WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

- *Undertaking the Journey of Pastoral Conversion*
- *in the Archdiocese of Newark*

PARISH WORKBOOK

(Revised 09.2025)

ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK

God of Mercy,
you call the Archdiocese of Newark to witness to our faith in Jesus Christ.
As we undertake the journey of pastoral conversion,
endow us with your gifts of communion, courage and compassion.
Help us to fulfill the mission of Jesus and his Church
through convincing outreach, vibrant parishes and effective ministries.
Raise up selfless and energetic leaders to serve the Church with fidelity and zeal.

May we, the Church of Newark in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties,
be sustained and strengthened by your grace.
May we, the People of God, discern and follow the promptings of your Holy Spirit.
May we, your holy people, dedicate our lives as firm disciples of Jesus Christ –
Son of God and Son of Mary – wherever we go.
We ask this and all our prayers through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

An Invitation to **Pastoral Conversion**

When I look at the Church in northern New Jersey, I see a vibrant and diverse Catholic community…I also see an archdiocese, empowered by the Holy Spirit, that is not afraid to confront its challenges and that adapts and grows, embracing new opportunities as the world around us changes.

If you asked me today what my vision is for the Church in northern New Jersey, I would make my own Pope Francis' words from *Evangelii Gaudium* (#25):

"I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are."

– Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin

We Are His Witnesses: A Pastoral Letter to the Clergy, Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Newark (2025), page 2

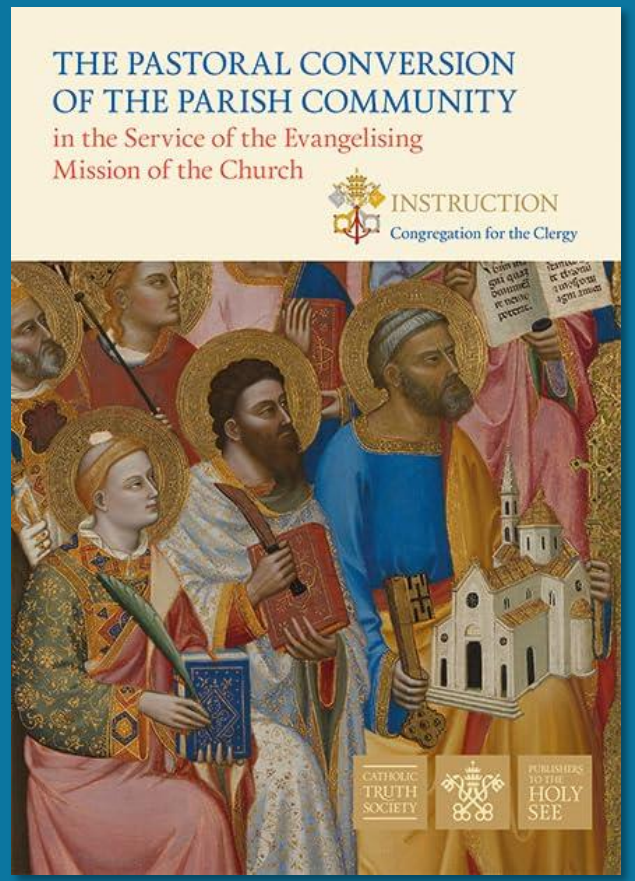
Why Do We Need “Pastoral Conversion?”

In North America, we have moved from a period of “**Christendom**” (*Christianity as the dominant cultural influence*) to a “**New Apostolic Age**” (*Christianity as merely one influence among others*).

What does this mean? Those who came to Church because it was the “conventional thing to do” aren’t any longer. Those with no religious conviction are keeping their distance. Those who come to Church because of ties to the past are not sustaining a discipleship needed to confront secular culture.

Responding to the ”signs of the times” requires a renewed focus on evangelization and the Great Commission:

> *Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.* (Matthew 28:19–20)



In order for the journey of the Word to continue, the Christian community must make a determined missionary decision 'capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.'

The P[illegible] Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service [illegible] the Evangelizing Mission of the Church (2020), #5

What is “Pastoral Conversion?”

Pastoral Conversion is a call to parish communities to evangelize and reform.

1. Digital culture and increased mobility have interrupted the territorial assumptions that parishes are based on (#8). The current parish model no longer adequately corresponds to the many expectations of the faithful (#16).
2. Parishes must “exude that spiritual dynamic of evangelization” or ”run the risk of becoming self-referential and fossilized” (#17).
3. Priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, and the laity have the obligation to “cooperate in building up the singular body of Christ” (#28). The work of the parish is the responsibility of “the whole community” and all the baptized are “protagonists of evangelization” (#39). Each member of the community should be “responsible and directly involved in caring for the needs of the Church” (#40).

Summarized points drawn from “*The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Evangelizing Mission of the Church* (2020)”

What is “We Are His Witnesses”?

The “We Are His Witnesses” pastoral planning process seeks to support pastoral conversion in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark as a response to:

1. the needs and opportunities presented by the changing landscape of the Archdiocese,
2. the needs and opportunities discerned in the Synod on Synodality, Encuentro process, etc.,
3. the hopes and needs shared by clergy for a comprehensive vision and plan for the Archdiocese, and
4. the desire of Archdiocesan pastoral offices to support parishes in ongoing pastoral conversion and discipleship efforts.

Essential Questions To Guide Us

1. **Where are we today?** What are the opportunities and challenges we face in the changing landscape of northern New Jersey? How can we more effectively embrace the concept of synodality as a way of being Church? How can we develop and sustain a bold missionary outreach here in northern New Jersey?

2. **Where is God calling us to go?** What new opportunities is the Holy Spirit opening for us as we proclaim the joy of the Gospel in the diverse neighborhoods of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Union counties? How can we respond to the growing desire for life-long faith formation and spiritual renewal? How do we develop and sustain a deeper sense of co-responsibility and collaboration among leadership here in our archdiocese?

3. **How will we get there together?** What changes do we need to make in our pastoral ministries, systems, and structures to meet the demands of pastoral conversion and missionary discipleship, both now and in the years ahead? How can we better use the regional structures to encourage collaboration among parishes and promote the concepts of subsidiarity and solidarity? How do we engage in pastoral planning that truly is grounded in our mission?

“We Are His Witnesses” Guiding Concepts

OUR PLANNING OUTCOMES

1. **Prayer:** ***We will engage*** *all individual Catholics to prayerfully consider what it means to be “His witnesses,” how to respond to the call to conversion and discipleship, and how to better journey together.*
2. **Plan:** ***We will articulate*** *a plan for comprehensive Catholic presence across the Archdiocese built upon synodality, subsidiarity, and solidarity; integrating evangelization and outreach, pastoral care, and long-term sustainability.*
3. **Support:** ***We will develop*** *Archdiocesan resources, support, and accompaniment for priests, deacons, and lay leaders to assist in the local envisioning and implementation process.*

OUR ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- Where are we today?
- Where is God calling us to go?
- How will we get there together?

OUR PROCESS HALLMARKS:

- Synodal discernment
- Pastoral conversion
- Missionary discipleship
- Collaboration and co-responsibility

Areas of Mission Focus

01. Evangelization and Outreach

How will we share the Gospel with all people in our area?

- Catholic presence
- Outreach to youth, young adults, and families
- Discipleship formation
- Social outreach and engagement
- Welcome and hospitality

02. Pastoral Care of the Faithful

How will we care for all Catholics in our parish communities?

- Vibrant liturgy
- Lifelong faith formation and Catholic education
- Well-formed pastoral ministers
- Ministry to youth, young adults, and families

03. Long-Term Sustainability

How will we provide support for parishes into the future?

- Invested and engaged lay leaders
- Resources to support and sustain evangelization and pastoral care
- Resources to maintain physical structures and Catholic presence
- Supportive context for evangelization and growth

“We Are His Witnesses” Planning Timeline

PRAYER, DISCERNMENT, and PLANNING

June 3, 2024

Preparation, socialization, development, and data collecting

June 8, 2025

Model feedback, consultation, discernment, and decision-making

June 12, 2026

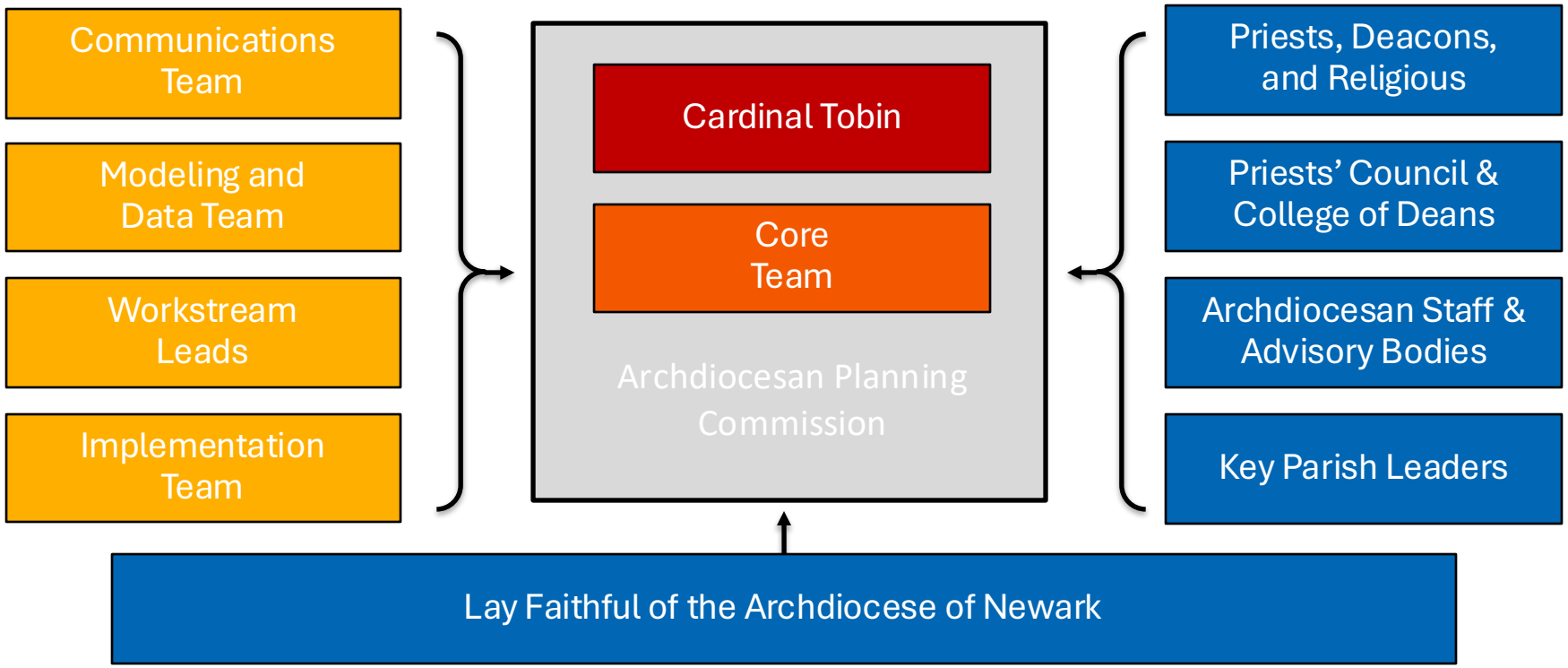
ENVISIONING and IMPLEMENTATION

Fall 2026

Local-level discernment, planning, development, and implementation

tbd

“We Are His Witnesses” Participants



- As Archbishop, Cardinal Tobin makes any and all decisions.
- His leadership is supported by the groups in orange.
- Groups in blue provide ongoing input and feedback.
- Groups in yellow support the various phases and tasks of the process.

About this Workbook

The workbook should be used as an *internal* resource to help pastors and other parish leaders reflect on the current strengths and opportunities for future growth of ministry and evangelization in each planning area. Workbook data was submitted by each parish to the Archdiocese. The was reviewed and corrected by parish leaders in the summer of 2025.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT:

The information being provided to you is shared in the context of your participation in the pastoral conversion plan of *We Are His Witnesses*. **It is intended solely for that purpose and is considered confidential.**

This material may not be shared—whether in hard copy, digital form, verbally or by any other means —with any other individual or entity without the express written permission of the Archdiocese.

Glossary of Terms

Archbishop An archbishop oversees the ministerial and administrative life of the archdiocese, which is made up of local communities (parishes) of the faithful.

Archdiocese The parishes that an archbishop shepherds. The Archdiocese of Newark comprises 212 parishes in four counties in northern New Jersey, Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union, and serves approximately 1.3 million Catholics.

Areas of Mission Focus The three prioritized targets for pastoral planning discussions and decisions: 1. Evangelization and Outreach, 2. Pastoral Care of the Faithful, and 3. Long-Term Sustainability

Canon Law Canon law refers to the body of law that governs the internal life and operations of the church.

Church A worship site or sacred site dedicated for divine worship for the benefit of the faithful; “church” refers to a building, whereas “parish” refers to a community.

Deanery A grouping of parishes within the archdiocese organized by geography and led by a dean (usually a pastor appointed by the archbishop). Deaneries aim to promote pastoral care through collaborative efforts, providing support and resources to parishes within their boundaries. The Archdiocese of Newark includes 27 deaneries.

Disciple Maker Index (DMI) A survey tool used to assess parish strengths, opportunities, and areas of growth; it is used to help parishes identify strategies during the implementation phase.

Evangelization The proclamation of the Gospel message to invite others to the faith.

Key Parish Leader (KPL) Collaborating with the pastor, PPOC, and councils of the parish, KPLs serve as the primary ambassadors of the We Are His Witnesses planning initiative to their fellow parishioners as well as the primary ambassadors of the parish to the Archdiocesan Planning Commission; this is accomplished by providing discussion, feedback, and input during planning consultations.

Merged Two or more parishes that have been united in such a way that a new parish is established from them. The new, merged parish has one pastoral council, one finance council, one pastoral vision, one staff, and one set of finances.

Missionary Discipleship A continuous process of growing in faith, deepening one’s relationship with God, and striving to live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ that results in both personal transformation and outreach to actively share the Gospel with others.

Models One or more viable options for future parish relationships or structures that help meet the Areas of Mission Focus; used to generate discussion, feedback, and input from priests, parish leaders, and parishioners.

Parish A community of the faithful within the archdiocese whose pastoral care has been entrusted to a pastor; a community of people who worship together in a particular place (territory).

Parish Point of Contact (PPOC) Collaborating with the pastor, the PPOC serves as the main conduit of information and coordination of logistics for the We Are His Witnesses planning initiative to their parish community.

Glossary of Terms (cont.)

Parish Workbook A collection of information about the parish, including demographics, sacramental trends, finances, ministries, community profile, history, and more; used to assist discussions and discernment related to pastoral conversion.

Parochial Vicar Formally called an associate pastor. A priest who serves as a co-worker with the pastor and ministers to parishioners under the authority of the pastor.

Pastor A priest entrusted with the pastoral care and leadership under the authority of the archbishop; responsible for administering the sacraments, instructing the congregation in the doctrine of the Church, and providing other ministerial services to the people of the parish.

Pastoral Care Refers to the caring work of the Church; the comprehensive support offered to individuals, especially those in need; it includes spiritual and religious needs, accompaniment, sacramental support, and support that addresses specific needs, such as those of youth, married couples, migrants, the sick, etc.

Pastoral Conversion The call to parishes to renew and transform structures and practices for the evangelization of today's world

Pastoral Planning A process of discernment to understand the local church's mission, respond to changing times, and foster a vibrant faith community.

Pastorate One or more parishes entrusted to the pastoral care of a pastor

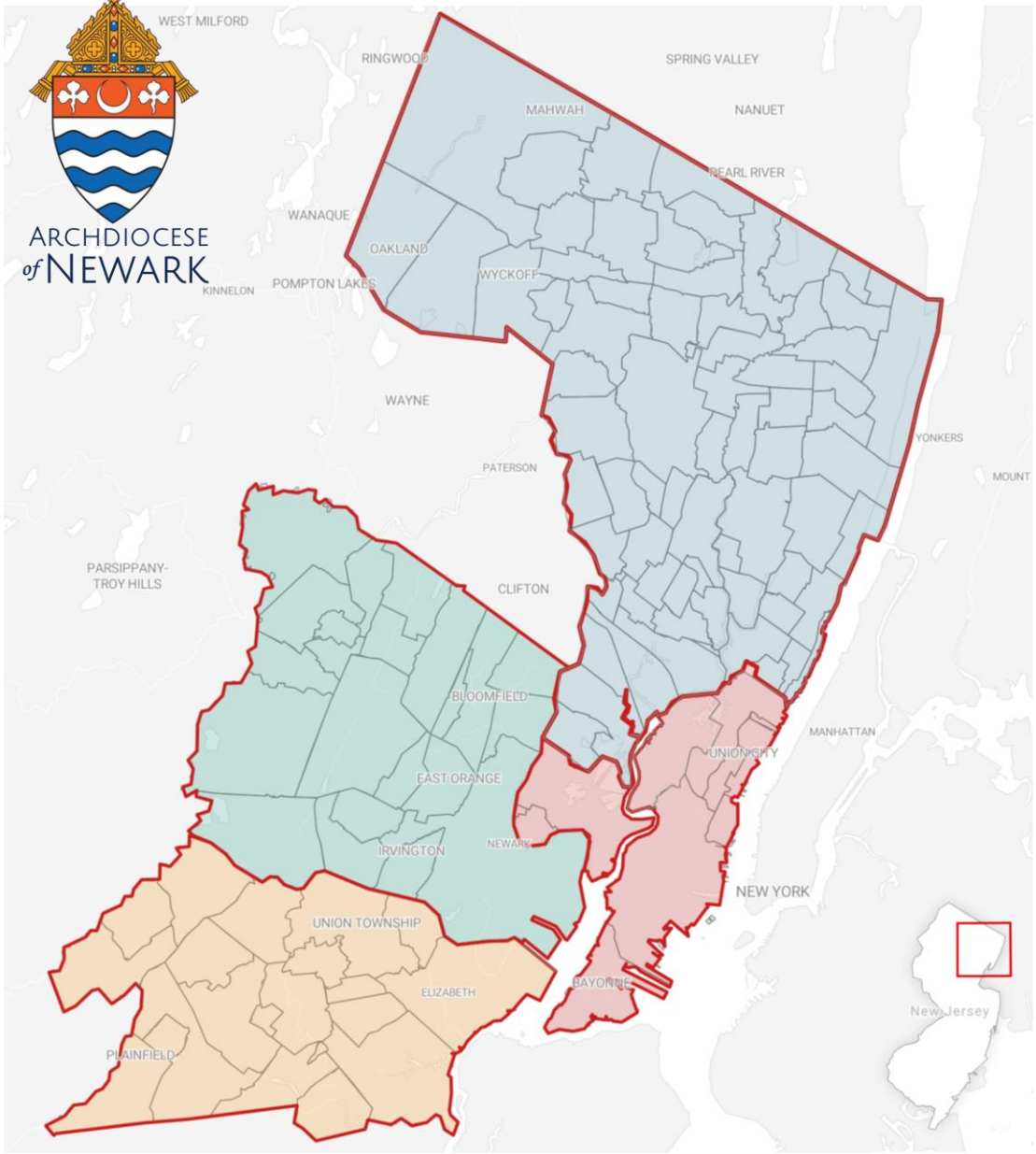
Planning Area A geographic region within the Archdiocese; established only to help present and discuss possible parish models.

Relegation A church building that will no longer be used for worship and will transfer ownership or be sold by a parish. The process is governed by canon law and requires a decree from the archbishop.

Solidarity The affirmation that all people are God's children, connected as sisters and brothers; it emphasizes our interdependence, where we need each other to live in peace and harmony. It is key to living God's love by helping others and creating a united, compassionate world.

Subsidiarity The principle that decisions should be made at the most local level possible, ensuring everyone has a voice and can contribute; it empowers individuals and communities to participate in decisions that affect them.

Synodality The act of engaging in authentic dialogue within and beyond the Church, fostering a united, inclusive, and missionary community.



ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK

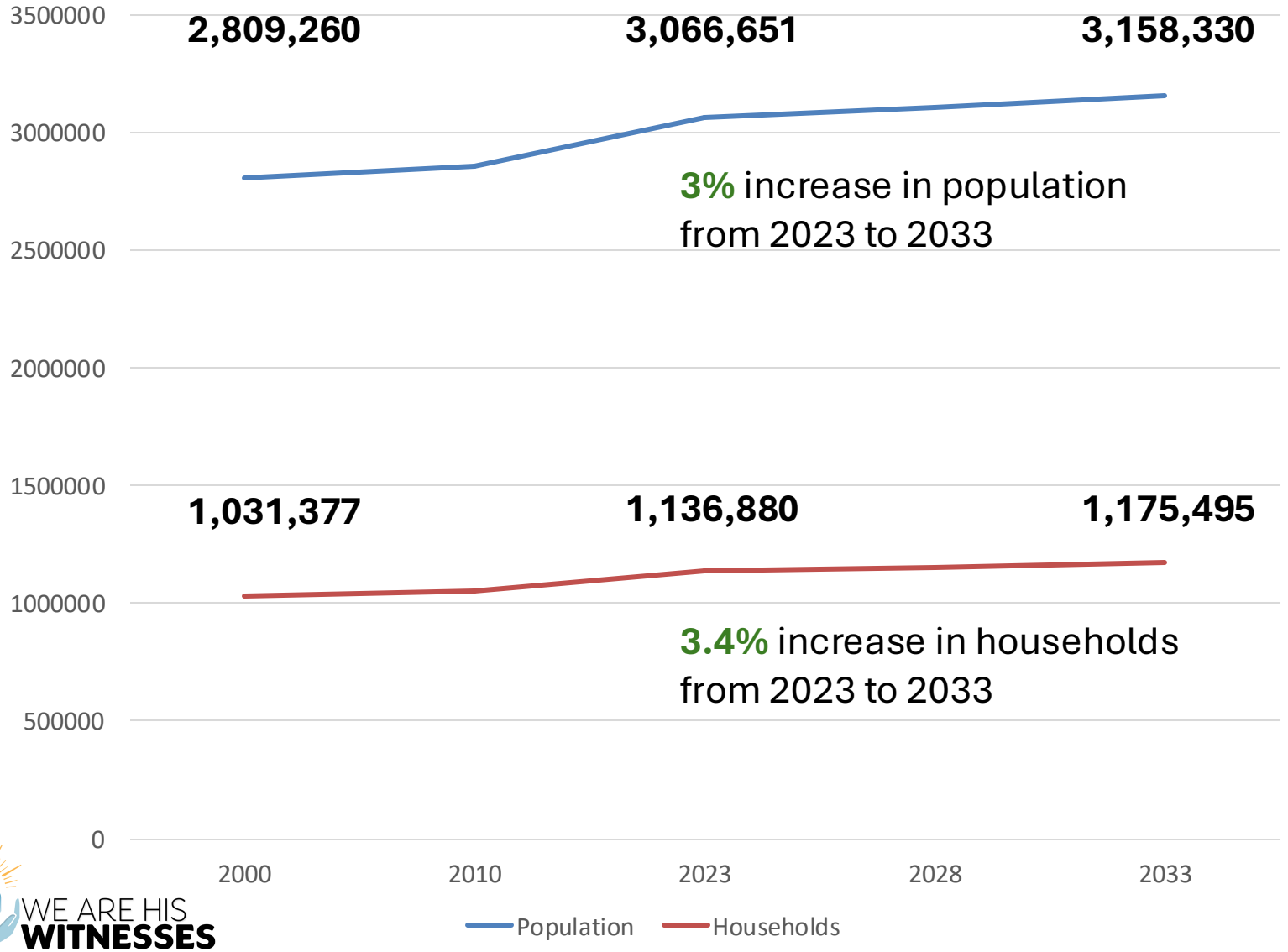
Territory for **Evangelization**

- The Archdiocese of Newark encompasses the territory of four counties in northern New Jersey: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Union.
- The general population of this region is approximately 3.1 million people.
- There are currently 212 canonical parishes within the boundaries of the Archdiocese.
- The Catholic population of this region is approximately 1.37 million people.
- The Catholic population comprises approximately 44% of the general population.

Our Current **Reality**

1. The general population of the four counties in the Archdiocese is projected to grow, along with opportunities for evangelization. **[*see page #18*]**
2. While Mass attendance and the number of individuals receiving Sacraments are rebounding since the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall trend is still down (below 2019 levels). **[*see pages #19-20*]**
3. Parishes are decreasing in size, based on participation and Mass attendance. **[*see page #21*]**
4. Given current age distribution and ordination trends, the number of priests available to serve as parish pastors will decrease significantly over the next 20 years. **[*see pages #22-23*]**

General Population Trend and Forecast



- The total population and number of households within the territory of the Archdiocese is expected to grow by 3% or more.
- This growth is expected in each of the four counties.
- This is increase in general population, meaning an increase in both the Catholic and non-Catholic population.

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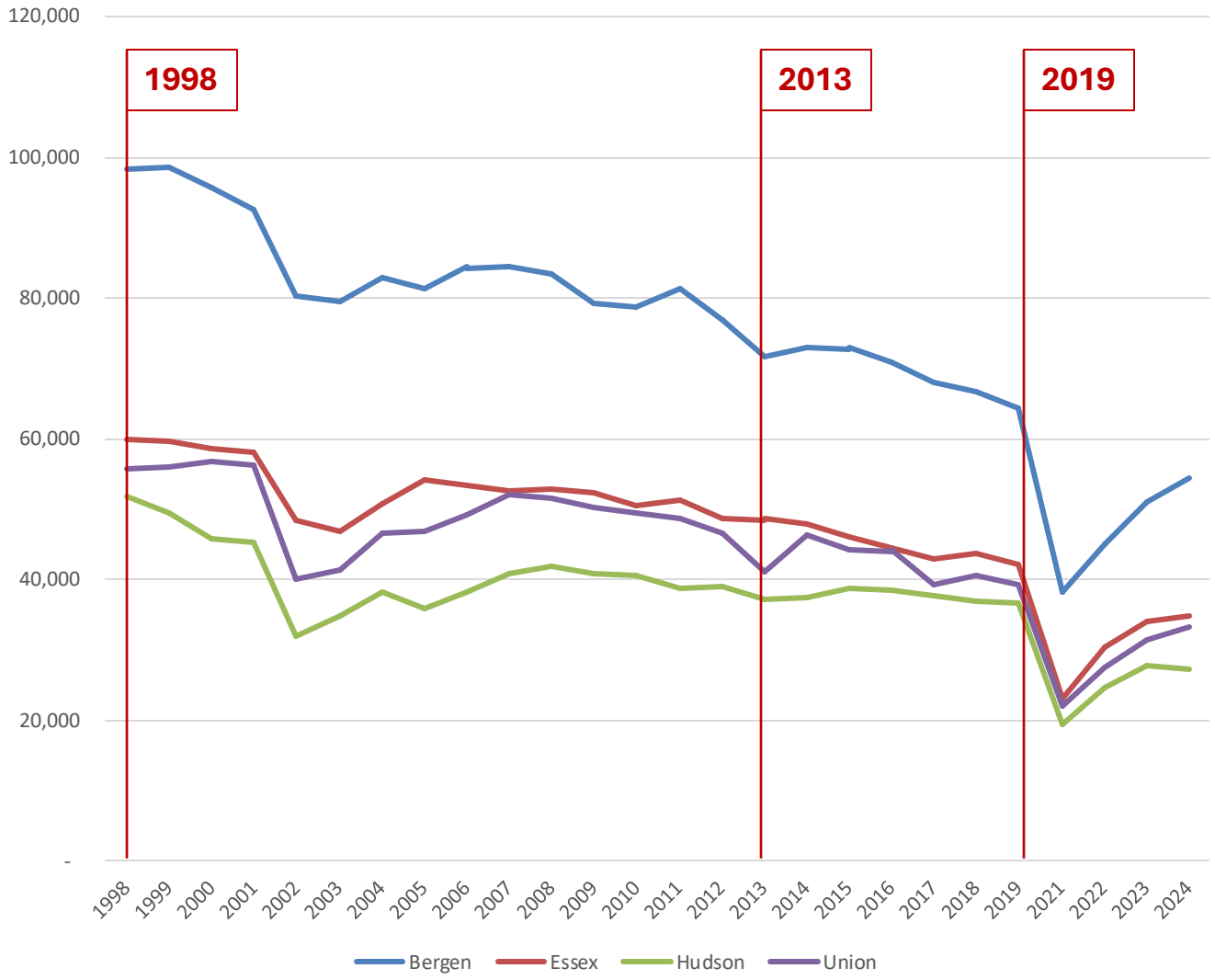
Mass Attendance by County



	Since 2019	Since 2013	Since 1998
Bergen	-15%	-24%	-45%
Essex	-17%	-28%	-42%
Hudson	-26%	-27%	-47%
Union	-15%	-19%	-40%
RCAN*	**-18%**	**-24%**	**-44%**

** NOTE: "RCAN" stands for the "Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark"*

Data is self-reported annually by each parish.

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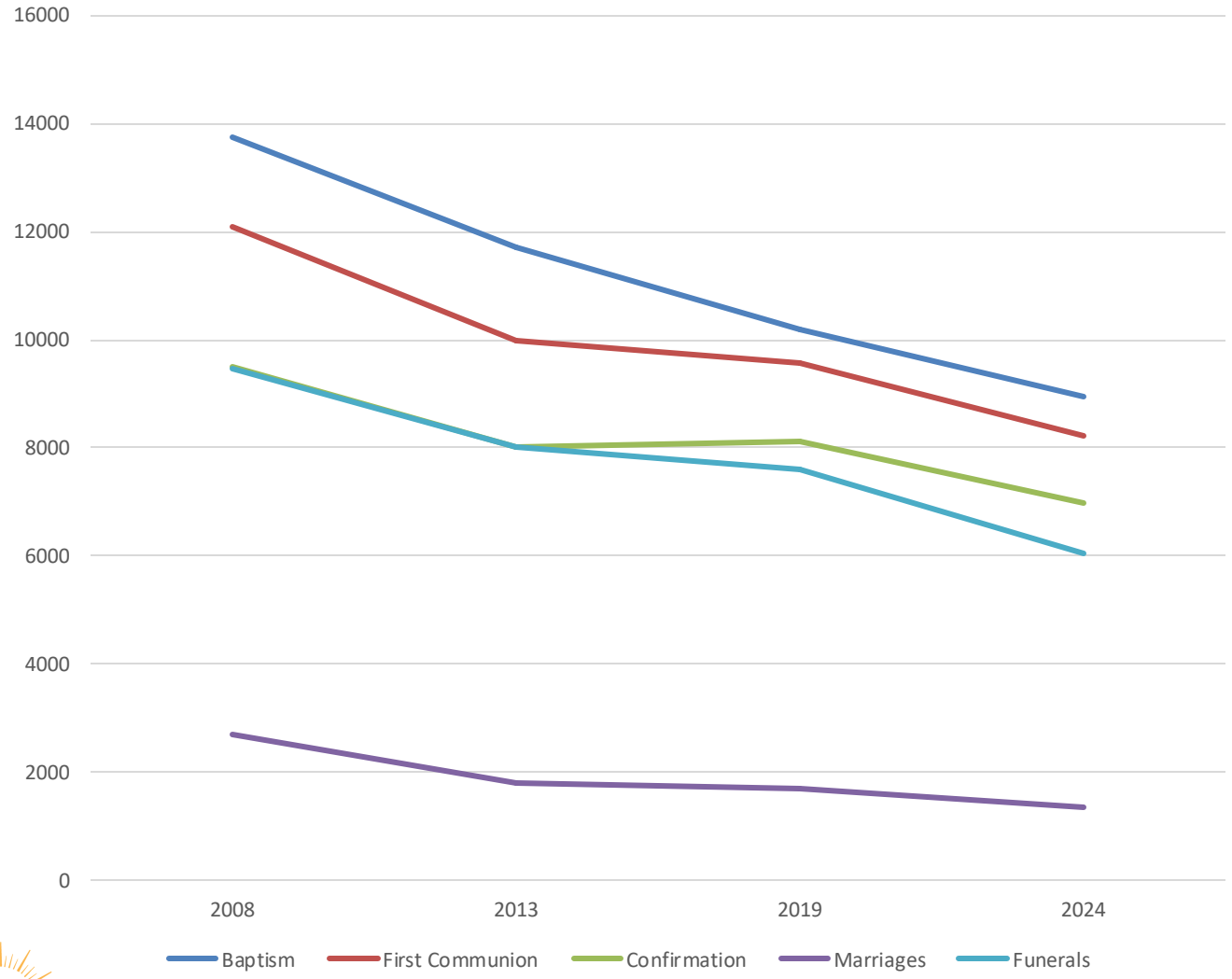
Sacramental Trends



	Since 2019	Since 2013	Since 2008
Baptisms	-12%	-24%	-35%
First Communions	-14%	-18%	-32%
Confirmations	-14%	-13%	-26%
Marriages	-22%	-25%	-50%
Funerals	-20%	-24%	-36%

Data is self-reported annually by each parish.

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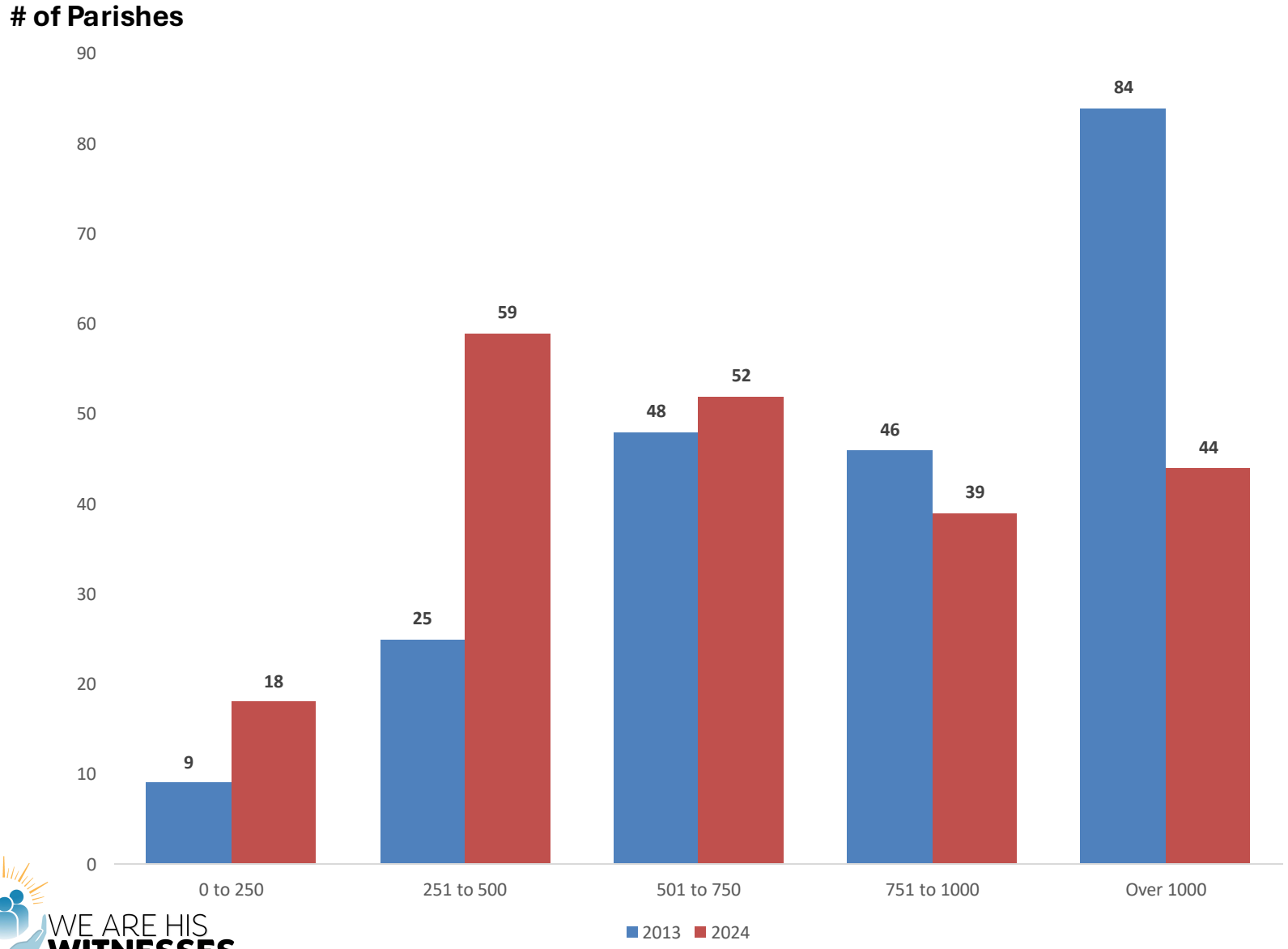
Number of Parishes By Mass Attendance



- Average Mass attendance per parish was 936 in 2013. It fell to 707 in 2024, a 24% decrease.
- 4 parish had an average attendance of under 200 people in 2013. This rose to 12 parishes in 2024.
- 12 parishes had more than 2,000 attendees per weekend in 2013. This fell to only 7 parishes in 2024.

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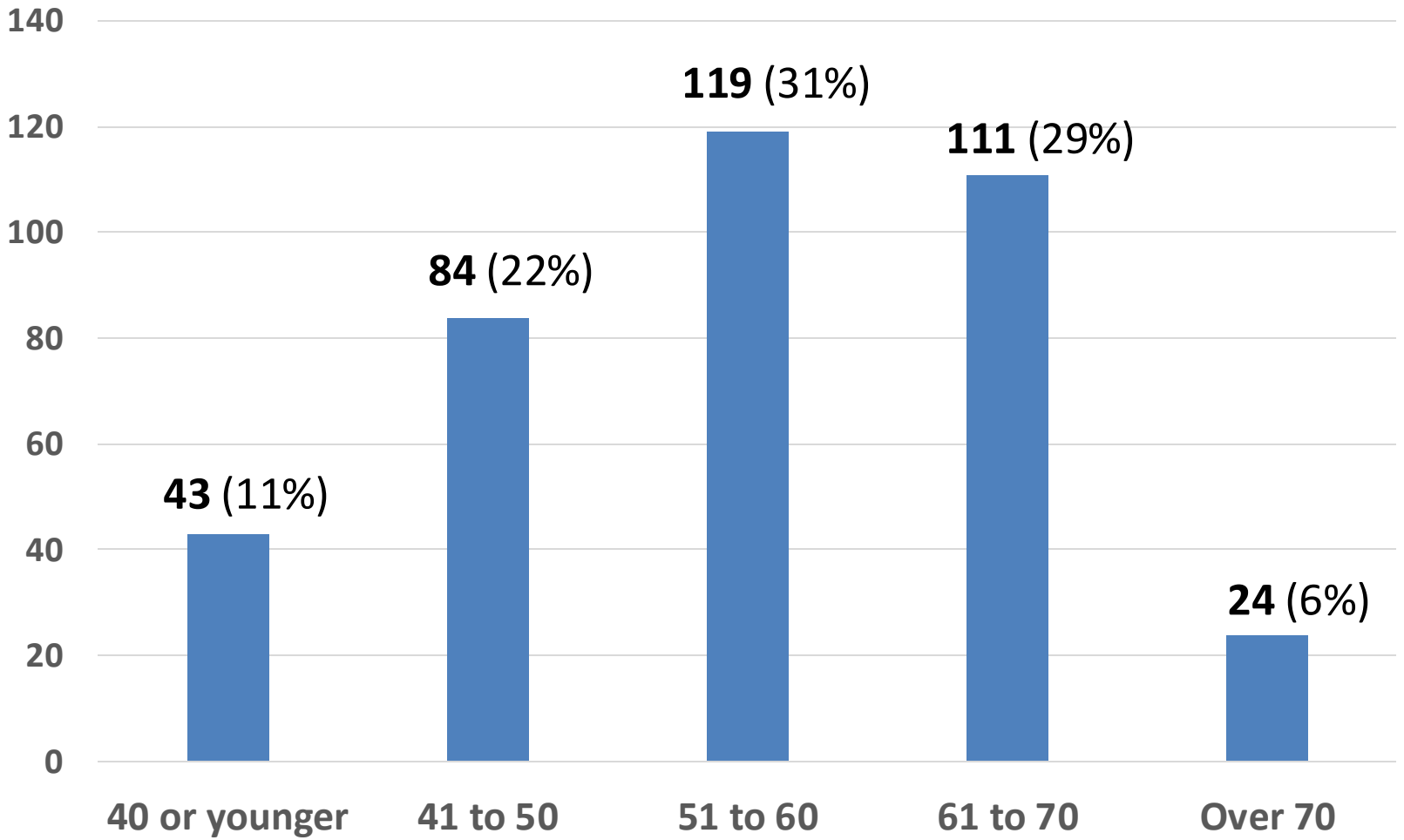
Active RCAN Priests by Age Group



- There were 381 priests of the Archdiocese of Newark in active ministry in 2024.
- In 20 years, the priests currently aged 50 and over will be retired from active ministry.
- 254 of all active priests were over the age of 50 (66% of the total).
- 127 of all active priests were under the age of 50 (34% of the total).

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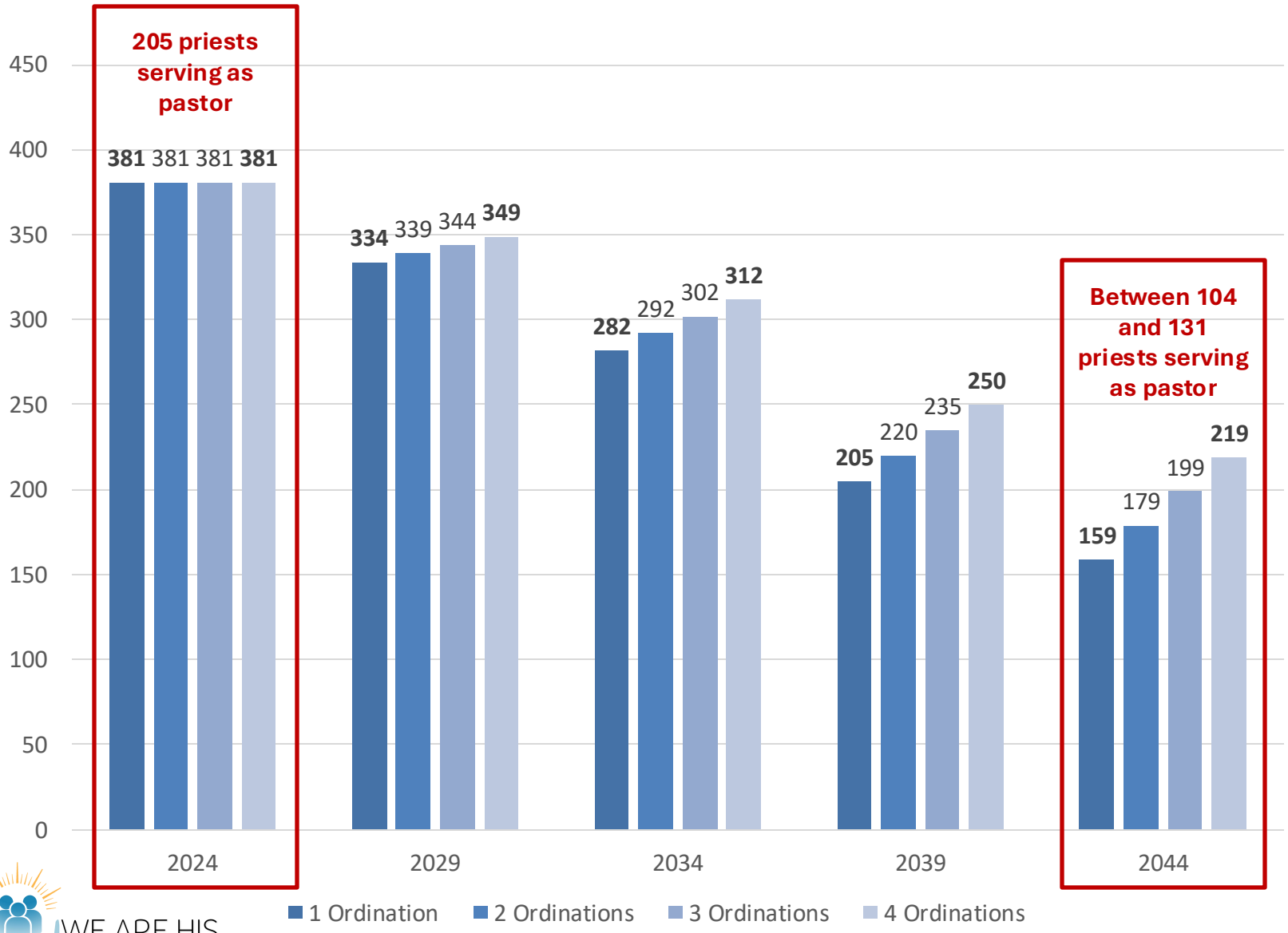
Projected Number of RCAN Priests



- The projection models the number of priests given an average of 1 to 4 ordinations per year.
- The projection assumes a usual retirement age of 70 with some priests remaining until 75.
- The number of priests available to serve as pastor in 2024 was 205. This is expected to decrease to between 104 and 131 by 2044, depending on the number of ordinations.

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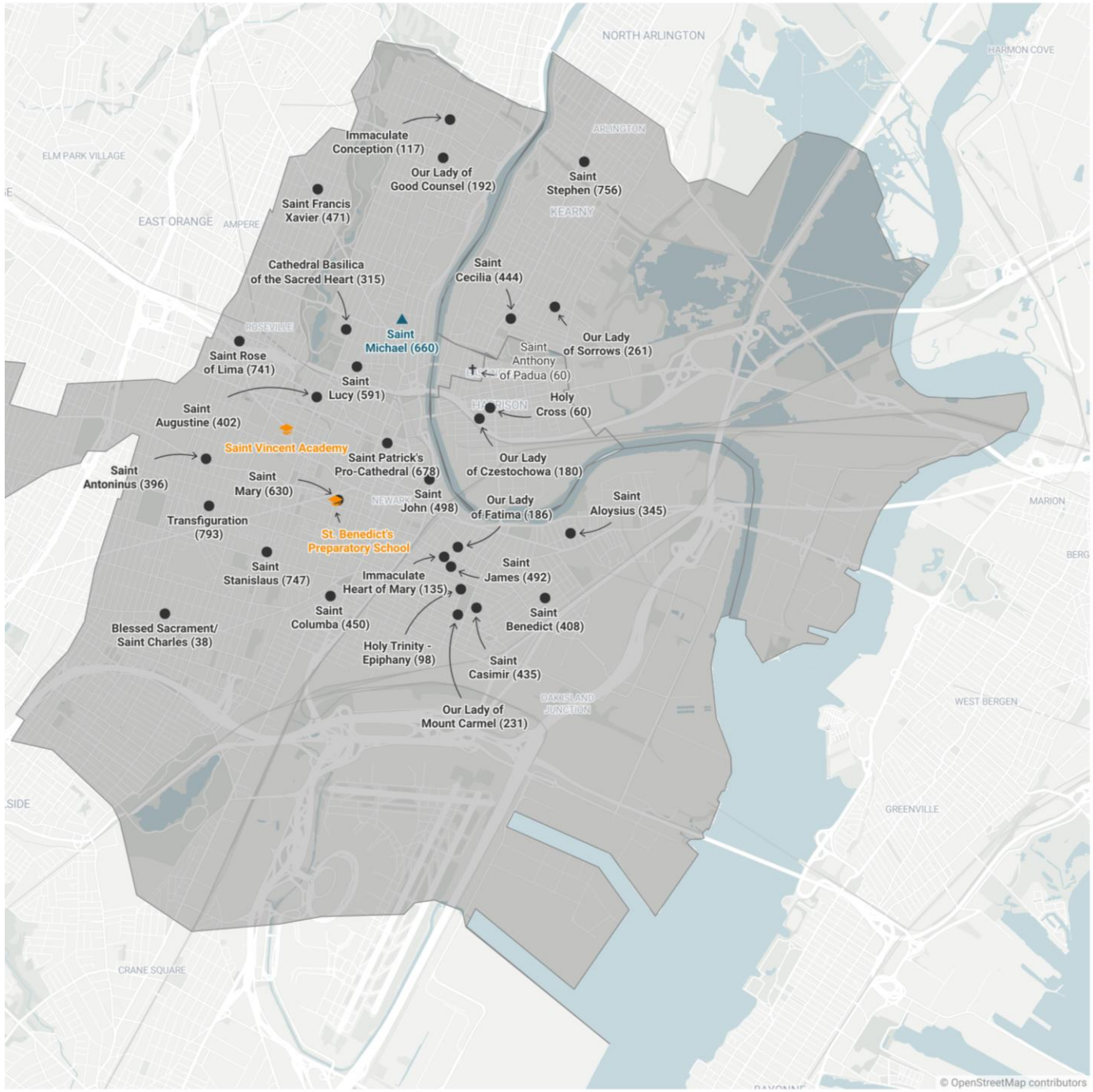
OUR PLANNING AREA

Southeast Essex County



Southeast Essex

About our planning area:

- The planning area is the southwest portion of Essex county and includes Newark, Harrison and Kearny parishes as shown 0n the map.
- The planning area includes 29 parishes, 1 elementary school and 2 high schools.
- There are currently 44 priests assigned to the planning area.
- Parishes are generally within 1 mile of a nearby parish, with many being within city blocks of each other.

Planning Area Population Trends

	2000	2010	2020	Estimated	Change in %		
Area Name	Census	Census	Census	2023	23 vs 20	23 vs 10	23 vs 00
East Newark borough	2,377	2,406	2,594	2,428	-6.4%	0.9%	2.1%
Harrison town	14,424	13,620	19,450	20,520	5.5%	50.7%	42.3%
Kearny town	40,513	40,684	41,999	39,370	-6.3%	-3.2%	-2.8%
Newark city	273,546	277,140	311,549	304,960	-2.1%	10.0%	11.5%
Total Planning Area	330,860	333,850	375,592	367,278	-2.2%	10.0%	11.0%

- The planning area has grown 11% since 2000, with the bulk of that growth coming from 2010 to 2020. Since 2020 the population has declined slightly.

Source: United States Census

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Planning Area Demographics

Planining Area Demographics	Population	Ethnic Composition					($ 000) Median HH Inc
		White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Other	
East Newark borough	2,428	18.5%	63.2%	1.5%	9.3%	7.5%	64.7
Harrison town	20,520	23.4%	43.6%	4.8%	22.3%	5.9%	81.6
Kearny town	39,370	32.4%	51.0%	4.6%	3.6%	8.4%	82.5
Newark	273,456	10.7%	38.6%	44.9%	1.5%	4.3%	48.4

Newark Neighborhood	(000) Population	Ethnic Composition					($ 000) Median HH Income
		White	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Other	
Upper Roseville	17,368	10.9%	66.6%	8.2%	3.8%	10.5%	51.7
Lower Roseville	9,940	4.6%	54.0%	25.1%	2.3%	14.0%	29.9
Forrest Hills	22,701	10.7%	57.5%	18.3%	2.7%	10.8%	47.3
North Broadway	10,921	3.2%	67.0%	21.0%	2.7%	6.1%	47.2
Seventh Avenue	10,536	5.8%	60.6%	27.8%	0.7%	5.1%	45.0
Mount Pleasant	7,187	9.0%	57.3%	21.6%	4.2%	7.9%	46.4
Fairmuont	12,363	2.0%	19.3%	60.4%	3.3%	15.0%	44.0
Universtiy Heights	9,649	12.9%	21.7%	45.3%	12.7%	7.4%	55.4
Central Business Dist	5,389	3.5%	70.5%	23.6%	0.6%	1.8%	52.7
North Ironbound	43,436	26.8%	47.5%	4.1%	1.5%	20.1%	50.1
South Ironbound	8,225	24.9%	43.4%	11.5%	1.1%	19.1%	64.9
Lower Vailsburg	17,181	0.9%	10.3%	74.0%	0.9%	13.9%	53.9
Upper Vailsburg	16,780	3.1%	7.4%	73.0%	5.0%	12.6%	75.2
West Side	13,679	17.2%	22.5%	27.0%	17.5%	15.8%	47.0
Springfield-Belmont	12,462	2.2%	14.7%	74.2%	4.3%	4.6%	34.1
Upper Clinton Hill	16,214	1.6%	16.2%	66.4%	3.0%	12.8%	39.6
Lower Clinton Hill	2,585	0.1%	15.4%	67.3%	4.6%	12.6%	46.2
South Broad Street	11,776	5.3%	43.5%	36.5%	4.0%	10.7%	47.3
Weequahic	20,316	4.4%	13.8%	71.6%	1.4%	8.8%	46.8
Dayton-Weequaic Pk	2,788	2.4%	13.3%	52.8%	0.9%	30.6%	33.9

- Median household income in the planning area is well below the New Jersey state average of $100,000.
- The area is ethnically diverse with a majority Hispanic and Black population overall.
- Newark neighborhoods vary significantly in terms of ethnic composition.

Source: United States Census

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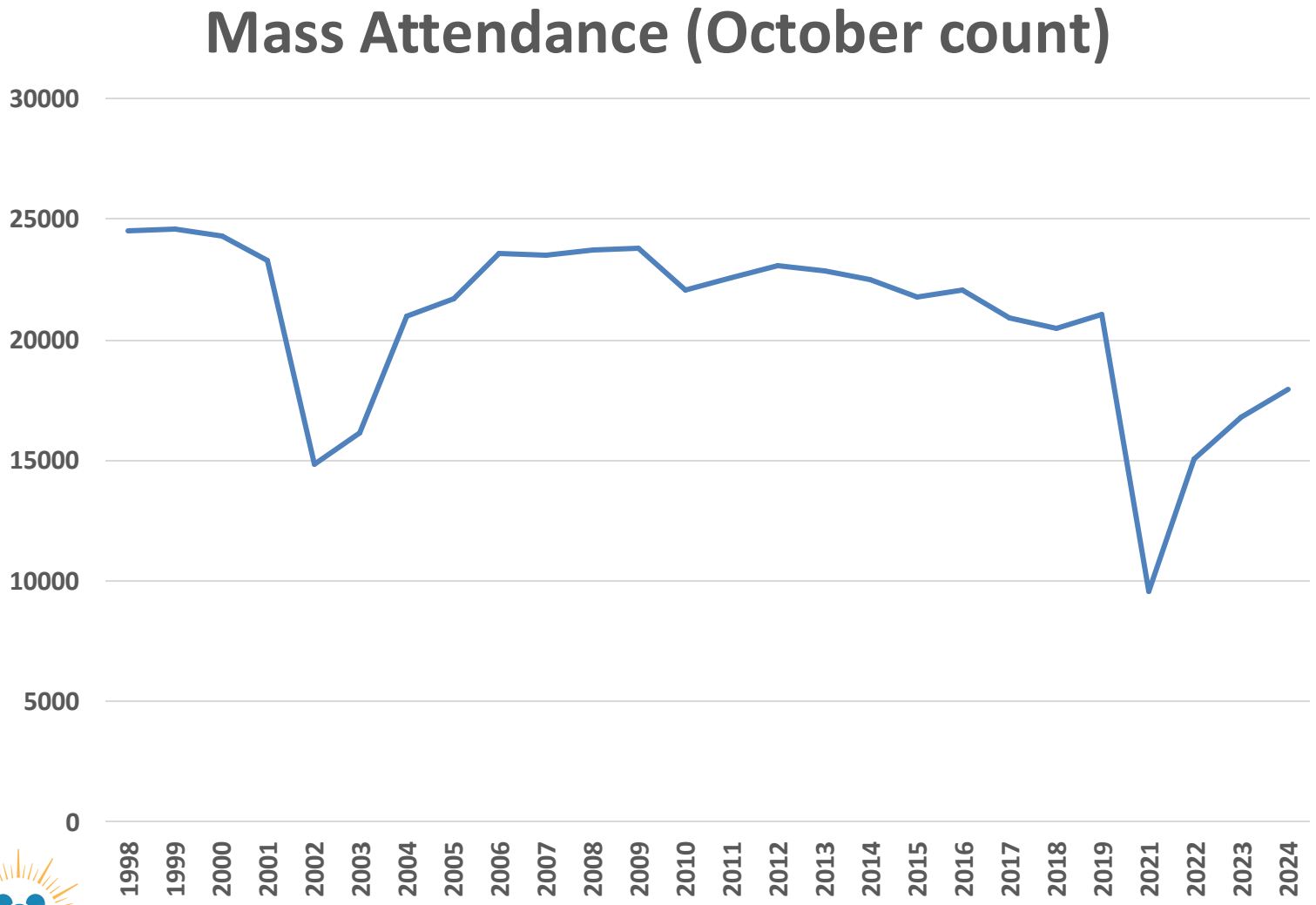
Planning Area Mass Attendance Trend



- Mass Attendance has declined 36% since 1998, less than the average archdiocesan decline of 43%
- Between 1998 and 2019 attendance declined 15%
- From 2019 (Pre-COVID) to 2024 attendance declined an additional 24%

NOTE: No Mass attendance count was taken in 2020.

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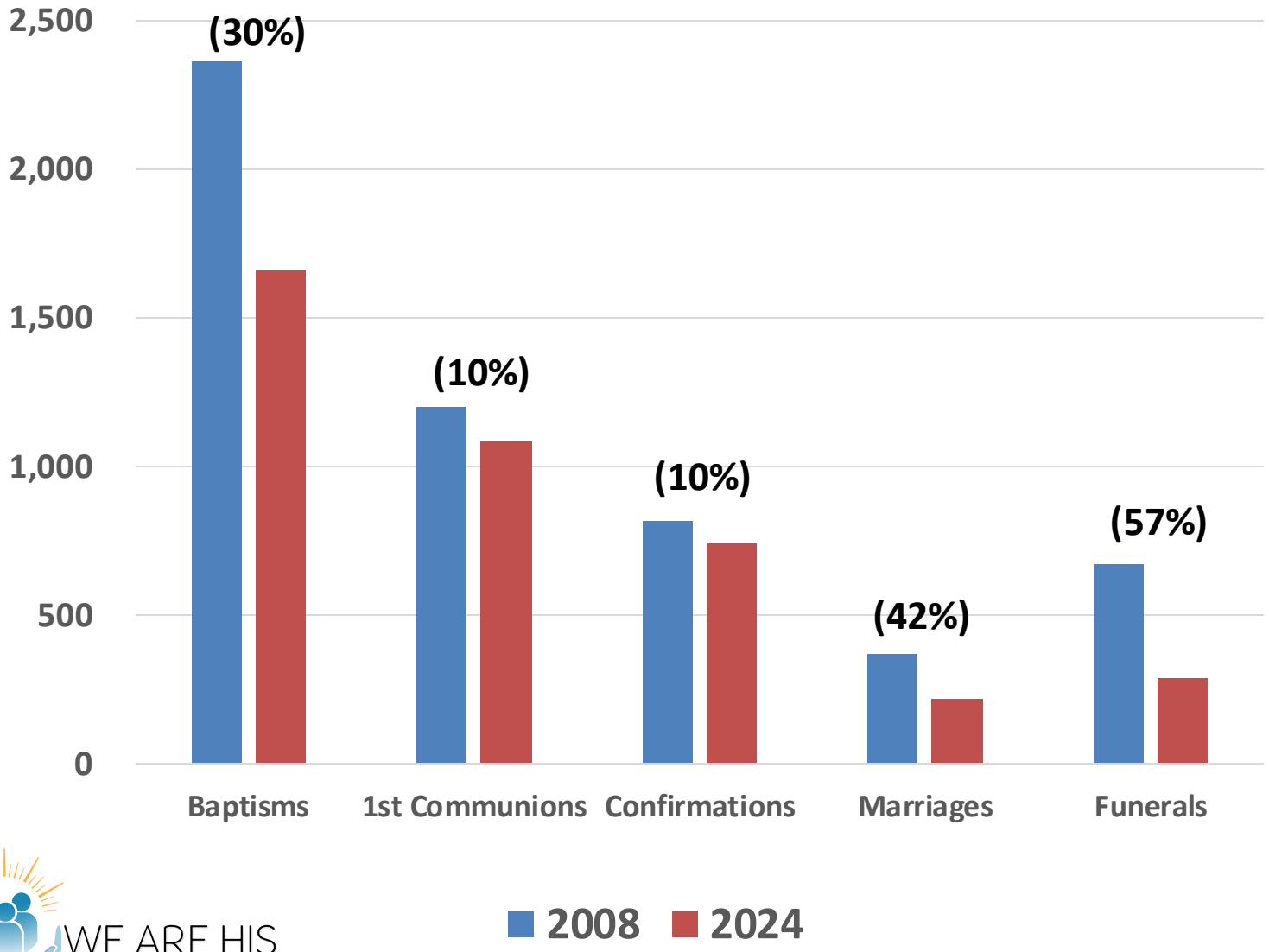
Planning Area Mass Attendance Trend

PARISH NAME	TOWN	1998	2009	2019	2022	2023	2024	2019 vs 1998	2024 vs 2019	2024 vs 1998	# of Masses	Seating Capacity	% Capacity Utilized
Holy Cross	Harrison	1,151	833	681	573	598	751	-41%	10%	-35%	8	700	13%
Our Lady of Czestochowa	Harrison	837	587	348	308	272	261	-58%	-25%	-69%	5	400	13%
Our Lady of Sorrows	Kearny	592	304	178	148	164	164	-70%	-8%	-72%	2	400	21%
St. Cecilia	Kearny	1,274	1,781	874	646	750	772	-31%	-12%	-39%	4	600	32%
St. Stephen	Kearny	1,479	1,141	845	903	1,138	910	-43%	8%	-38%	6	800	19%
Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles	Newark	386	400	870	777	499	512	125%	-41%	33%	4	375	34%
Holy Trinity/Epiphany	Newark	1,288	511	499	260	391	455	-61%	n/a	n/a	3	150	n/a
Immaculate Conception	Newark	354	456	240	159	234	208	-32%	-13%	-41%	2	550	19%
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Newark	1,792	1,863	2,470	n/a	705	n/a	38%	n/a	n/a	5	550	n/a
Our Lady of Fatima	Newark	2,951	1,971	1,114	736	606	n/a	-62%	n/a	n/a	6	500	n/a
Our Lady of Good Counsel	Newark	1,008	791	755	598	598	537	-25%	-29%	-47%	4	550	24%
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	Newark	514	437	465	416	500	322	-10%	-31%	-37%	5	500	13%
Cathedral Basilica Sacred Heart	Newark	1,153	1,593	1,193	1,065	1,209	1,496	3%	25%	30%	4	2,000	19%
St. Aloysius	Newark	757	959	807	567	660	705	7%	-13%	-7%	5	515	27%
St. Antoninus	Newark	185	350	175	134	145	n/a	-5%	n/a	n/a	2	700	n/a
St. Augustine	Newark	154	n/a	432	339	339	n/a	181%	n/a	n/a	3	400	n/a
St. Benedict	Newark	684	595	533	570	538	584	-22%	10%	-15%	5	328	36%
St. Casimir	Newark	556	525	588	582	592	675	6%	15%	21%	4	1,000	17%
St. Columba	Newark	456	741	587	511	511	n/a	29%	n/a	n/a	5	600	n/a
St. Francis Xavier	Newark	1,410	1,684	1,484	1,601	1,547	1,213	5%	-18%	-14%	8	500	30%
St. James	Newark	901	1,013	1,373	947	1,060	1,285	52%	-6%	43%	7	500	37%
St. John	Newark	45	37	10	n/a	-	-	-78%	-100%	-100%	1	150	0%
St. Lucy	Newark	827	863	631	551	670	581	-24%	-8%	-30%	6	750	13%
St. Mary	Newark	214	352	370	n/a	n/a	215	73%	-42%	0%	3	215	33%
St. Michael	Newark	1,859	1,897	1,543	1,392	1,116	2,122	-17%	38%	14%	5	500	85%
St. Patrick's Pro Cathedral	Newark	198	253	313	293	292	600	58%	92%	203%	3	450	44%
St. Rose of Lima	Newark	941	1,075	583	397	511	551	-38%	-5%	-41%	3	600	31%
St. Stanislaus	Newark	248	435	328	233	144	176	32%	-46%	-29%	3	285	21%
Parish of the Transfiguration	Newark	309	386	561	425	655	708	82%	26%	129%	4	375	47%
Total Planning Area		24,523	23,833	20,850	15,131	16,444	15,803	-15%	-24%	-36%	125		

- Seven parishes have experienced attendance increases. Most others have had significant declines.
- Percent of church capacity utilized given 2024 attendance and the number of Masses celebrated varies but is 40% or less with three exceptions.

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

Planning Area Mass Sacramental Trends



- Sacramental trends are much more favorable than Archdiocesan averages.
- Baptisms exceed Funerals by over 5.8 to 1, much higher than the Archdiocesan average of 1.5 Baptisms to 1 Funeral.
- There are 2,997 children in religious education in the planning area in the 2023-24 school year.
- There are 18,799 registered parishioners and 11,585 registered households.

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

Planning Area Mass Sacramental Trends

		BAPTISMS					FIRST COMMUNIONS					CONFIRMATIONS				
PARISH NAME	TOWN	2008	2013	2019	2023	2024	2008	2013	2019	2023	2024	2008	2013	2019	2023	2024
Holy Cross	Harrison	38	46	-	-	31	57	60	-	-	41	50	24	-	-	28
Our Lady of Czestochowa	Harrison	38	20	31	-	2	7	9	3	4	3	-	15	9	-	-
Our Lady of Sorrows	Kearny	-	2	4	4	2	-	8	4	2	8	-	4	-	5	8
St. Cecilia	Kearny	48	31	43	-	28	28	36	57	-	59	16	13	30	-	39
St. Stephen	Kearny	57	76	50	26	33	80	72	25	33	42	35	28	28	20	22
Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles	Newark	16	23	18	26	34	18	25	14	31	41	18	-	-	41	-
Holy Trinity/Epiphany	Newark	32	55	102	-	-	13	33	92	6	10	18	11	15	12	11
Immaculate Conception	Newark	21	9	1	3	-	14	11	13	-	-	5	6	1	-	-
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Newark	150	149	110	158	134	108	100	175	251	236	89	100	109	186	218
Our Lady of Fatima	Newark	189	149	68	63	-	200	84	44	41	-	96	60	51	29	-
Our Lady of Good Counsel	Newark	34	43	44	-	-	28	50	68	-	-	20	22	35	-	-
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	Newark	28	34	77	37	61	13	16	41	39	44	16	17	46	26	30
Cathedral Basilica Sacred Heart	Newark	102	96	98	114	101	71	60	76	76	44	52	66	55	61	52
St. Aloysius	Newark	70	34	17	8	12	36	30	37	24	15	8	16	24	16	16
St. Antoninus	Newark	10	-	14	9	-	4	-	7	9	-	2	-	-	-	-
St. Augustine	Newark	-	10	11	-	-	-	12	14	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
St. Benedict	Newark	31	26	25	29	18	29	13	31	18	23	13	12	17	14	11
St. Casimir	Newark	35	49	28	15	17	28	21	28	16	21	-	-	40	30	-
St. Columba	Newark	33	38	31	-	-	29	47	41	-	-	15	26	42	-	-
St. Francis Xavier	Newark	105	121	79	104	106	85	101	81	91	93	51	42	78	102	91
St. James	Newark	86	53	99	78	65	44	25	74	62	62	12	13	19	33	27
St. John	Newark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
St. Lucy	Newark	485	403	398	345	261	60	68	50	20	30	167	14	31	40	40
St. Mary	Newark	16	8	18	-	-	5	6	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Michael	Newark	571	613	637	-	649	147	132	131	-	220	88	95	100	-	102
St. Patrick's Pro Cathedral	Newark	17	11	25	19	25	6	1	14	18	27	-	-	10	4	11
St. Rose of Lima	Newark	113	57	63	64	-	82	39	38	66	-	39	23	25	39	-
St. Stanislaus	Newark	4	3	7	-	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Parish of the Transfiguration	Newark	33	36	-	71	79	11	35	42	45	63	9	-	-	11	34
Total Planning Area		2,362	2,195	2,098	1,173	1,662	1,203	1,094	1,210	852	1,084	819	610	766	669	740

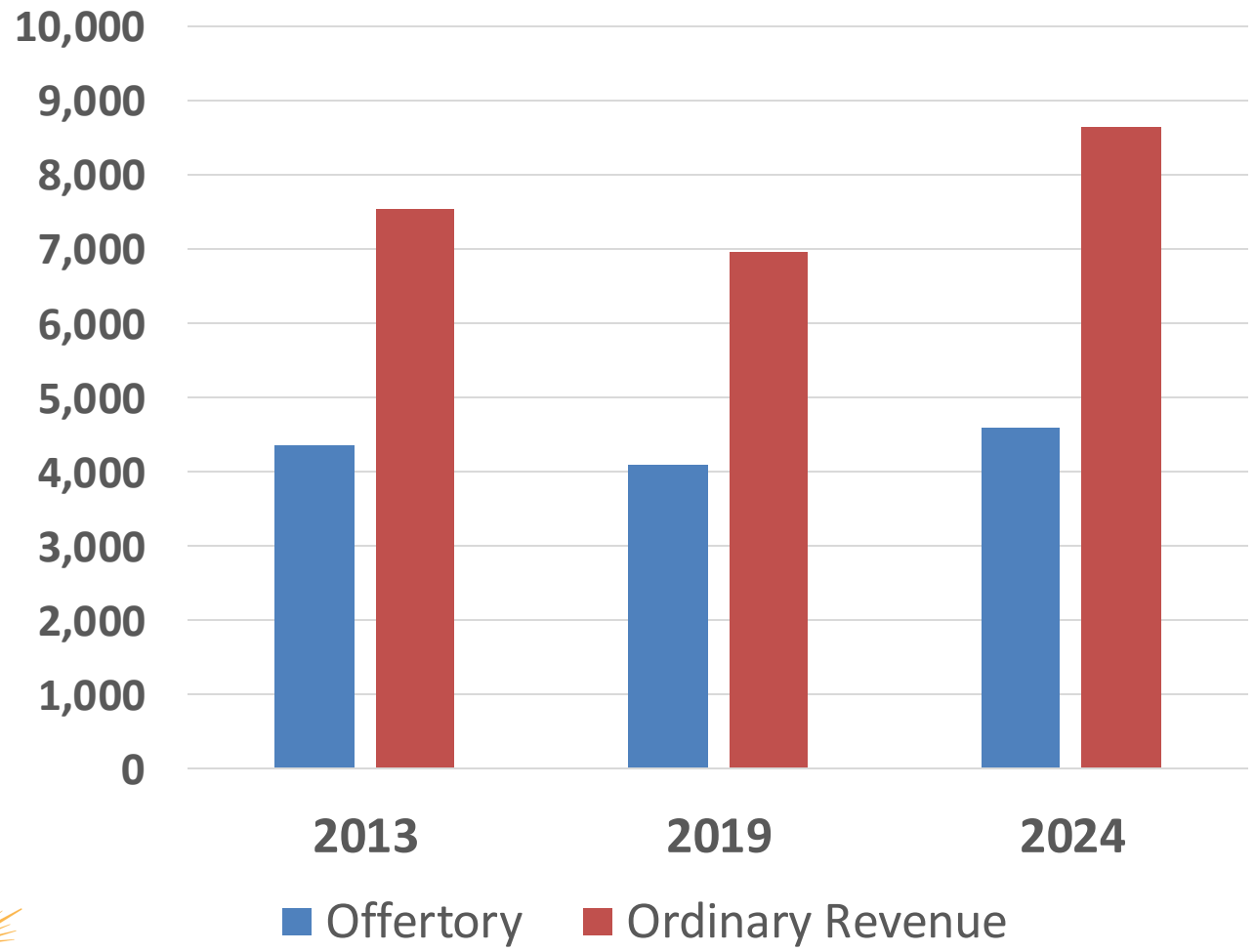
WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

Planning Area Mass Sacramental Trends

		MARRIAGES					FUNERALS					RELIGIOUS EDUCATION				
PARISH NAME	TOWN	2008	2013	2019	2023	2024	2008	2013	2019	2023	2024	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Holy Cross	Harrison	18	8	-	-	2	52	55	-	-	24	139	140	-	135	143
Our Lady of Czestochowa	Harrison	8	4	5	-	4	30	22	11	-	11	-	36	16	25	13
Our Lady of Sorrows	Kearny	-	1	1	-	-	-	23	16	-	11	-	-	-	32	-
St. Cecilia	Kearny	6	-	9	-	13	10	6	71	-	32	277	170	156	160	-
St. Stephen	Kearny	24	26	23	13	10	72	64	80	76	67	232	-	452	-	220
Blessed Sacrament/St. Charles	Newark	1	2	-	1	1	4	5	11	12	3	-	-	75	-	41
Holy Trinity/Epiphany	Newark	-	3	24	2	1	1	2	29	-	-	80	48	45	60	65
Immaculate Conception	Newark	4	2	-	-	-	9	6	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Newark	16	12	10	14	12	28	20	6	10	8	-	120	152	-	-
Our Lady of Fatima	Newark	39	29	11	4	-	70	84	54	25	-	-	122	199	183	186
Our Lady of Good Counsel	Newark	7	2	1	-	-	17	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	143
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	Newark	7	5	4	2	3	47	26	16	20	20	100	75	95	125	125
Cathedral Basilica Sacred Heart	Newark	62	62	65	77	60	10	30	19	23	21	-	188	221	312	356
St. Aloysius	Newark	2	3	1	1	4	10	7	-	4	6	110	117	96	92	75
St. Antoninus	Newark	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	5	3	-	12	-	12	28	35
St. Augustine	Newark	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	109	-	-	-	-
St. Benedict	Newark	7	2	-	4	3	18	8	7	6	8	125	127	157	99	104
St. Casimir	Newark	17	12	7	11	7	26	13	16	6	3	6	123	140	145	150
St. Columba	Newark	2	13	6	-	-	1	8	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	126
St. Francis Xavier	Newark	14	10	8	6	9	51	45	25	19	16	-	165	185	283	200
St. James	Newark	8	4	1	11	10	8	9	2	4	1	278	113	200	220	202
St. John	Newark	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Lucy	Newark	85	71	86	59	40	124	89	86	60	19					
St. Mary	Newark	2	2	5	2	3	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Michael	Newark	17	10	29	-	26	52	42	41	-	24	344	222	157	154	371
St. Patrick's Pro Cathedral	Newark	5	1	-	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	82	-	36	49	65
St. Rose of Lima	Newark	11	6	7	6	-	5	4	8	7	-	-	75	200	190	220
St. Stanislaus	Newark	4	2	-	-	-	16	10	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Parish of the Transfiguration	Newark	3	2	2	9	5	6	4	4	8	8	72	47	-	85	157
Total Planning Area		371	294	306	225	216	672	600	539	290	287	1,966	1,888	2,594	2,377	2,997

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

Planning Area Ordinary Revenue



- Offertory has increased 6% in the past 10 years. Total Ordinary Revenue has increased 15% with the majority of that increase due to one parish and not broad based.
- Offertory as a % of Total Ordinary Revenues is 53% vs the Archdiocese average of 75%.
- There are differences among individual parishes.
  - Twelve parishes have seen offertory increases over the past 10 years.
  - Eight parishes have had an offertory decline of over 20% over the past 10 years.

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

Planning Area Elementary Schools

Parish	St. Michael Parish, Newark		
School	SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL		
Town	NEWARK		
Enrollment Capacity	588		
	Pre-K	K-8	8
Oct. 2015	0	401	**401**
Oct. 2020	0	280	**280**
Oct. 2021	0	262	**262**
Oct. 2022	0	239	**239**
Oct. 2023	0	251	**251**
Oct. 2024	0	246	**246**

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish,
Kearny, NJ

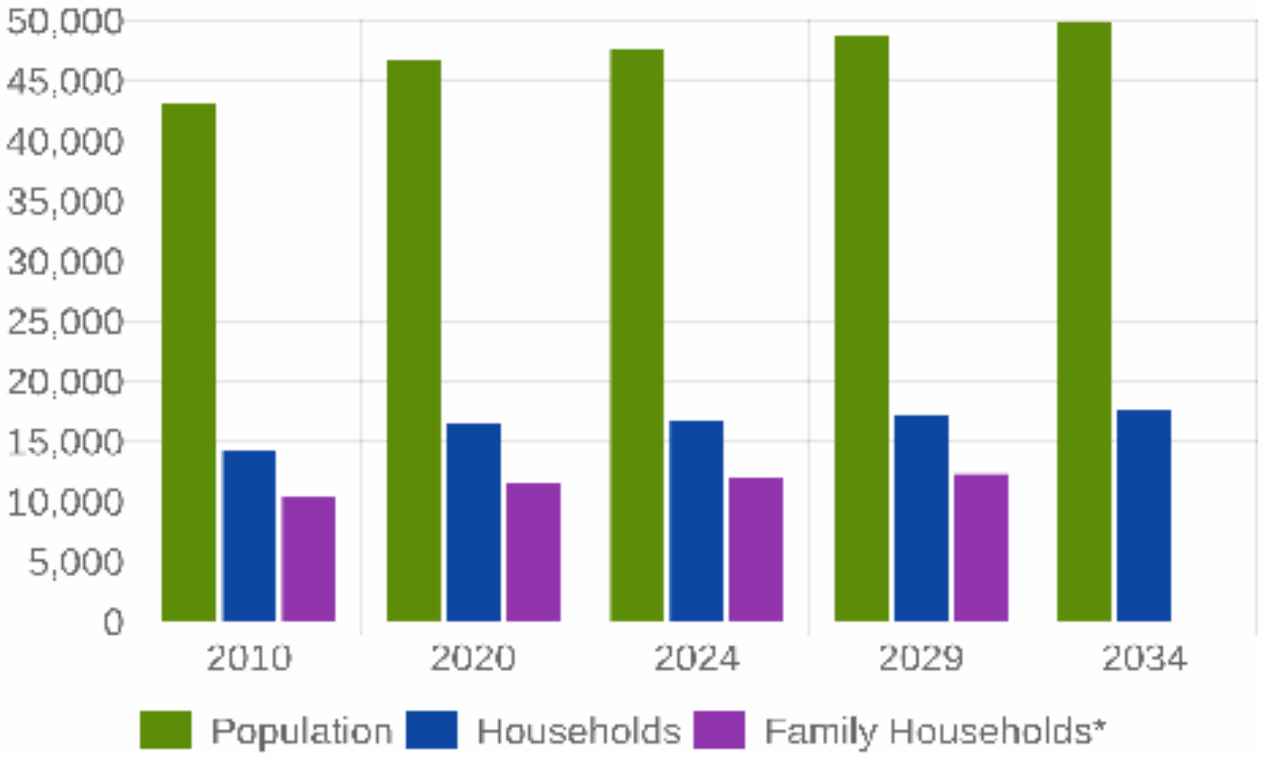
About Our Parish

- The parish was established in 1915 and is located in Kearny, NJ.
- There are over 450 registered families.
- The church has a seating capacity of 400. With 2024 Mass attendance of 164 and 2 Masses on a weekend, average Mass attendance as a percentage of capacity is 20%.

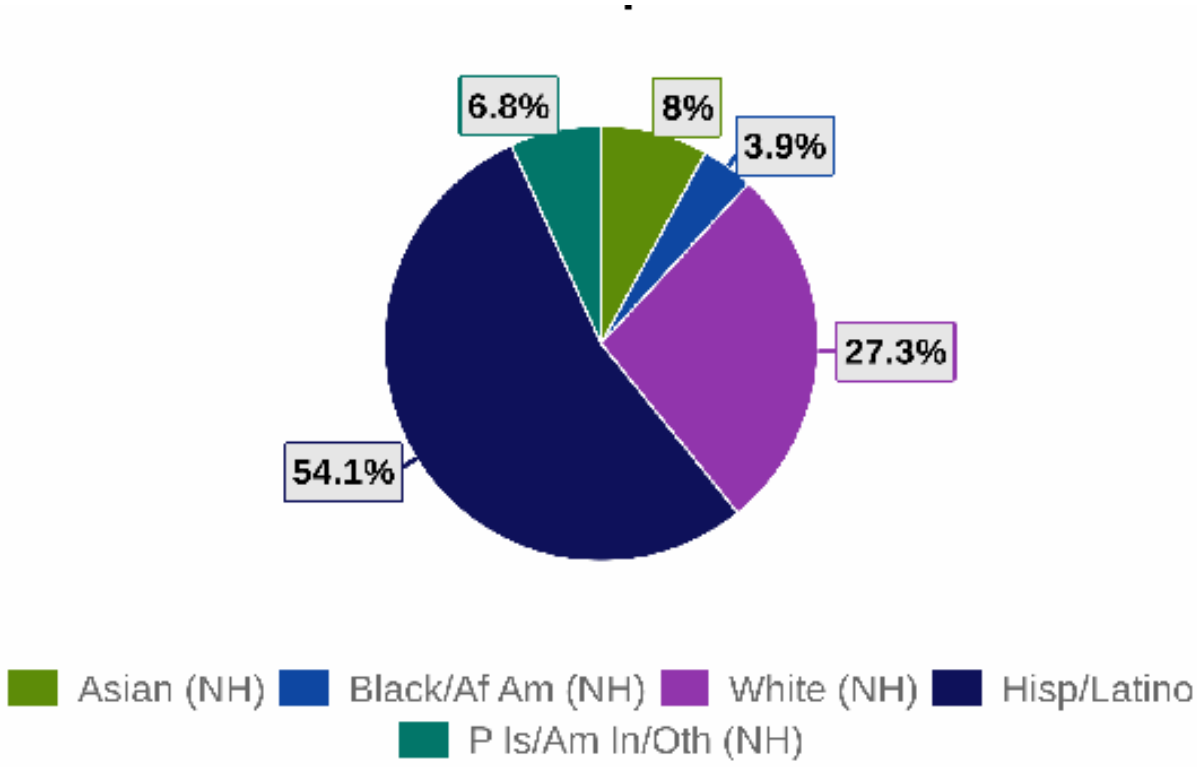
Parish Demographics

Data based on 1-mile radius from Church building

The general population of the area has increased 4,388 (10.16%) since 2010. It is projected to increase 2,234 (4.70%) over the next 10 years.

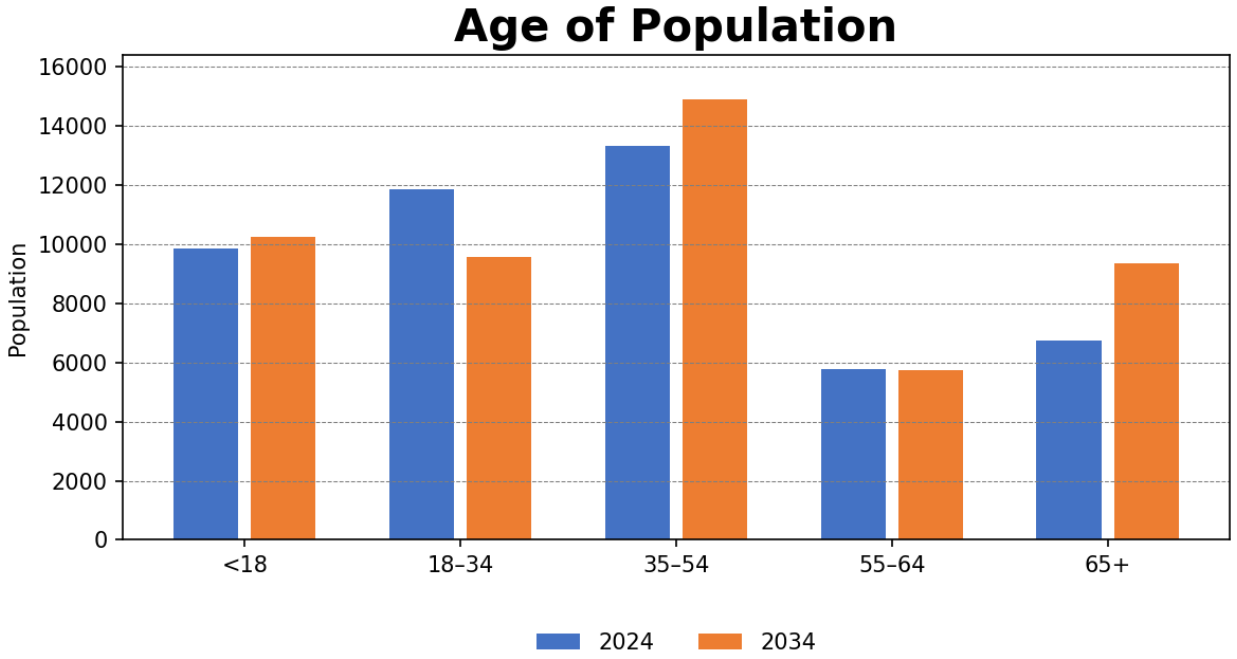


Ethnically, the area's largest population is Hisp/Latino (54.1%), followed by White (NH) (27.3%), and Asian (NH) (8.0%).



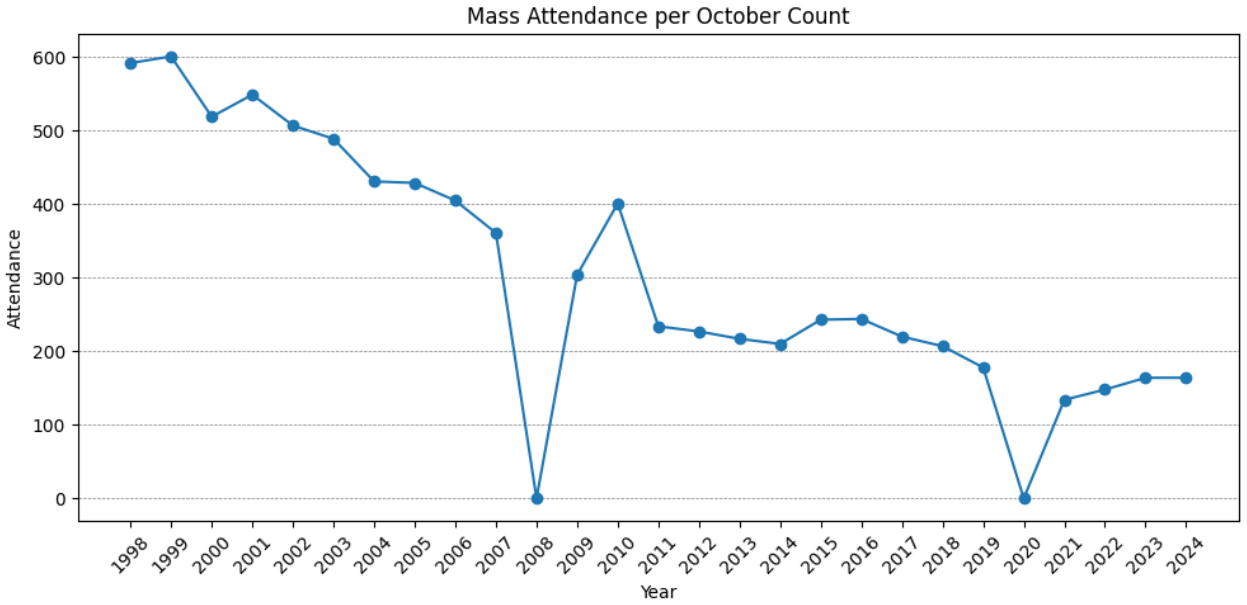
Parish Demographics

Data based on 1-mile radius from Church building



- The area's population is projected to slightly age, with a 4.62% increase in the 65+ age group from 2024 to 2034. Simultaneously, there is a projected 0.83% increase in the school-aged population (ages 5–17), indicating a rise in the number of children.
- The % of two-parent (married couple) households is projected to slightly decrease by 0.94%, from 65.5% in 2024 to 64.5% in 2029.
- The estimated current-year average household income is $99,284. The average household income is projected to grow by 17.94% to $117,097.
- In 2024, 30.7% of the population in the study area hold a bachelor's or graduate degree, compared to 42.3% statewide. This suggests a less educated population, which may influence community engagement, expectations, and economic behavior.

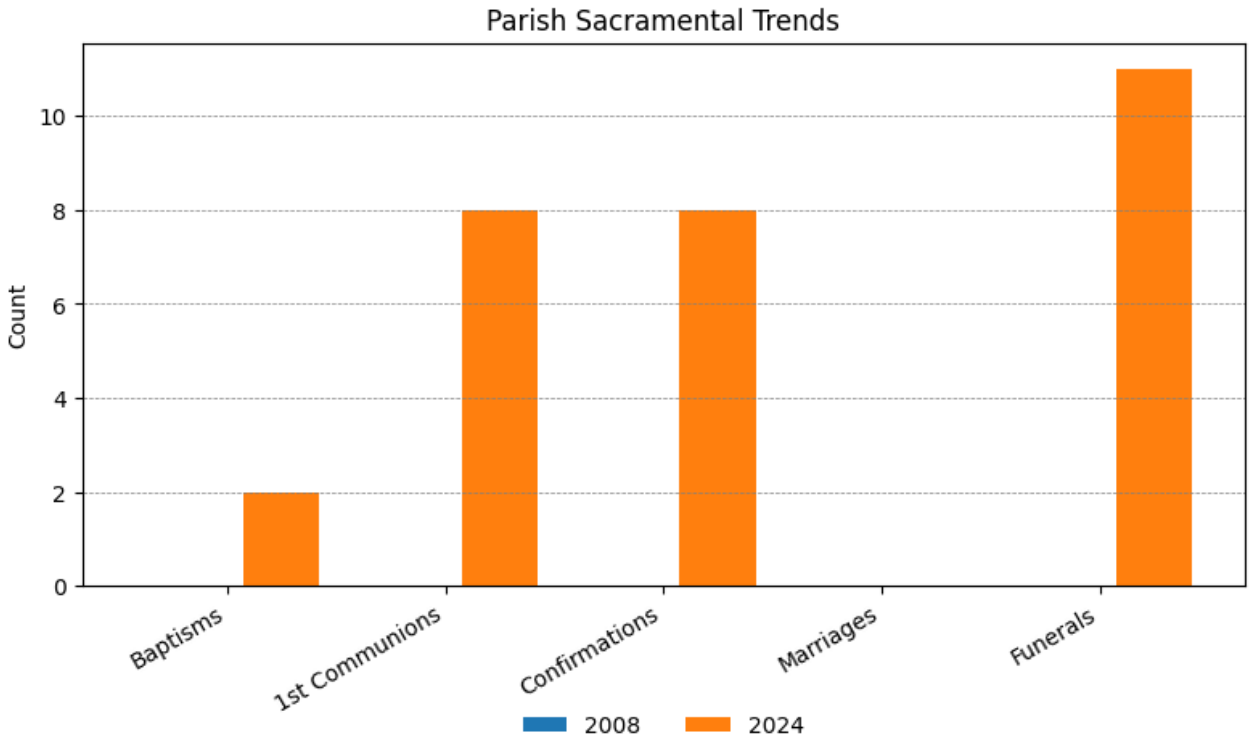
Parish Sacramental Trends



- Between 1998 and 2024, attendance decreased by 72%.
- From 2019 (Pre-COVID) to 2024, attendance decreased an additional 7%.
- Data for your parish is shown in the planning area section of the workbook.

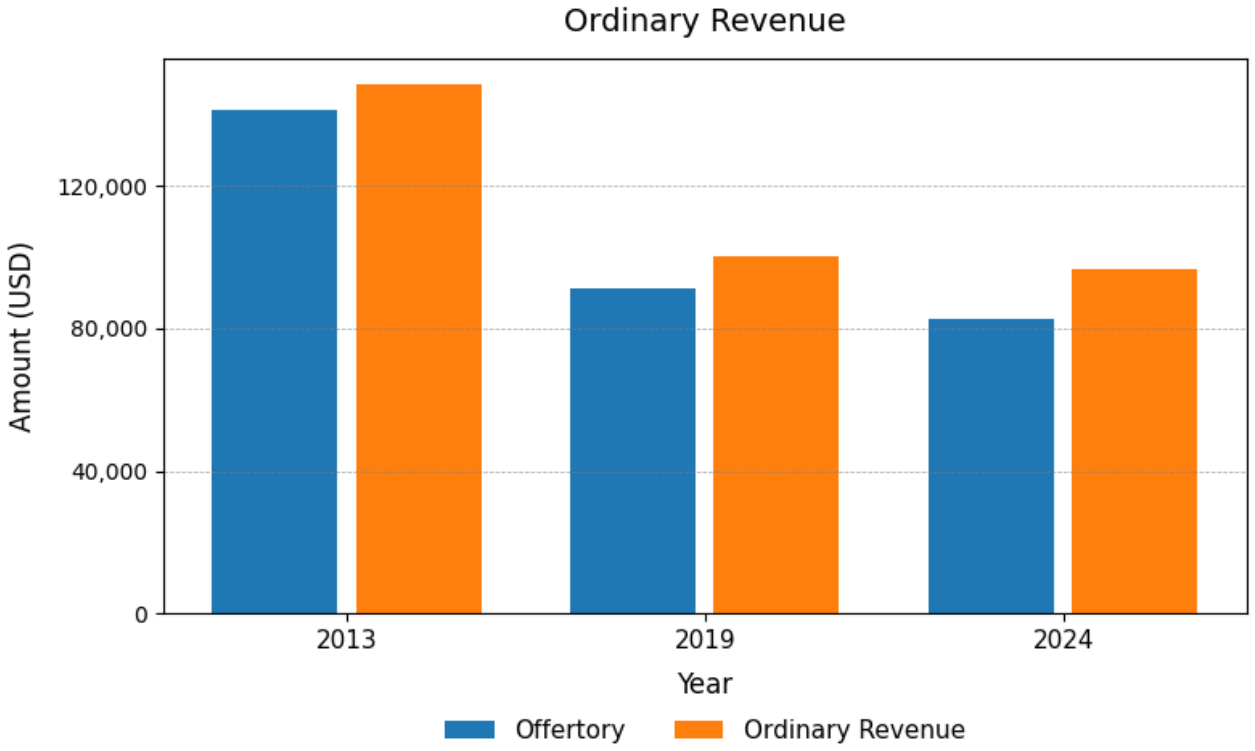
Please Note: Zeros represent that no data was reported in those years.

Parish Sacramental Trends



- Baptisms were 2 in 2024.
- 1st Communions were 8 in 2024.
- Confirmations were 8 in 2024, while marriages were 0 in 2008; no other data was available.
- Funerals were 11 in 2024.

Parish Sacramental Trends



- From 2013 to 2024, offertory collections decreased by 42% while Ordinary Revenue declined by 35%.
- From 2019 to 2024, offertory declined moderately (9%), from $91,163 to $82,567.
- Ordinary Revenue, fell by 3% over the same period (from $99,985 to $96,543).

Financial Summary

Our Lady of Sorrows, Kearny

	2022	2023	2024
Total Ordinary Revenue	96,499	92,398	96,543
Additional Revenue	12,800	8,675	9,380
Non-Operating Revenue	46,921	39,177	50,656
Total Revenue	156,220	140,251	156,579
Total Expenses	180,117	194,818	263,901
Change in Net Assets	(23,897)	(54,568)	(107,322)
Net Capital Projects	215	0	0
Total Change in Net Assets	(23,682)	(54,568)	(107,322)

- Our Lady of Sorrows has experienced a net loss in each of the past 3 years, with losses increasing.
- Ordinary Revenue has increased, making up about 62% of total revenue annually.
- Total revenue increased from $156K (2022) to $157K (2024).