

New Season Gatherings

Frequency, Day, and Time Considerations

Presented by: New Gatherings Task Force

The Objective

For the New Gatherings Task Force to lead the community in discernment of the frequency, day(s), and time(s) of gathering as a Lay Marianist community beginning January 2024

The Process

- New Gatherings Task Force is the group responsible for gathering formats and frequency/day/time recommendations to the community
- Gathering format recommendation presented August 20
- The Task Force has since been discussing the frequency, day, and time for community gatherings in the new season
- Gathering community input is a key part of this process
 - Community survey (Aug 30 - Sept 17)
 - Community meeting and discussion (Sept 24)
- Recommendation to the community will be forthcoming (TBD date)

Survey Results & Discussion Points

Survey Overview

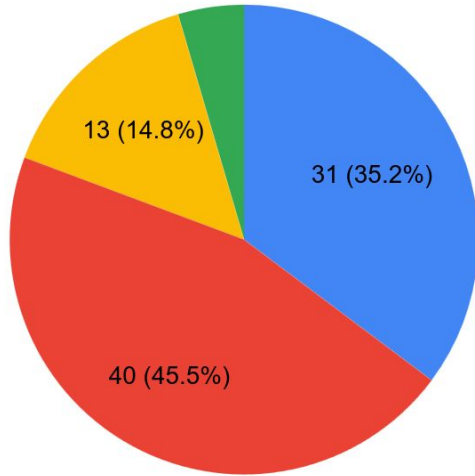
- The survey asked a series of questions on what the COMMUNITY needs and also what YOU need in the new season
- **90 total responses** - 46 online and 44 paper
- Spoiler alert: the results show that we do not have consensus as a community

This briefing will present the data from the surveys with some brief analysis to drive our community dialog

Frequency of Gathering Results

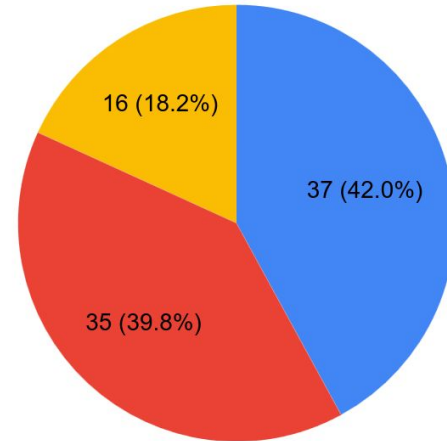
How Frequently should our COMMUNITY gather?

● Weekly ● Every other week ● Once per month ● Other



How frequently do YOU anticipate attending community gatherings in the new season?

● Almost always ● Most of the time ● Sometimes



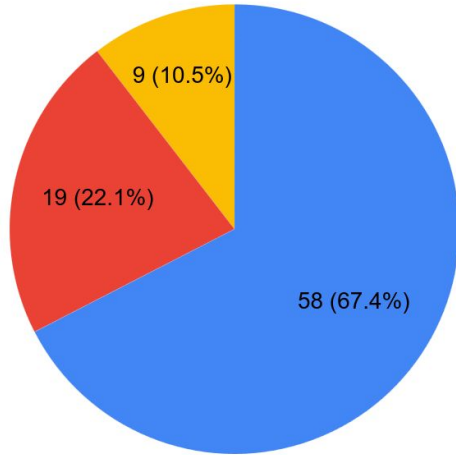
Frequency of Gathering Considerations

- As a parish community, we currently gather weekly. In the new season, $\frac{2}{3}$ of responses think a less frequent gathering cadence may work better.
 - As a community, we are collectively rethinking Matt & Meghann's initial 2022 recommendation of gathering weekly
- $\frac{2}{3}$ of responses indicated they would attend all or most of the time, and all respondents indicated that would attend at least sometimes
 - As a community, we're getting more excited about our new season!
- Clarifying every-other week versus twice a month *matters*
 - Several responses accurately pointed out that these are not the same with a preference toward twice a month versus alternating weeks

Mass Attendance Results

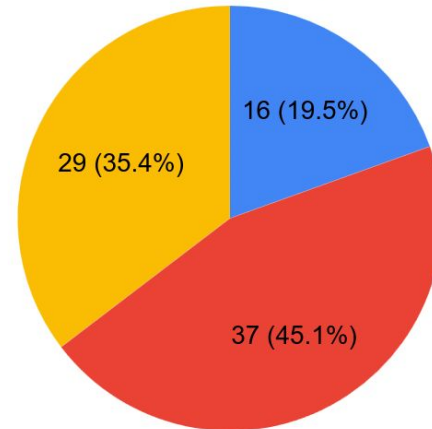
How important is it for the COMMUNITY to meet at a time that allows members to attend Mass at a parish?

● Very important ● Neutral ● Not important



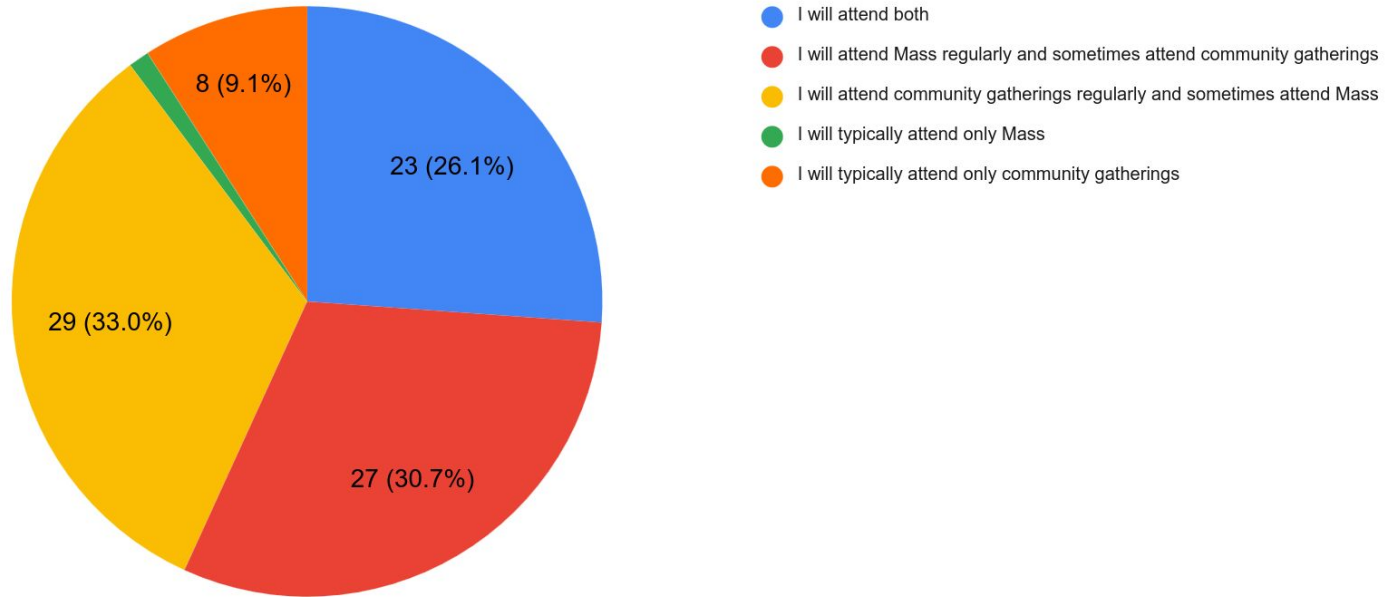
How important is it for the COMMUNITY to meet at the traditional QAC time (10:30 AM Sunday)?

● Very important ● Neutral ● Not important



Mass Attendance Results

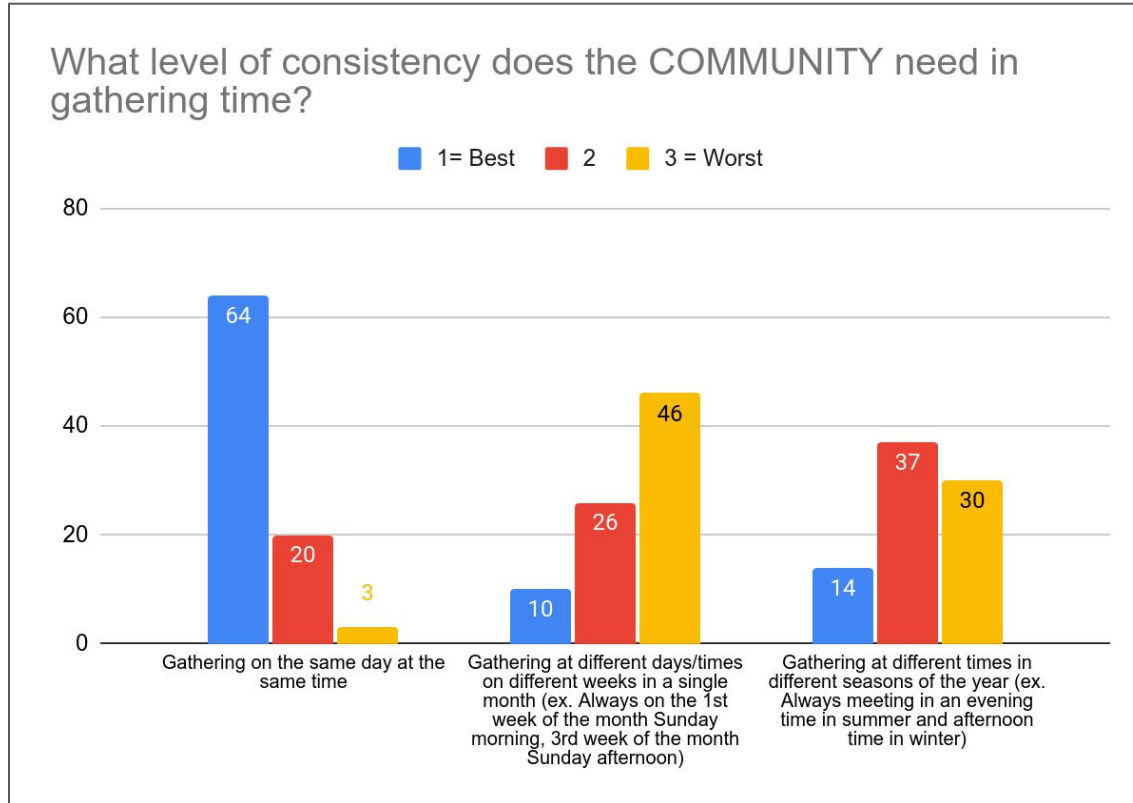
How likely will YOU attend both a Mass at a parish and a community gathering in the same week?



Mass Attendance Considerations

- $\frac{2}{3}$ of responses think that gathering at a time that allows community members to attend Mass is important
- 80% of responses are “neutral” or “not important” on the traditional QAC meeting time’s importance to the community
 - *The community’s togetherness and mission is not defined by the meeting time*
- A significant majority (91%) plans to attend Mass at a parish at least sometimes in the new season
 - Note: this question *specifically* excluded Masses exclusively for our community and Marianist family Masses

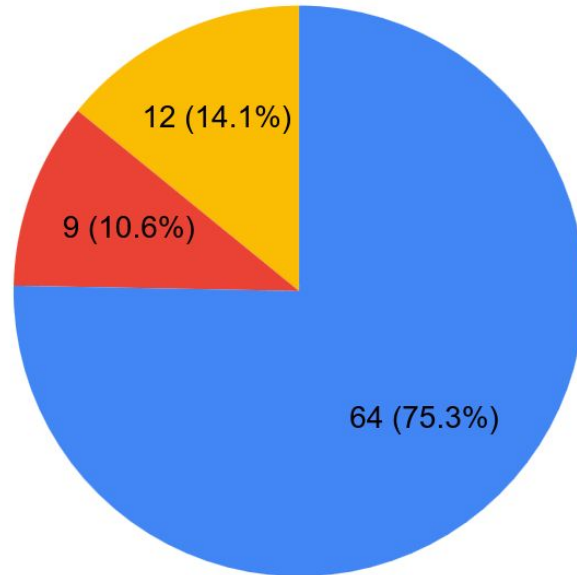
Consistency of Gathering Results



Consistency of Gathering Results

Which consistency of gathering option is best for YOU?

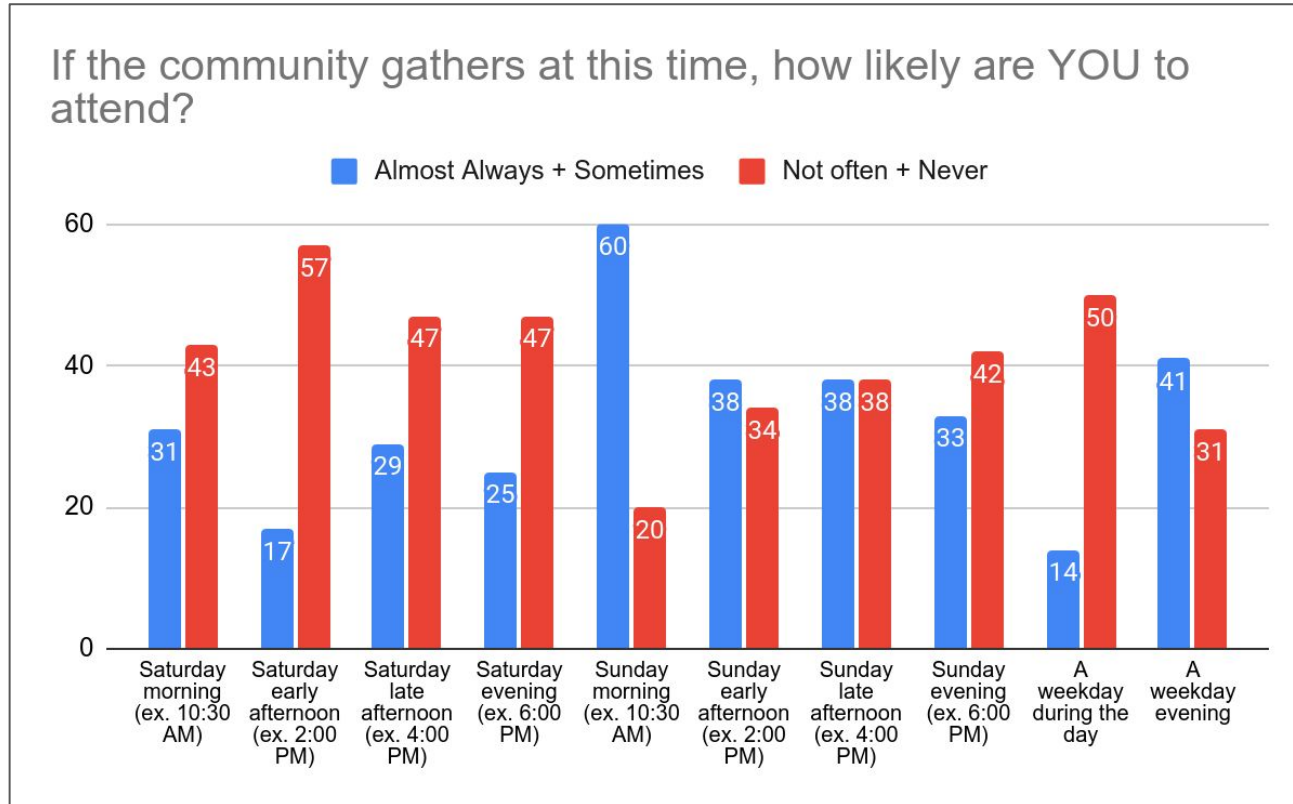
- Gathering on the same day at the same time
- Gathering at different days/times on different we...
- Gathering at different times in different seasons of the year



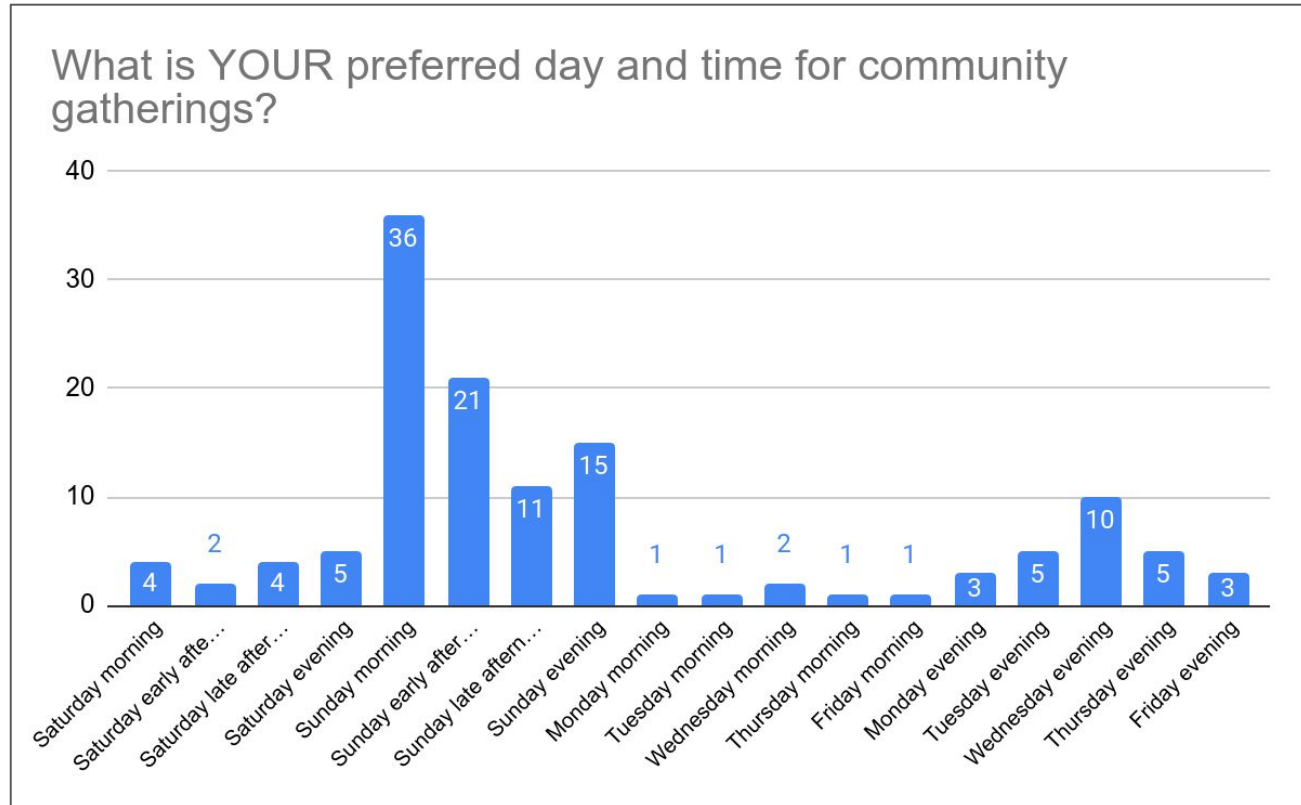
Consistency of Gathering Considerations

- $\frac{3}{4}$ of responses prefer a consistent gathering day and time for themselves and for the community
 - Many comments raised concerns about schedule confusion and the ability to plan around community gatherings with alternating times
- Numerous comments about the concern of driving after dark
 - Frequently commented: Gathering times can be later in the day in the summer than in the winter
- Several comments about communication
 - Any schedule, especially one with variation, will require communication
- Multiple comments about considering the young and the old to allow the community to grow

Gathering Time Results



Gathering Time Results

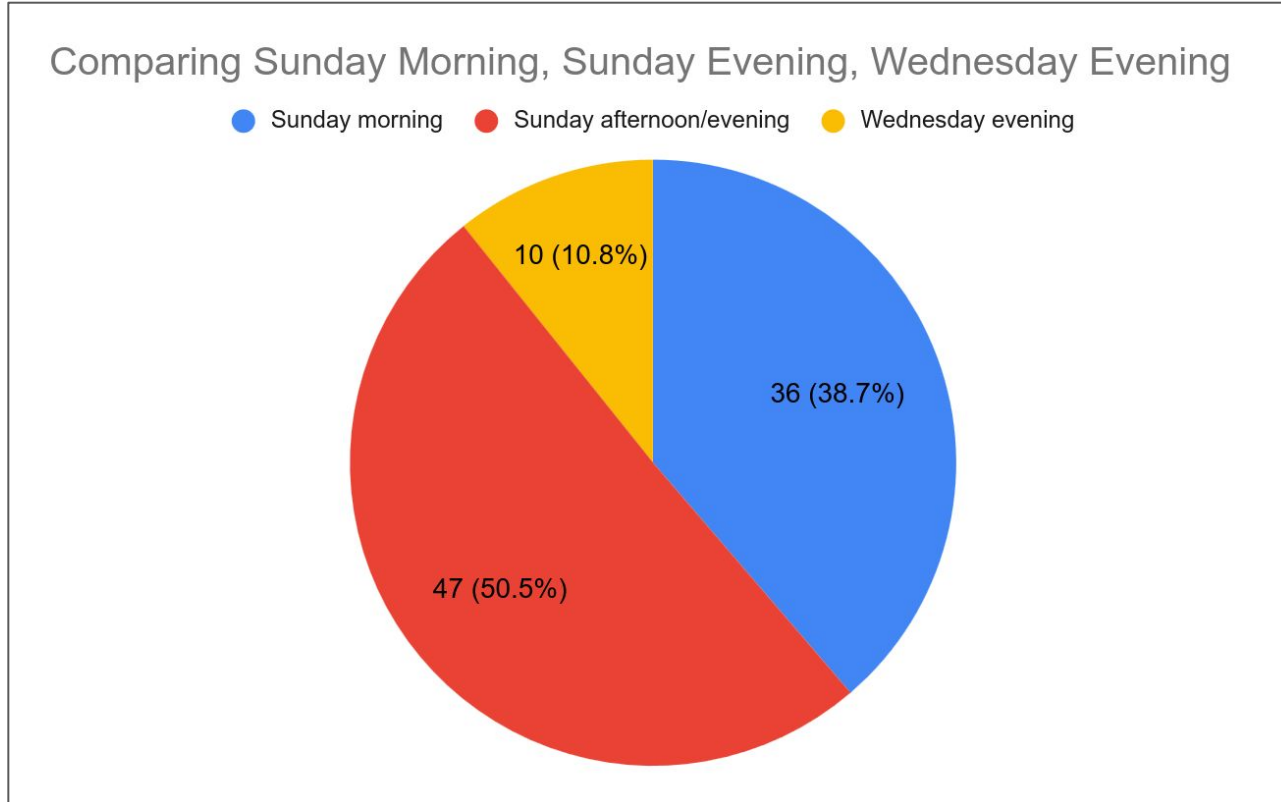


Gathering Time Considerations

- 3 day/times that showed more “Almost Always + Sometimes” than “Not often + Never” as well as one that was a tie
 - Sunday morning, Sunday early afternoon, weekday evening
 - Tie: Sunday late afternoon
- 40% of responses selected Sunday morning as their individual preferred time
- 36% selected Sunday afternoon*
- 17% selected Sunday evening*
- 11% selected Wednesday evening*
 - **90%** of the community prefers to gather on Sundays
 - **40%** of the community indicated a preference for Sunday morning gathering, and nearly every response specifically indicated 10:30 AM
 - **60%** of the community indicated a preference for a gathering time *other than* Sunday morning at 10:30 AM

*Some surveys specified more than one preferred time, and each time was counted, resulting in values that do not add up to 100%

Gathering Time Results - Sunday and Wednesday



Survey Key Take-aways

- Areas where we are approaching consensus
 - Gathering less than weekly is ok
 - Enabling community members to go to Mass is important
 - A consistent schedule is important
 - The community prefers to gather on Sunday (mostly)
- Areas where we do not yet have consensus
 - What consistency of schedule really means
 - What time to gather
 - What our frequency should be

Other Considerations

What Do We Do Now?

Next Steps

- Pray
- Try to be open
- Listen to one another
- Discuss
- Be open to the recommendation when it comes