



Strengths and Possible Challenges

Strengths

Strong Worship Life

- Excellence in preaching and music consistently valued by parishioners.
- Creative liturgical adaptations (e.g., Easter beach services) that became beloved traditions.

Financial Stability

- Balanced budgets, healthy endowment, and debt-free facilities.
- Culture of generosity, pledges, gifts and including legacy giving

Vibrant Outreach and Service

- Strong track record of community partnerships: Boys & Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, Englewood Community Clinic, S.O.L.V.E., Red Bag Ministry, and more.
- Willingness to share facilities with neighbors (e.g., Baptist congregation, community groups) after hurricanes

Resilience and Adaptability

- Responded strongly to COVID and hurricanes by quickly adopting livestreaming, outdoor worship, and outreach to neighbors.
- Continued to support parishioners and the wider community in times of disruption.

Desire for Growth and Learning

- Congregants are intellectually curious, spiritually vital, and committed to lifelong learning.
- New S.O.A.R¹ strategic planning process provides a framework for future mission and growth.

Warm, Caring Community

- Congregation described as friendly, hearth-and-home, family-like.
- Coffee hours, dinners, fellowship groups, Bible studies and more create belonging and connection.

Desire for Growth and Learning

- Congregants are intellectually curious, spiritually vital, and committed to lifelong learning.
- New S.O.A.R strategic planning process provides a framework for future mission and growth.

¹ “S” for Spirituality, the defining centerpiece of church life
“O” for Outreach, serving those in need beyond the walls of our church
“A” for Activities, serving our parishioners and the Boca Grande community
“R” for Resources, to support and strengthen our church institution



Possible Challenges

Clergy-Focused Culture

- Due to the seasonal nature of members, the congregation is clergy-centered and sees the rector as the primary leader.²
- This may put a greater weight of expectation on the rector and slow the development of lay leadership.

Some Resistance to Change

- The community admits to being settled in its ways and may need “gentle encouragement” toward renewal. We have an older congregation and familiarity is comfortable.
- Changes (like Memorial Garden redesign) revealed communication gaps and generated conflict until addressed and resolved with careful listening.

Seasonal Dynamics

- Parish life is strongly tied to seasonal attendance (high winter/spring, smaller summer), which requires flexibility in planning and programming.
- This rhythm can challenge continuity of leadership and volunteer engagement.

Strategic Planning Still Emerging

- The S.O.A.R process is new and not yet fully implemented (delayed by hurricanes).
- Effectiveness will depend on leadership follow-through and parish buy-in.

² Please note that even though the bulk of the parishioners return “north” in the summer they remain connected via live-streamed worship and the weekly e-news and notes. This connection matters to them.