

## The Parish Survey for St. Mary's Catholic Church begins March 26th

Fellow Parishioners of St. Mary's,

Building upon the positive responses received during the Town Hall meetings, we refined our Mission statement. Let's take a moment to review the new Mission of St. Mary's. It is: to **worship, serve, and build communion in Jesus Christ, with Mary our mother and guide.**

The next step in our planning process is our Survey which will help us learn about us as a parish as well as explore the themes that arose in the Town Hall meetings.

The underlying themes that we discerned in the Town Hall meetings were communion, and community. There was an underlying desire and need for more communion with each other, and with Christ our Savior. We believe that He is calling us to explore, define, and build a Catholic parish that is more vibrant, that will play a combined leadership and supportive role in our lives and in the community, and that will raise our level of communion with Him and with each other.

Accomplishing that requires a process by which we first learn about our characteristics, strengths, and needs across many topics, and then use those insights to help shape our Vision of our future. To that end, the Survey will explore many topics. Because of the in-depth nature of the questions, this survey is 100% anonymous. The topics include the following:

- Topic 1: Demographics and Mass attendance
- Topic 2: Possible Ministries in our Vision
- Topic 3: Questions about your personal faith journey
- Topic 4: Questions related to our Blessed Mother showing us the way and giving us strength
- Topic 5: What makes a Catholic community vibrant, healthy, alive, and strong?
- Topic 6: Your thoughts about the future of our Catholic parish and of our role in the downtown Lincoln community.
  - *Thoughts about our parish:*
  - *Thoughts about our parish's downtown location:*
- Topic 7: Sharing your personal concerns, needs, and health considerations.

Considering the above topics, you may wonder what some of them have to do with our parish. Please keep in mind that our overall purpose in discerning a Vision for our future is because the culture of 2022 and beyond presents changes and challenges that require us as a parish to rise to a new level of communion with Christ and with each other, and we need to define what that means.

Although we have much to be proud of at St. Mary's, we need to enhance our parish for the future. Trends in Mass participation are downward both here and across our diocese, not to mention across our nation. Additionally, most would agree that many people have unmet needs and are hurting in a multitude of ways such that their faith is suffering. Our parish can rise to the occasion and play a role in assisting parishioners to support and strengthen one another in their faith journeys.

Through this process, then, we are attempting to proactively shape our parish to be a more vibrant hub of our faith that will strengthen our communion in Christ well into the future. The concepts of communion and community touch all parts of our lives—which is why we are touching on all of the

above Topics—and so we are asking our parishioners to embrace the Topics and answer the questions as candidly as possible. Again, the survey is completely anonymous. Additionally, you will have the option to scroll past questions you choose not to answer.

It will take approximately 22 minutes to take the Survey, and we ask that you make the effort to complete it. Together we will learn about our parish's characteristics, strengths, and needs, and be well-positioned to utilize these insights to help us be successful in our planning and pursuits. We look forward to sharing the results sometime in April and May, and discerning our Vision together.

The Survey may be accessed in the following ways:

- Enter this link into your computer's browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CQ3X5JG>
- Click on the above link which is located on our parish website.
- Click on the above link which will be included in an email and sent to all parishioners whose email is on file (if you would like to add your email, please send an email to [stmarylincoln@gmail.com](mailto:stmarylincoln@gmail.com)).
- To complete the survey on your mobile phone or tablet, scan this QR code with your camera app:



Thank you, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will accompany you as you take the survey.

Father Walsh and the Planning Team