seems to be quite a few people who have stopped coming to church due to the pandemic, other than those with compromised immune systems it is time to come back.

Needs more member participation.

We can improve the church by meeting the people more and getting more involve.

By all Catholics who attend service to get involved with the church in any way possible.

Love one another, have more sympathies for deceased parishioner families treat equally.

Need outreach to community to increase membership. Needs more creative activities to increase fellowship/ reevaluate always having the church to contribute to every activity.

Being more hospitable to non-Catholics, baptism requirements, caring for the elderly , bus transportation for elderly, social gatherings

More transparency it seems closed to communication. Financial reporting.

More involvement from parishioners.

Encourage more church celebrations feast days etc. youth choir singing without the need of electronic music.

We can be more friendly, reaching out to others welcoming new comers, better preaching of the word of God, encourage more youth and children participation.

Have active ministries, especially the cleaning all should join not just one set. Parishioners in full participation in ministries.

We can improve St. Patrick by inviting strayed members to return to the fold.

More communication, more fellowship

By helping parishioners to get to church , to do more bible teachings and studies, more attendance.

Because I love Parish church it is a mini church for me and I love it.

A little more landscaping , the walls need to improve.

Encourage more people to come (back) to church.

More attendance.

Open up ministries and invite people to join that they feel included and welcomed.

Welcome everyone to worship, allow others of different Christian faith to come to communion.

Meet and greet, bible study, membership.

More social events.

Need more people, nothing improve in the church

To encourage more regular participation with home visitation, maybe provide transportation/carpool.

Make sure not shame anyone for how they feel or what they do in their life. The way I think church should feel is welcoming not forcing you how you should take the path cause everyone see God differently. Also don't scare kids into religion just cause they did or didn't something, you're pushing.

Make it more engaging.

Make it more lively. Get a band along with the organ/piano.

Using the directory and reaching out to baptized families and have conversation. Create opportunities for fellowship.

To get more activities for the children.

Open dialog with parishioners. Priests need to get to know parishioners.

The time of Mass on Sundays back to 7 and 10 am to give the young people a chance to enjoy a more lively Mass.

To get more children to attend.

More bible study, more social events

Air conditioning/fans

To invite and encourage youth and men to attend holy Mass and participate in different activities in the church.

You can improve by fellowshiping more.

Secure handicap parking and we need several spaces

surveys are definitely a great start. Try to get more insight and suggestions from younger age groups. Involve a broader audience.

Communication with all

Have welcoming people train the ushers

Church does great things

The singing needs to be a lot lively

By we all taking part in church

Train the ushers. Attract middle age and younger members

Caribbean sacred music, mics for the choir, shorten the Mass, less high holy Mass.

Try being honest.

No answer.

Adjust Saturday Mass time to 5:00PM. It is often too dark after the current 6PM time and that may keep worshippers away.

We need more participation of the younger population to serve during the Mass, catechism classes for young children, the participation of more community members to join in the various ministries, children's choir, keeping the church's congregation inform about changes or policies, informing the congregation about the allocations of the weekly donations, homily that addresses current issues that affect the community, more participation of men to be involved in the various ministries, renewal of men fellowship group, deacons to assist the priests in the alter, and men to help care for the church building and surroundings.

St Patrick's Church needs to attract more families. Over my years at the Church I have noticed that there are fewer families in our congregation. We need to provide activities that embrace families (e.g. beach picnics, sponsoring sporting teams and possibly family oriented trips to other islands). All these activities would be supported by fundraising. We should encourage Catholic students in St. Patrick's School to attend Sunday Mass. We should start a youth choir that sings contemporary Gospel songs appropriate for Mass. Augment the organist with other instruments played by children.

We need classes on what we believe and why, bible study classes, and more on the Eucharist-why it is the center of our belief. How can we get more young people to join? Have 3 Catholic teachers in the public schools invite students to our church through activities? We need a youth choir. Improvement – Start a Catholic video library on a myriad of issues.

- On the saints
- Eucharist
- The Bible
- Abortion
- Why Catholics leave?
- Evangelizing and more

Roundtable discussions with youth in our parish.

Make us (catechist) think outside the box, making sure they are enthusiastic about what they teach. Make learning about Jesus fun, but at the same time give them the facts. Have them study bible verses, turn it into a contest.

Let's do a better job evangelizing our own people (young and old) so that we can defend our faith, lovingly.

More involvement with parishioners

6. What role would you be willing to play in improving St. Patrick Church?
1. Ministries (Hospitality, Sacristan, Choir, Cleaning, Social Event Planning, Decoration, Lectors, Men’s Fellowship, Charismatic Prayer Group, Sacred Heart Society, Shut-Ins, Visitation, Youth Group)
 2. Community Outreach
 3. Fundraising
 4. Other

	<u>Number</u>
Ministries	39
Community Outreach	9
Fundraising	22
Other	11

Altar Server, Altar Serve, Altar Server, Sacristan, Youth Group, None, Altar Server, Altar Server, None, Reader, Nothing, Youth Group, Also 1, Also 1, Also 1, Also 1, Also 1, bereavement ministry, Also 1, Involved in several ministries, Also 1, Also 1, Also 1, Also 1, Also 1 and 2, donate food to social, Opening and closing church, Also 3, Social Event Planning, Shut-ins, visitation, also 1 and 2, cleaning, visitation, visitation, Also 1, visitor
 Only here part of the year. Makes any long-term commitments difficult.
 All 3, but this survey only allows one choice

7. Do you believe that your voice is heard by the Church?

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	57	66%
No, why?	30	34%

Because I'm a child.

I am too young.

Things would have changed

Because I am just a student.

Because I don't talk much in School or at home. I am shy

I don't talk.

I have been a member for years and the same people have always served on certain places and not giving others a chance to be heard.

Because the church has been very rigid. Many pastors are not open to suggestions. They say we are the church but they do not accept any suggestions.

I spoke to Father B. Several times about the removal of trees and plants . I asked him about helping to restore them- this was before Maria.

Ideas are not implemented.

That is a very good question but I don't know.

When you make a comment you are negative.

More recently with the change of 'leadership', need more transparency : budget , parish council

The church is structured and only certain individuals are basically in control.

No one has really asked for it.

I feel that the leaders- Bishop and his advisors make plans without consulting or discussing with parishioners.

They do not listen to when things occur.

Most times when needs to change certain functions.

I think even if your voice is heard there is always opposition and I think because they are big in the church they are more heard.

I come to pray the rosary and light a candle. Church listens, just not enough people.

When you try to speak out, they make you feel bad or they think you are being disrespectful.

I've never voiced it.

The church does not solicit suggestions, This is the first opportunity

Not at all times. When voice expressed we are told our leaders are in charge.

Because once you are vocal it is not taken well. I want to see it become better. St. Patrick's is a beautiful church.

I have never express something for the church to hear or not hear it.

Because I have complained or told the priests and there has been no results.

My age group is usually not the target audience, and our opinions are not heard because of it.

The ministries are trying their best

Forums are too far apart, church does not keep pace with its congregants. Doesn't serve/attract youth.

Some don't listen. They have their own agenda.

Usually

Sometimes, but it also seems like a few select people "run the show."

The church needs to attract all of God's people no matter who they are and how they may think differently with regards to the policies or practices of the church. It needs to open up to the suggestions or ideas that members can bring for the betterment of the institution. Catholics have left because of the strict policies regarding marriage, mental issues, abortion, same sex unions, unwed mothers, divorce, sexual misconduct within the Catholic institutions.

There have been countless times that I have made suggestions to the Pastor that have been ignored because he is more comfortable with a more traditional Mass. While the Pastor should be the representative of the Church hierarchy, he should be able to adapt to cultural and age preferences as long as they do not violate Catholic doctrine. It seems that certain Pastors yearn for the Church experience of their youth (even some yearning to do Mass in Latin), rather than making the Church experience relevant to its prospective congregation.

Not attending any functions

8. How can the Church become more involved in community outreach?

The church can become more involve in community outreach by hosting a café bar and tea bar at least once every month so that we can respectfully hear everyone's opinion.

The church can become more involved in community outreach by putting a poster outside.

Fundraising money for the church.

The church can have community fundraisers.

The Church can become more involved in community outreach by helping those become more interested in the things being taught.

Having more community Synods in public.

Take to the people

Reminding people about church

Be more involved with the students.

By fundraising.

The Church is involved in community outreach and I don't have an opinion on this question.

I don't know

I don't know.

To spread the good news of God to our community.

By holding more fundraisers and to be published on a building board.
I do not know, more functions and events.

More

The Church can become more involved by doing community activity.

I don't know.

Invite family members/friends to Mass.

I don't know.

I would like them to have clubs, study clubs.

By showing awareness. Decorate or wear colors of that issue to show our support.

We should reach out more to the children in our community by recruiting for the youth group and after school tutorials.

Keeping events which involves the diversity of our community. For example; walk a thons, Easter egg hunts, fun day for kids that involves parents as well etc.

Visit projects. Visit playgrounds ,visit the cruise ship ok Sunday mornings,
Visit the farmer's market.

Provide transportation for church service so that people without the means can attend Holy Mass.

Get alumni list and call them. Go to housing project and get younger people to attend church.

I guess by more people becoming involve to do the community outreach.

By visiting the poor areas, housing communities

Sports.

By coming together , reach out.

Some organizations are involved. Maybe some people could become involved in them.

The church can get involve in the community outreach by visiting the less fortunate and other sick and shut in

By having outreach volunteers visit the shut in regularly and helping in any way possible.

Schedule community outreach within the different estates.

Involve Catholic charities to spearhead a health fair ie; free mammograms.

Partner with churches in the area, the housing community next door, social activities, visiting persons who don't attend Mass.

Being more open.

Participate in local holidays, celebrate in local celebrations, bandstands etc.

Home visitation, each parish should evangelize outreach in their neighboring community, clearly attend community evenings

Visit the sick, seek the Catholics who do not go to church anymore bring back the lost sheep.

Visit shut ins, help feed the homeless.

Contacting members by phone and visiting at home.

I find that the church is doing very well.

By visiting community activities.

Visiting the shut ins.

By reaching out to the youth.

Not sure!

Are there opportunities for the church to assist the courts with families in crisis? Our elderly population, especially ones without family may need wellness check ins, social interactions.

By visiting low-income communities and trying to bring back the young baptized Catholics back to church.

Bible study.

I don't think so people are aware that the church exist.

An evangelization program that is workable- a committed group to follow through with the program; more youth participation.

Listen to everyone's views! Do interviews by asking their views and letting someone listen without being judged.

More events, and activities

In feed the needy or homeless.

Yes, Pray for the islands; show unity amongst parishioners

By making the activities more fun

Leaders need to get to know parishioners and have activities to get everyone together.

It is a sort of form of counseling town hall short meetings when things of crisis , eg. Shootings and domestic violence happens.

getting more young people

By getting involved in social issues that affect the community, eg crime

Trying to get the young people involved in church.

The church can become more involved in community outreach by visiting boys and girls homes and attending functions in the community.

The church needs more members going into the community to help shut-ins and to call and help them feel part of the church.

Have more community based activities instead of just congregational

NO

By having children Sunday school or some activities that can get all young children involved.

social events

new programs

Have more retreats for the youth

By we partaking in different activities

To go out and actually engage the community especially the homeless

Not sure-but necessary. Funding, meals, education, reach out to unemployed, mentoring.

Let's get out in the town of Frederiksted.

Good luck.

Offer rides to/from services; weekly senior lunches; organize group health activities such as walks/hikes, water aerobics, beach volleyball.

The church could be more involved by inviting or reaching out to members that are nonparticipating Catholics, reach out as well to those parents who have baptized their children but fail to come back to church, consultation with priests to discuss issues affecting the lives of those in the community and ways to lure them back into the faith as Christians.

In the Virgin Islands there are so many challenges for the family. First, many children do not have the benefit of a traditional family. When single parents come to get their children baptized, have someone conduct a parenting class. For children and adults who are having difficulty with reading and writing, have free tutorial sessions. We need to adopt our surrounding neighborhood and understand its challenges and needs. We must be willing to provide a helping hand to those in need which will show Christ's light within us. The Catholic charities do a fantastic job, but our congregation must know and be known by our neighbors.

Get out and show physical involvement

9. Are there traditions, policies, and practices that you believe the Church should reconsider?

	<u>Number</u>
No	63
Yes If so, what?	29

They should allow the students to choose if they want to participate and what they'd like to do, if they do not want to participate.

Getting women to serve as altar servers or even deacons, the male population is in dire weakness.

I think we should reconsider having all those statues removed. And if they are unable to remove them can't we have black saints.

Requirements around communion.

Become better at teaching about beliefs such as why babies are baptized. Explain the significance of the different rituals so that parishioners can defend the church when questioned.

The priest should complete burial service by going to the cemetery instead of the deacons. The priest should always do the Sunday sermon.

Bible studies.

The church should reconsider by letting Priest get married just as the deacons are married.

Crowning of the Blessed Mother during May month. Increasing the number of American Blacks and diversity in the upper echelon of power ie; Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops

Only Catholics should commune, women should be deacons since we have a shortage of men.

Not at this time.

Celebrate some of our music outside of the church. May celebrate in the bandstand, etc..

Practice concerning baptism, church need to explain more on its practices.

Need more men to be active in the church ministries and to help the pastors of the church.

The church should visit the members at home, get to know them by name when we meet out of the church.

By going visiting the shut ins, talking to the teachers and parents.

Allow priests to marry.

Confession, knowing that the church offers confession might improve membership.

St Patrick is doing fine with the above.

I know this could be hard read but everything in bible is not true. What I mean we should take the lessons that are giving and not see the chapters literal. Also LGBTQ are not bad. Accept them they are very sweet. It should be love we are spreading not judgement.

I don't know.

Christ is Others Retreat (CORE) Make church a part of life find ways to engage during COVID. COVID cannot be an excuse.

More lively songs. Keeping with the times. Find out if some of the youth want to learn to play the organ.

I think the church surroundings should reflect the culture and people worshipping there.

Baptizing babies that die in the womb

Icons vs Idols. It seems we do adore our statues. This does not feel right!

Female leaders should be deacons and priests. Full disclosure on all sexual abuse. Shorter Masses.

Let's recognize the gay communities as children of God and welcome them back into the church.

May crowning of the BVM; blessing of the fishermen and their boats; blessing of animals on St. Francis Day (Oct. 4)

The church can inform about other catholic denominations ways of celebrating Catholic traditions throughout the calendar year, youthful practices to attract a younger population such as gospel singers, allowing various instruments to accompany the Mass celebration, inviting members of the community to address the community with current issues that affect the community, have a youth care service to look after the younger children from church where they could be introduced to various activities related to Christian teachings include songs, coloring pictures or drawings, reading bible stories, short movies relating to Jesus to name a few.

The Church has a process for persons married outside the Church to get married within the Church. For practicing Catholics this process seems unnecessary. If a couple has been married for many years and regularly attend Church, that the process to get married in the Church could be easier. Also, marriages outside the Church and subsequent divorces

should not be considered since the Church did not recognize the marriage in the first place.

Bazaars, fairs, picnics

10. What relationship would you like to see our Church have with our brothers and sisters of other Christian denominations and other religions?

I will like our church participation to improve a little better because I feel that we need to communicate with our fellow brothers and sisters.

The relationship I would like to see is every Friday afternoon praying.

Invite them to Church.

A good relationship.

I would like to see the church help clean and give out in the community.

A healthy one.

A peaceful one.

Welcome people with open arms.

The relationship of friendliness.

Love

Try to learn other denominations' religion, but it is the Church to choose.

I don't know.

I don't care what relationship they have.

Fun activities to bring or Church community together.

More activities to get closer with them.

A happy healthy relationship.

I think we should all care for each other, no matter what.

The relationship I would like to see is a strong kind of relationship.

I don't know.

Respect each other and Religions.

I don't know.

Invite everybody to the church every Thursday.

Maybe once each month , invite a pastor or a friend from another denomination.

I would like us to come together as Christians at least every quarter. Many families have relatives of different religions and it would be nice to worship together.

Finding common ground in what we believe and building friendships on these things. Celebrating common feast days , processions for example.

Twice a year meet and greet at social events . Signs that say - ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND MASS.

I believe the church should strive to foster a good relationship and partake in activities that show similarities in our belief.

We are all one and we all serve the same God.

Share ideas and participate more on special events.

Friendly brotherly love.

By all churches coming together as groups, having meetings.

Coming together to improve condition in communities.

I would like our church to get involve with other churches because we serve a God that is very loving to all of us.

All churches should invite each other to special services.

Let's clean up our house first.

Interfaith activities (choir concerts) fun days (joint youth groups)

Being able to have Holy Communion, joint worship services.

We should all treat them as our brothers and sisters.

A loving and caring relationship.

Try to reach out to other denominations in area, dialogue with other ministries-will find that we have more in common than we think.

Have joint activities such as chorus gathering, praise and worship especially the youth.

We should greet each person as our friend for we are children of our Heavenly Father.

Good relationship.

Communications at present are poor with other churches, we should try to get together to discuss what's happening in our community

Love one another that is the most important thing I will like to see.

More communication.

More social events together to get to know each other better.

Being able to communicate and get along better.

Become closer to the other denominations through joint celebrations.

One big family affair, a picnic, a gathering to celebrate the history of the churches on islands.

An open dialogue would be a great thing.

Invite them to come and worship with us and we do the same.

They should get together with the churches in the area.

Exchanges of pulpit invite others.

Treat them with respect, everyone has their reason as long as they are not hurting anyone! Even if they don't have a religion or don't believe, they have their reasons. Also it's kind of fun learning about other religions.

Make church a part of our life; recreation, retreats, workshops, games

I am not sure because it is good what we do!

Joining together for the unity of God.

To allow people of other faith to participate in our Mass. The body and blood should be shared with others. Once they are prepared.

More youth activities

Social events, church gatherings, every 3-6 months, get to know their faith better.

A healthy relationship

Quarterly choir get together and perform before the congregation

To solidify the week of prayer for unity of Christians and the different church leaders have to visit one another.

I would like to see them come together and fellowship now and again.

I would like to the church come together with other Christians to worship.

Celebrate common practices like Easter

No Undecided

Social outreach

More Bingo nights

Church conferences and retreats

come together as one made a crusade

Cordial and cooperative

Unsure - get together or social concerns and outreach.

Perhaps joint fellowships.

After 200 years, not much to change.

An open dialog and joint efforts in getting out the good news of the gospel.

I think that our church could invite pastor's from other Christian denominations to worship with us. Listening to another's pastor's homily could also create a broader and richer Catholic experience. We in turn could also go and worship with other Christian denominations to enrich us as well.

I believe that we should ban together to protest gun violence, domestic violence, child abuse and other maladies in our community. We should also use our human resources to fight hunger and to promote child and adult literacy. On issues that we agree we should let our politicians know our stance, so they can respond to our demands. Our faith teaches us what is right, but only through action can we have impact on our community.

More interaction in "non church" activities, seeing priests more involved

11. What social issues do you think the Church should provide more guidance?

The social issues is that I feel that we need to be more opened to our fellow parishes, we need to respectfully respect everyone opinions.

Social issues is sexism.

Racism

Poverty, racism.

They should provide more guidance to those who aren't a believer and have a different religion.

Poverty, Sexism, feminism, homosexuality.

The way to become a deacon

Racism and equal rights.

The church should be more involved with youth problems.

That they should raise more money and spend more time with kids and use the money to use on the staff, they need to learn about God.

I don't have an opinion on this question. Child abuse.

I don't know.

Some priests in the Catholic Church should stop raping kids.

To stop and pray for those in need.

To stop parents from abusing their children.

None of the social issues are nonexistent.

When someone is a homosexual.

The social issue is gang violence.

Discrimination

In Religion Class on Sundays explain instead of giving us papers and finding out ourselves

Discrimination

I would like them to bring young people and stop them from going the wrong way.

Child abuse, domestic violence, financial hardship, family support

I think the church often times run from speaking about the LGTB community . It needs to be addressed.

Some social issues are homosexuality, birth control and family planning.

Can we evangelize and invite LGTB and other to visit our church? How can we help our community in it's poverty? How can we help restore our planet?

Marriage/divorce, Mental health, Domestic abuse, Homelessness

First of all we need to know what is going on in the community or what social issues we have in the church.

Develop a proper dress code , few parishioners on expose body parts, same sex marriages

Crimes, politics

About crimes, homosexuality, families, etc.

In marriages and also in everything that would help us in getting closer to God.

Try and increase the attendance at Holy Mass.

Move outreach to young mothers and their children. Help solving global issues ,sharing of information racism , war, poverty, environment, health

Child molestation, crime, unwed mothers

Visit other churches and invite other churches to visit us

How to dress, how to show that you care for brothers and sisters.

Racism, violence in community, domestic violence, climate change, young unwed mothers need help and support.

Youth ministries, youth choir, social gathering to know our parishioners more by name not by face.

We should go back to having some sort of meeting in church.

Same sex marriage.

The crime situation of our young people.

We need more answer to this....

Students ages 12 to 18 need more counseling.

Mental ill and crime.

Political and racial issues.

Dating before marriage, marriage being a partnership, allow more baptisms, if you bring the babies in the parents will follow!

The institution of family, being a single parent or parents with children experiencing PTSP, anxiety, stress from the pass, crisis, hurricane, pandemic shut in.

Deter crime in our community, more praying in communities.

Focus should be on worshipping God.

Domestic violence, reaching out to church dropouts with no discrimination attitudes.

LGBTQ! We do not have the right to judge! Religion has been used for many years to put down people like POC, women, to sexuality. It's time for that to change like now it has done so much damage.

Have more community/parish meetings and get together. Bring the community together more often.

Youth involvement, youth musical ministry.

There should be more social activities for kids.

More outreach to its parishioners.

More mentoring to the teenagers at the youth group sessions. Families in Crisis.

I don't know

Abortion, racism, crime, and juvenile delinquency.

Poverty

I think the church should speak more about abortions and relationships.

Family Unity (for love and kindness to spread to community)

Prayers for social, domestic, and gun violence within the youth. More youth groups with ages beyond 18

parenting

Gun violence. Domestic violence.

See above.

Quit being two face. The Bishop was ready to excommunicate Fr. Boniface for something he did not do but now assigns Fr. Franklin with adult children to our Parrish.

Parentage. Social responsibility. Gun violence.

In our community issues relating to unwed mothers, absent fathers in the lives of their children, domestic violence, caring of the elderly, sick siblings, abandoned family members who suffer from alcohol abuse, drug addiction, sexual abuse within the church and the community, divorce parents, members caring for those with mental issues, LGTB members and other issues that may arise within the community that affect the members as a whole. The church could provide guidance in the form of gatherings with members who may experience some of these issues, inviting health professionals to address the congregation, setting up support groups to assist caregivers and other members who care for their families. These may be some ways the church could provide some guidance.

There are so many issues for which the Church needs to speak out. The Catholic church needs to speak out against capital punishment with the same voice as it does about abortion. The Church needs to come out against racism and sexism and let their congregation know what is expected of a good Catholic. The Church needs to provide guidance on the role that LGBTQ+ members can play in the Church. The Church cannot be perceived as "striking a deal with the devil" to achieve a specific outcome. The Church must be honest with its congregation, or it may lose them.

Anger/mental health issues