

St. Michael the Archangel Parish Synod Notes

Parish Consultation took place on Mar 14, 2026 at 8am until around 10am. We had around 45 people in attendance.

A. The most pressing needs of our parish/diocese are:

Evangelization

Parish

- 1: Bringing back old members and welcoming and building connections with new ones.
- 2: We don't know how to engage participation for young Catholics after graduation.
- 4: We don't know how to evangelize/start a conversation with someone about our faith.

Catechesis

Parish

- 1: We need more opportunities for adult catechesis than just attending or re-attending OCIA.

Spiritual and Liturgical Life

Parish

- 1: Would like to see more servers
- 2: More small group activities. Esp. for Young Adults.
- 3: Want to have more opportunities for things to do in the parish outside of Sunday Mass.
- 4: DIOCESE - Better advertisement for events happening in the diocese/opportunities for groups at other churches.
5. We are in need of additional space for fellowship and group meetings.

Vocations

- 1: DIOCESE - Need more priests.

Outreach to the Poor and Suffering

Parish

- 1: We don't do much face-to-face outreach outside of the parish, aside from some fundraisers or collections for area organizations.

B. Our parish/diocese is excelling right now at:

Evangelization

Parish

- 1: When we are here, we feel welcome.
- 2: Love seeing children in Church.
- 3: DIOCESE - does a good job of reaching out to Hispanics.
4. DIOCESE - Thankful for the ad on the radio for "The Light is on for you."

Catechesis

Parish

- 1: The Bible studies are great.
- 2: DIOCESE - Men's conference was great.
- 3: DeKalb County Catholic Podcast has been very good and helpful.

Spiritual and Liturgical Life

Parish

- 1: We excel at our prayer line.
- 2: Services are holy and respectful.
- 3: Reconciliation is very welcoming and helps penitents be at ease.
4. Doors of the Church are kept open for personal prayer more.
5. Father sets a good example for prayer.

Vocations

Parish

- 1: Fr. Thomas is doing a good job at welcoming people; he wants us to grow as a community. Many people left Church when non-American priests were pastors, but Fr. Thomas is helping build a culture.
- 2: DIOCESE - Doing a good job in increasing priestly vocations.

Outreach to the Poor and Suffering

Parish

- 1: We do lots of fundraisers for many organizations.
- 2: Parish is well-off financially.

C. Our parish/diocese needs to grow in:

Evangelization

Parish

- 1: Need the tools for how to say the right things, without being overbearing (like a solicitor). Learning apologetics/how to defend my faith.
- 2: Need more social media presence to get the word out; increase in Communication.
- 3: Better job in keeping the graduated children to stay connected.
4. We don't do well in working with other Christian organizations.

Catechesis

Parish

- 1: More programs for Young adults.
- 2: Family Catechesis would be great.
- 3: How to reach out to those who have gone over to another faith?

Spiritual and Liturgical Life

Parish

- 1: How to get more people involved in various ministries?
- 2: Is there a succession plan for leaders of organizations?

Vocations

Parish

- 1:

Outreach to the Poor and Suffering

Parish

- 1: Started a homebound ministry a few years ago, but it has fizzled out; would like that to start back up.
- 2: Parish Uber: can we help homebound or those without transportation?

D. Any additional insights to share from the Parish Consultation:

- We enjoyed this process! Many people said they did not want to come initially, but were very glad they attended.
- We feel called to do more after this meeting.

- Once we figure out what we need to do, how do we put this into action? Need a clear vision and strategy to drive these home.
- We need to do a better job of communicating with parish members.