

# STM Mass Schedule Survey Findings

After reviewing the 498 survey responses, we have decided to maintain the current Mass schedule and SPARK meeting time (9am).

## Conclusions

The Mass Schedule Survey reveals distinct preferences among different segments of our parish community. Most notably, current 10:15 AM Mass attendees demonstrate a strong affinity for outdoor, while 9:00 AM attendees decidedly prefer indoor settings and are particularly resistant to earlier start times. For SPARK/CGS families, timing is paramount—they show a clear preference for the 9:00 AM Mass time, with a slight preference for faith formation occurring during the second morning Mass. Across all respondent groups, the indoor/outdoor distinction frequently emerged as more significant than specific Mass times, suggesting that worship environment plays a crucial role in parishioners' Mass attendance decisions.

Based on these findings, we have decided to maintain our current Mass schedule and SPARK/CGS timing arrangements. While the data showed a mild preference (9 percentage points) for moving faith formation to the second morning Mass, this marginal benefit would be outweighed by several practical challenges. Moving SPARK to the 10:15 AM time would create logistical complications for families with children in both SPARK and CGS programs, potentially requiring them to remain at church for extended periods. It would also disrupt the SPARK specials that currently take place in Mulhern Hall, which would conflict with the 10:15 AM outdoor Mass. Additionally, such a change might increase attendance at the already well-attended 9:00 AM Mass while potentially reducing the 10:15 AM attendance. The current arrangement keeps the 10:15 AM Mass outdoors when weather permits—a feature strongly valued by its regular attendees—while maintaining a consistent and functional faith formation schedule that serves the greatest number of families without introducing unnecessary disruption to established routines and resources.

## Key Findings

- ◆ **Strong outdoor preference among 10:15 AM attendees:** Current 10:15 AM attendees strongly prefer outdoor Mass options. Their satisfaction score for the 9AM/10:15AM Outside option (0.75) is significantly higher than for the Inside option (0.27).
- ◆ **Timing sensitivity for 9:00 AM attendees:** 9:00 AM attendees show negative satisfaction (-0.06) for the 8:30AM/10AM Outside option, suggesting resistance to both earlier start times and outdoor Masses.

- ◆ **Indoor vs. outdoor is more significant than timing:** For many attendees, especially 9:00 AM and 10:15 AM attendees, the indoor/outdoor distinction appears to be more important than the specific start times.
- ◆ **SPARK/CGS Families prefer the 9:00 AM Mass time.** While there was an overall preference that faith formation meets during the second morning Mass, of those who prefer 9:00 AM to 8:30 AM Mass, this preference is only slight (9 percentage points).

## Survey Demographics

The survey collected **498 responses** from parishioners with the following current Mass attendance patterns:

Mass Time	Attendees	Percentage
Sunday at 9:00 AM	163	33%
Sunday at 10:15 AM	142	29%
Sunday at 11:30 AM	95	19%
Sunday at 5:30 PM	51	10%
Saturday at 5:30 PM	46	9%

Regarding SPARK/CGS (faith formation) participation:

- 89 respondents (18%) participate in SPARK/CGS programs
- 409 respondents (82%) do not participate

## Mass Schedule Preferences

Schedule Option	Preferred	Acceptable	Not Preferred
9AM/10:15AM Inside/11:30AM	25.7%	46.2%	28.1%
9AM/10:15AM Outside/11:30AM	29.3%	41.0%	29.7%
8:30AM/10AM Inside/11:30AM	33.9%	35.7%	30.3%
8:30AM/10AM Outside/11:30AM	24.3%	39.4%	36.3%

## Top Preferences by Current Mass Attendance

Current Mass	Top Preferred Option	Satisfaction Score
Sunday at 9:00 AM	9AM/10:15AM Inside/11:30AM	0.61
Sunday at 10:15 AM	9AM/10:15AM Outside/11:30AM	0.75
Sunday at 11:30 AM	8:30AM/10AM Inside/11:30AM	0.64
Sunday at 5:30 PM	8:30AM/10AM Outside/11:30AM	0.57
Saturday at 5:30 PM	8:30AM/10AM Inside/11:30AM	0.57

### 10:15 AM Mass Preferences

Preference Category	Count	Percentage
Like 10:15 time and outdoor setting	171	34.3%
Don't prefer 10:15 time (regardless of indoor/outdoor)	158	31.7%
Avoid 10:15 because it's outdoor (prefer indoor)	77	15.5%
Attend 10:15 but wish it was indoors	69	13.9%
Like outdoor setting but not 10:15 time	23	4.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Combined Indoor Preference:** 146 respondents (29.3%) prefer the 10:15 AM Mass to be indoors.

## Mass Schedule Preferences by Current Attendance Time

### Saturday at 5:30 PM Attendees (46 total)

Schedule Option	Preferred	Acceptable	Not Preferred	Satisfaction Score
8:30AM/10AM Inside/11:30AM	14 (30.4%)	22 (47.8%)	10 (21.7%)	0.57
9AM/10:15AM Inside/11:30AM	10 (21.7%)	25 (54.3%)	11 (23.9%)	0.52
9AM/10:15AM Outside/11:30AM	7 (15.2%)	25 (54.3%)	14 (30.4%)	0.39
8:30AM/10AM Outside/11:30AM	17 (37.0%)	14 (30.4%)	15 (32.6%)	0.35

#### Key Insights for Saturday 5:30 PM Attendees:

- Prefer indoor options over outdoor ones
- High "Acceptable" ratings across all options
- More balanced preferences overall
- Slightly favor the 8:30AM option

## Sunday at 9:00 AM Attendees (163 total)

Schedule Option	Preferred	Acceptable	Not Preferred	Satisfaction Score
9AM/10:15AM Inside/11:30AM	53 (32.5%)	78 (47.9%)	32 (19.6%)	0.61
8:30AM/10AM Inside/11:30AM	80 (49.1%)	39 (23.9%)	44 (27.0%)	0.46
9AM/10:15AM Outside/11:30AM	37 (22.7%)	67 (41.1%)	59 (36.2%)	0.28
8:30AM/10AM Outside/11:30AM	24 (14.7%)	53 (32.5%)	86 (52.8%)	-0.06

### Key Insights for 9:00 AM Attendees:

- Strong preference for indoor Mass options
- Prefer the current 9:00 AM start time over 8:30 AM
- Significantly dislike the 8:30AM/10AM Outside option (negative satisfaction score)
- Nearly half (49.1%) specifically prefer the 8:30AM/10AM Inside option

## Sunday at 10:15 AM Attendees (142 total)

Schedule Option	Preferred	Acceptable	Not Preferred	Satisfaction Score
9AM/10:15AM Outside/11:30AM	70 (49.3%)	54 (38.0%)	18 (12.7%)	0.75
8:30AM/10AM Outside/11:30AM	41 (28.9%)	68 (47.9%)	33 (23.2%)	0.54
9AM/10:15AM Inside/11:30AM	30 (21.1%)	60 (42.3%)	52 (36.6%)	0.27
8:30AM/10AM Inside/11:30AM	21 (14.8%)	57 (40.1%)	64 (45.1%)	0.10

### Key Insights for 10:15 AM Attendees:

- Strong preference for outdoor Mass options
- Prefer maintaining the current 10:15 AM time
- Very high satisfaction score (0.75) for the 9AM/10:15AM Outside option
- Indoor options receive significantly lower approval ratings

## Sunday at 11:30 AM Attendees (95 total)

Schedule Option	Preferred	Acceptable	Not Preferred	Satisfaction Score
8:30AM/10AM Inside/11:30AM	39 (41.1%)	39 (41.1%)	17 (17.9%)	0.64
9AM/10:15AM Inside/11:30AM	29 (30.5%)	36 (37.9%)	30 (31.6%)	0.37
8:30AM/10AM Outside/11:30AM	19 (20.0%)	40 (42.1%)	36 (37.9%)	0.24
9AM/10:15AM Outside/11:30AM	23 (24.2%)	29 (30.5%)	43 (45.3%)	0.09

### Key Insights for 11:30 AM Attendees:

- Strongest preference for the 8:30AM/10AM Inside option
- Prefer indoor Mass options over outdoor ones
- Lower satisfaction for all outdoor options

## Sunday at 5:30 PM Attendees (51 total)

Schedule Option	Preferred	Acceptable	Not Preferred	Satisfaction Score
8:30AM/10AM Outside/11:30AM	20 (39.2%)	20 (39.2%)	11 (21.6%)	0.57
9AM/10:15AM Outside/11:30AM	9 (17.6%)	29 (56.9%)	13 (25.5%)	0.49
9AM/10:15AM Inside/11:30AM	6 (11.8%)	31 (60.8%)	14 (27.5%)	0.45
8:30AM/10AM Inside/11:30AM	14 (27.5%)	21 (41.2%)	16 (31.4%)	0.37

### Key Insights for Sunday 5:30 PM Attendees:

- Higher preference for the 8:30AM option
- Slightly prefer outdoor options over indoor ones
- High "Acceptable" ratings across all options
- Most flexible group overall

## SPARK/CGS Families

Breakdown of faith formation meeting times by whether the morning Mass were at 8:30 AM or 9 AM:

Preferred Faith Formation Time	8:30 AM		9:00 AM		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
During the Second Morning Mass	53	60.9%	39	44.8%	92	52.9%
During the First Morning Mass	21	24.1%	31	35.6%	52	29.9%
No Preference	13	14.9%	17	19.5%	30	17.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>100%</b>

Breakdown of Mass schedule preferences for faith formation families:

Schedule Option	Preferred	Acceptable	Not Preferred	Satisfaction Score
9:00 AM/10:15 AM Inside/11:30 AM	35 (39.3%)	32 (36.0%)	22 (24.7%)	0.51
9:00 AM/10:15 AM Outside/11:30 AM	33 (37.1%)	31 (34.8%)	25 (28.1%)	0.44
8:30 AM/10:00 AM Inside/11:30 AM	23 (25.8%)	35 (39.3%)	31 (34.8%)	0.30
8:30 AM/10:00 AM Outside/11:30 AM	13 (14.6%)	39 (43.8%)	37 (41.6%)	0.17

SPARK/CGS families show a stronger preference for the 9AM/10:15AM schedule options, with the inside option receiving the highest score. The 8:30AM options are less preferred by these families.