

2022 – 2023 SYNOD SURVEY  
Church of Saint Luke, Stroudsburg Pa, Diocese of Scranton

1. In the Church and in society, we are called to walk together, side-by-side, as we journey through life.

**The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is inclusive, meaning every person has the ability to participate as equals.**

6 No Opinion   1 Strongly Disagree   7 Disagree   56 Agree   50 Strongly Agree

We invite you to provide any thoughts on groups or individuals who you feel the Catholic Church may be leaving on the margins.

**COMMENTS:**

-Gay and homeless

-Homosexual or Alternative lifestyles

-Homosexual or Alternative Life Styles

-Sunday T.V. Mass helps invalids and elderly of St. Luke's. Please don't stop broadcasts.

-Women and other religions

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2. Listening is one of the most powerful and deeply human experiences we can have. The act of listening respects and validates the voice that is being heard.

**The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton listens to all people.**

16 No Opinion   1 Strongly Disagree   11 Disagree   55 Agree   35 Strongly Agree

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on those that the Catholic Church does/does not listen to.

**COMMENTS:**

-Disadvantaged individuals

-Don't know.

-I sent a letter to the Bishop concerning the molestation epidemic the letter was not answered.

-Sometimes – not sure if they are asking any question like now (this is good)

-Accessibility?

-Who does the listening – they are based in Scranton – even though it covers a region does this question mean your church priest?

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3. Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are encouraged to speak up, be brave and boldly trust we are loved by God.

**Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are provided with the opportunity to speak candidly with their parish priest and our bishop.**

**COMMENTS:**

-Disagree Bishop, Agree Parish Priest.

-When?

-We really don't see the Bishop.

8 No Opinion   1 Strongly Disagree   12 Disagree   61 Agree   42 Strongly Agree

**We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on what enables or hinders people from speaking up about their hopes and concerns.**

**COMMENTS:**

-Not sure. May feel intimidated

-Why not have a box where one can write down a concern or a compliment.

-No format for casual question unless you seek an appointment. (Maybe a site on website for questions.)

-I feel the only place would be in the confessional

-I'm not sure of the opportunities that the elderly or invalids could have. Perhaps a phone call from a live voice would make a difference, every so often to inquire about parishioners.

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4. One of the foundations of the Catholic faith is the belief that God is alive in each and every human person.

**For Christians, we are baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit and are nourished by Christ in the Eucharist. The celebration of the Mass inspires me toward a more joyful and holier life.**

1 No Opinion   0 Strongly Disagree   1 Disagree   50 Agree   72 Strongly Agree

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on how prayer and/or Masses do or do not inspire you.

**COMMENTS:**

-Reminds me that Christ died for all of us.

-Televised Masses needed for nursing homes and hospitalized persons and the elderly. Mass and Eucharist are the most vital elements to my life. In the early pandemic days, I was so sad when Mass was unavailable. Even televised Mass is so passive but when attendance is impossible, I am grateful for it.

-Masses do inspire however I won't attend until we have more people vaccinated and my chance of catching COVID is (0) zero.

-Need to reeducate why we come together to evangelize those who come by habit to recognize what is Mass.

-Please stay with the rubrics for the Mass. Would love less chit chat from the pews before and after Mass (Congregate outside) proper dress for Holy Mass and a little "Latin" for some parts.

-Unfortunately, since I broke my hip and COVID, I have not been back to Mass on a regular basis

-I never miss a daily mass online with Fr. Mike @ 7:30 a.m. For me personally – increasing prayer hours and new Pastor has enlightened me once again in my faith.

-COVID-19 has made it necessary for watching Mass on TV. I appreciate St. Luke's 9:30 Mass on TV-13.

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5. Every Catholic has a responsibility to participate actively in the mission of the Catholic Church, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is succeeding in the following areas of its mission:**

- a. Leading People to a Deeper Relationship with God  
10 No Opinion 0 Strongly Disagree 13 Disagree 58 Agree 31 Strongly Agree

**COMMENTS:**

-Need more and better communication. Need better or more programs

-Attendance at Masses would be up if succeeding.

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- b. Educating People of All Ages in the Faith  
6 No Opinion 2 Strongly Disagree 12 Disagree 59 Agree 33 Strongly Agree

**COMMENTS:**

-There has been a drop in CCD

-Catechesis for the adults. Theology on Tap for young adults.

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- c. Helping the Poor, Lonely and Vulnerable  
4 No Opinion 2 Strongly Disagree 20 Disagree 64 Agree 37 Strongly Agree

**COMMENTS:**

-COVID has interfered, but we are slowly making progress

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- d. Welcoming Immigrants, Refugees and Other Newcomers  
25 No Opinion 1 Strongly Disagree 2 Disagree 51 Agree 30 Strongly Agree

**COMMENTS:**

-Don't know but I assume it's true.

-The Church should not participate in any programs that aid illegal aliens. This is a political matter. The Church can help these people in their own countries.

-Did the immigrants and refugees come to the US legally?

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- e. Being Compassionate to those in Prison  
59 No Opinion 0 Strongly Disagree 4 Disagree 27 Agree 21 Strongly Agree

**COMMENTS:**

-Agree, if prisoners are sorry and regret the deeds that put them in prison.

-I don't know.

-I'm sure the church is but I'm not sure

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f. Ensuring Racial Equality

14 No Opinion 1 Strongly Disagree 2 Disagree 65 Agree 35 Strongly Agree

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g. Promoting Pro-Life Issues

6 No Opinion 0 Strongly Disagree 2 Disagree 57 Agree 46 Strongly Agree

**COMMENTS:**

-What programs?

-Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi should be excommunicated for their rabid pro-choice advocacies. Instead, our Holy Father hosts them in the Vatican.

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h. Protecting Human Rights

12 No Opinion 2 Strongly Disagree 3 Disagree 55 Agree 37 Strongly Agree

**COMMENTS:**

-What programs?

-Not sure in what area this is directed.

-Before 2020 I would agree. Not sure in 2022 because I have many Catholic neighbors who are promoting it's ok to have Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 Capital riot and are not very open to people of color.

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i. Caring for the Environment

45 No Opinion 0 Strongly Disagree 8 Disagree 39 Agree 20 Strongly Agree

**COMMENTS:**

-What programs?

-Do not feel the church does enough with environment issues such as recycling, trash clean up in their community, encouraging parish members to protect the environment.

-Not much is said about environmental concerns. More could be said.

-We could organize cleaning crews, adopt a roadway.

-I don't know.

-I'm sure the church is, but I'm not sure.

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j. Supporting Families

6 No Opinion 2 Strongly Disagree 3 Disagree 60 Agree 39 Strongly Agree

**COMMENTS:**

-What programs?

-Supporting families only if they are truly in need.

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We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on where the mission of the Church is in need of greater focus.

**COMMENTS:**

-In this secular world, church can become something to check off on a list of something we do without a growing relationship with Our God. If people engage in their personal relationship with God and His Church they will be drawn to participate in it's mission. Surveys and mission statements are not personal. We need fellowship that unites us together in reference to God and our faith.

-Was the concept of "Family Catechesis" ever explored? Could be piloted with a few interested families.

-I believe we should support the victims of crime and not the people in prison!!

-Supporting the older. Have outside speakers. Come in and speak to us about how they see each issue. Stress more youth programs. Have events sponsored by St. Luke's youth.

-I have concerns about our younger generations – there is still a trust issue around Diocese actions concerning sexual abuse of minors, there is a "perception" of anger and disappointment.

-Everything seems to be handled so far, new faces on PC bulletin new look, Reg hours the office is open daily. Webpage all corrections were made, daily homily weekly adoration, door open on church, community meals thriving, Alpha training on giving. A new shepherd who knows his flock and is always available to those who need him. A spiritual Leader we all were awaiting. Looks to me like we are handling everything in fine order. Love this Church

-I am strongly opposed to any marital union other than that between a man and a woman. Any union other than that is the work of Satan.

-If we need to conform to belong I'm not thinking this is a church I can continue to support.

-As a 70 year member of the Catholic Church I am saddened by the amount of closed mindedness of my practiced faith. The mindset of the Church is still one of discrimination and denial of most groups of individuals living a life true to themselves.

-The Catholic Church Philosophy needs to change: 1) Allow priests to marry; 2) Allow women to become priests. This diversity could bring more people back into the Catholic Faith / active members. People want to feel the Catholic Church is a safe place to raise their children in Catholic Faith.

-I really don't know what the Diocese is doing. I feel that we need more information. We mostly hear from the Diocese during the Bishop's Appeal. I know what our parish is doing and I feel we are doing quite well. Our new Pastor is very good.

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6. From Pope Saint Paul VI to Pope Francis, successive popes have actively called the People of God to be a Church in dialogue. Through dialogue, all of the Christian faithful shape the way the Church achieves her mission.

**Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are provided with the opportunity to discuss, debate and dialogue about the future direction of the church.**

☐\_20\_ No Opinion   ☐\_2\_ Strongly Disagree   ☐\_20\_ Disagree   ☐\_50\_ Agree   ☐\_24\_ Strongly Agree

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on the places and opportunities that our church does or does not offer for constructive dialogue.

**COMMENTS:**

-When? Where? Perhaps having parish seminars.

-This survey is an example

- This survey is an example
  - Pastoral Council should have a survey of their parishes
  - They need to care about it first to even want an opportunity. Fellowship opportunities to focus on what we are in our parish.
  - Time for another Parish Questionnaire
  - Have negative feelings about Pope Francis and his liberal views
  - Church council?
  - Unless you selected to be on a committee, there's not much opportunity for dialogue.
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7. Christ calls all His disciples, united by Baptism, to work side-by-side with diverse groups and other faith communities.

**It is a priority of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton to work with other faith communities in promoting the well-being of all.**

16 No Opinion   1 Strongly Disagree   5 Disagree   63 Agree   31 Strongly Agree

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on the way the Catholic Church could interact with other Christian Denominations and/or individuals with no faith tradition.

**COMMENTS:**

- Perhaps have joint seminars.
- Around Thanksgiving we have an interfaith service with different choirs. Very rarely does this happen in our church.
- Would like to see the Catholic Church take better care of its own first.
- We have done Walk w/Christ – shared activities
- More activities to unite all Christians; pandemic (public health) made that challenging recently.
- I don't know enough about what is being done.
- We used to do services special times of year but not anymore.



-We could do more.

-Diocese is trying but locally the community is not inclusive.

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8. Through Baptism and Confirmation, the mission of the Catholic Church belongs to all the Christian faithful. Everyone is called to play an active role.

**COMMENTS:**

-We can but we are not challenged or drawn to do so – not sure why.

**All Catholics, including young people, lay men and lay women, are challenged to use their gifts and talents in the life of the Church.**

6 No Opinion 1 Strongly Disagree 2 Disagree 59 Agree 46 Strongly Agree

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on how people are/are not invited to participate in the life of the Church.

**COMMENTS:**

-Too big and impersonal. Need small teams or family CCD group to nurture family life in Christ.

-People need to feel welcomed, included things as simple as how written correspondence is worded.

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9. The Christian faith is accessible to everyone. Because the mission of the Catholic Church belongs to the Church's members, every voice has a right to be heard.

**In making important decisions, the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is transparent and accountable in its decision-making processes.**

28 No Opinion 2 Strongly Disagree 13 Disagree 38 Agree 32 Strongly Agree

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on the decision-making process that the church uses and how it can be improved.

**COMMENTS:**

-Not enough transparency with the previous Bishop.

- No opinion at present, since there was not enough transparency with the previous Bishop.
  - Pastoral Council should have open meetings for parish members to attend. Pastoral Council minutes should be available to all parish members. Yearly budgets should also be available to parish members.
  - Have no idea what they do currently, or what issues are being discussed by our Diocese.
  - Much improved. Make church council minutes available to parish members.
  - Because the Diocese is physically distant to Stroudsburg presents a challenge perhaps more visits to the parish from the Diocese.
  - Transferring bad priest, covering up molesters both laity and lay people. More worried about image than truth.
  - My “no opinion” answer due to the fact that I don’t have information. So sorry.
  - Everyone has the opportunity to see what’s happening in the Diocese through the Catholic Light.
  - Since the abuse scandal there has been more transparency and accountability.
  - During the of the present Bishop.
  - More input from parishes needed
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10. The Church's Tradition, received from the Apostles, carries the Christian faith through history. A synod is meant to identify the needs, challenges and opportunities of the present moment.

**While respecting Tradition, the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is responsive to the needs, challenges and opportunities at the present moment.**

19 No Opinion   1 Strongly Disagree   12 Disagree   55 Agree   24 Strongly Agree

We invite you to provide any thoughts on how the church listens and engages in dialogue.

**COMMENTS:**

-Need to be more vocal (including from the pulpit) on hot button moral issues. Prolife, Homosexuality, Transgender. If the clergy is uncomfortable – please educate them so they can lead the flock rightly.

-Not to disrespect tradition, but it may be time to allow priests to marry, to have women as priests, to make into more current times and help with trust issues more families need to come into community. I am saddened by the decreasing people practicing faith.

-I don't know enough about this.

-However, what a great way to start a dialog going with this inquire! Could Pope Francis give updates of what is happening with the SYNOD over T.V. to the U.S. but on regular T.V. channels so that we are an inclusive Roman Catholic Family? (Just a thought)

-Could be more open to all people's present challenges

-People need to be able to communicate their needs, opinions if they differ from expectations.

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### DEMOGRAPHICS

What is your gender?    37 Male    84 Female

What is your age?

0 = Under 18    0 = 18-30    3 = 31-45    21 = 46-65    69 = 65-80    26 = 80 or older

Which race/ethnicity best describes you? {Please choose only one.}

1 = American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian/ Pacific Islander

2 = Black or African American Hispanic

109 = White/ Caucasian

2 = Multiple ethnicity/ Other (please specify) (1=Puerto Rican) (1=White & Spanish)

In which County do you currently reside?

     Bradford         Lackawanna         Luzerne         Lycoming    117=Monroe    1=Pike  
     Sullivan         Susquehanna         Tioga         Wayne         Wyoming

Do not currently reside in the Diocese of Scranton?

If you currently belong to a parish in the Diocese of Scranton, please indicate which parish:

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your input is very much appreciated and a valued part of this project.

**GENERAL COMMENTS (not pertaining to any specific survey question)**

[www.churchofsaintluke.org](http://www.churchofsaintluke.org)

[office@churchofsaintluke.org](mailto:office@churchofsaintluke.org)

-Until the sexual predators posing as priests, coaches and leaders are identified and censured worldwide the church is not fulfilling the church's basic mission "Protect the Flock"

-Picked this up with bulletin. Not sure where to respond. Should also have this online at each parish website.

-Where I have checked "No Opinion" I had no information to form an opinion.

-After receiving our letter regarding the survey and asking our thoughts regarding our parish and our part in our Diocese of Scranton...we have decided not to answer the survey per se but to express our feelings regarding our faith, our church and many of the questions included in the survey. A big question for us as a couple who have raised our children in our Catholic faith and beliefs....what did we do wrong because some do not practice this and they are wonderful good Christian people? For some time it has been our belief that we are missing something...am a firm believer that we take care of our bodies and see a Doctor...why not our church for our souls. I personally have come from a parent who was divorced and remarried...never stopped going to church but they were excluded...from Sacraments, etc...so are we not judging... and will that not be the final of our God to do that judging. We have a list in our bulletin regarding sick and infirmed...pray for them...but couldn't we have some committee to at least call and see if they need anything. COVID has certainly been a hindrance...that COVID will not last but has given many an excuse or viable reason not to worship in person. Somewhere along the way we have lost the ability to connect with each other...why? Our ability to encourage more to the religious life...mainly, priests...makes me think that there is no reason to not welcome many men and women to become ordained...Our deacon is a wonderful example of a man who is married...had children...and is dedicated to his service at St. Luke's. We are not sure who has compiled all those questions that we received...and encouraged to reply. We were born Catholic. Raised Catholic...and so also for our children...and remain Catholic...but over the years wonder if we have become exclusive and not inclusive...Many friends of various denominations believe in the same God as us...let us join in good faith those other communities. This long survey is too detailed for what should be simple...and what we should be doing every day as people of God... Lastly, let us keep a more personal contact...with each other...costs nothing but does so much to strengthen our bond with Christ...Do unto others...Faith, Hope and Love and the greatest of these is love. Al and Carol Adelman

-I appreciate the opportunity to give input.

-I read the Vision 2030 with great interest and insight. I can't tell you how many categories our Church fell into. The final section mergers/closures just brought such insight to my life! I pray and pray some more so St. Luke's does not fall into that last category ---Merger/Closures. Respectfully submitted.

-Our new pastor is not like Father Perry. Father Quinnan makes no attempt to interact or engage with his parishioners at Mass. This would be the first thing I would look to be evaluated as parishioners should be welcomed into their parish and should have interaction with their pastor. St. Luke's is definitely lacking this.

- We joined St. Luke's. My husband is handicapped and can't gain entrance. I care for his needs. No one from the church has visited since we joined in summer 2021.

## **NOTES FROM LISTENING SESSION**

### **Forming Ourselves In Synodality**

Formation – lacking in our church

Kids aren't here. Not being taken to Mass, Confession

Evangelize internally here first before we go out to society

Real Presence of Christ

Concern about “do we need to change” Is the church supposed to conform to society or vice versa

Need to be the light on the hill. Being Catholic has to mean something. Stand out. Do not conform to society.

Can't stand with God if we don't know what God is all about.

### **Listening**

Church as whole, universal – need to listen to Jesus

Improve skills for young people

Better opportunity to listen to youth

Youth understand the Eucharist

Welcoming / Open church

Youth traditional values

Different language Masses

Latin Mass

Improve each Church/Diocese to address urgent issues. Liturgy/Admin to make listening an option 24/7

Value in successes of individual outreach to those who have stopped coming to Mass.

Response to volunteers

Opportunity request/comment box individual ministry not able to respond appropriately.

Local level of listening to needs while listening to Global Church.

### **Sharing Responsibility of Our Common Mission**

Diversity of backgrounds – converts in families at table – sensitive/awareness of understanding of other faith

Mission – missionaries learn customs – teach of Christ

Convert by example

Different organizations ie: Knights – tangible help to others

Active participation in faith – young families more absent

Older have more time / but less energy

Challenges of maintaining safety of youth but not lose spontaneity to volunteer

Spread message of Hope

Mission is a choice to actively live faith

Charismatic

Active in youth ministry and youth

Children facing issue older people did not have to

Outside of Church not receiving message of Hope

Navigate choices: sexual orientation, etc. Peers getting mixed messages “Do whatever makes me happy” – Need direction from family and church “How to be accepting but still stay true to their faith.”

Welcome people who come from different groups ie: LGBT

Different level of understanding of Eucharist/Consecration

Prayers of faithful should be more specific – local vs global

Aesthetic component of liturgy ie: Latin Mass – Deep reverence – focus on Mass, focus on worship

Displeased with lack of clarity when Pope speaks on moral issues

Sexual abuse handling

Difference spirituality within confines of universal church, brothers, Franciscans, etc.

## **Speaking Out**

Speaking our minds in respectful manner

Shepherds must be able to reach out to all

Families should speak among themselves about Mass/Church

Priests should have right to marry

Not enough priests

Mass – more joyful and happy music to encourage more young to come

## **Authority & Participation**

Fellowship – need more – communication

Capture young to stick with faith

Other activities for parishioners other than Mass

Participation/Fellowship

Due to COVID – lost in the festival – huge parish/community event, money raiser – fun time

Major decisions need to be made by the people – be informed before decisions made  
Ie: Missals are heavy/big

How to get people to participate

## **Celebration**

Homily most important – different to each other – Old Testament (don't want to hear that) want current

Holy Spirit comes to all differently

Fellowship – More social, more camaraderie, different parishes – people know each other – they get to know each other. Don't know each other here.

CCD for adults

Parents need to talk to kids about church more

Don't see kids here – why are we going to Mass, What's it about

Maybe church structure must change – relax a bit on Mass structure