

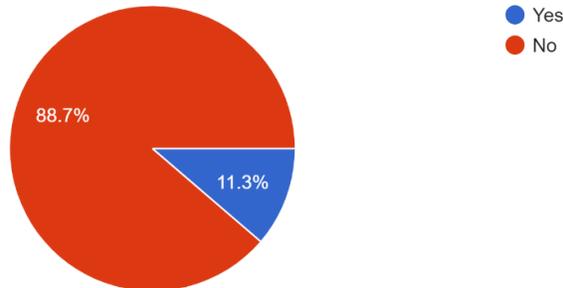
# St. Gabriel Parishioner Survey Results

983 Responses – Commentary from Fr. Don

## Impact of Pandemic on You/Your Household

Did you lose a loved one because of the COVID-19 pandemic?

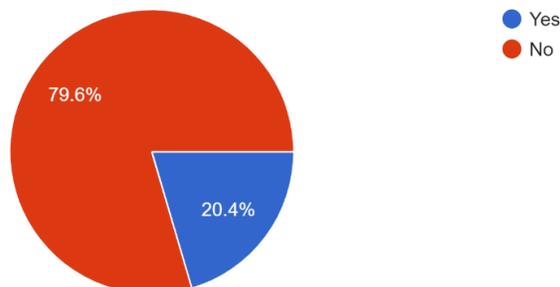
983 responses



Acknowledging loss is important. Losing a loved one is hard enough. Many have had to delay grieving or postpone funerals for months. This past year, with Covid restrictions, grieving families have missed out on the important psychological aspects of touch and physical presence. That only exacerbates the grieving process. We want to take this opportunity to name the loss and surround it with prayer.

Did anyone in your household lose a job or income?

983 responses

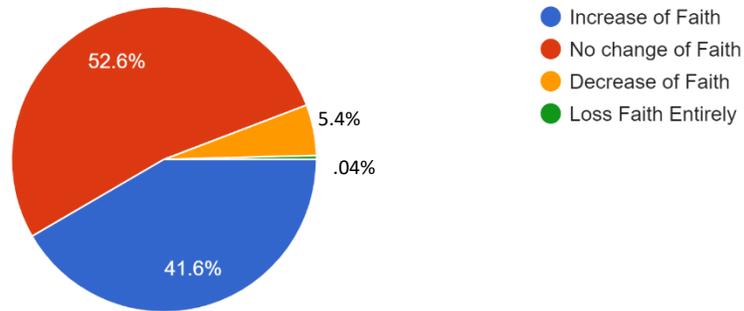


The effect of the pandemic is not over for people. At least 1/5 of our families have been financially impacted, and there may be more ahead. It is hard to face the fact that we are not in control of our situation as much as we would like to be. This is real grief, a loss that can seem as difficult as losing a loved one.

**Action from St. Gabriel:** We are launching the Community Prayer cross as a way to pray through the loss and disappointments as a result of the pandemic. The communal prayer is also a way to offer thanksgiving for how Jesus surprisingly revealed his hope in the storm.

How has your faith in following Jesus been impacted?

983 responses

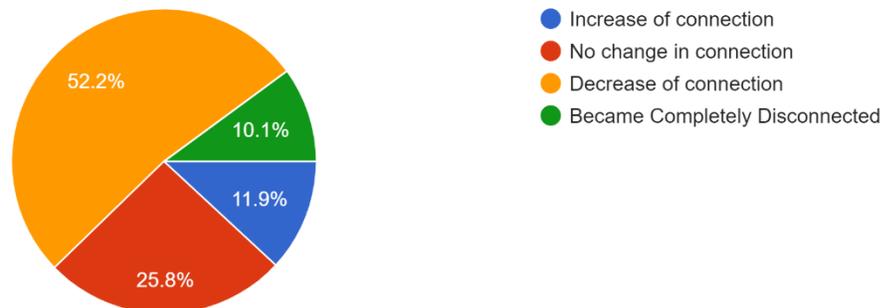


Faith during the pandemic has largely stayed steady or increased. This isn't surprising. Change or loss makes us realize what is most important. WE are a people connected to Jesus. In times of calamity, He is the one we turn to. He is our head.

**Action from St. Gabriel:** We are preparing to launch a new initiative to help adults encounter Jesus and hired an Evangelization Coordinator to support us with this. We are also examining how our preparation for Sacraments can better help people connect with the person of Jesus.

How has your relationship with your church community been impacted?

983 responses

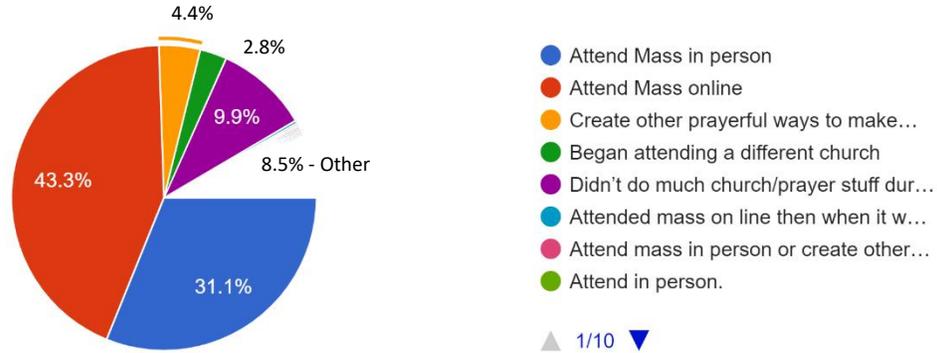


We clearly need to be with each other. We must find ways to gather. Isolation can be devastating since, as Catholics, our whole identity is linked to being the Body of Christ. When we can't gather, we all suffer.

**Action from St. Gabriel:** We are launching Summer Welcome Home Gatherings (July), Silver Anniversary 1<sup>st</sup> Mass Celebration (July 24-25), and preparing for a large St. Gabriel Celebration to help us all reconnect as a community. (In addition to our regular ministry gatherings)

# COVID Mass Habits and Plans Return to In-Person Mass

During most of the pandemic, me (and my households) typical Mass/prayer habit was to:  
983 responses



Live-streaming was a blessing for many. We were still able to gather online. However, we can't stay home. It is not a substitute for presence. Catholics are sacramental people. We do things in person.

**Action from St. Gabriel:** We launched a Welcome Home campaign and will launch an invitation challenge to invite everyone back to gathering around the table of the Lord here at St. Gabriel.

What are your plans for returning back to in-person Mass?  
983 responses



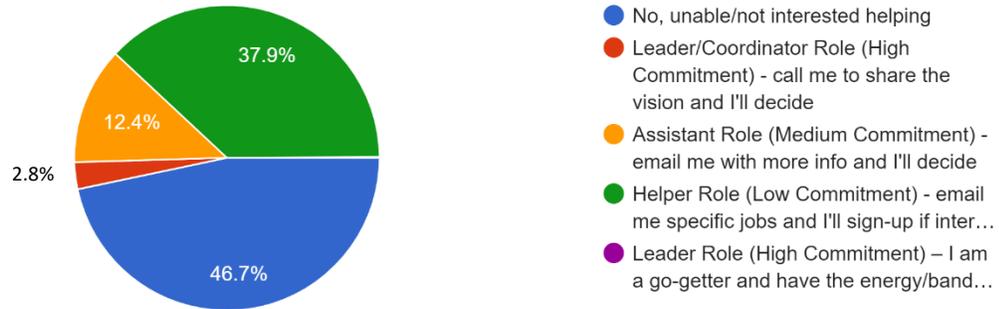
Mass attendance is growing, but not everyone is back. Gathering as family/community is vital. Some just need a little nudge. While it is convenient to attend virtually, it can also become an excuse for inactivity. One priest observed, "If I can go to eat in public at a restaurant, I can go to Mass in person." I can't argue with that. That is why we are providing opportunities to gather this summer. We need everyone back.

**Action from St. Gabriel:** Spacing and COVID restrictions have been removed. However, we do provide some social distance/mask spacing for those who still have medical concerns. All are invited!

# Helping St. Gabriel “Better than Normal” future state

How would you like to help us build a “better than normal” future state:

983 responses



More than half of respondents are ready to help and engage. That is wonderful! I am excited to see the rest return, to see everyone pulling together. We are at our best when we are celebrating our faith together.

**Action from St. Gabriel:** Individuals' who marked Leader/Coordination role were reviewed and invited to attend St. Gabriel Celebration Committee planning meeting. All individuals who marked any interest in serving will be sent an email for specific sign-ups that related to St. Gabriel Celebration once specific needs are identified. Additionally, we sent these individuals a general email giving them guidance on how to reach out to ministry leaders if they feel called to serve a specific ministry.