

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church
2018 Parish Survey

Dear Parishioner,

As discussed at our Annual Parish Meeting, we recognize that our parish and the Orthodox Church in general is up against great challenges as we move into 2018 and beyond. We as a parish council have discussed these challenges and opportunities over the past few months and decided it is now time to do a formal assessment and plan to propel our parish forward. A survey has been created to give an opportunity for all of our parishioners, young and old to raise their questions regarding our faith, and the programs and ministries of our parish. While the Orthodox Church is rooted in beautiful traditions and customs, we also understand that these traditions are often shrouded in mystery and it leaves us asking why we do what we do.

The purpose of this survey is to poll our parishioners and see what is on your mind. We hope, through education and other engaging programs, we can help advance our parish forward while raising interest within our youth. This survey is anonymous because we wish for you to truly express your thoughts and feelings with no reservation. The survey is structured so that there are several areas for you to record your answers. If you have questions that fall outside these areas, please feel free to still express them.

We ask that all parishioners and youth complete this survey and return to the Church by May 31, 2018. There will be collection boxes on the Candle Desk in Church and in the Church Hall. You may also return it via US. Mail.

We hope that this survey and will ultimately allow all of you and our youth included to get a greater understanding of the Orthodox faith. This is the first step toward a brighter future for our parish. Once the completed surveys have been received and reviewed, we will discuss results at an informal coffee hour gathering in the near future.

Thank you,

St. John the Baptist Parish Council

St John the Baptist Orthodox Church
2018 Survey
Reference Page

*Please feel free to detach this page and use it for your reference when filling out section 1 of this survey.
This page DOES NOT have to be submitted with the rest of the survey.*

1. Pastoral Ministry – The Work of the Priest - What do you feel the priest does well or could use improvement in performing his duties, ie performance of services, preaching, visitation of the sick, pastoral counseling, teaching, administration, etc.

2. Administrative – (Parish Council) What do you feel the parish council does well or could use improvement in performing their duties, ie record keeping, transparency, management of properties, communications etc.

3. Liturgical Life (Church Services) Do you find the services to be prayerful? Are they scheduled at convenient times? Any comments regarding choral and plain chant singing? Are the services served too quickly or slowly?

4. Education – (Church School and Adult Education) Youth Religious Education – what are the strengths and weaknesses and challenges of our program? Any comments re class room facilities, materials and methodology? Adult Education - What are the strengths and weaknesses? Are there certain topics you would like to see covered? Is there a better way for adults to learn more about their faith – in a different venue, private home or coffee shop, etc?

5. Ministry and involvement of Youth
How well or poorly does our parish integrate our youth and young adults in the life of the Church? Liturgically? Are there sufficient opportunities for young women to take an active role in the liturgical life? Educationally?

6. Parish Outreach ministries – how well do we as a parish engage in actively living the gospel through service to others? Are there additional ministries we should engage in or reactivate?

7. Fundraisers – Are the fundraisers too labor intensive? Are they run efficiently and smoothly? Are there other types of fundraisers we should try?

8. Social Activities What social activities do you personally enjoy taking part in? Are there sufficient opportunities offered for social interaction?

9. Property Upkeep/improvements. How well do we maintain our church properties? What improvements, additions, beautifications would you like to see be made to the Church?

3. Our Liturgical Life (Church Services)

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Opportunities</u>

4. Education – Church School and Adult Education

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Opportunities</u>

5. Ministry to and involvement of Youth

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Opportunities</u>

6. Parish Outreach (Charitable work

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Opportunities</u>

7. Fundraisers

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Opportunities</u>

8. Social Activities

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Opportunities</u>

9. Property Upkeep/Improvement

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Opportunities</u>

Section 2: Open Ended (If needed use reverse side)

This section is designated for you to ask whatever questions you have about the Orthodox faith or our Parish practices. (for example: "Why is our liturgy so much different than a catholic mass?" "Why is our liturgy sometimes in different languages?" "Why is communion given from a chalice and spoon?"). This is truly your chance to ask the tough questions and remember: this survey is completely anonymous.