

## Question 7: Comments about what we could do to enhance a sense of community in the parishes:

### What they do well:

Community

We have coffee and rolls, a parish dinner once a year and we come together for funerals.

The turkey dinner is great, the new adult education class was a good addition

Adult Education and Fellowship

Pray for each other in a time of need

rolls and coffee, friendship

we're satisfied

Offer social functions, but most people lives too hectic to participate

Parish dinners etc...Participation of KC

In my opinion father has done a good job at reaching out to a lot of us who have for years felt alienated by other parishioners who have very strong opinions and demand things be done a certain way. I know that makes certain people mad because father actually talks to other people rather than just certain loud ones who want to run everything.

The parishes have extremely devoted members.

Lots of chances for interactions with members

They can come together in a crisis.

As a parish, we do great. Our parishioners are generous, caring, alive with faith.

At one point in time, this was above average. Over the past twenty plus years there has been a noticeable decline but particularly in the past two years.

Our one fundraiser is well supported.

I feel there is quite a good sense of community. Ex.: coffee and rolls/breakfasts, soup suppers, All Saints Day and Epiphany play and meal, food bank and Turkey Dinner

Coffee & Rolls (2)

warm and inviting, meals and events, coffee and rolls

Not sure, I should be more involved.

All.

Invite people to participate

It's a beautiful church, altar society and parish council work very hard to clean and maintain church (St. Martin)

Helping with funerals.

Good sense of community; welcoming

Sharing strong friendships & bonds

Coffee & rolls; altar society, KOC

gater after mass; donuts, fellowship; potlucks

Children's CCD

Greet us outsiders & help us understand

make everyone welcome

Holiness

CCD & Mass times

Most activities, holiday dinner

merge St. Leo & St. Martin

Turkey dinner; coffee & rolls, brunches

Community (3)

We could do more joint parish activities. Adjust the mass schedule so its easier for outside families to come choose our parish. Right now the vigil mass and 8:30am mass alternate and I think that is just too confusing for people and they go elsewhere.

Improve their presence in the Bennet community, there are many new residents who don't know we are here

## Question 7: Comments about what we could do to enhance a sense of community in the parishes:

Help focus on positive

Meet for fellowship and fun outside of a Saturday or Sunday

have more common activities with both parishes working together

offer more adult options, like lenten reading group

Combining parishes would increase attendance at social/community functions for greater interation between those that can make it to any given event. This would also increase the volunteers available so that those who are/have been active do not become burned out!

Have interfaith activities

There are a few people who have a desire for a sense of community however they are not very open to people who have moved in to the parish. They are strongly set in their ways and when you try to get involved you either do it their way or else. For example, I've been chastised for cutting sandwiches the wrong way because "we always cut them this way." That's just one example. We want to be involved but when we have done so we have been chastised for expressing our opinion from some "holy" and strong willed men and women who are dead set on everything being a certain way. We always hear how they want other people to be involved but when some of us have tried they do a great job of pushing us away and not feeling welcome. In my opinion, we just aren't welcoming to new people in the parish. I've noticed that they even criticize Father for him trying to actually welcome people and be a spiritual father. However, since he doesn't do things a certain way they have attacked him behind his back and try to recruit people against him. They tried to recruit us but we told them that's not how Catholics should act and so now we are even more pushed out by them.

Establish a formal welcome to new members. Establish adult bible or spiritual growth classes. Eliminate two masses at St. Leo. Two masses only further divide a very small community of members.

More community evangelizing to the community. Could support the children going to catholic school. Could have more for the children in the church to come together on just CCD nights.

Our pastor has ripped the parishes apart and that has caused enormous problems where they didn't use to be.

Two-way communication is limited to null. The process to elect the Parish Boards was advertised one way then conducted in another manner as persons were placed on the council and/or asked to run by the priest. The transparency on determining priorities such as the rectory has proven to be counter-productive vs. focusing on the church, hall and rectory. The resignation in Nov. 2018 by the three co-chairs of the Building Renovation was preventable. Consistent and full updates on the Parish website, postings and discussions at church are limited to none. Please review our webpage.

We need to be aware of each other's needs and support them.

have more parish things between the two parishes. We could care for the needs of our pastor more and be more invested in him too.

not sure our family is not involved in many current programs

Be more welcoming

Joining with Community Youth Group

Get together with meals after Mass

Finding more opportunities to bring parishioners together, such as dinners

Turn on speaker system

Have more community gatherings

Sense of spiritual ownership

Online Directory (like St. Michael's)

Try to get more involvement of parishioners who attend church but don't participate in extra get-togethers

Communication

More adult spiritual classes; more parish dinners/soup suppers, etc.

Have more programs for teens & adults

More parish suppers and activities like other surrounding parishes!

Continue to be an active member of all community and school events

Card night, fun fundraisers, movie nights for kids

Family get togethers

book groups, discussions, dig into the bible and discuss

**Question 7: Comments about what we could do to enhance a sense of community in the parishes:**

Do not need more programs until parish grows. Start now with combining efforts to make the programs we do have stronger.

Mens Club, Sharing of Parish Financials

Not sure

See above. The first priority is to have a single mass time at St. Leo. Social functions serve to build community; consider programs that incorporate young families with older adults, similar to the CCD All Saints Day program.

Groups to mentor the young community. Maybe a widows group or a divorced group.

Adult formation would be very welcome, but I'm not sure people would go with the current pastor.

Revisiting having one mass on Sun. at 9:00 or 10:00 so we do not have a split parish and limited persons building community. No new programs until we re-est. our priorities and determine why the contributions have declined precipitously, why so many persons have left the parish, and determine the decline in overall involvement by parishioners. Dig into the data and meet in small groups. A low return rate of this survey is not workable.

A session on forgiveness.

I don't care for more "programs," keep eyes on the salvation of the souls entrusted into your/our care and be constantly available to assist with sacramental life of the parishes including the many devotions that the universal Church has recommended (First Friday devotions, First Saturday devotions as examples)

I think it's time we merge parishes

Any event to prepare for spiritual commitment for parish community at beginning of liturgical season.

Need more attendance, less Masses

Advertise school programs in bulletin

Mission Work, please.

For hearing impaired, consider putting a mike on the altar

Get involved with youth groups from PHS

Adult prayer groups

Childcare for Mass times