

G O F Survey Results 08-09

Number of responses—66 out of 344 households

ATTENDEES:

Single adult	9
Family	52
Student without a parent	

Number of sessions attended

1--0 2--0 3--0 4--3 5--14 6—47

Number of events attended

1--0 2--4 3--3 4--7 5--13 6—25 blank—12

Rate the following:	EXCELLENT	GOOD	OK	POOR
	Saturday AM	Saturday PM	Sunday AM	Sunday PM
Jason Kotecki	5/5/7/5=22	2/1/13/4=20	3/1/1=5	
Andre' Chapdelain	9/12/11/10=42	2/6/1=9	1/3=4	
Carolyn Groves	5/9/4/7=25	3/2/8=13	1=14	2/1=3
Theme—Creed	10/9/8/8=35	4/5/14/6=29	1	
Theme song	7/5/8/8=28	6/7/10/3=26	1/1/4/2=8	1/1=2
Session content	8/7/4/7=26	6/6/16/ 4=32	3/3=6	
Presentation	11/8/6/7=32	2/5/13/5=25	1/5/4/2=12	
Homekit contents	6/6/7/7=26	6/7/9/2=24	1/6/5=12	1
Treasure Chest	8/6/7/6=27	5/6/12/6=29	1/1/4/2=8	
Opening/Closing	6/8/6/5=25	6/3/13/6=27	2/3/3/3=11	2

The best part of the Season was

- Sense of Community
- (elementary group) The catechist is excellent – her enthusiasm is contagious
- Learning details of Creed
- Session content
- Hands on craft in elementary. The Passion lesson for adults
- Andre Chapdelain – What a captivating presentation for all ages!
- All of the home kits are wonderful
- Being with parish family
- Easter
- The enthusiasm of the children
- Loved the speakers and the different experiences
- Love the different themes and experiences with each class
- This session really got me to live and understand the Creed, rather than just say it
- The “communion of Saints” in November making the paper chain, displayed in church, brought tears/chills in my body – a very moving experience
- All together engaging
- Seeing my daughter’s love of learning about Jesus
- The end of every session. Singing and happiness
- The Shroud of Turin also we appreciate the efforts of all the volunteers all year
- Jason Kotecki & Andre Chapdelaine presentations

- Enjoyed the experience
- All especially Turin presentation
- Sharing and growing in faith with my children
- Learning about the Shroud and remind us about Jesus & church
- Great new narrator! Loved Sunday morning session – made it fun
- The sessions
- Easter triduum
- When we were able to break into small groups. My children were coming away from these sessions with a lot more.
- Sharing these topics and learning together as a family
- Easter egg activity. Very engaging and effective for all age levels.
- Jason Kotecki
- 16 different comments on the Shroud of Turin presentation---i.e. Learning about the shroud of Turin. It was amazing! Andre did a great present!
- Andre's presentation. It was very powerful and brought me to the appreciation that Jesus died a horrific death for ME
- The last session
- Coming together as a parish community at the G of F Events. It was like a solidarity mission
- Guest speakers
- Seeing more people at the events
- Group discussions
- The group presentations and speakers
- The Easter session

The worst part of this season was.....

- I can't think of anything. There was only a few times a group of boys wouldn't stop talking in front of me the whole time!
- Listening to Judy's rude comments. She insults the audience & then tries to act all Godlike in the next second.
- Audience idle chit hat & opening & closing session. Even adults who should set an example & listen when someone is speaking, chit chatted
- Some of the Sunday PM adult sessions were not very good. We didn't seem to get too much out of a few. Perhaps the people attending were not adding enough input.
- The elementary level sessions are geared to the youngest children – 4th & 5th grades are bored with their activities
- Sometimes not being able to hear in the library
- Missed Patriots games. It's ok though.
- Too long
- Some of the adults in the Sunday PM gathering talk personally while the facilitator is speaking. Very annoying.
- Remembering when the sessions are!
- None (indicated 9 times)
- Enjoyed all (hated bad winter weather)
- Enjoyed all – don't have one
- Not enough time
- The speakers about the Creed
- None – everything is always GREAT!!
- The large grouping of Everyone. The pre-teens and teenagers in my family don't feel challenged. The large group opening and closing seemed best for ages up to 8 or 9 years.

The teens were looking for a variety of topics & experiences. They connected least during Opening and Closing time. I think the ages in the cafeteria are too broad also. Grade 1 could go with grade 2 to practice prayers, etc. 3rd, 4th, and 5th is a large enough range of abilities.

- I wish we would end/start on time
- 2 1/2+ hr. sessions too long – need to be shortened – opening /closing session could be 5-10 minutes – spend more time in class setting
- Children (teens) being separated from adults
- Making time for home kit activities
- Too much crowded into each session – simplify! Do less and it will be more meaningful. It's tough when kids start activities but can not finish – Great ideas just too much for time allotted.
- Difficult to complete some of the art activities in the cafeteria in the short time allotted.
- Being yelled at by Judy for adult session. Didn't appreciate being grouped into that.

I would like to change

- The direction of the classes. The mandatory attendance of parents.
- Eliminate the adult education class.
- I would like to see every session broken into 3 groups for the 1st graders.
- I'm in 9th grade and I really miss sitting with my Dad. When I was little I feel like I learned more.
- Hardcore pushy attitudes about church.
- I don't think 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th grade should be together
- Break down the learning sessions into smaller age appropriate groups.
- The ending – you have lost our attention. Longer time on activities in groups – less activities – so we can complete them
- Shorten sessions time to 2 hours or do not have closing & allow more time on activities
- I would have a few (teachers) around keeping the children quiet.
- How hypocritical the program is—It needs to be much less rigid.
- The seating arrangements—to have all kids including teens sit up front. Otherwise, I enjoy the program.
- More speakers. Have the teens sit in front or with parents to alleviate the talking and distraction.
- Nothing
- Have more speakers—a more mature content.
- Beginning is good to set the stage for classes. However the ending is like dragging out the evening. Would like to see the ending down to 15 minutes.
- I know timing is difficult, but try to avoid filling the time with too much to do.
- Opening and closing could contain less information because it is in the session, sometimes it causes the teaching time to be more limited.
- Please start on time in respect of the people who are here. Otherwise, everyone figures you will start late.
- Making Goff shorter in time—maybe having 2 Saturdays
- In my life...having more patience
- Nothing. I like hearing speakers & their experiences—especially things we may not know of.
- Nothing. It is a terrific learning experience.
- More time.
- Maybe more discretion with speakers. (rated Jason-excellent, Carolyn-Good and Andre'-OK)

- Back to weekly meetings. The Confirmation to an earlier age with the teenage years focusing on service groups. (Helping elders, raising money, etc.)

Learning about the Creed has altered my...

- Level of knowledge of God
- Stronger belief and understanding
- Improved our knowledge of the Creed.
- Knowledge and faith in the Church
- Understanding of our beliefs
- Bring a better understanding of the Creed
- Understanding of it.
- In being able to share with kids.
- Understanding of the Creed as it relates to the mass and our Catholic faith.
- Life! My faith is back! I no longer have questions!
- Way of saying it. I now consciously think about the words and their meaning as I say it.
- Faith
- Thinking
- Faith. I have said the Creed for 38ish years, know the words, but now I know the meaning behind the words. Reciting the Creed at Mass is more meaningful to me now. It's like a prayer and I am attentive to my words now.
- Daily thoughts and workings with people.
- Inner strength of belief
- Family's experience of the Creed at mass.
- Way of thinking in my life.
- Belief to a stronger one.
- Understanding and awareness of the words.
- Belief in the Creed.
- Seeing through my child's eyes a fresh learning
- Nothing
- Fight against influences to take my religious casually. Society and other passive people whom we come in contact with challenge our beliefs frequently. We find this very tiring.
- Thoughts about the Creed. I now understand it instead of just recite it.

Changes in my family as a result of G of F...

- More family communication about different subjects
- We look forward to coming and talk as a family, togetherness
- More conversation in our everyday life.
- Would like to get my husband to come more
- My daughter's growth
- More focus on G of F various emotions varying from frustration to acceptance. Opportunity for younger siblings to discuss whatever they understand from the conflicting views.
- More prayer
- We actually understand the mass
- We talk about God and religion more frequently—good topics
- More engaged in the community of faith.
- Being/getting closer to my daughter.
- G of F came too late for me to see changes as my children are teenagers and unwilling to discuss religious things.
- Brought together our family on GofF night!

- More awareness of our Lord in all aspects of our daily lives.
- My family is closer to each other and the Church community.
- Open discussions of faith.
- More time with God
- We talk about God a little bit more at home.
- Acceptance of program (GofF)
- Closer in faith
- We discuss what is discussed in GofF
- Our faith has been enriched
- We spend more time praying together.

Changes in myself as a result of Gof F...

- I am more educated in my faith
- Better understanding of my faith
- More open minded about GofF We both think more about God
- A good refresher of our faith
- I learned so much more at 30 than I did when I was 15 and in CCD!
- More prayerful—at mass, home, on the car, & whenever & wherever I am. I'm in tune with God's availability to help me and surround me with his love.
- We now see more signs of the Spirit and God's work among us.
- More openness to others.
- We had more time to talk about what we've learned
- I have learned so much from the classes and especially the homekits. I am more of a visual learner so the kits are awesome for my faith development.
- I feel stronger and so much closer to our Lord.
- I try to learn more, read more now.
- More spiritually centered
- Still waiting
- Reminds me to instill the faith in my kids.
- Faith continues to grow for all of us.
- More thoughtful
- Thinking more about Jesus' life.
- I continue to strengthen my faith.
- I realize more and more when disputes are based in religious practices versus belief in God and acting as God would want me/us to.
- A freshness in belief
- Getting to know my faith better.
- More able to defend and explain my faith.
- Realize how much better I can become.
- Trying to be more patient and understanding.
- I learned a lot.

Additional comments

- We are fortunate to have this program and learn so much from it.
- We are very fortunate to have such a great program for us all.
- We continue to feel disconnected from other families compared to the connections we made when we saw people weekly. Weekly connections besides mass help my husband interact more. It's easier for him and the teenagers to disconnect due to the Gen. of Faith.

- Thank you to all who work so hard for this.
- Films and speakers are great ways to get messages out
- Love learning as a community and meeting new people.
- Favorite session was writing our family values—Still on our fridge and we refer to it.
- Gof F great idea—still something missing.
- A peppier song would be more engaging for the kids and teens (&adults). Remember the response for “Companions on the Journey?”
- Thank you everyone who participated to make this happen.
- Tremendous job by all the organizers, teachers, helpers, etc. This is an excellent program and well done every year. Thank you!
- Great creativity/skits. Love the emcees humor (Sunday AM)
- Thank you so much! You all did a great job.
- Some activities don’t take into account that you may have more than one child to work with at a session.
- Good job
- Have songs sung at church.
- Shroud of Turin—awesome and holy
- Love the program. Thanks Judy!
- Everyone’s effort and time is very much appreciated.
- The Opening and Closings have become smoother and more unified.
- Thank you!
- Thank you for all of your hard work and time to create such a great program.
- Parts of the program are worth while, but so many times, we are not allowed to explore our faith in the areas that we would like to because we are forced to stick to the agenda.
- Can’t wait till next season!
- We really like this format.