

**Needs Assessment Survey**  
Sorted by Rating, High to Low  
*Parish of St. Cecilia*

|   | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Agree | N/A | Strongly Agree | N/A | Rating Average | Response Count |
|---|-------------------|----------|-------|-----|----------------|-----|----------------|----------------|
| <b>34. The preaching at St. Cecilia is relevant, challenging and meaningful.</b>  | 1                 | 3        | 33    | 16  | 160            |     | 5.53           | 214            |
| <p>a. I have never experienced such relevant, challenging and meaningful preaching as that at St. C's.</p> <p>b. The homilies are insightful, thought-provoking and usually propel discussion at home. I'm happy that Father is coaching our future priests, because hopefully his gift will rub off on them.</p> <p>c. However, would like homilies a little more "spiritual" and less examples.</p> <p>d. Hesitate to write anything since the parish is growing and there are lots of opportunities; so disregard this and other comments if no one else voices concern. Again the homilies are more like sermons that are heady, theological and not spiritual or heart/life centered. While grace builds on nature, there are far too many examples, not enough Biblical context, and much too much about the Pastor.</p> <p>e. It's not always comfortable but it's what we need to hear and respond to.</p> <p>f. The preaching and bulletin columns are fabulous.</p> |                   |          |       |     |                |     |                |                |
| <b>31. Music at St. Cecilia helps me worship in a meaningful way.</b>   | 0                 | 6        | 36    | 28  | 144            |     | 5.42           | 216            |
| <p>a. Extraordinarily strong aspect of this community's life; I love it that the assembly sings so wholeheartedly.</p> <p>b. We need more current music.</p> <p>c. All of the masses are SO well thought out! I appreciate how the songs, readings and homilies go perfectly together! This keeps me focused and inspired while I am there and I take what I learn into the week with me.</p> <p>d. I like the participatory nature of the music and that it fits the liturgy. I would like to see more variety and styles of music included. Use the same songs too often.</p> <p>e. I joined St. Cecilia's because it is a singing parish – y'all could be Lutherans, the way you sing!</p> <p>f. I have to say the community participation, choir, instrumentalists, cantors, priest and our music director are amazing for such a small community.</p>  |                   |          |       |     |                |     |                |                |
| <b>36. I feel welcomed at St. Cecilia.</b>  | 0                 | 4        | 57    | 25  | 129            |     | 5.27           | 217            |
| <p>a. The greeters do a great job, but once inside, it is a cold atmosphere for those not part of the "in crowd."</p> <p>b. I'm a relatively new parishioner and a shy person. It takes me a while to feel comfortable, but the people at St. Cecilia's have been very kind and welcoming.</p> <p>c. Although it would be nice to have a gathering of new parishioners with some people who have been in the parish for a while so the ice could be broken easier and faces become more recognizable.</p> <p>d. St. C's is a warm, welcoming community.</p>   |                   |          |       |     |                |     |                |                |

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| <b>11. My involvement at St. Cecilia helps me to live out the Christian life in my marriage.</b>  | 1                 | 2        | 58    | 32  | 5.03           | 215            |
| a. I would love to see some marriage enrichment programs.   |                   |          |       |     |                |                |
| <b>1. I am satisfied with the preparation program for Baptism at St. Cecilia.</b>   | 0                 | 3        | 26    | 7   | 4.87           | 216            |
| a. Very well done. I especially appreciated the opportunity to spend time with other families of similarly aged children.   |                   |          |       |     |                |                |
| b. I'm not sure why we needed "preparation." I think Catholic parents know what baptism is, why we baptize our children and what our responsibilities are. I think a handout outlining that and describing what would be required of us at the Baptism Mass would be sufficient. Also, I didn't see the need for a parish sponsor. I am a member of the parish and I want my child baptized. Why isn't that enough? |                   |          |       |     |                |                |
| c. I think that the preparation program contributes to the beauty of the Baptism celebration at St. Cecilia's.  |                   |          |       |     |                |                |
| d. People seem disorganized as to what to do on the day of the Baptism.   |                   |          |       |     |                |                |
| <b>21. My participation in the community of St. Cecilia encourages me to get closer to God.</b>   | 0                 | 1        | 110   | 36  | 4.80           | 215            |
| <b>27. Worship at St. Cecilia helps me to achieve the relationship with God that I desire.</b>  | 1                 | 6        | 99    | 33  | 4.79           | 214            |
| a. Worship along with my personal prayer life, spiritual reading and meeting with a spiritual director all help me to achieve the relationship with God that I desire. Worship alone doesn't help me to achieve this relationship.  |                   |          |       |     |                |                |
| b. "the relationship with God that I desire?" I thought God chose us. I think this question implies that a relationship with God is under our control.  |                   |          |       |     |                |                |

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| <b>10. My involvement at St. Cecilia helps me to live out the Christian life in my work setting.</b>   | 1                 | 8        | <b>80</b>  | 29  | 4.78           | 210            |
| <b>15. My involvement in the community of St. Cecilia helps me with my participation in regular worship.</b>   | 0                 | 6        | <b>105</b> | 37  | 4.76           | 213            |
| <p>a. My family and I have been so welcomed and cared for by the people at St. C's. I participate in liturgy with a joyful grateful heart to be lead to St. C's as my church home. I also like the size of the church and music and environment. All make liturgy extra special.</p> <p>b. Being involved with ministries helps makes liturgy more meaningful for me. St. C's is a Sunday AM congregation which, as noted before, is sometimes problematic for us 5 PM worshippers. Feels like we're left out of some special services/events.</p> |                   |          |            |     |                |                |
| <b>6. I am satisfied with the preparation program for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) at St. Cecilia.</b>   | 0                 | 2        | <b>16</b>  | 10  | 4.74           | 213            |
| <b>26. My participation in the community of St. Cecilia helps me in my relationships with others.</b>  | 0                 | 6        | <b>106</b> | 41  | 4.72           | 211            |
| <b>25. My involvement at St. Cecilia helps me to live out the Christian life in my family setting.</b>   | 1                 | 5        | <b>111</b> | 36  | 4.70           | 214            |
| <b>3. I am satisfied with the preparation program for Marriage at St. Cecilia.</b>   | 0                 | 2        | <b>21</b>  | 7   | 4.69           | 216            |

- a. It should be started earlier vs. later so couples don't feel rushed.
- b. The "Church," as in archdiocese, does not have a clue as to how to prepare 'older' adults with life experiences for marriage. St. Cecilia has not broken ground in that either.
- c. Compared to other parishes it is the best.

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| <b>8. My involvement at St. Cecilia helps me to live out the Christian life in my neighborhood setting.</b>  | 1                 | 4        | <b>113</b> | 44  | 4.67           | 215            |
| <b>4. My participation in the community of St. Cecilia helps me in my personal prayer life.</b>  | 2                 | 4        | <b>109</b> | 38  | 4.64           | 214            |
| <p>a. Truthfully, I find that six years of yoga has done more for my prayer/spiritual life than decades of Christian practice.<br/> b. It is where I pray with community and that is important to me. I know deeply for that hour that I am one with others, especially these folks.<br/> c. Sometimes it does, sometimes it doesn't.<br/> d. I definitely agree. I really value the homilies by Fr. Mike and it gives me something to chew on all week.</p> |                   |          |            |     |                |                |
| <b>40. My participation in the community of St. Cecilia engages me in the sacramental life of the Church.</b>  | 0                 | 5        | <b>119</b> | 35  | 4.62           | 211            |
| <b>16. I would like to learn how to help my child(ren) pray.</b>   | 1                 | 8        | <b>50</b>  | 7   | 4.58           | 212            |
| <p>a. I struggle with this – so this would be important to me.</p>   |                   |          |            |     |                |                |
| <b>17. My participation in the community of St. Cecilia propels me to care for those in need.</b>  | 0                 | 9        | <b>121</b> | 35  | 4.58           | 214            |
| <p>a. The charitable events at St. Cecilia's are minimal, considering the potential and monetary capacity of the community. We should be leaders in the community reaching out to the poor. Instead, we do it as a small percentage of our activities. As a community, we seem to be more concerned about what we do in our internal community (St. C's) and not so much about the outside.</p>  |                   |          |            |     |                |                |

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| <p>b. This is the most socially conscious parish I've ever seen.</p> <p>c. The parish fosters a keen awareness of those in need and encourages various forms of charity as well as advocating for systemic change in society.</p> <p>d. Our personal limitations and economic situation tend to make this frustrating since it is difficult to give what you don't have access to individually.</p>   |                   |          |            |     |                |                |                |
| <b>20. My participation in the community of St. Cecilia encourages me to use my gifts and talents.</b>  | 0                 | 12       | <b>115</b> | 34  | 51             | 4.58           | 212            |
| <p>a. I definitely feel encouraged to offer my gifts/talents, but sometimes feel that they aren't utilized or needed. Seems to be the same people in specific roles. Or I've filled out a ministry sign-up form, but haven't been contacted to serve. Maybe there just isn't a need for some of my talents/gifts.</p> <p>b. Opportunities to sign up to be involved and the way this is encouraged are great.</p> <p>c. I am not feeling compelled to offer any of my gifts and talents at this time because I feel like I am not listened to or that anyone has the desire to hear what I have to say. I am only around because my husband wishes to continue attendance.</p>  |                   |          |            |     |                |                |                |
| <b>12. I want to learn more about the Catholic Faith so I can help my child(ren) learn about their faith.</b>   | 0                 | 10       | <b>55</b>  | 18  | 30             | 4.56           | 213            |
| <b>24. St. Cecilia provides meaningful opportunities to work for justice in the world.</b>  | 0                 | 7        | <b>130</b> | 29  | 38             | 4.47           | 205            |
| <p>a. Yes, I've seen information on the bulletin board, through e-mails, and in the bulletin. The team heading this up is very dedicated.</p> <p>b. I think this is a strength at St. Cecilia's, but I also see some issues of justice seemingly being given unwarranted priority over others. For example, while environmentalism is a very important issue of which we should all be tending to, I just don't see how it can be equated to other issues that deal with apparently more direct and intentional offenses against the dignity of human life at any stage.</p> <p>c. We could do more.</p> <p>d. There seem to be regular opportunities, although things need to appear in the bulletin more than once, in case you miss them. In addition, there should be less material in the bulletin about other diocesan events and more about activities at St. C's. It feels as if we are a dead parish when you read the bulletin.</p> |                   |          |            |     |                |                |                |

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| <b>30. I am adequately informed about opportunities to participate in justice and charity offerings.</b>  | 0                 | 14       | <b>127</b> | 24  | 42             |            | 4.43           | 209            |
| <b>38. I am aware of the Social Justice teachings of the Catholic Church.</b>   | 0                 | 21       | <b>126</b> | 27  | 40             |            | 4.39           | 215            |
| <b>19. I am satisfied with the preparation program for First Reconciliation at St. Cecilia.</b>   | 1                 | 5        | <b>23</b>  | 9   | 7              | <b>169</b> | 4.33           | 214            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Clearly there is a formation need for the entire parish with regard to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, not just those who celebrate their First Reconciliation. From the outside, it looks as though the children are having it taught as a footnote to First Eucharist.</li> <li>b. Well done.</li> <li>c. It seems as if First Reconciliation is a homeschool program. I would like there to be a community of youth who grow and learn together as they move through this faith journey.</li> </ul> |                   |          |            |     |                |            |                |                |
| <b>18. I would like to learn more about different forms of prayer.</b>  | 0                 | 34       | <b>107</b> | 31  | 33             |            | 4.30           | 206            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Another big one for me.</li> <li>b. Everyone prays differently. The greater diversity we have available, the greater the chance each individual has of finding a prayer form that works for them.</li> </ul>  |                   |          |            |     |                |            |                |                |
| <b>22. I am satisfied with the preparation program for First Eucharist at St. Cecilia.</b>  | 2                 | 5        | <b>20</b>  | 10  | 7              | <b>172</b> | 4.30           | 216            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. I don't believe that sacramental preparation should be home-based unless parents are very well informed. Of course, in the alternative form, volunteers should be equally well informed. I haven't seen evidence that either is the case.</li> <li>b. I love the families making this special step in their children's lives and we as a community sharing this special day with them. Preparation seems to go well with an at home program.</li> </ul>   |                   |          |            |     |                |            |                |                |

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| <b>33. My involvement in the community of St. Cecilia helps me to recognize my gifts and talents.</b>   | 0                 | 20       | <b>132</b> |     | 26             | 4.28           | 208            |
| <b>9. I would like to learn more about the Bible.</b>   | 1                 | 34       | <b>120</b> |     | 34             | 4.23           | 212            |
| <p>a. Like a format of a series around the Bible rather than a regular Bible study that requires a longer term commitment. Would also be interested in other formats than face-to-face if/when that would be available (i.e. on the web).</p>   |                   |          |            |     |                |                |                |
| <b>28. My participation in the community of St. Cecilia helps me to understand the Bible and Christian tradition.</b>   | 1                 | 22       | <b>133</b> |     | 22             | 4.21           | 213            |
| <p>a. I think much of the interaction/discussion that takes place during church community times focuses on the big messages of God's love (and of course the most important). I don't believe much detailed discussion takes place about the nitty-gritty. I would like to have more discussions like this.</p>   |                   |          |            |     |                |                |                |
| <b>14. I am interested in learning about the Catholic Church's position on current moral issues.</b>  | 2                 | 34       | <b>124</b> |     | 28             | 4.16           | 213            |
| <p>a. This is a big one for me. I often need help understanding how our tradition-based faith takes a stance toward modern issues.<br/> b. At this point in my life, I'm pretty knowledgeable about the church's position, and I know where I agree or disagree. All too often discussions center on "pelvic problems." Seldom do I find discussion of issues like our relationship to money, or to other Christians, etc.<br/> c. I am interested in this topic even while I acknowledge that the 'Catholic Church's position' on moral issues cannot always be very clear-cut. That said, it is helpful, I think, to listen to various "Catholic" perspectives on a number of issues and create a true dialogue so we can learn and do our best to understand the Magisterium instead of forcing others to agree with one or another person's agenda.</p> |                   |          |            |     |                |                |                |

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| <b>32. My participation in the community of St. Cecilia helps me to be responsible in the use of my financial resources.</b>  | 1                 | 32       | 119   | 21  | 26             |     | 4.14           | 204            |
| <b>35. St. Cecilia's outreach to the poor is adequate.</b>  | 2                 | 28       | 119   | 29  | 12             |     | 4.08           | 192            |
| <p>a. I don't know if we can ever do enough. The need is so great. I think we do a good job of identifying opportunities for us to help.</p> <p>b. What is adequate? I appreciate the alms box and the explanation for its use. The collections for Bridging, the food shelf and the clothing are great ideas.</p>  |                   |          |       |     |                |     |                |                |
| <b>2. I would like to learn more about spiritual direction.</b>   | 7                 | 38       | 113   | 24  | 20             |     | 3.99           | 206            |
| <p>a. I have already made use of a spiritual director.</p> <p>b. I have been in spiritual direction twice, so I know a bit about what it is. I could use some information about the details. What is the average number of times/six months that a spiritual director and client meet? Average cost/hour? What to do if relationship isn't working out? Is there a way to describe how a positive relationship looks?</p> <p>c. Worthwhile and of value, but I wouldn't participate.</p> <p>d. I am unsure what this means.</p> <p>e. This would be nice to have in the parish but who would do it?</p> |                   |          |       |     |                |     |                |                |
| <b>39. St. Cecilia has adequate outreach to the elderly.</b>  | 2                 | 21       | 113   | 19  | 4              |     | 3.98           | 161            |
| <p>a. I am not familiar with the outreach programs to the elderly so cannot comment on whether those are adequate. Are these programs planned so that it's possible for youth to participate in them, and are youth encouraged to participate in them?</p> <p>b. I don't know.</p> <p>c. I do not have enough information to respond to this question. Do BeFrienders and Eucharistic ministers visit all the elderly? Who are the elderly? What are their needs?</p>   |                   |          |       |     |                |     |                |                |

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| <b>23. St. Cecilia has adequate outreach to those who are homebound.</b>  | 0                 | 4        | 21    | 101 | 17             | 3   | 3.96           | 146            |
| <p>a. I don't know who are even the home-bound members of our parish. Would there be a way that we could reach out to those parishioners while respecting privacy needs?</p> <p>b. I have no idea.</p> <p>c. I just don't know. I have the sense that when someone would request a visit that is available. I wonder if people think to request it.</p>   |                   |          |       |     |                |     |                |                |
| <b>7. I am interested in a regular Bible Study program.</b>   | 2                 | 10       | 78    | 80  | 12             | 27  | 3.82           | 209            |
| <p>a. I think a bible study program is a great idea. I just can't fit more outside activities in my schedule at this point.</p> <p>b. Have attended some of Art Z's sessions and they were wonderful. Would be less inclined to having the blind lead the blind and do this is small groups without trained leaders.</p> <p>c. Scripture study groups offered in the AM and PM are appreciated by varied members of our parish. Some groups like meeting during the daylight hours. (Same for book clubs, prayer groups etc.)</p>   |                   |          |       |     |                |     |                |                |
| <b>5. There are sufficient opportunities for youth in our parish.</b>   | 9                 | 4        | 37    | 113 | 16             | 10  | 3.81           | 189            |
| <p>a. I believe there needs to be a more focused program for youth. It needs to include both activities, education and fun. The Protestant churches are way ahead of us in this area.</p> <p>b. My child is not in the youth group age but will be in the next couple of years. I think the current group is pretty small. I know there has been some collaboration with other parish youth groups. I would like to see St. C's offer more collaborative programs with other parish youth groups. It might provide better programming and opportunities for the youth of our parish to connect with more Catholic youth. It's important for a parish to have a strong youth minister who the youth can connect with and feel comfortable around.</p> <p>c. The youth program is very weak and my kids are so bored by it. Perhaps this is where parish consolidation would work better. We could join forces with a bigger parish (i.e. Corpus or St. Rose) and expand opportunities for the kids, especially middle- and high-school ages.</p> <p>d. You appear to be making a good effort. I think it is a hard group to keep engaged. Maybe some additional activities are possible but how geographically spread out the community members are is a problem.</p> <p>e. I like how youth are encouraged and supported to be active members of the parish.</p> <p>f. While I agree that teenagers should be invited to participate as adults in the church, they also need to figure out their own faith, in their own circumstances, which are very different from that of either adults or young kids. We've lost a lot of our youth as they find ways to be relevant elsewhere.</p> <p>g. I think we do what we can. Young people have many activities and are very busy.</p> <p>h. I'm not sure. I think there are opportunities, but I don't think a consistent number of youth participate. I think priorities are different in different families. This makes it difficult to develop a sense of community among all the youth, but there is a sense of community among the youth that do attend youth functions more regularly.</p> |                   |          |       |     |                |     |                |                |

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| i. Lots of opportunities are there but something needs to grab the youth better before they finish communion to prod them on to continue on in their journey; i.e. a stronger mentor program.  |                   |          |       |     |                |                |                |
| <b>13. I actively participate in the adult faith formation offerings at St. Cecilia.</b>   | 5                 | 76       | 71    | 25  | 14             | 3.67           | 213            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Am present for most adult formation opportunities on Sundays. This offering is one of my favorites at St. C's – incredible, intriguing topics and great discussion.</li> <li>b. The offerings look very enticing but usually by the time I find out about them, I already have other plans.</li> <li>c. 5 PM is my Mass, so I don't get back on Sunday mornings as after as I would like – and live too far to make the trip if I remember too late/sleep in.</li> <li>d. I have not attended, but I plan to do so.</li> <li>e. I show up when I can. I like the themes this year and the variety of offerings with lecture, movies, and small faith sharing groups. I'm looking forward to book discussions.</li> </ul>   |                   |          |       |     |                |                |                |
| <b>29. Regular participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation nurtures my spiritual life.</b>  | 14                | 68       | 69    |     | 15             | 3.55           | 195            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. I don't regularly participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.</li> <li>b. I feel disconnected from the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I wish the church still allowed a communal service. I don't like individual confession.</li> <li>c. I preferred the communal penances that St. C's once offered.</li> <li>d. The entire Church needs to work on this one!</li> </ul>   |                   |          |       |     |                |                |                |
| <b>37. I feel satisfied with the preparation program for Confirmation at St. Cecilia.</b>  | 7                 | 11       | 12    | 171 | 6              | 3.49           | 212            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. It has been two years since we have participated as a parent or sponsor – but it wasn't high caliber, some of the "activities" were way below their age level, some seemed inappropriate, some were boring. It lacked energy. It lacked substance. It lacked teaching of the Catholic church. It lacked ...</li> <li>b. Two of my kids went through this and it wasn't very strong for either of them.</li> <li>c. My son is a confirmation sponsor at another parish and their program is so much more involved with two weekend retreats, confirmand-sponsor dinners (before the week of), and sponsor development. As a result, I would like my other children to go through the confirmation program there rather than St. C's unless St. C's has a radical change in format.</li> </ul> |                   |          |       |     |                |                |                |

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### **STRENGTHS OF THE COMMUNITY OF ST. CECILIA:**

- a. Music as prayerful worship, Easter Vigil services, Baptism celebration, welcoming community and a wise, articulate, mindful pastor (who can sing!).
- b. Meaningful homilies, great participation in the prayers and music at Mass, wonderful music.
- c. Its openness to people wherever they are on their faith journey; its willingness to engage adults on a challenging intellectual and spiritual level; the richness of its liturgies, both ritually and musically.
- d. The music and liturgy, the size of the parish, our priests in the last 20 years have been the best in the Archdiocese!
- e. The people, Fr. Mike, the size (number of people), the location, faith formation and volunteer opportunities, community building activities (hospitality, movies, dinners, etc). The ability to seek and ask questions about our religious and spiritual life
- f. Strong community of members who care about their faith and their parish. Great staff. Financially solvent. Forward thinking. Small parish. Excellent music. Relevant homilies and bulletin messages. Calendar insert in bulletin. Like being able to hang up coats. Great to have all the donation bins in the entryway.
- g. A welcoming parish, open to all; wonderful liturgy, beautiful environment; a community that walks their talk, supporting each other through meaningful social justice and activities; outstanding music and homilies.
- h. Are you kidding me? Let's just say I'm probably in the ideological/political minority around St. C's, yet I'm crazy in love with the place. You're doing something right. I think it just goes to show that a welcoming atmosphere is so very important, and St. C's has that nailed in a big way.

### **WEAKNESSES OF THE COMMUNITY OF ST. CECILIA::**

- a. Lack of activities focused on single adults.
- b. All the children's and youth programs are weak. I think having children's education twice a month is inadequate and that the programs need to be much more engaging and exciting for the kids. Mine are bored to tears and beg me not to make them go.
- c. Not a weakness, but a challenge: Keeping the sense of community in a growing parish – there are so many new faces and they change from week to week, that it can be challenging to make meaningful connections. Also, in our welcoming ways, we sometimes lose sight of those who wish to pray silently.
- d. The physical space seems limiting sometimes for the programs that could be done. It is used very well and everyone works together to use the space well.
- e. Getting new parishioners involved, activities for men, singles, couples.
- f. It's hard for a small parish to meet the needs of all of its members.
- g. Insufficient emphasis on adult faith formation, particularly Bible study; insufficient emphasis on identifying and using gifts, particularly in business and work settings; insufficient emphasis on stewardship of talent and treasure.