

St. Cecilia's Nursery Assessment Survey Results

October 2011

Survey Marketing Efforts

- A bulletin ad ran from September 17 – October 2.
- An invitation to complete survey was announced during Mass for these three weekends.
- On September 22, an e-mail with a link to the survey was sent to parents of children under the age of 3 (where St. C's had an e-mail address on file). In cases where we did not have an e-mail address on file but had a phone number, a call was made to these parents, inviting them to complete the survey.
- Hard-copy versions of the survey were available in the link, as well as at the Ministry Fair.

19 parents responded over the three week survey period

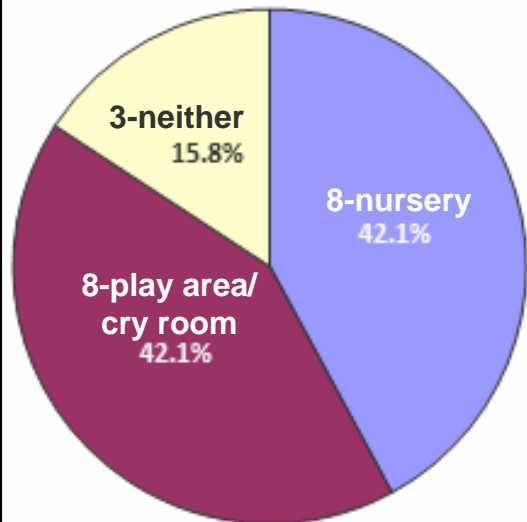
Survey Results - Observations

Note: Not all parents answered all questions.

Survey Question #	Observation
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- 1.A nursery would be welcome, but the need for it is not overwhelming. There is an even split between the number of parents who would like/use a nursery and those that would like/use a cry room/play area.
- 2.Of those that indicated they would use a nursery, the majority of the children would be toddlers (ages 13 months – 2 years). Many parents of infants voiced that they would *not* use a nursery.
- 3.According to respondents, a nursery would be most utilized for the Sunday 10 am Mass, followed by the Saturday 5:00 pm Mass, with use somewhere between one and three times a month. The Sunday 8:15 am Mass was by far the least preferred.
- 4.Not having a nursery is not deterring the majority of parents from attending Mass.
- 5.Most parents would not plan ahead to use the nursery; most indicated that they would decide either right before Mass or during Mass as to whether to use the nursery.
- 6.For staffing, parents are most comfortable with parish staff specializing in childcare, over parent volunteers and third party childcare specialists. A few parents voiced a need for a “consistent face” for their child.
- 7.If additional funds are needed to fund the nursery, respondents to this question unanimously agreed to contribute something (no one selected \$0) but the amounts that parents are comfortable contributing varied.
- 8.Parents indicated that they would volunteer on a relatively infrequent basis (once every 2 months to never), and some voiced strong opinions on this topic.
- 9.A cell phone set to vibrate is a reasonable means of contacting parents during Mass.
- 10.The majority of respondents were indecisive as to whether they would use a nursery during the summer.
- 11.There is some interest in having childcare available for Sunday faith formation.
- 12.Various comments (both positive and negative) regarding the previous nursery and existing cry room/play area were voiced. Also, it appears that not all parents are aware that sound has now been piped in downstairs and they can now hear Mass from the play area.

1. Which of the following best describes the support that you would like to have available when attending weekend Mass with your nursery-aged child(-ren):



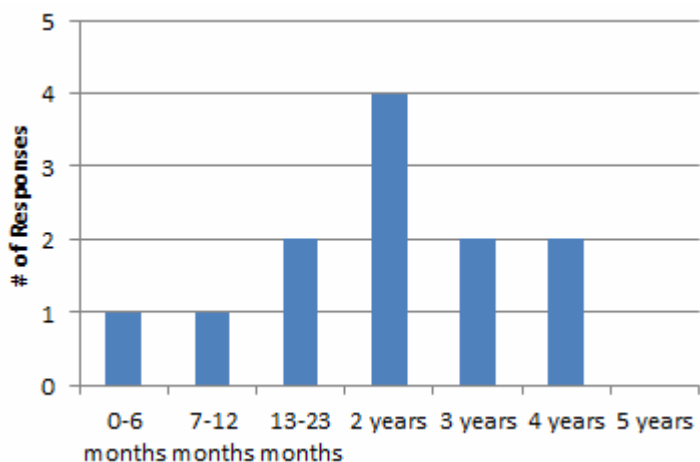
- a) I would like a place for my child(-ren) to go for the entire Mass, where others supervise him/her [a nursery]
- b) I would like a designated, child-appropriate place that I can escape to with my child(-ren) during Mass - as needed - that allows them to play, stretch, and/or make noise while I supervise them [a play area or cry room]
- c) Generally, I do not need/would not use either of the above; if I need to step away from Mass with my child(-ren), I find an area that works for us

Comments

- With our new baby, we generally just step out if need be. The idea of a nursery is a good one but we probably would keep her with us regardless.
- I would like either "a" or "b".
- My youngest child is now in CGS on Sunday mornings, but when they are not in session (summer, classes, other occasions) I would very much like to have nursery care.
- We consider Mass to be family time and that's why we wouldn't/don't use a nursery - it would seem odd for her not to be with us and for someone else to care for her. So, even when our daughter gets squirrely, we try to make it work.
- I don't think that our family would need or use the nursery every Sunday but it would be nice to have it available just in case.
- I answered "a" because there wasn't an option for "if St C's has one, I might use it" and I wanted to fill in the rest of the questions. The designated play area has been working for us.
- Both of my children are now able to attend Sunday school (CGS)

Note: Parents were only required to answer the first question. If a parent selected an option unrelated to the nursery (choices "b" or "c"), they were directed to skip most of the other questions.

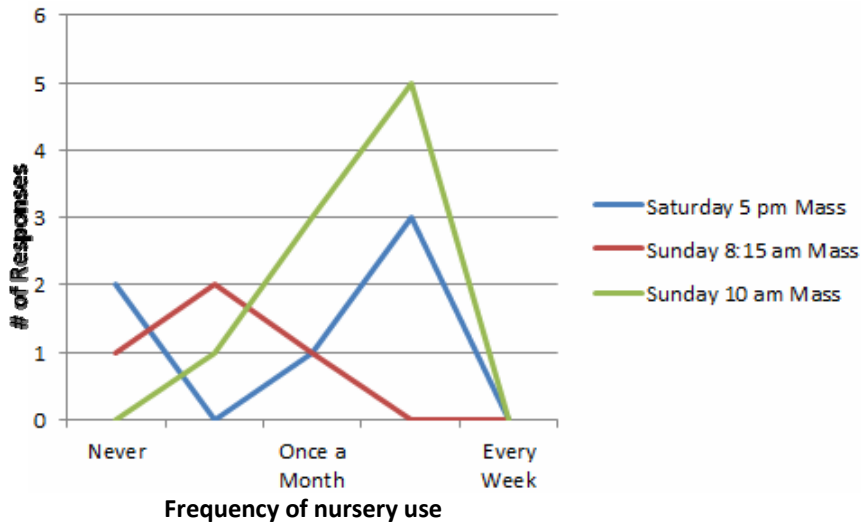
2. For each child in your family that would utilize the nursery, please indicate their age(s).



Comments

- We have a baby due in February as well
- We will have a new baby in January, but I don't think we'd feel comfortable leaving it at the nursery.

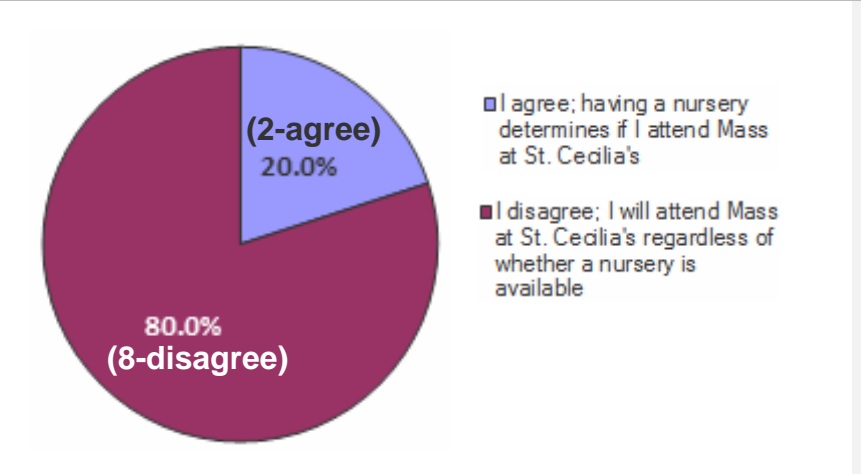
3. Please indicate when you would use the nursery for your child (-ren).



Comments

- Answered for fall/spring. Our summer use of nursery would increase to weekly - see comments under #1.
- It depends on how my toddler felt about being left in the nursery without mom or dad. If we, or an older sibling, volunteered he may be more inclined to stay (at first).
- We try to come every Sunday, but some weeks we are traveling.

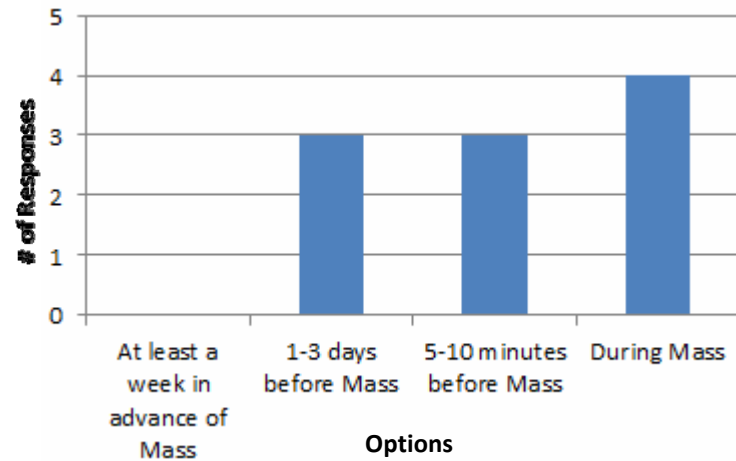
4. Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The availability of a nursery is a key factor in determining if I attend Mass at St. Cecilia's."



Comments

- A nursery or place to go with my daughter would be good. She's at a very active age where she doesn't sit still during mass and can be disruptive.
- Having a squirmy, energetic child hasn't prevented me from physically getting to mass, but it has definitely prevented me from being "mentally" present. I feel like I can only half-attend because I'm so focused on keeping my child quiet.

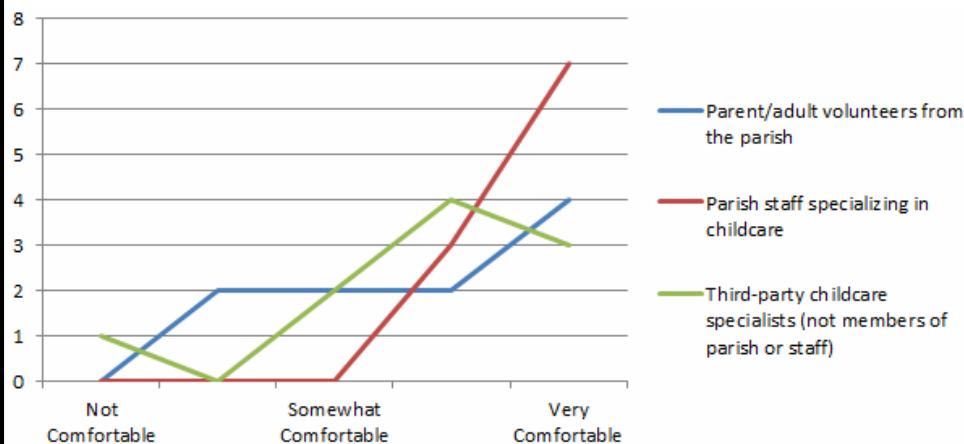
5. Generally speaking, how far in advance of a weekend Mass would you decide whether you would use the nursery for your child (-ren)?



Comments

- We usually decide which mass we will attend within this timeframe - leaning more towards Saturday in the summer, and Sunday 10am in fall/spring.
- It depends how it is set up. If using it as a drop in option is available then we'd probably wait until she starts acting out before bringing her down. But if the nursery is started and she starts to get to know the other kids and wants to be there with them, then we'd probably decide the morning of Mass and she'd probably use it on most Sundays.

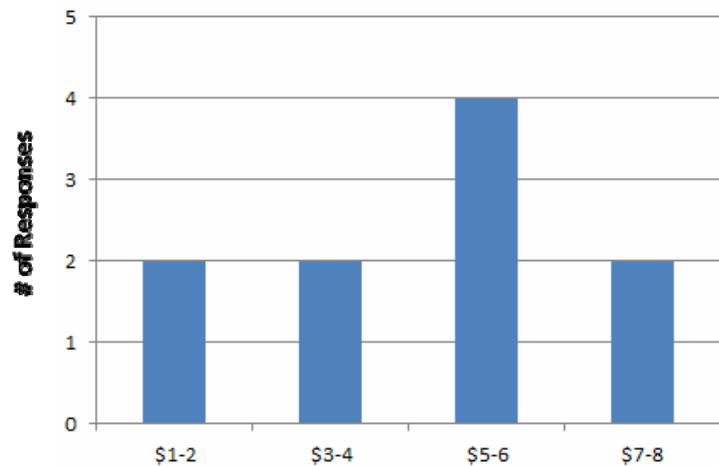
6. Indicate your level of comfort in leaving your child(-ren) in the care of another (assume all persons have undergone necessary background checks, meet diocesan requirements, etc.).



Comments

- I would prefer staff or other background-checked person.
- Having the right people in place to provide this service would be critical. It would need to be someone who could be there every Sunday who the parents could get to know and feel comfortable with. You need to develop a relationship with someone in order to feel comfortable leaving your child with them. For example, when Marge was in the nursery one day I was ok with Amy staying with her, but when other people I didn't know were staffing it, I didn't feel comfortable.

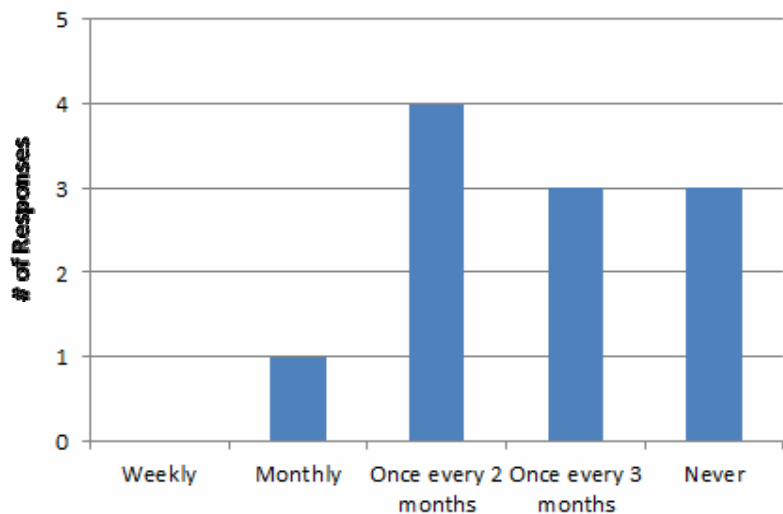
7. If additional funds are needed to fund the nursery, would you - as a parent who utilizes the nursery - be willing to contribute an amount per use (and per child) to help offset the costs? And if so, what is the maximum amount you would be comfortable contributing?



Comments

- Willing to contribute any amount
- \$8/week to attend mass in peace sounds like a good deal

8. If parent volunteers are used to help staff the nursery, indicate the frequency by which you would be available to help.



Comments

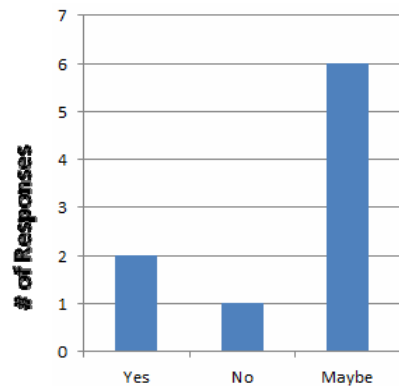
- As often as required.
- See #12 below! In my experience, this has not worked satisfactorily. Also, I will not volunteer in nursery if it requires changing soiled diapers - parents should be called/paged for such matters.
- I think asking or requiring parents to volunteer sends a mixed message. If you think about it, the only way a parent w/a child could do this is if they either a) gave up going to Mass to volunteer in the nursery (is that really what the church would want and support??); or b) found a way to make it to one Mass (probably w/children) and then somehow volunteer at another Mass (that's just not likely for our family). For these reasons, that's why I would not volunteer.
- As much as I'd like to say I'd do this, I'm going to be honest. I don't think it is a good idea for parent volunteers to do this and I wouldn't want to miss mass to do it.

9. If your child was in the nursery and staff needed to contact you during Mass, is your cell phone (set to vibrate) a reasonable means of contact?



Yes – 100%

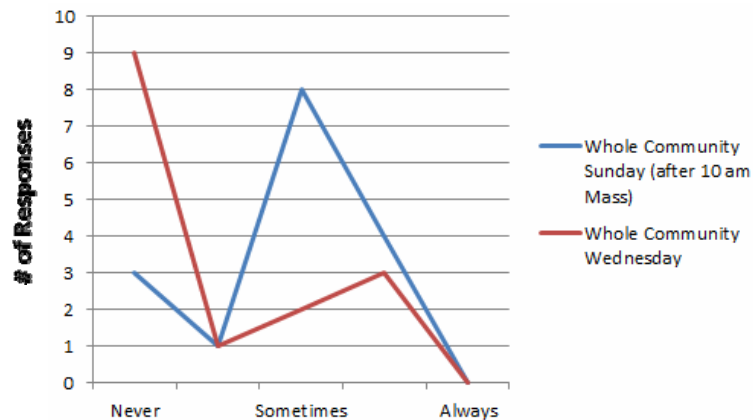
10. Would you use the nursery during the summer (June-August)?



Comments

- Nearly weekly during the summer

11. If the nursery was available for adult faith formation, indicate the frequency by which you would use the nursery for these events.



Comments

- This is sorely needed! At this time neither my older child, nor us participates in these community events because there is no childcare.
- While we wouldn't use a nursery during Mass (she generally does okay for an hour), it would be nice if childcare was available for Sunday faith formation to allow us to go to some of those.

12. St. Cecilia's has had a nursery (on and off) over the past few years. If you have used the nursery and have comments or suggestions for improvement, please provide.

Comments

- It is a comfortable space to bring our son when he needs a break from mass. Whether or not it's staffed, we've appreciated having a place to go.
- Yes - we have used it and were grateful for the opportunity.
- I would like to be able to bring my child and not feel like I am required to volunteer. I would rather pay a small fee and be able to attend mass.
- Love being able to hear Mass downstairs.
- The nursery is great, but we'd love to have a way to view or least hear the mass while we are downstairs with our child.
- REGARDING VOLUNTEER NURSERY: Without someone to oversee and administer the processes and manage volunteers, it has not worked well. Volunteers are inconsistent: some don't show-up, some come late (nursery staff must be at least 15 min. EARLY so that parents can drop-off and get back up stairs), some are not background-checked. Last year, after a few times trying the nursery and getting downstairs to find no-shows, we gave up even checking. Also, help from teenagers is great, but only in addition to qualified adults. We cannot rely on teenagers to run the nursery or even to have a consistent presence.
- To be honest, I've not felt entirely comfortable leaving my child in the space St. C's has designated as a "nursery". Our daughter goes to daycare and we're accustomed to a little more formality. Also, our child's personality is such that she needs to see a familiar face every week in order to be comfortable being left with them.
- I have used the nursery in the past for both my older children and have enjoyed it. I have also volunteered in the nursery and would do so again.
- It would be nice if there were a nursery option, but I don't think it is absolutely necessary. I envy the parents of the kids in the Montessori program - they get to be free! But their kids are big enough to handle being away from them. Children under 3 are not as independent and have trouble being away from their parents - or at least mine does. Having antsy, fussy kids in the pew seems like something parents of very young children just need to live with. Most of us sit in the balcony, which seems to work, so all of us suffer - and get to laugh at some of the funny things the little kids say - together. Luckily, everyone is very understanding and Fr. Mike is great and makes everyone feel better about things when he says it should be a place kids can be themselves - that really helps.
- A dedicated room would be more attractive. My kids love the toys.

13. Your insights and opinions related to the above topics are welcome and appreciated. Please share your thoughts!

Comments

- With all the new babies at church, I think its a good idea for many parents but like I said above at this point we choose to keep our infant with us during mass. Thanks for heading this up Joe!
- I think a nursery or a room with toys, etc. would be great to have. We don't go to church enough lately because it is just too hard since our daughter is so active and won't sit still right now. The nursery option is nice because we could both attend mass then, but the designated toy room is also nice because at least we could leave mass if she got too fidgety.
- We would prefer to have our kids with us during mass as much as possible and like the option to be able to walk around with them.
- Thank you for taking the time to ask these questions. We would really appreciate a nursery option (and will pay for the service!) so that we can be fully-engaged in mass and participate in other community events. Has anyone sought-out models from other parishes with good nursery programs to find out how they do it, and what are the expenses?