

## THREATS

### **38 - ANTAGONISM TOWARD RELIGION / DECREASING IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH**

- Younger generation not understanding spiritual relevance of weekly liturgy; Decreased focus/interest in organized religion nationwide; Growing anti-Christian mindset; Extra curricular activities dominate home/church/life balance; People not accepting our traditional orthodox values and not keeping up with the times; Sports on Sunday comes before church attendance; Growing acts of hostility toward Christians; Fearing man not God; Falling support of religious institutions; Social factors-social pressures leading away from faith and God; Sports supersede church; Parents not practicing religion at home, not bringing children to church; Decline in church going people; Multiplying factions of the Christian faith; Secular culture; Two parent working environment- no time for church; Allowing God to be Taken out of Schools, sports and homes; Parents giving in to Sunday sports, dance, practices, parties, etc.; Extreme prejudice; Overall decline in church attendance all over the world due to racism, sexism, gender and sexual diversity; People have lost their Trust in the Church and religion due to spiritual and physical abuse, namely the Catholic church; Hostile culture toward Christians; extra curricular activities in children's schedules; Lack of God in today's society; General decline in Christianity; Church not given priority by families; Steady decline in religion; Young people busy with other tasks on Sunday; General move away from religion within the US population; Secular youth programs (School Sports); Onslaught of radical secularism; Orthodox Christians customizing their beliefs and creating new worldwide views that are only loosely tied to the scripture and patristic distinctives that have historically defined us; Sunday morning athletics; prejudice; Lack of people that secularism has crept into church; Church attendance is declining; threats to organized religion; Distrust in some clergy and spiritual abuse; Hostile culture toward Christianity; Decline in church attendance; Sports and recreational; for kids on Sundays and supersede church.

**25 - ECONOMY** - The economy; Inflation; Cost of building materials; Job loss in the area; Poor economy; Rising cost of living and prices; Lack of new business/ industry in this area; Warren is low economic status; Economy in the area; No local Job opportunities; Inflation issues; Economic pressure-warren is a small city in poor economic condition; Loss of business leading to loss of future members; Financial burdens; Economy/ population declining in warren; Financial struggles decrease stewardship; Economy; Economy; Trumbull mahoning county has lost industry; overall economic hardship; Effects of the economy in this area; Local economics in Flux-Shrinking population; Financial struggles in the community; Economy in this area; economy.

**26 - CRIME / VIOLENCE / SAFETY** - Rising crime across the country; High crime and violence in the downtown area; Increased crime in warren area; Church building in unsafe neighborhood; crime; Warren city crime/drugs/violence/homelessness population; Racism and social injustices often resulting in crime; Local area more threatening each year; Area around church is declining; People see no reason to invest in downtown area, property values declining; Not a clean downtown; Security in area; Violence; fear; Impoverished area; Innercity residents; Drugs/more drugs; Guns/more guns; General

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collapse of civility; Crime; Crime and violence rising; Safety; Violence; violence in schools, including bullying; Crimes; Church neighborhood safety,

**14 - SOCIAL MEDIA AND INFLUENCE FROM CULTURE** - Younger generation less religious, finding solace in media world; Social media; Negative media/news outlets; Television, social media; Culture dictates what we should accept and embrace; Social media; impact media has on values; Social media; Technology; Changing values in today's society; Competition for our youth from cultural and social attractions, including other faiths not aligned with orthodoxy; Social media; The post Christian society we live in; Social media that's aimed to hurt; social media.

**13 - OTHER RELIGIONS** - Nondenominational churches; Outside teachings of Christian values to our youth; Our church membership declines as parishioners marry non-Orthodox and convert to other religions; As parishioners age rises, its difficult to attract younger people; Other churches entice with child day care, outside playgrounds, easy parking. Etc; Born again churches and their powerful money; Outside religions taking our parishioners; People going to other religions; Other churches sponsor "fun events" for our youngsters to attend; Pop up non-denominational churches; American evangelicals; Large performance churches attract people are entertaining and make people feel accepted; Mega churches.

**8 - PEOPLE LEAVING AREA** - College kids moving away and not returning; Young people leaving after college; Warren population decreasing as people move to other area; People leaving area; HS graduates going away to college and not returning; Shrinking population; People moving to larger cities; Youth moving out of the city; Declining membership due to population decline; College kids that go away do not return.

**7 - CHANGING FAMILY DYNAMICS** - Change in family dynamics; Changes in family / moral values; Generational Shifts; Interfaith relations; Increasing aged population vs, low birth rate; Mixed marriages that don't return to the church; Change in family dynamic and in schools; younger generation not wanting to get involved.

**5 - MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:** Increasing mental health issues; Health/healthcare; Alcoholism, drug addiction, domestic violence, mental health. County health and health care to meet all needs; Drug abuse.

**3 - COVID** - Covid and all the changes in our lives it created; The Pandemic has impacted all facets of church attendance; pandemic effects.

### **One-Offs:**

- ~ Demographics
- ~ Serious lack of morality, ethics and common sense;
- ~ Not much open on weekends;
- ~ Crippled educational systems
- ~ Human caused accidents or disasters;

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- ~ Wars/threats from other countries;
- ~ Racism
- ~ Gender sexual diversity
- ~ sexism
- ~ Lack of morals'

### **Internal Not External:**

- ~Shrinking parish;
- ~Over-working active members of the community;
- ~Honesty;
- ~Losing wisdom of aging parish;
- ~Younger generation doesn't seem to want to get involved;
- ~Self-centeredness;
- ~Financial status if some members;
- ~Having converts participate in all church functions to help grow;
- ~I have no additional feedback to provide regarding parish threats beyond what was already captured during the Community open Forum event on 8/29/2023;
- ~Poorly maintained infrastructure;
- ~Negative outcomes from false images;
- ~Lots of angry people; Streaming services, people don't come or donate;
- ~Our church membership declines as people leave the area.