

St. Nicholas Parish

Mass Attendance and Re-Opening Survey Results

September 2020

Back in June, in-person weekend Masses at St. Nicholas restarted with much thought, preparation, and creativity. Since then parishioners have been attending mass in growing numbers in the Chapel, Church, and parking lot in both English and Spanish. Here is current attendance information.

Day/Time	Location	Language	Avg Attendance
Saturday, 4:30 pm	Chapel	English	35
Sunday, 8:30 am	Parking Lot	Spanish	125
Sunday, 10:00 am	Parking Lot	English	70
Sunday, 1:00 pm	Church	Spanish	60

SURVEY RESULTS

Responses to our second survey soliciting parishioner opinion about the current offering of weekend liturgies (Saturday evening and Sunday) were received from August 20 through September 11, 2020. There were 293 respondents to the English version of the survey. The results are summarized below. Spanish language survey responses are still being gathered. Results will be published at a later date.

General Attitudes to In-Person Mass Attendance

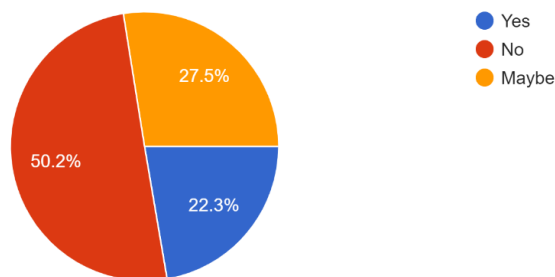
In-person Mass attendance during the last two months, whether in the parking lot, Chapel or Church, was reported by 48% of the respondents. The remaining 52% had not yet attended any liturgies on our parish campus.

Overall, 42% of those responding said that they did not expect to feel comfortable being in an enclosed space for long time. *For those who did not wish to attend Mass inside either the Chapel or the Church, the primary reason given was a lack of knowledge about the safety precautions.*

Parking Lot Mass

Although, 22% responded that they would continue to attend the English parking lot Masses, it is still not of interest to half (50%) of those responding.

Do you plan to attend PARKING-LOT Mass in September/October at St. Nicholas?
287 responses

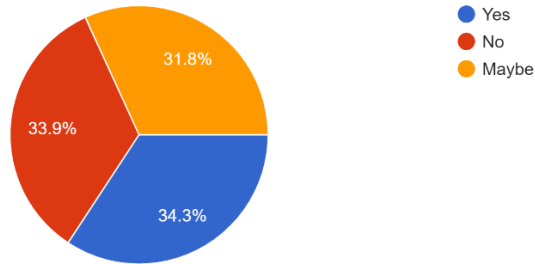


Chapel and Church Masses

When asked if they would attend English Mass in Church, respondents were evenly divided among YES, NO, and MAYBE. This would indicate that only one third of those responding would be comfortable returning to Mass inside the Church without further information about safety precautions.

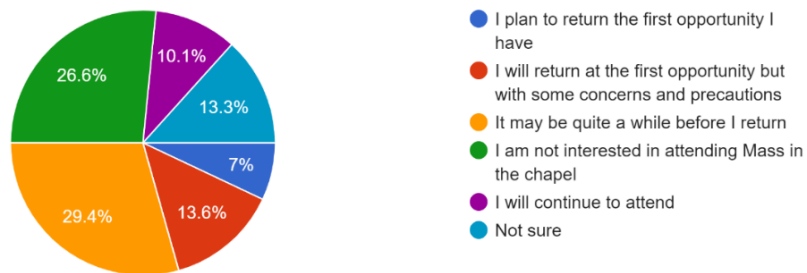
If available, would you plan to attend English Mass in the CHURCH in September/October at St. Nicholas?

289 responses



What best describes your attitude towards returning to Mass in the CHAPEL at St. Nicholas?

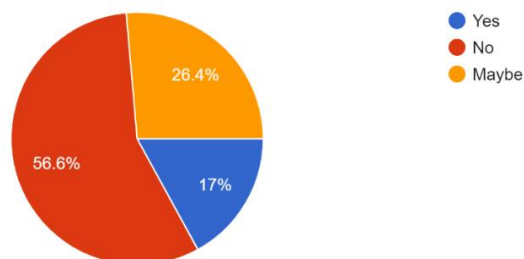
286 responses



Continuation of the English Chapel Mass found a less enthusiastic response, 17%, compared to the 34% saying they would attend Mass in the Church. Separately, 10% of those surveyed said they would continue to attend the Saturday Chapel Mass in English.

Do you plan to attend Mass in the CHAPEL in September/October at St. Nicholas?

288 responses



Liturgy of the Word

Thirty-four percent reported that they have not yet attended any liturgies on campus. However, 55% have attended the online Liturgy of the Word. The Liturgy of Word is also noted by 53% of respondents as one of the things that has sustained them during these difficult times.

Demographics

Two-thirds of the respondents identified themselves and the members of their household as being of 60 years of age or older. Therefore, it is not surprising that they generally did not report any children (high school age and younger) also living with them.

Thirty-five percent of those responding said they had children aged 18 and younger living with them. Of those families, only 25% reported attending Mass in the parking lot or in the Church. This means that 75% of those with families have not yet chosen to return to in-person Masses.

Next Steps

Based on the results of this survey and recommendations from the Re-Opening Team, Fr. Tito and the parish staff, it has been decided that:

- The current schedule of masses will continue at the same times and locations through October.
- Parking lot masses will most likely be discontinued in November due to weather concerns.
- We plan to offer more Masses in the Church and Chapel beginning in November, in accordance with health and safety guidelines, with a schedule yet to be determined.
- The Re-Opening Team has committed to increasing communications to the parish community about safety precautions and what to expect when attending Mass indoors.
- The weekly online Liturgy of the Word will continue.