

## Hymnal Survey – Report, Responses, and Update

- We received **81 responses** to the hymnal survey. (2 were received after March 16 – the songs they included are listed in the “Favorite Songs & Suggestions” list on parish website, but their rankings of priorities for a hymnal are not included in the statistics.)
- **Cost effectiveness:** Some respondents expressed concern that a hardbound hymnal and annual supplement would not truly be more cost effective, or would take parish funds away from programming for human needs.
  - The Human Needs Ministry is funded entirely from second collections and is not a part of our annual budget. The operational budget includes annual spending on worship resources and the additional cost of purchasing books would be funded in two ways; contributions from donors and a request to increase the music ministry budget line for the first year.
  - St. John’s currently spends \$4,454 annually for congregational music resources: \$2,414 on the *Breaking Bread* subscription, and about \$2,040 on in-house printing costs and reprint licenses for seasonal worship guides. (Reprints are also used for funerals, weddings, prayer services, etc.)
  - The same number of hardbound hymnals for the pews, at \$15 each, would cost about \$6,450. All hardbound hymnals being considered are made to last 10 years with normal wear and tear, and most will last longer. Replacing a percentage of hymnals each year (those that get more than “normal wear and tear”) is estimated at \$350-\$650 annually. An annual supplement, estimated at \$2 per copy plus reprint licensing, would cost about \$1,220 annually. After two years, a hardbound hymnal and annual supplement would reduce annual congregational music resource costs to about \$1,870.
- **Sustainability:** Some respondents expressed concern that a hardbound hymnal and annual supplement would not be more sustainable than our current set-up. St. John’s currently disposes of all the *Breaking Bread* missals every year, as well as 4,050 seasonal worship guides (about 20,250 sheets of paper). While we do recycle all the missals and worship guides, the more environmentally sustainable choice is to reduce and reuse our materials. Most hymns and service music are reprinted multiple times throughout the year, and in the *Breaking Bread* from year to year.
- **Music:** 14 of the 81 respondents feel strongly that music of specific composers is integral to the identity of St. John’s as a parish community. Many of these composers are/were local and their music is certainly important in our community’s faith heritage! Many respondents also listed their favorite songs to pray with, totaling 204 titles. These composers and titles can be found in a PDF on the parish website, along with the statistics of respondents’ priorities in choosing a hardbound hymnal.
- **Subcommittee Update:** The hymnal subcommittee met on March 19 and reviewed all feedback from the survey. They also reviewed samples of several hardbound hymnals. The subcommittee recommended either OCP’s *Glory & Praise (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)* or GIA’s *Gather (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)* as having the most in common with St. John’s repertoire, including titles listed in survey feedback. We invite you to take a look at the sample hymnals which are available in the parish office, but we ask that they stay in the office for everyone’s accessibility. The hymnal subcommittee will continue to consider the different benefits of these two resources before their meeting on April 30.