

G of F Survey Results 09-10

Number of responses—92 out of 322 households (22 less households than last year)

Adult responses: 76 Teen responses: 16

ATTENDEES:

Single adult	6
Family	84
Student without a parent	1

Number of sessions attended

1--0 2--2 3--0 4--4 5--26 6—67

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
	Adult responses in black	Teen responses in red		
Sarah Hart Concert	36 / 6	17 / 5	5 / 1	
Living Rosary	20 / 2	24 / 6	3 / 4	
Lessons and Carols	13 / 2	28 / 8	3 / 3	1
Blessing of Bibles	20 / 4	33 / 6	3 / 3	1
Recognition of 1 st Communion	26 / 4	34 / 8	2 / 1	1
Theme—Prayer	34 / 3	35 / 9	5 / 3	
Theme song	29 / 2	33 / 9	10 / 2	2
Homekit contents	26 / 5	31 / 5	16 / 4	2
Opening/Closing	27 / 4	27 / 6	20 / 5	2

TEEN COMMENTS

The best part of the Season was

- It was all good equally
- Sarah Hart most definitely
- I loved Sarah—she was so inspiring
- Everything was good.
- The 10th grade retreat
- When everyone was involved in an activity--Having enjoyable things to do
- Sarah Hart Concert X3 responses
- The 1st 2 sessions
- The living rosary
- Combined teen/adult classes
- Lessons and Carols

The worst part of this season was

- Nothing X 4 responses
- The fact of what we learn there are so many things I don't know.
- Judy's talk about the mass.

- Signing up for Saturday night instead of Sunday
- Lectures & theme song
- Theme song
- Too much info—not enough time
- Making time to attend
- Some events geared for lower levels were not quite interesting to older students

I would like to change

- The songs—they are obnoxious
- I am very shy and don't have a many friends—I'd like to stay with my parent.
- Nothing X 3 responses
- Singing the same song every time. Sooo much make up work. Shortening the Opening and Closing
- More classroom activities
- Meeting more often
- length of time
- Let older kids get a bit more out of the events

Changes in my family as a result of the study on prayer...

- More prayer
- None—We didn't change X 2 Responses
- We still sing Companions on the Journey together
- An easiness in my household
- More praying—more aware of God
- Pray more X 2 responses

Changes in myself as a result of the study on prayer...

- I pray slightly more frequently
- I pray more X 3 responses
- More mature
- I learned different ways to pray
- I have become closer to God
- Trying to love a more virtuous life
- Longer pry time
- I have no idea
- None
- I'm more focused. I like having the information easily available to me.

Suggestions for Next Year:

- None X 2 Responses
- Keep it the same
- Maybe more about the Bible
- Mass learning
- Less singing or better songs
- No more lectures—very boring

Additional comments

- All in all it was quite good
- Bring back “Companions on the Journey”!
- Theme song should change week to week

ADULT COMMENTS:

The best part of the Season was

- Learning about prayer. X 2 Responses
- The rosary and the books in the homekit
- The mass presentations for the adults X 7 responses Learning details of the mass and its meanings. It helped me answer questions my children had.
- Seeing my daughter enjoy and learn about prayer and God.
- Love the theme song. We sing it at home.
- Liked all of it. X 2 responses
- Sara Hart—fun and inspiring. Fantastic! She is amazing! X13 responses
- The church tour
- Event for 1st grade. It was the best for engaging the kids, content level and especially liked the smaller group
- Living rosary. X 2 Responses
- Grouped adults/teens in auditorium for the mass sessions
- Watching my daughter get excited about learning about God
- Engaging content
- After 42 years as a Catholic—I still have learned so much. Judy’s talk about the mass—very good, passionate.
- Judy Trickey—thank you for all you do
- Going into session with daughter
- Gathering in the auditorium
- Adults staying in auditorium X 2 Responses
- Opening/ Closing
- Lesson and Carols
- Learning about the rosary again X 2 Responses
- Very educational. A lot of participation from many.
- Being together with Church members. Bringing families together. Making connections with other families X 3 Responses
- The first session
- The prayer theme—getting back to basics
- All of it
- The prayer checklist & practice of prayer
- Kathy Abraham who substituted as the adult catechist for the rosary session
- Bringing everyone together for events—more participation this year
- My children were well prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion X 2 Responses
- Bringing families together
- The last session
- Games we played in sessions
- The rosary session

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

- Too long X 3 responses
- The songs
- The songs didn't connect to our youth. The music and songs are great. They just don't tie in the culture of youth.
- I can't think of anything bad. X 10 Responses
- Parents who constantly chatted during session. Disrespectful to presenters and set poor example for children.
- The session where the kids and adults—we separated & the adults watched a video. (*Judy's comment—Might be the session on Traditional prayer??*) Do not like adult sessions.
- The amount of work given if you missed a class
- Time requirements, while reasonable, are still challenging for me.
- Today's session—labyrinth--boring—too long—not enough involvement with Church & God
- Hearing rumors of weekly classes again. How will we manage Confirmation/High school attendance requirements correctly?
- Missing the concert and Lessons and Carols
- Trying to get a high schooler to come.
- Seeing the amount of parents not participating
- Too long after the class is finished. Should be able to leave after
- Enjoyed it all! X 2 Responses
- Being separated from my children too often. I like experiencing as a family X 2 Responses
- The rushing of the lessons
- No arts and crafts for elementary kids
- Theme song didn't stick, probably because Sat. night didn't have a musician, which is a volunteer problem.
- Trying to stay focused in the library. A 5 min. stretch would be great!
- Due to my older son making Confirmation I couldn't go on Sunday AM which is my preference.
- Prayer groups for adults. Awkward and not informative.
- Too much talking—not enough video or speakers
- Some lengthy talking 1st half hour
- Lecturing to parents not necessary. No follow up with questions & phone calls
- Staying in the auditorium for 2.5 hours

I would like to change

- Kids have trouble with the length of sessions
- The songs
- I thought the program is great the way it is.
- For all sessions keep parents in their own session in the auditorium.
- Going with the kids
- Nothing / X 8 Responses
- 1st graders should not be grouped with the older children X 2 Responses
- The age groups are too diverse/large
- Mass—suggest a weekly kids mass (like a folk mass) where kids are invited up
- CCD should be for the children only & in groups with the same age/grade
- Make adult/teen events more teen oriented—feel you lose them
- 5 times 3 hour sessions / not 6 2 ½ hour sessions
- The opening theme song—a more traditional hymn would be preferable

- Possibly get Fr. Vern to come to the classroom during one of the sessions
- The slapping chairs, time runs over, & lack of caring by parents
- Session start on time and families should not be late
- Have songs in church on/after weekend of Goff
- My 2 children were in 1st grade. I felt that the content was way too deep and very far over their heads. Example is the rosary class: I nor many others that I asked did not know about the stations & prayer sequence. I feel the kids did not get much, if anything from this.
- It should be noted that teens are not engaged during the Opening and Closing sessions. It's geared toward very young children—it's a trun off.
- More student participation
- Less in packets. It seems a waste of materials
- That you do not use candy and juice to practice receiving communion
- More instruction in teen sessions on the core of our religion
- Please-please end on time!
- Too many Goff events outside of the required sessions
- Closing session too long at times
- The length of the sessions
- Add more session sin the summer
-

Changes in my family as a result of the study on prayer...

- Conversations about God with teen
- One son seems to respect and think a little more. Both pay more attention in church.
- Pray more with kids
- We pray more—say the rosary in the car
- Both kids have learned more prayers and like to learn more about Jesus
- More prayer time together X 4 Responses
- We try to act more Christian
- Going to mass more often
- Closer to God X 3 Responses
- Children know their prayers (and their meaning) better
- We pray more together
- We are more conscious of how God is in our life. X 2 Responses
- A better understanding of some of the prayers
- My boys read the Bible in the evening
- Pray more often X 3 Responses
- More thought at grace
- Seeing my daughter learn more about Church and us also along with her
- We pray with more thoughtfulness
- We are praying everyday (almost) as a family
- More prayers at meal time
- Better understanding of the power of prayer
- We have focused on simplifying our lives
- Speak more often about God and what we feel
- We now have a family prayer card to put prayers on.
- More diligent at Church—more aware of how we treat others

- We are more aware of what prayer IS. (types)
- Pray nightly
- Better behaved—more conscious & aware of others, nicer, sweeter
- We pray together even more
- Positive
- I'd like to think we are more faithful, more together.

Changes in myself as a result of the study on prayer...

- Appreciate the beginnings of prayer
- Increased awareness of the rosary
- Closer to God—becoming a better person X 3 Responses
- Knowledge
- Positive
- I love watching my kids learn
- I pray more X 3 responses
- I seem to think more about prayer and do it a little more
- Greater awareness of God/religion
- More knowledge = more prayer
- Deeper prayer life. Learned about different types of devotions
- Praying the rosary on the way to work
- I can pray more often and anytime/anywhere
- Increased prayer
- A good chance to rethink familiar words I say every week
- Praying is real very open ended, there is no wrong way
- I am trying to read the booklets more
- Personally I have become more spiritual
- I pray for strength and understanding instead of miracles
- I think about the words as I pray them
- I have more insight in the Saints, mass, & my daily role
- I feel like I am always getting to know God more & more in prayer and through Gof F
- I have become so close to my Mom!
- I have never craved going to church so much in my life!
- Brought my daughter and me closer
- We learned how to do the rosary
- We have been praying more often, thanking God and asking for His help!
- Came together to prepare to receive the Holy Communion and Blood of Christ
- More gratitude toward parish
- Can't learn enough religion
- Closer relationships in my family and more importantly with God
- When Judy Trickey talked about the mass and referenced the Bible, I learned a great deal and I am praying more frequently.
- I think more about how my actions are prayers
- Made me more aware of the importance of our Eucharist—this had made mass more special.
- Recognizing the opportunities to pray
- I feel more centered
- I understand the reasons for the mass and history
- Hopefully more faithful within myself and my family.
- I pray more for those who don't have a healthy relationship with God.

Suggestions for Next Year:

- Go greener--? Website to place materials for parents to print if needed. Home kit to include just books, ribbon, etc.
- Groups to get involved with? For young and old
- Great job!
- Make sure the sessions end on time X 2 Responses
- Events/masses more geared for kids
- I think my children would benefit from a traditional
- Change to traditional program
- Smaller groups during GofF session (i.e. there is a big diff between a 1st grader & 4th grader, especially reading and ability to sit and learn
- Stop Gof F sessions and do just events
- Groups are too large and the length of time of the sessions are too long
- No candy
- Kids over 6 can go alone
- Minimize the games in the opening ceremony
- Split the younger kids into age groups—the cafeteria group is too hard to keep all the age levels interested
- Yearly inclusion of the 10 Commandments
- Shorter class time
- Continue program same format
- Less coloring pages, some are meaningful but too many, I felt were a waste of paper
- Shorter sessions to keep teens focused
- Offer candy to all elementary school kids at the end. My daughter raised her hand all the time and was never called on.
- Perhaps examine some of the lesser known, obscure parts of the faith which people haven't heard about before.
- More speakers like the last session. Wonderful listening to others experiences.
- Significance of Bible stories?
- Another event like “Lighten Up”
- Social Justice. Beatitudes
- Any thought to putting some of the paper handouts on the website?
- Trips to holy places?
- Try to have less info in lessons—it's too much for elementary
- Get students more involved—sitting in class is not productive
- More tiome with teens with family
- Time to take what we have learned and apply it through service.
- Maybe have Christian rock band in or music. There is lots of great current music that kids would enjoy. Listen to Christian rock stations—good messages.
- More opportunities for teens to interact with younger children—maybe teach or do a 'craft to engage teens more & be role models.
- Due to the length of Gof F, more interactive for the younger children (K-5) .It is hard for them to sit so long.
- Maybe have a few more interesting speakers
- Another concert
- Less lecturing as if no one in the room has a spiritual connection except the leader.
- Make the material “grade/age” educational level appropriate.
- More outside speakers
- Stations of the Cross

- Enjoyed games—Continue to breakup sessions—everyone learns differently

Additional comments

- Keep up the good work. It truly strengthens my faith! Thanks you so much.
- Thank you for all of your hard work. Consider allowing teens to attend session without parent.
- Save money—Buy less for the kits.
- I did not like leaving my kids in the cafeteria. I prefer to be with them during Gof F.
- Thank you for all the time and talent put into this wonderful program.
- Teen masses at St. Francis on Sunday nights
- Mass on Sunday nights for families whose children of split families who are with Dad on the weekend.
- I observed many teens in the auditorium during presentations text messaging. Perhaps they should sit with their parents and have this enforced. If no parents then a teacher.
- Tough to come, but once here, great.
- Teach with love, not condemnation. Think of John Paul.
- I don't know why we have "adult session". I as a parent have received all of the sacraments and have been through this. If people want to attend, great. Don't tell the parents that we "Have to go" and that CCD is not baby sitting.
- Thanks to all who worked so hard throughout the year.
- Kids and parents should have class together.
- Thanks so much for all the hard work people have done to create such a good program.
- Our family really enjoys the Gof F format. My husband and I learned a lot during the Liturgy of the Word & Eucharist sessions.
- It was a good season.
- Good guest speakers beat the teachers to keep interest and inform us. Please have more.
- I really like the bookmarks in the home kits. I like learning specific beliefs about our religion. Some things I never realized.
- Thanks for your knowledge, patience, and time.
- I really like the Gof F Program. My child enjoys it.
- I really appreciate all of the heart and hard work that does into this program!
- Great job throughout the year.
- I have to drag my children each time. The set up does not work for the younger children. Sessions are too long.
- As a result of GofF we went to mass more often but our kids were not engaged—We need a real kids mass! with appropriate music and simpler mass.
- The times where the parents stayed in the auditorium were very insightful. I learned a lot that I did not know. Thank you—God bless.
- I really liked heemcee on Sunday mornings. He was very interesting and entertaining!
- Save money—buy less for kits
- Liked the book!
- Very generous to provide the books
- Homekit contents not really appropriate for 1st graders

SERVICES OFFERED

Homekit assembly: Karen Bourque
Giovanna Tredo—283-7412
Amy Golenski—323-8287
Cathy Reidy—323-6222
Roseann Montefusco—323-9847
Sue Dexter—253-0485
Anna Burns--323-7692
Maria Gildea 282-7388
Judy Hill 323-0759

Food Support: Charlene Desjardins—289-2189

Mailings: Giovanna Tredo—283-7412
Cathy Reidy—323-6222
Sue Dexter—253-0485
Anna Burns—323-7692
Maria Gildea 282-7388
Judy Hill 323-0759

Catechist: Rob Lewis-323-5086 (high school)

Design Team Christine Schmidt (Middle School) 253-1954

Audio Video tech Michael Schmidt 253-1954

Power Point Design Judy Hill 323-0759

Office Support Judy Hill 323-0759