

Q5 How does Holy Mass inspire/influence your life?

There were 15,997 surveys returned from laity, ordained priests/deacons and religious communities. Of those, 9,711 surveys included comments for short answer question #5.

Significant Findings in No Particular Order

1. Respondents stated an understanding of the Mass as the source and summit of their faith.
2. Respondents stated the Eucharist was the most important influence of the Mass for them. This was particularly strong in parishes of less than 500 households where parishes may not offer Mass every weekend or where there is a single weekend parish Mass, but offered at a time difficult for some to attend.
3. A sense of belonging to a strong parish community was mentioned often by many respondents regardless of gender, age or parish size.
4. Respondents made comments like Mass “makes me feel better,” “prepares me for the week,” “gives me hope,” “keeps me grounded,” and “is essential to my life.”
5. Lay respondents who made comments about deacons and priests overwhelmingly expressed strong support and admiration for their work and dedication.
6. Respondents, particularly those 76+ who identified as homebound, were appreciative of the continuation of livestreaming Masses. However, there are some among all demographics who are concerned there are those, who otherwise could go to Mass, choose to stay home to watch, rather than participate in Mass.
7. Respondents expressed concern that the lack of belief/understanding in the Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist as a significant problem and a reason many have decided to leave the church. Many of those respondents strongly suggested more emphasis by homilists of the Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.
8. Comments show a significant divide among many respondents of fundamental issues about the Mass. These include:
 - a. Mass music and how it should be or not be used.
 - b. The use of Latin in some rituals. Some respondents wanted it to be used more, up to and including Latin Mass using the 1962 Missal, while others would like Latin to be removed entirely.
 - c. The promotion (or lack thereof) of masks, particularly in the height of the pandemic. This was not consistent in archdiocesan parishes according to many respondents. Some respondents expressed frustration masks and parish closures ever occurred, while others still do not feel safe (at the time they completed the survey) at Mass due to disregard for other’s health.
 - d. Some respondents reported they have started viewing Mass from places outside the Archdiocese via cable or streaming services or through websites.
 - e. The ability to understand some of the international priests is a source of frustration among some respondents who have an international priest assigned to their parish.
 - f. Some respondents, regardless of demographic area, report that they do not feel welcome in some parishes.