

# Tally of Parish Survey Responses

## As of 7/1/24

### (46 Responses)

***So where have you met God lately? Any “God-incidences” in your life? How do you imagine God?***

- Daily-beauty of his creation, walking in Cape May, nature – 8
- When I asked God for help when I or a loved one was ill – 7
- As a patient, loving friend; God helps in small everyday instances; can prayer for help any time – 9
- Ever present source, feel God, on my side, higher power – 8
- Watching Grandchildren succeed – 2
- God opening doors when one closes; always available to guide us -- 2
- Long suffering due to actions of his creatures – 1
- I need to make more special time with God – 1
- In finding a place to live with my family – 1
- Grateful for my faith, family and health – 1
- Surprising places – 1
- Haven’t seen God lately – 2
- When someone helps me – 2
- Nar Anon meetings – 1
- Death of friend/family member – 2
- Interactions with others, especially my health care providers – 1
- Homeless, disabled living in the Community – 1
- Bishop speaking at Ladies Tea – 1
- At a dying parishioner’s bedside – 1
- Feeling of peace – 1
- I find God whenever there is hospitality—welcome, kindness, and justice -- 1

***And why are you part of Advent? How did you get here?***

- I retired and/or moved to Cape May; Advent became my home church – 14
- Long-time Episcopalian; born into Church; parents brought me – 10
- Spouse brought me into Advent – 5
- A parishioner encouraged me to come – 3
- Father Fischer drew me in -- 3
- Home church – 1
- Home church during summer – 2
- A friend from Al-Anon invited me – 1
- Holiday House/Girls Friendly as a child – 1
- Father Halverson – 1
- Father Mitchell – 1
- Father Dick Kirk – 1
- Deacon Mother Jane Punphy – 1
- When a loved one passed away – 1
- Priest and parishioners helped me to be able to live/stay in Cape May – 1
- Found it to be a friendly place – 1
- The Worship Service – 2
- The people, services, place filled my empty space and helped make me a follower of Christ – 1
- Outreach to the Housing Authority of gift cards years ago – 1
- ECW events drew me in – 1
- When my child was baptized -- 1

**Are there others you would like to invite to Advent?** Yes -- 20 No -- 12

**Are you an active member?** Yes -- 40 No -- 6

**Do you currently participate or lead in any ministries here?** (Church Committees, Choir, Vestry, ECW, ECM, Participation in Programs and Fellowship, Helping with Fund Raisers, etc.) Yes -- 28 No -- 14

**Service Preference:** Rite I -- 13 Rite II -- 20 Alternative -- 1 Live Stream -- 5 Variety -- 11  
Other -- 8 am; Occasional Rite 1

**Service Time Preference:** Currently we have an 8 am and a 10:30 am Sunday Service with a coffee hour after the 10:30 service. Would you prefer a different schedule of Sunday Services? If so, what?

- No change desired -- 11
- Happy attending 8 AM Service -- 7
- Happy attending 10:30 AM Service -- 7
- Would prefer a 10 AM rather than 10:30 Service -- 7
- Would desire a Sat. Evening Service -- 1
- Would prefer an 8:30 AM rather than an 8:00 AM Service -- 2
- Coffee hour in between services so early & late service goers would get to know each other -- 2
- Would prefer one service only at say 9:30 AM -- 2

**Music Preference:** (Please check all that apply.)

Traditional -- 28 Contemporary -- 8 Gospel -- 15 Variety -- 18 Other -- 0

**What do you expect from your parish and your priest?**

- Warm, friendly, loving, kind, compassionate family feeling; respecting human rights; knowing each other's names -- 13
- Visiting shut-ins on prayer list or when appropriate; home communion -- 7
- Fellowship -- 4
- Satisfied with Church Service and Priest -- 3
- An active outreach to community -- 3
- Sermons that weave personal experiences around lessons in an understandable way -- 5
- Liturgical practice, service ritual -- 3
- Spiritual guidance and leadership; strong, moral compass -- 6

- Fair, balanced interpretation of the lessons – 1
- Continued efforts to grow the church – 1
- Sense of humor – 1
- Honesty – 1
- Preaching in front of congregation rather than from the pulpit – 1
- A place to gather during the week – 1
- Flexibility – 1
- Encouraging productive conflict management to minimize gossip and holding grudges – 1
- To take best part of the past into the future grounded in God's mission – 1
- Have no expectations -- 1

### ***What do you like about Advent?***

- Friendly, warm, welcoming, vibrant, diverse, caring parishioners/place – 20
- Fellowship, activities (e.g., coffee hours, annual picnic) – 6
- Well-kept, historic, beautiful Church building and Gardens – 8
- Always leave the Church in a better place than when I came in; Church is part of my life -- 3
- Father Alan does a great job at interpreting lessons/Church History into Sermons and balancing the political climate – 5
- Accessible Priest who listens – 4
- Everything – 2
- Historical relationship with the City of Cape May – 2
- Episcopal tradition/ritual/liturgy – 3
- Worship Services – 2
- Community events at the Church (e.g. MAC Concerts) – 2
- Music at worship services – 3
- Outreach programs; efforts to be practical Christians – 3
- Honesty, openness, no clicks – 2
- Location of Church – 1
- Educational programs – 1
- Sense of pulling together when the Church meets a challenge – 1
- The consistency – 1
- It's small size – 2
- Comradery around fund raising events – 1
- It's glory and grandeur – 1
- We lack a sense of Church Community; people not inviting – 1
- It accepts a broad spectrum of taste, thought, and practice -- 1

### ***What would you like to see improved at Advent?***

- Larger membership; greater participation of parishioners in worship/activities – 7
- Nothing, serves needs well – 5
- More acceptance of all parishioners; greater cultural diversity; better integration of newcomers; sense of community – 7
- Greater, direct outreach into community (e.g., Coast Guard); less just check writing – 6
- More fellowship, social get togethers, (e.g., pot-lucks, spaghetti dinners, Christmas Caroling to shut-ins/ill, summer hoagie making, holiday cookie making for MAC events, etc.) – 4
- More programs geared toward young people – 2
- Better communication to parish (when appropriate) when someone is sick or needs help – 3
- Combine 8 AM and 10:30 parishioners/services at times to bring everyone together; different venues—church, park, beach – 2
- Combine age groups to work together and have fun (i.e., seniors, adults, and youth) -- 1
- More young families – 1
- Continued, quality live-streaming of services – 1
- Programs/outreach to a growing 2<sup>nd</sup> home population base – 1
- Dynamic speakers – 1
- More Outreach Program members – 1
- Quieter organ music at worship service – 2
- More interaction and sharing amongst parishioners – 1
- Use of microphone when reading lessons – 1
- Less reliance on fund-raisers to fund operations – 1
- Put “All Are Welcome” sign out front – 1
- More help during Church functions – 1
- More parking – 1
- Better communication to Vestry/Parishioners re. staff agreements – 1
- Singles groups for female and male adults – 1
- Self-defense classes – 1
- Vestry more visible – 1
- Vestry should prepare quarterly reports of achievements and plans – 1
- Worship bulletin should be a stand-alone document. There should be a separate document of announcements, etc. – 1
- Involvement of children in mass – 1
- Better use of digital technology – 1
- Slightly shorter 8 AM Sunday service -- 1

### ***What additional services/programs would you like to see at Advent?***

- None, have enough – 3
- More community involvement; partnering with community groups to use Advent space (e.g., speaker series, social service groups) – 4
- More Church social functions (e.g., suppers, informal get-togethers, social functions) – 2
- Young people’s choir – 3
- Outreach effort to Hispanic community of Cape May – 1
- More outreach – 1

- Annual Picnic – 1
- Even Song – 1
- Bring dinners back – 1
- More activities for young people – 1
- Guest preachers – 1
- More educational opportunities (e.g., financial, legal, life strategies, handling stress, social justice, spiritual topics) – 2
- Occasional combined services with other Churches – 1
- Congregational retreat – 1
- Spiritual encouragement/coping programs – 1
- Silent, meditative prayer time in service (maybe at beginning of service or before Prayers of the People) – 1
- At the beginning of each month we could have a blessing at the service for birthdays or anniversaries (using a monthly listing of birthdays and anniversaries) – 1
- On special days (e.g., Mother's/Father's/Grandparent's Day, Veteran's Day) we could celebrate those in our parish family with something a little special at Coffee Hour—e.g., flower, book, lite refreshment. – 1
- Continue to position Advent as a center of cultural and spiritual life in the community – 1
- Regularly scheduled Adult Study forums -- 1

### ***What is your passion? What brings you joy?***

- Family & Friends—seeing them thrive – 13
- Children participating in Church – 3
- Sharing God's Love; meeting new people and encouraging them to get involved at Advent – 3
- Helping those in need – 3
- The Lord, Prayer, contact with the Holy Spirit – 2
- Being outside in nature – 2
- Learning about God and Church History – 2
- Working with others to make a difference in the Community – 2
- Seeing the Sun stream through the stain-glassed windows at the Altar – 2
- Maintaining good health and sense of humor – 2
- Helping to make the world a little more positive – 1
- Completing a task with satisfaction – 1
- Participating in the Worship Service – 3
- Faith – 1
- Interaction with customers in my business – 1
- Planning recreational events – 1
- Hearing about other people's life experiences – 1
- When I have a parishioner come to visit me – 1
- Paradise – 1
- Poetry – 1
- Working with children – 1
- Reading – 2
- Antiques/restoration work – 1
- Supporting worship & outreach through music and technology – 1
- Intimacy of worship at St. Mary's Chapel – 1
- Good, candid discussions about faith – 1
- Fellowship -- 1

### ***What is your vision for Advent 5 to 10 years out?***

- Thriving, growing, financially sound parish – 16
- Larger, more involved congregation – 9
- Welcoming place for visitors, newcomers and the community – 9
- More younger families and children – 7
- A more diverse, vibrant, multi-generational community that reflects the surrounding community – 4
- Continued service to parishioners and the community – 4
- Caring, loving, charitable community with more involved in outreach -- 4
- Strong Christian Community growing in spirituality – 4
- Bridging the liberal/conservative gap – 1
- More summer visitors – 1
- Reassessment of mission in light of diminishing attendance and the reality that Advent no longer reflects the neighborhood – 1
- Christian formation programs in the modern world – 1
- Bilingual (Spanish) ministry – 1
- Parish open to new ideas and programs – 1
- Proactive pastoral care for the home and rest home bound -- 1

### ***Is there anything else you would like to share with us?***

- Told to go home when I had signed up to help at a Church bazar. My name had been replaced in the ECW minutes. It felt like I was kicked out of ECW. This should not happen. -- 1
- Steps to ask child predator to leave the parish -- 1
- Spouse is not religious. My support of Advent creates challenges at home. – 1
- It is up to the older boomers to share the lite with others as it was shared with them. – 1
- I love Advent as it is and look forward to being part of the journey forward. -- 1
- I feel blest having been led to Advent. – 1
- I hope Advent will be there in the future for others who are seeking a Christian Community for a long time to come. – 1
- We should decorate the Church inside and out from Thanksgiving through Christmas. – 1
- Move Christmas Eve Service time to 4 or 5 PM – 1
- People have visited Advent and not returned because they have gifts to share and no one encouraged them to participate – 1
- May we be ever welcoming to everyone; and, may we dissolve “Club Advent.” – 1
- Episcopal Church has always been a place where I have felt some peace – 1
- Everyone has an empty place that can only be filled with the spiritual impulse – 1
- Publish the Vestry minutes to keep parishioners informed and engaged – 1
- Urgent that we become creative and diligent in increasing our income on a regular basis – 1
- My 14 years at Advent has been a joy in community and individual growth – 1
- I think we need to consider letting go of some of the current things that have been around a long time; to reach our future. We need to think if the things we have work for us and for the people we want to attract, or if they are holding us back.