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

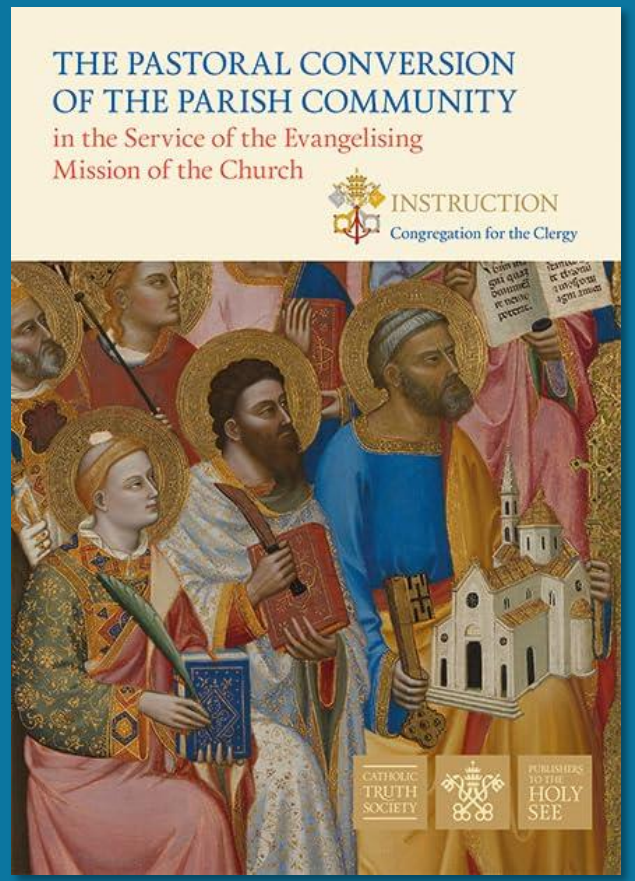
Why Do We Need “Pastoral Conversion?”

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

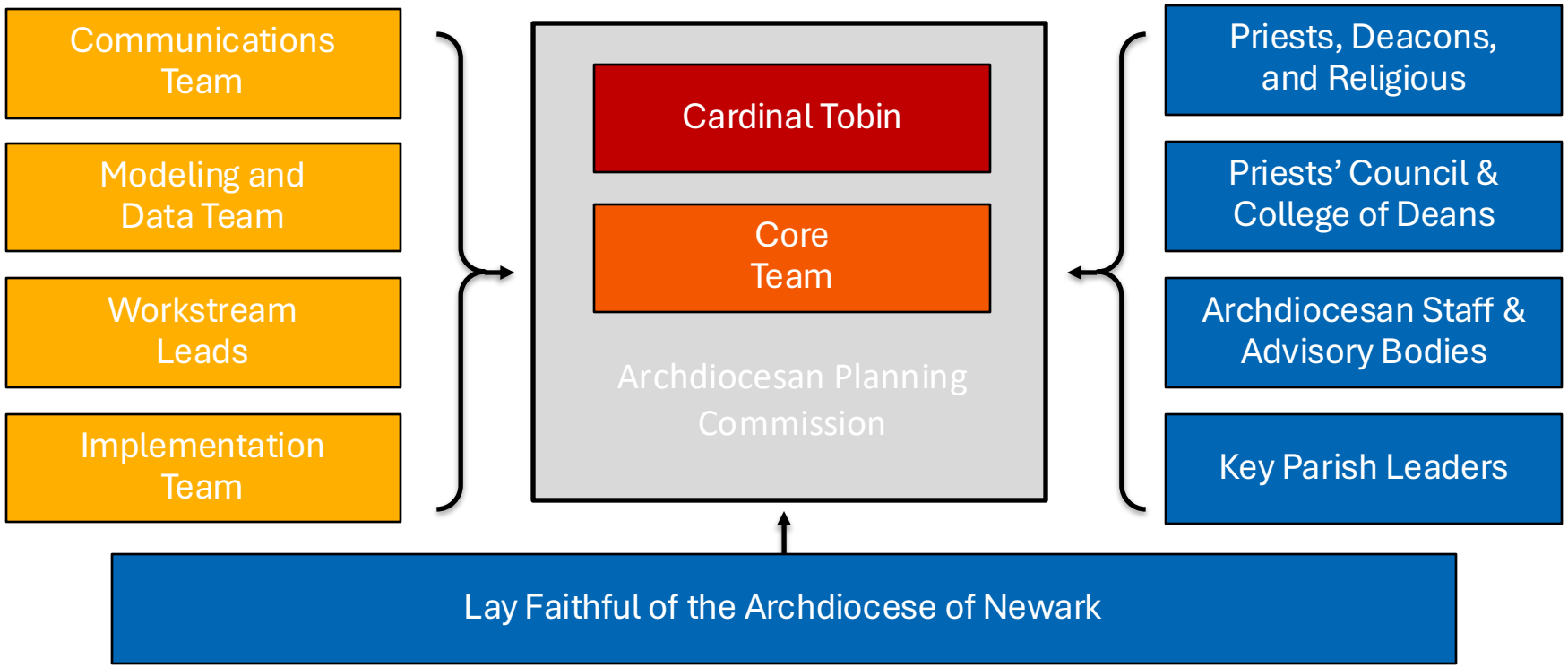
ENVISIONING and IMPLEMENTATION

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

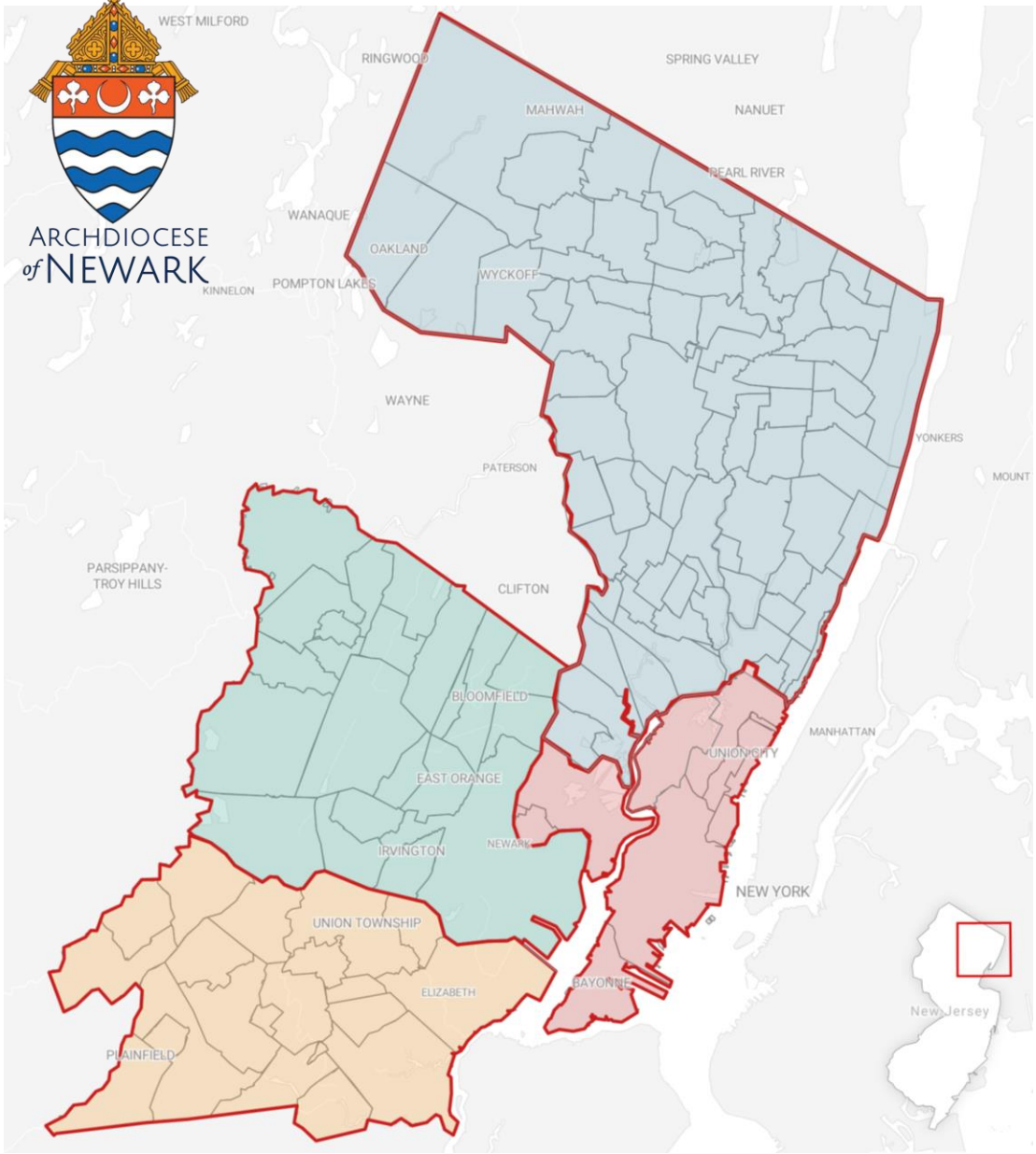
Planning Area A geographic region within the Archdiocese; established only to help present and discuss possible parish models.

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

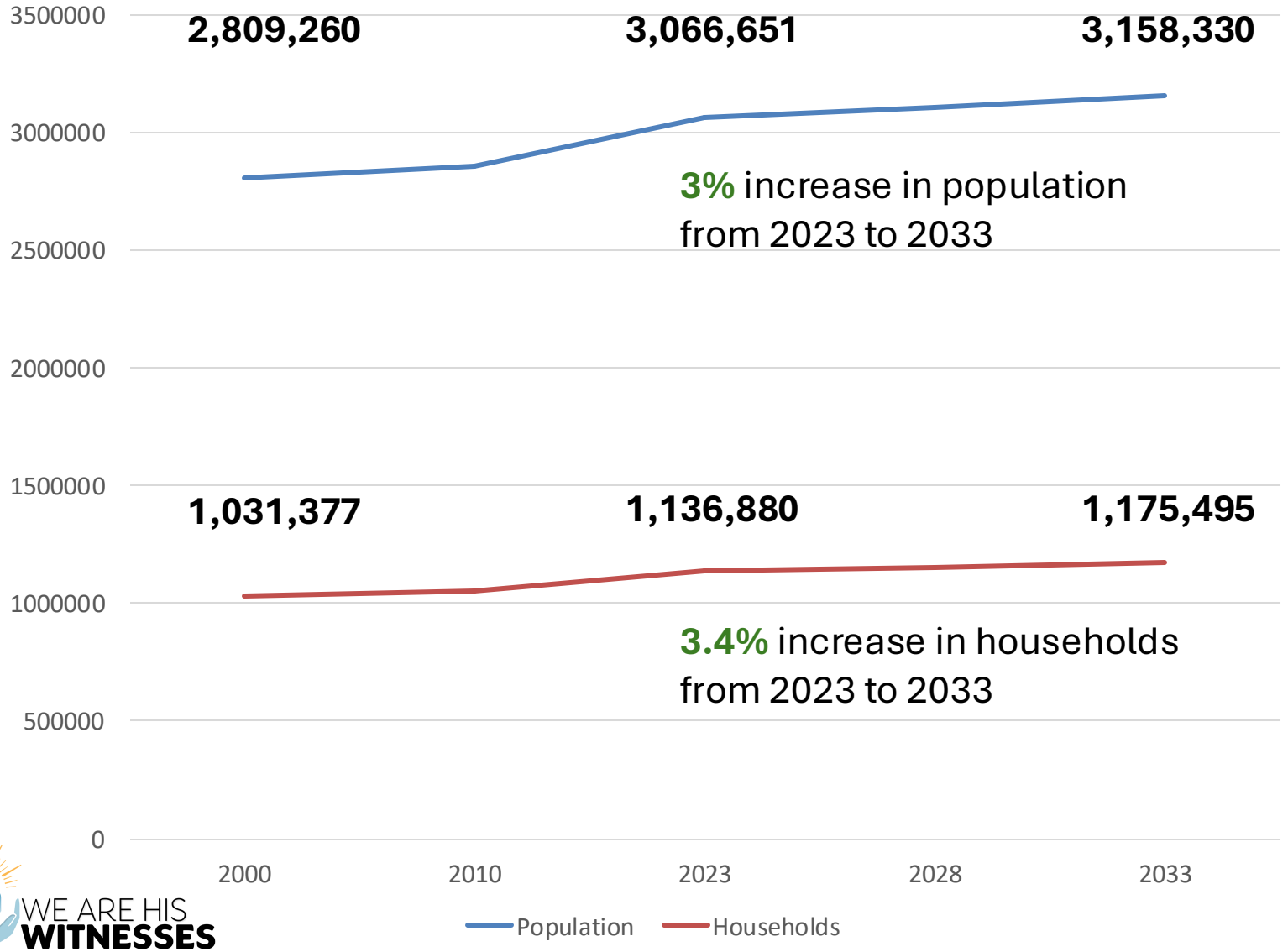
Territory for **Evangelization**

- 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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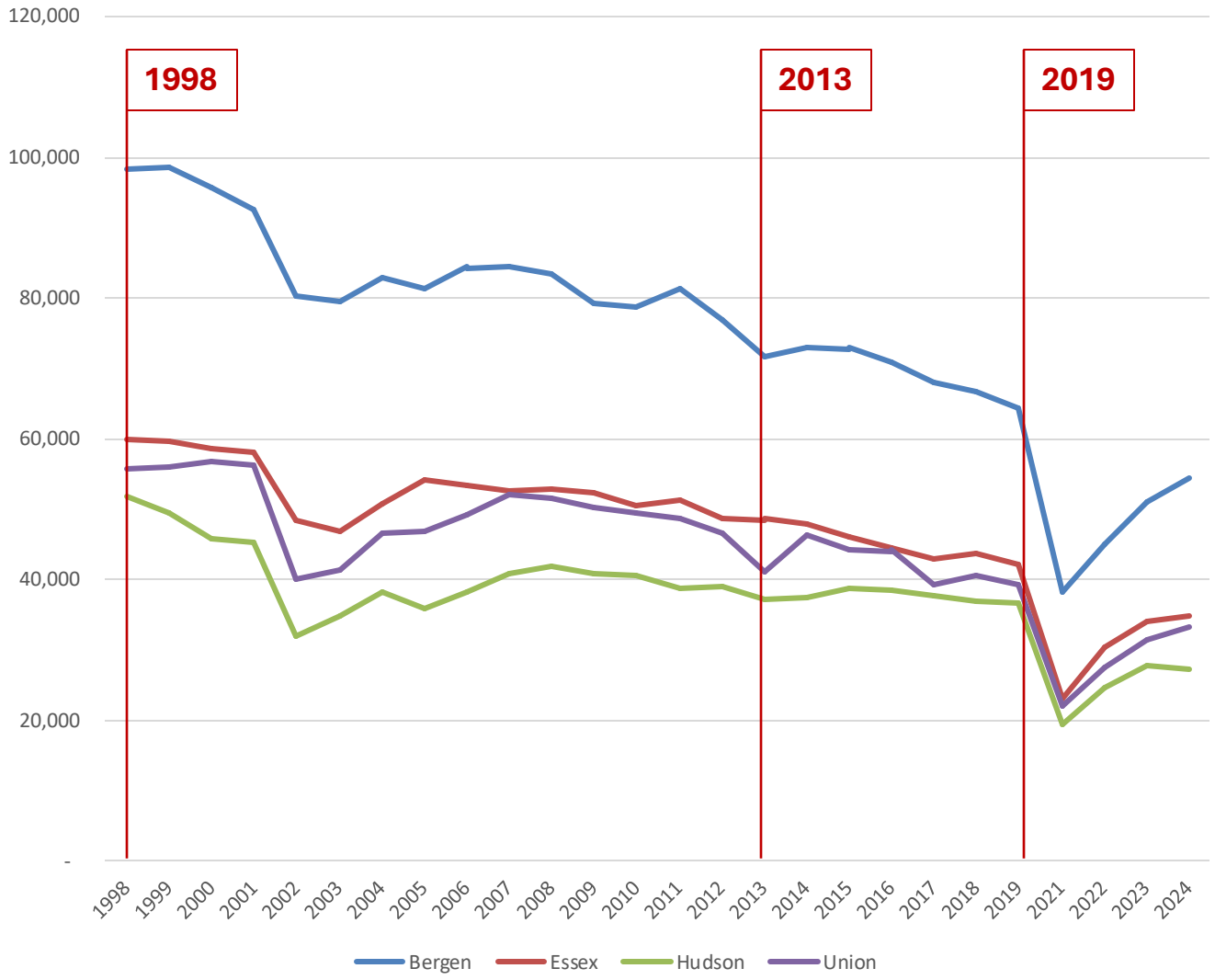
Mass Attendance by County



	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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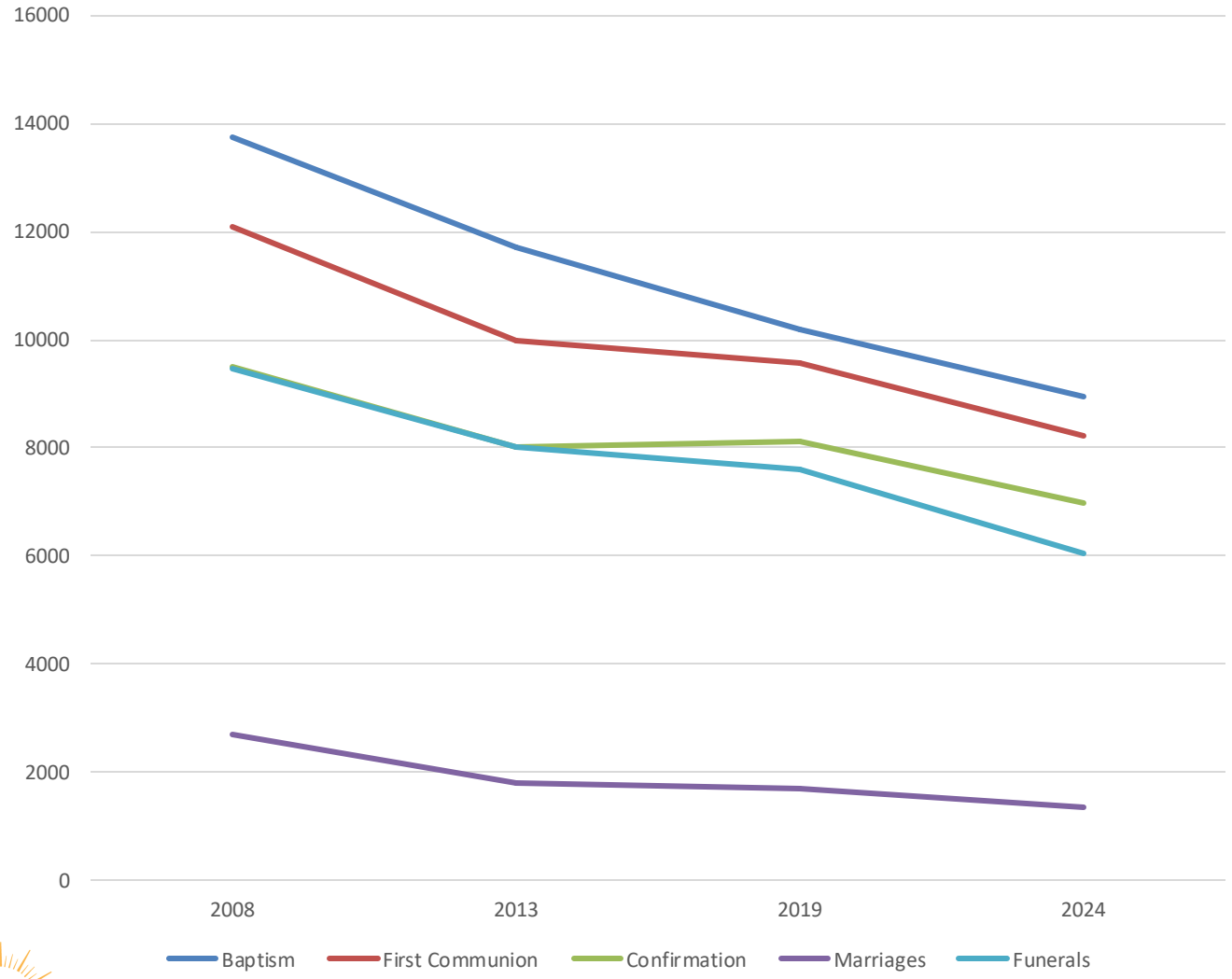
Sacramental Trends



	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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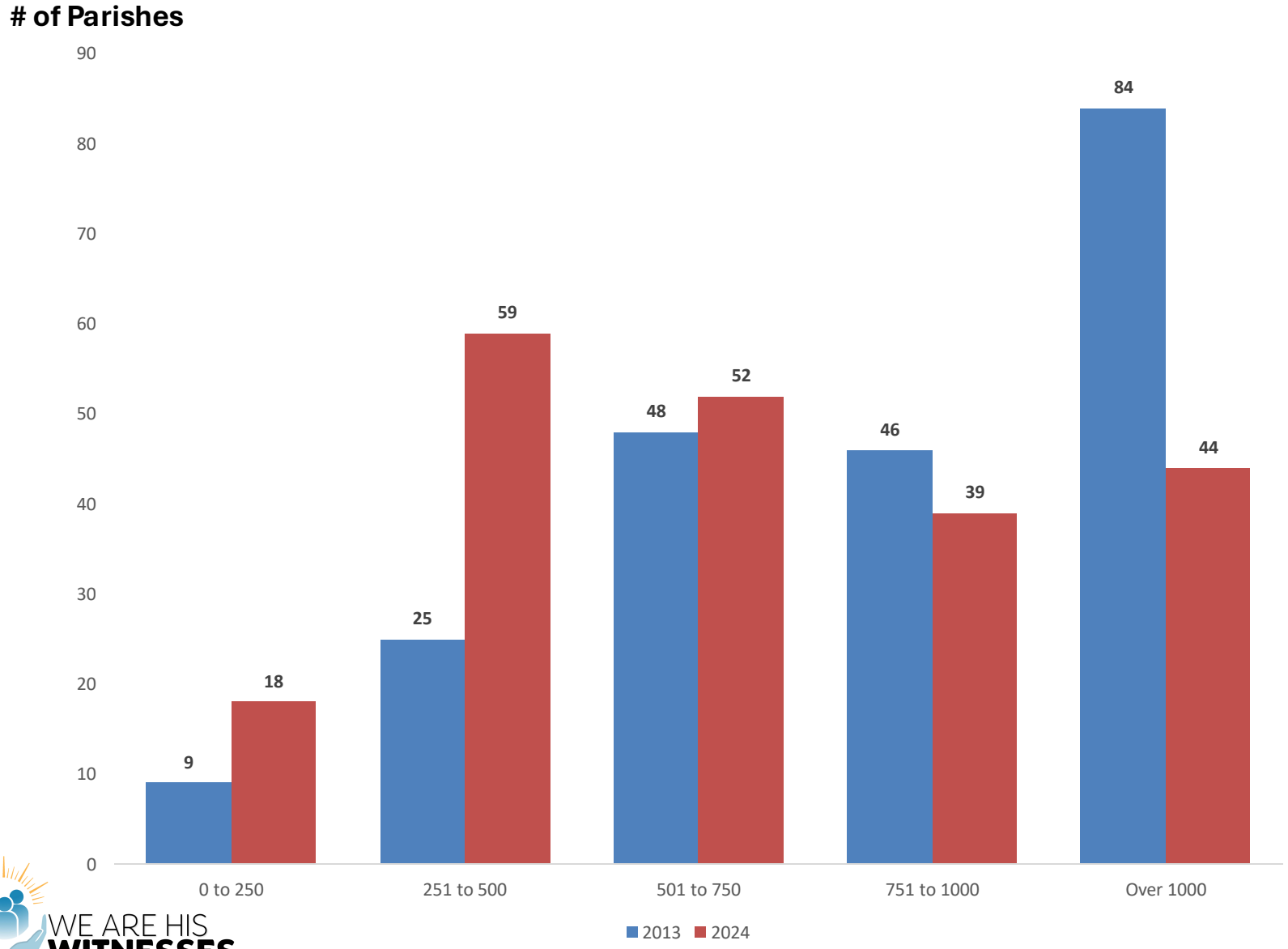
Number of Parishes By Mass Attendance



- 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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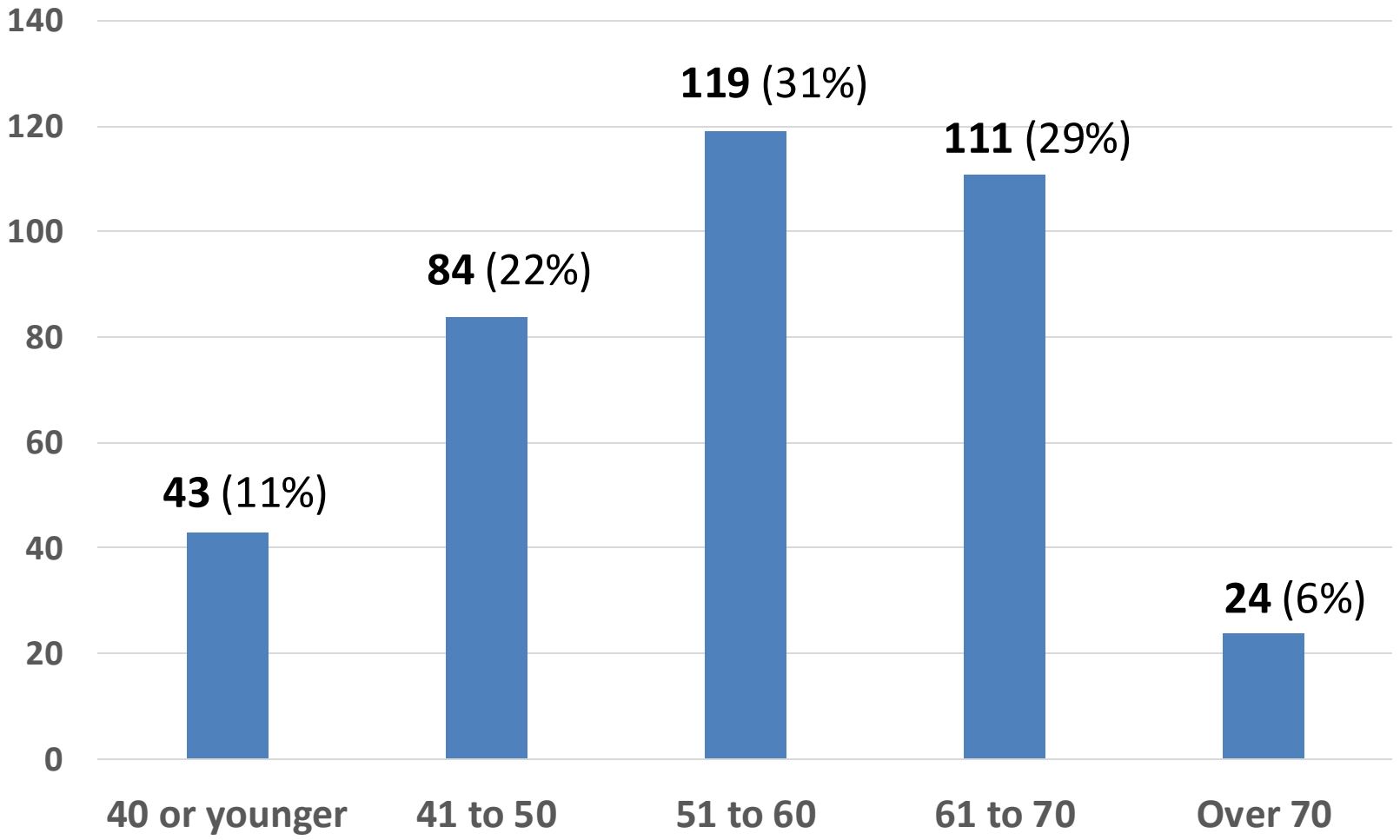
Active RCAN Priests by Age Group



- 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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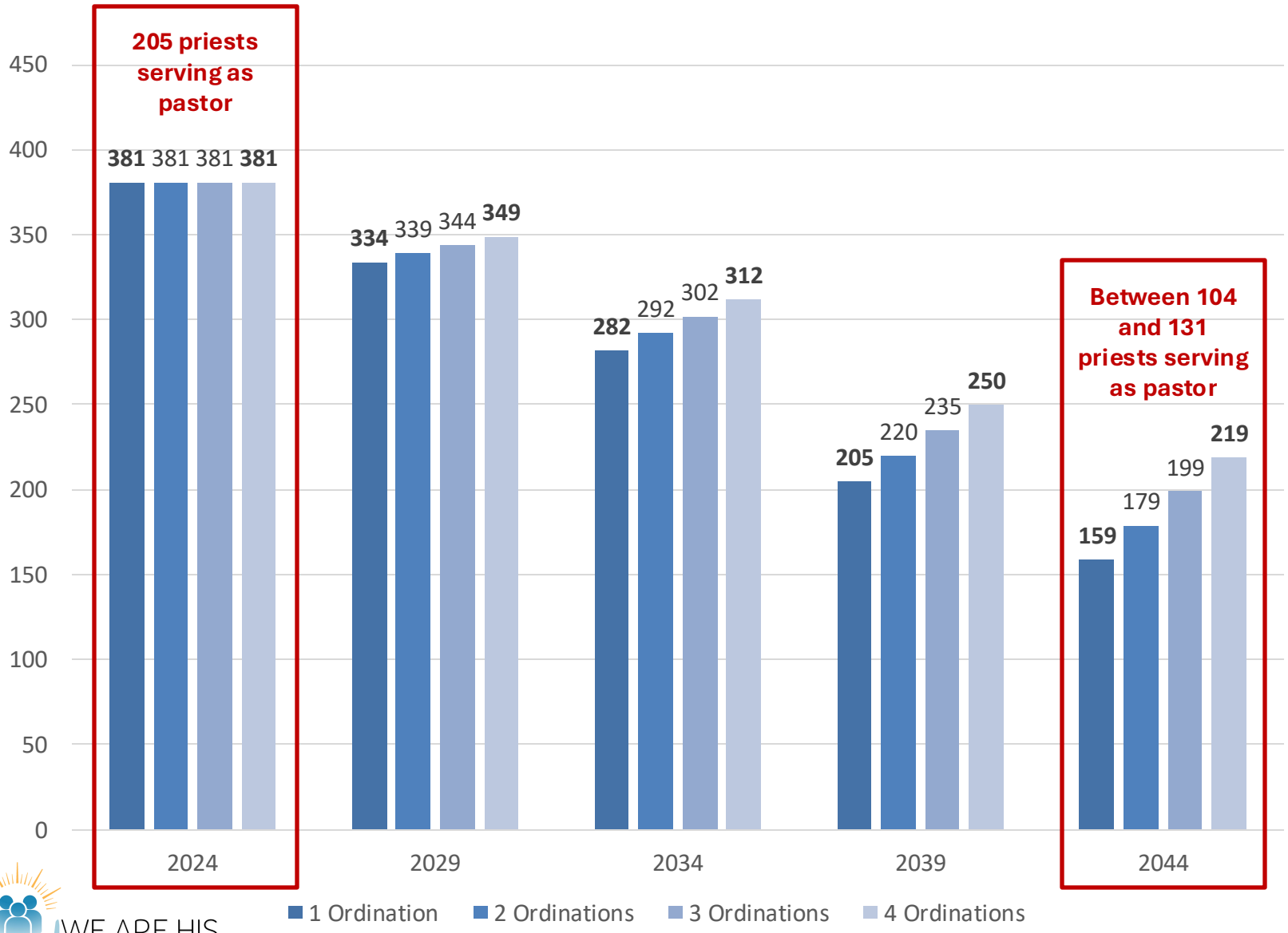
Projected Number of RCAN Priests



- 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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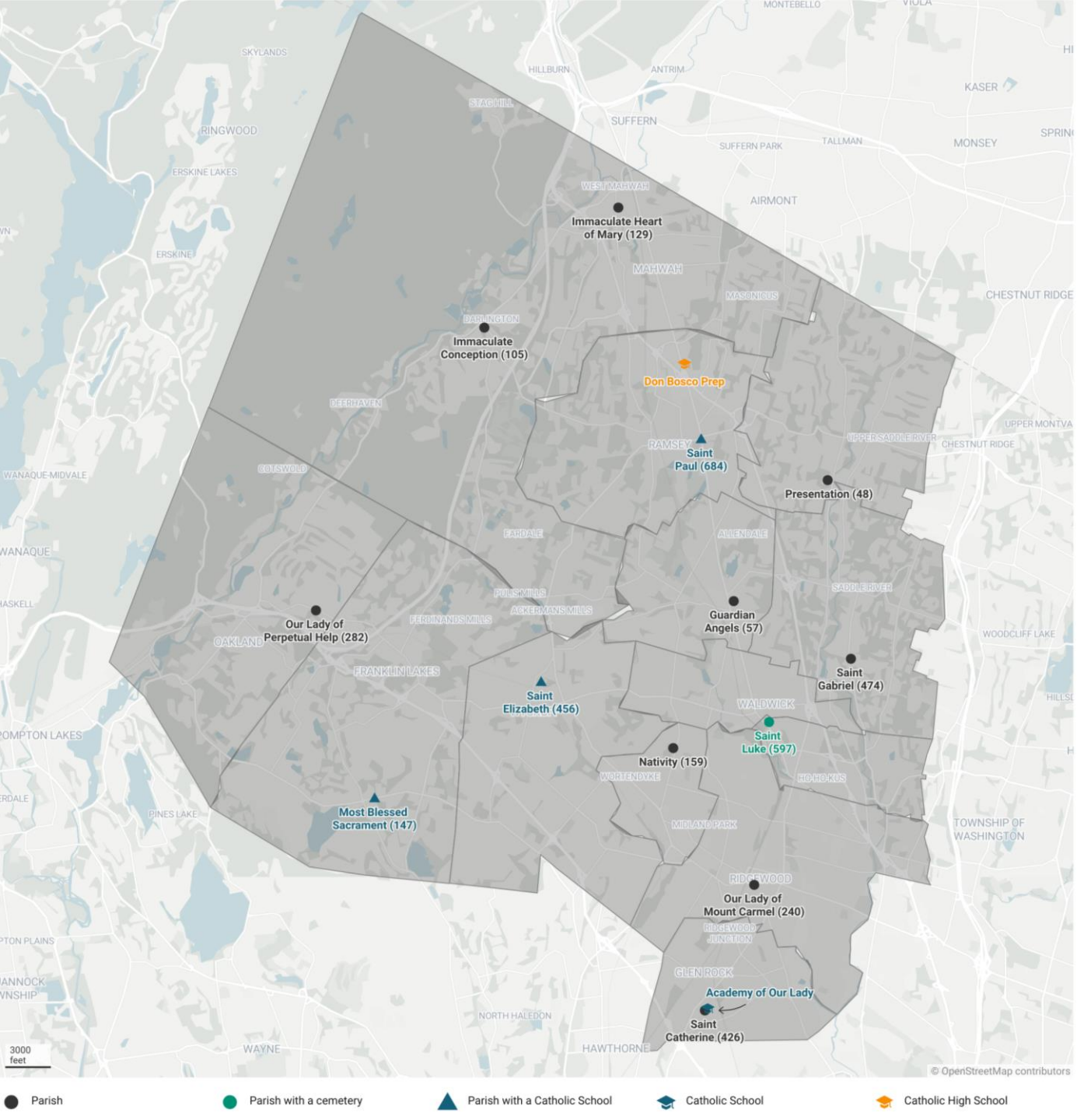
OUR PLANNING AREA

Northwest Bergen County



Northwest Bergen

About our planning area:

- Occupies the northwestern area of Bergen county.
- Includes 13 parishes, 4 elementary schools, and 1 high school.
- There are currently has 21 priests assigned to the planning area.
- Parishes are generally within 3 miles of a nearby parish.

Planning Area Population Trends

Town Name	2000 Census	2010 Census	2020 Census	Estimated 2023	Change in % 23 vs 20	23 vs 10	23 vs 00
Allendale borough	6,699	6,505	6,848	6,791	-0.8%	4.4%	1.4%
Franklin Lakes borough	10,422	10,590	11,079	11,021	-0.5%	4.1%	5.7%
Glen Rock borough	11,546	11,601	12,133	12,076	-0.5%	4.1%	4.6%
Ho-Ho-Kus borough	4,060	4,078	4,258	4,232	-0.6%	3.8%	4.2%
Mahwah township	24,062	25,890	25,487	25,344	-0.6%	-2.1%	5.3%
Midland Park borough	6,947	7,128	7,014	6,970	-0.6%	-2.2%	0.3%
Oakland borough	12,466	12,754	12,748	12,680	-0.5%	-0.6%	1.7%
Ramsey borough	14,351	14,473	14,798	14,706	-0.6%	1.6%	2.5%
Ridgewood village	24,936	24,958	25,979	26,194	0.8%	5.0%	5.0%
Saddle River borough	3,201	3,152	3,372	3,368	-0.1%	6.9%	5.2%
Upper Saddle River borough	7,741	8,208	8,353	8,480	1.5%	3.3%	9.5%
Waldwick borough	9,622	9,625	10,058	10,105	0.5%	5.0%	5.0%
Wyckoff township	16,508	16,696	16,585	17,047	2.8%	2.1%	3.3%
Total Planning Area	152,561	155,658	158,712	159,014	0.2%	2.2%	4.2%

- Population has grown at a slow rate over the last 20 years. However, many municipalities have experienced modest population decline since 2020.
- The largest municipalities are Mahwah and Ridgewood. Mahwah has seen decline in population since 2010.
- The fastest growing community is Upper Saddle River. More recently, Saddle River and Wyckoff have shown growth.

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	
Allendale borough	6,791	71.6%	2.5%	0.9%	17.4%	7.6%	148.1
Franklin Lakes borough	11,021	71.4%	7.7%	5.2%	11.9%	3.8%	200.0
Glen Rock borough	12,076	72.7%	5.1%	1.3%	14.6%	6.3%	198.5
Ho-Ho-Kus borough	4,232	67.7%	9.6%	1.1%	14.4%	7.2%	200.0
Mahwah township	25,344	68.4%	12.8%	3.1%	13.1%	2.6%	128.5
Midland Park borough	6,970	80.2%	11.7%	0.9%	2.2%	5.0%	132.1
Oakland borough	12,680	77.2%	12.5%	1.3%	3.5%	5.5%	153.6
Ramsey borough	14,706	71.4%	11.8%	0.4%	7.0%	9.4%	155.4
Ridgewood village	26,194	91.0%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	97.5
Saddle River borough	3,368	70.4%	6.9%	5.3%	11.9%	5.5%	200.0
Upper Saddle River borough	8,480	69.7%	5.6%	1.5%	17.1%	6.1%	200.0
Waldwick borough	10,105	70.2%	17.9%	0.9%	7.6%	3.4%	146.7
Wyckoff township	17,047	92.8%	2.3%	0.4%	3.7%	0.8%	185.4

- The demographics of the planning area is predominantly White with Hispanic and Asian presence in some communities.
- The median household income in the planning rea is well above the New Jersey state average of $100,000.

Source: United States Census

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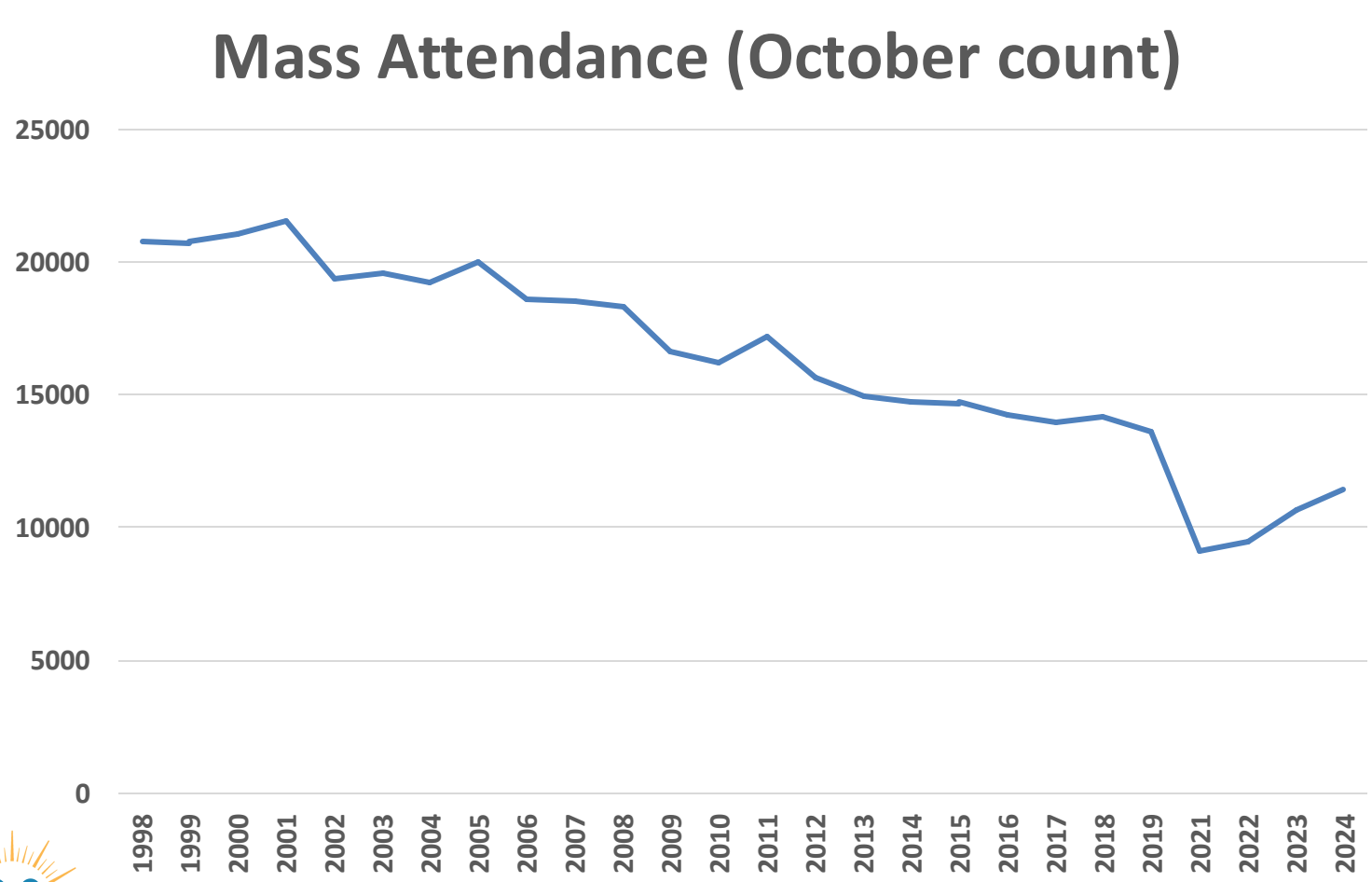
Planning Area Mass Attendance Trend



- Mass attendance in the planning area has declined by 45% since 1998, in line with the Archdiocesan average decline of 43%.
- Between 1998 and 2019, attendance declined 35%.
- From 2019 (pre-COVID) to 2024, attendance declined an additional 16%.

NOTE: No Mass attendance count was taken in 2020.

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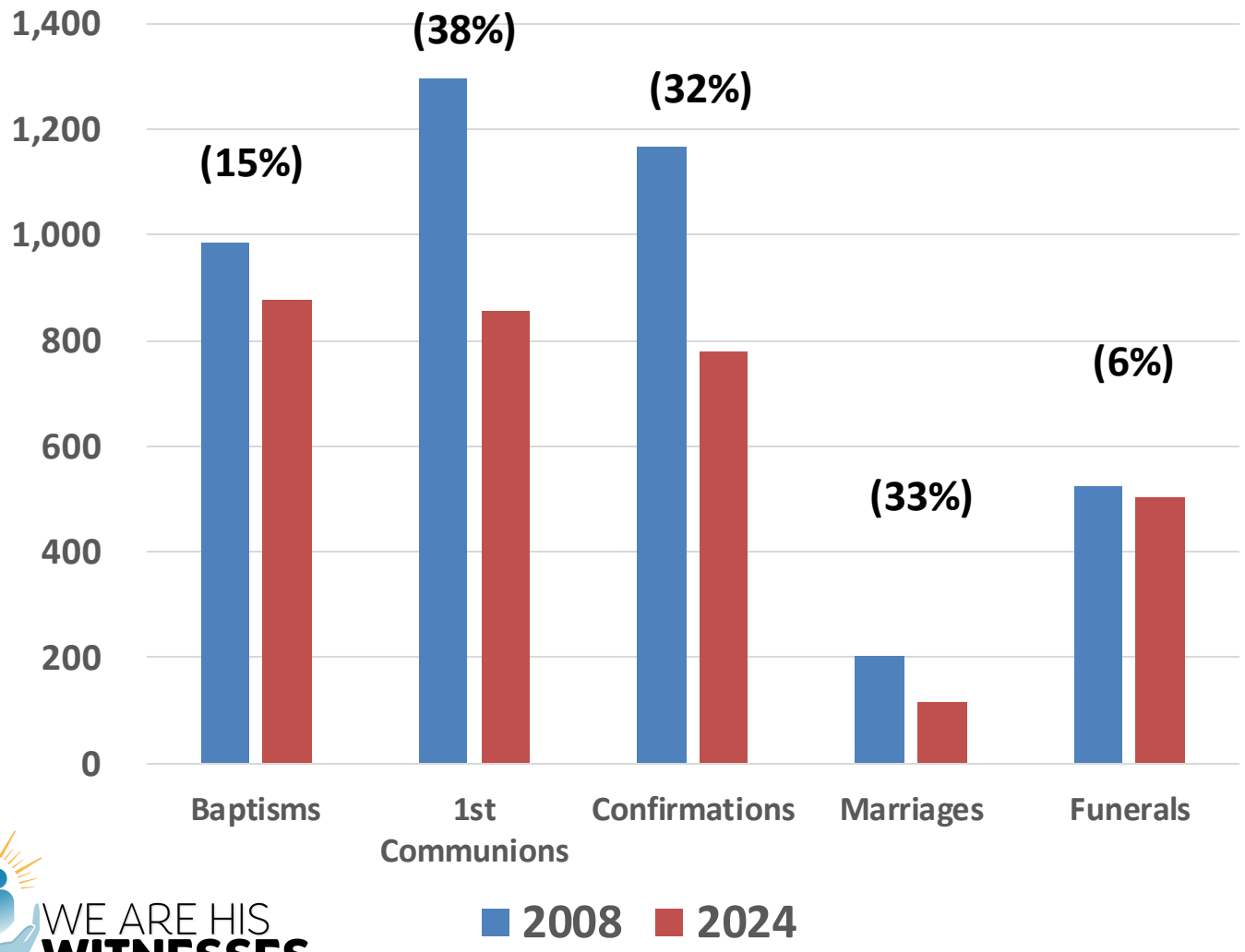
Planning Area Mass Attendance Trend

PARISH NAME	TOWN	1998	2009	2019	2022	2023	2024	2019 vs 1998	2024 vs 2019	2024 vs 1998	# of Masses	Seating Capacity	% Capacity Utilized
Guardian Angel	Allendale	613	515	428	272	346	364	-30%	-15%	-41%	4	320	28%
Most Blessed Sacrament	Franklin Lakes	1,500	1,355	866	602	629	774	-42%	-11%	-48%	4	697	28%
St. Catherine	Glen Rock	1,632	1,223	688	555	555	637	-58%	-7%	-61%	4	500	32%
St. Luke	Ho-Ho-Kus	1,391	987	1,339	356	892	950	-4%	-29%	-32%	4	471	50%
Immaculate Conception	Mahwah	794	536	367	360	332	354	-54%	-4%	-55%	4	250	35%
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Mahwah	722	894	817	570	570	567	13%	-31%	-21%	5	450	25%
Nativity	Midland Park	1,230	971	557	427	480	464	-55%	-17%	-62%	4	400	29%
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Oakland	1,180	769	533	389	427	473	-55%	-11%	-60%	4	544	22%
St. Paul	Ramsey	1,995	2,024	1,308	1,079	1,244	1,258	-34%	-4%	-37%	6	960	22%
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	Ridgewood	3,022	3,024	2,475	1,949	2,172	2,373	-18%	-4%	-21%	7	870	39%
St. Gabriel	Saddle River	723	844	589	445	431	475	-19%	-19%	-34%	5	400	24%
Church of the Presentation	U. Saddle River	3,345	1,942	1,986	1,129	1,095	1,290	-41%	-35%	-61%	5	1,300	20%
St. Elizabeth	Wyckoff	2,630	1,532	1,643	1,364	1,508	1,670	-38%	2%	-37%	6	750	n/a
Total Planning Area		20,777	16,616	13,596	9,497	10,657	11,424	-35%	-16%	-45%	62		

- All parishes in the planning area have experienced significant decline in Mass attendance.
- 1 parish has exceeded their pre-COVID attendance, 4 are within 10%.
- Percent of church capacity utilized, given 2024 attendance and the number of Masses celebrated, is typically between 20% and 30%, with a few exceptions.

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

Planning Area Mass Sacramental Trends



- Baptisms and funerals are declining slower than the Archdiocesan averages.
- Baptisms continue to exceed funerals by a ration of 1.6 to 1, versus the Archdiocesan average of 1.5 to 1.
- There were 5,112 children enrolled in religious education in the planning area (2023-2024).
- Total registered parishioners are 95,975 and total registered households are 32,344 (2024).

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

Planning Area Mass Sacramental Trends

PARISH NAME	TOWN	BAPTISMS					FIRST COMMUNIONS					CONFIRMATIONS				
		2008	2013	2019	2023	2024	2008	2013	2019	2023	2024	2008	2013	2019	2023	2024
Guardian Angel	Allendale	14	18	19	18	24	43	42	33	24	33	31	53	26	21	27
Church of the Presentation	U. Saddle River	184	99	120	139	124	135	145	138	90	96	154	143	145	87	99
Immaculate Conception	Mahwah	26	4	8	4	16	39	5	8	5	9	35	-	27	11	22
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Mahwah	33	14	15	14	8	23	15	26	15	15	14	20	35	20	39
Most Blessed Sacrament	Franklin Lakes	66	40	62	40	65	116	73	67	73	57	90	51	70	51	65
Nativity	Midland Park	54	32	28	32	35	70	35	27	35	37	72	15	45	16	15
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	Ridgewood	187	175	145	202	189	241	216	169	140	161	149	225	186	151	167
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Oakland	42	23	29	19	25	75	50	38	30	25	56	69	77	33	23
St. Catherine	Glen Rock	54	56	49	56	39	125	72	79	72	58	121	45	83	45	52
St. Elizabeth	Wyckoff	90	133	100	133	135	165	129	103	129	164	163	196	121	196	106
St. Gabriel	Saddle River	63	48	45	48	29	92	40	40	40	32	51	34	54	34	44
St. Luke	Ho-Ho-Kus	61	49	50	49	52	80	55	81	55	63	79	46	65	46	39
St. Paul	Ramsey	118	96	79	96	105	173	104	128	104	101	160	123	130	123	102
Total Planning Area		992	787	749	850	846	1,377	981	937	812	851	1,175	1,020	1,064	834	800

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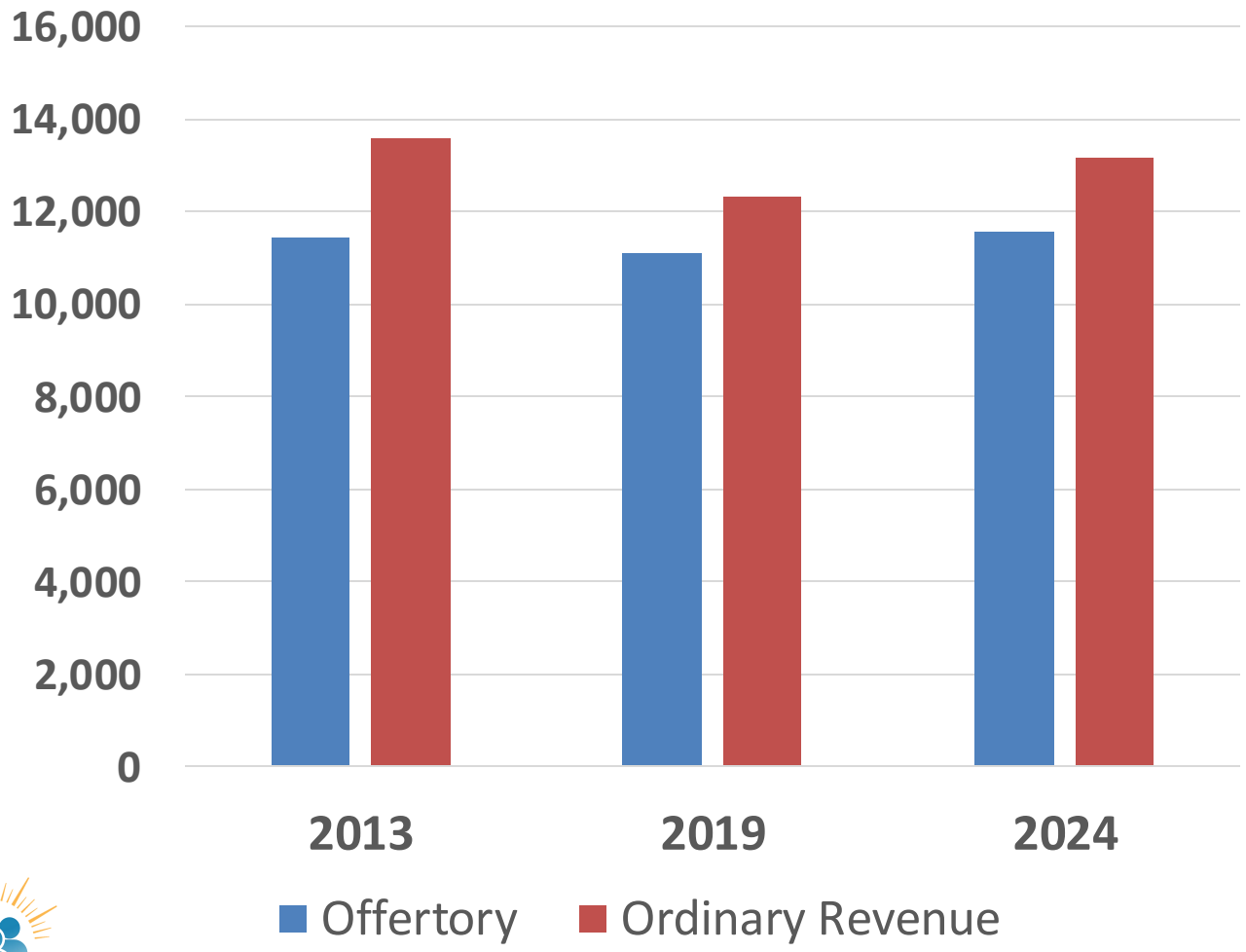
Planning Area Mass Sacramental Trends

PARISH NAME	TOWN	MARRIAGES					FUNERALS					RELIGIOUS EDUCATION				
		2008	2013	2019	2023	2024	2008	2013	2019	2023	2024	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Guardian Angel	Allendale	4	3	1	-	-	14	23	13	23	14	165	150	140	225	246
Most Blessed Sacrament	Franklin Lakes	15	11	8	-	3	44	53	33	-	16	482	425	429	401	411
St. Catherine	Glen Rock	7	5	3	5	4	47	50	48	50	39	440	377	-	399	443
St. Luke	Ho-Ho-Kus	18	4	8	4	12	52	32	35	32	39	443	-	-	-	-
Immaculate Conception	Mahwah	4	4	1	4	5	15	14	20	14	25	43	65	52	43	64
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Mahwah	9	5	8	5	1	25	22	29	22	20	180	172	124	118	121
Nativity	Midland Park	10	1	3	1	6	33	34	21	34	27	-	185	204	202	216
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Oakland	1	4	2	5	6	15	25	31	24	26	339	281	210	201	179
St. Paul	Ramsey	30	32	14	32	11	66	52	52	52	76	-	642	826	825	726
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	Ridgewood	30	23	22	33	41	66	81	92	87	79	1,130	1,042	968	900	892
St. Gabriel	Saddle River	28	19	7	19	13	28	23	19	23	18	303	271	267	254	226
Church of the Presentation	U. Saddle River	34	26	21	24	19	59	69	57	62	65	663	790	709	730	825
St. Elizabeth	Wyckoff	11	12	19	12	14	62	95	94	95	53	-	621	777	867	763
Total Planning Area		201	149	117	144	135	526	573	544	518	497	4,188	5,021	4,706	5,165	5,112

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

Planning Area Ordinary Revenue



- In aggregate, offertory and ordinary revenue have been stable over time. However, there is a divergence across parishes.
- Four parishes, all with offertory in excess of $1 million, have seen offertory increases greater than 10% over the past 10 years.
- Four parishes have seen offertory decreases greater than 10% over the past 10 years.

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

Planning Area Elementary Schools

Parish Code	147-Most Blessed Sacrament		
School	ACADEMY OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT		
Town	FRANKLIN LAKES		
Enrollment Capacity	420		
	Pre-K	K-8	8
Oct. 2015	33	152	**185**
Oct. 2016	41	124	**165**
Oct. 2017	34	115	**149**
Oct. 2018	42	114	**156**
Oct. 2019	28	84	**112**
Oct. 2020	20	104	**124**
Oct. 2021	19	106	**125**
Oct. 2022	17	64	**81**
Oct. 2023	30	48	**78**
Oct. 2024	33	64	**97**

Parish Code	456-St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish		
School	SAINT ELIZABETH SCHOOL		
Town	WYCKOFF		
Enrollment Capacity	280		
	Pre-K	K-8	8
Oct. 2015	29	241	**270**
Oct. 2016	29	241	**270**
Oct. 2017	38	197	**235**
Oct. 2018	43	195	**238**
Oct. 2019	46	167	**213**
Oct. 2020	30	174	**204**
Oct. 2021	36	161	**197**
Oct. 2022	43	197	**240**
Oct. 2023	36	200	**236**
Oct. 2024	39	213	**252**

Parish Code	426-St. Catherine Parish, Glen Rock		
School	ACADEMY OF OUR LADY		
Town	GLEN ROCK		
Enrollment Capacity	728		
	Pre-K	K-8	8
Oct. 2015	82	295	**377**
Oct. 2016	94	289	**383**
Oct. 2017	87	261	**348**
Oct. 2018	87	247	**334**
Oct. 2019	65	226	**291**
Oct. 2020	102	199	**301**
Oct. 2021	102	199	**301**
Oct. 2022	84	200	**284**
Oct. 2023	72	179	**251**
Oct. 2024	80	222	**302**

Parish Code	684- St. Paul Parish		
School	ACADEMY OF ST. PAUL		
Town	RAMSEY		
Enrollment Capacity	560		
	Pre-K	K-8	8
Oct. 2015	43	221	**264**
Oct. 2016	44	241	**285**
Oct. 2017	40	225	**265**
Oct. 2018	30	221	**251**
Oct. 2019	33	213	**246**
Oct. 2020	25	205	**230**
Oct. 2021	33	162	**195**
Oct. 2022	30	172	**202**
Oct. 2023	33	176	**209**
Oct. 2024	33	180	**213**

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

St. Gabriel Parish,
Saddle River, NJ

About Our Parish

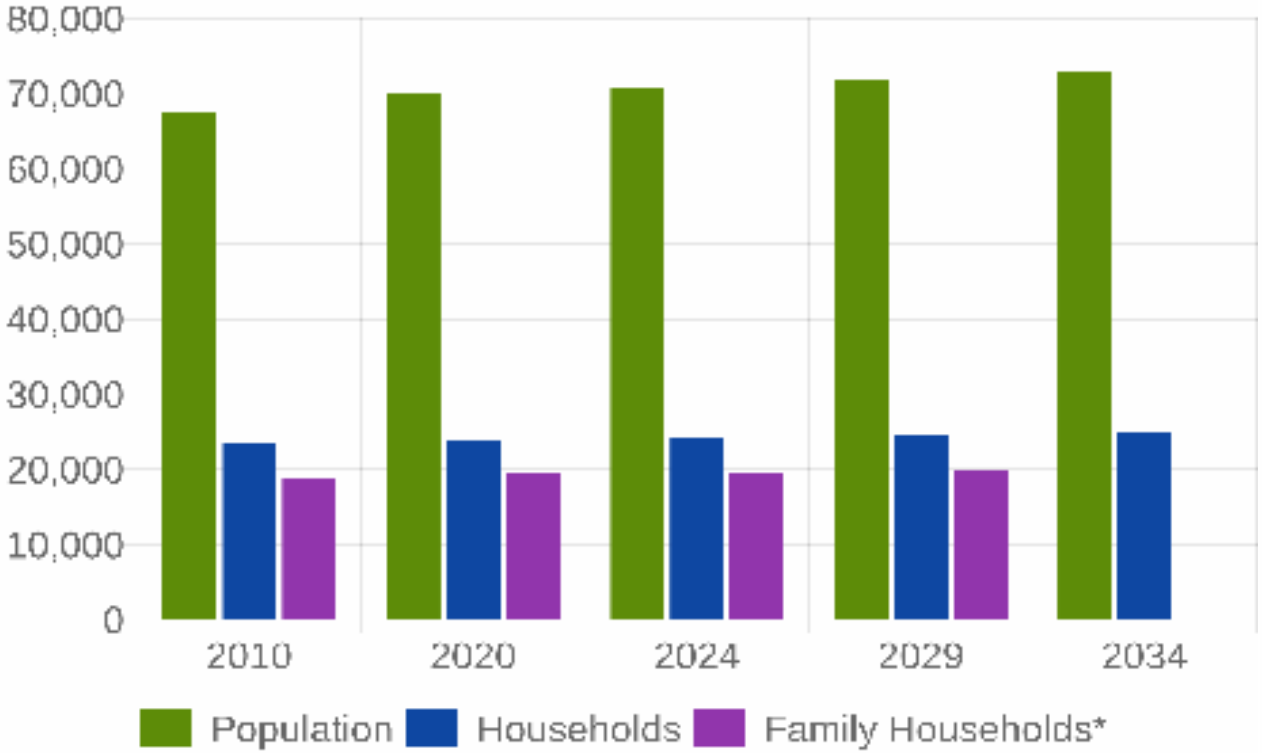
- The parish was established in 1953 and is located in Saddle River, NJ.
- There are over 1228 registered families.
- The church has a seating capacity of 400. With 2024 Mass attendance of 475 and 5 Masses on a weekend, average Mass attendance as a percentage of capacity is 23%.

Please Note: One Mass is suspended during the summer.

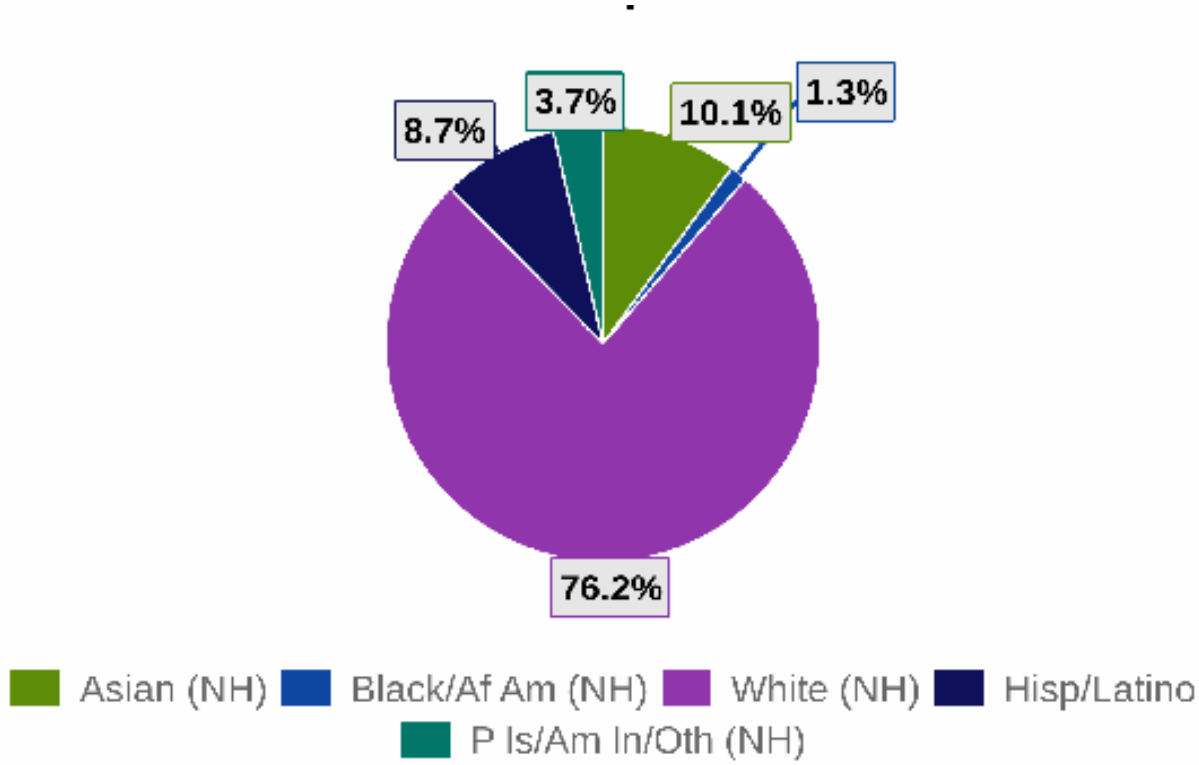
Parish Demographics

Data based on 3-mile radius from Church building

The general population of the area has increased 3,199 (4.73%) since 2010. It is projected to increase 2,102 (2.96%) over the next 10 years.

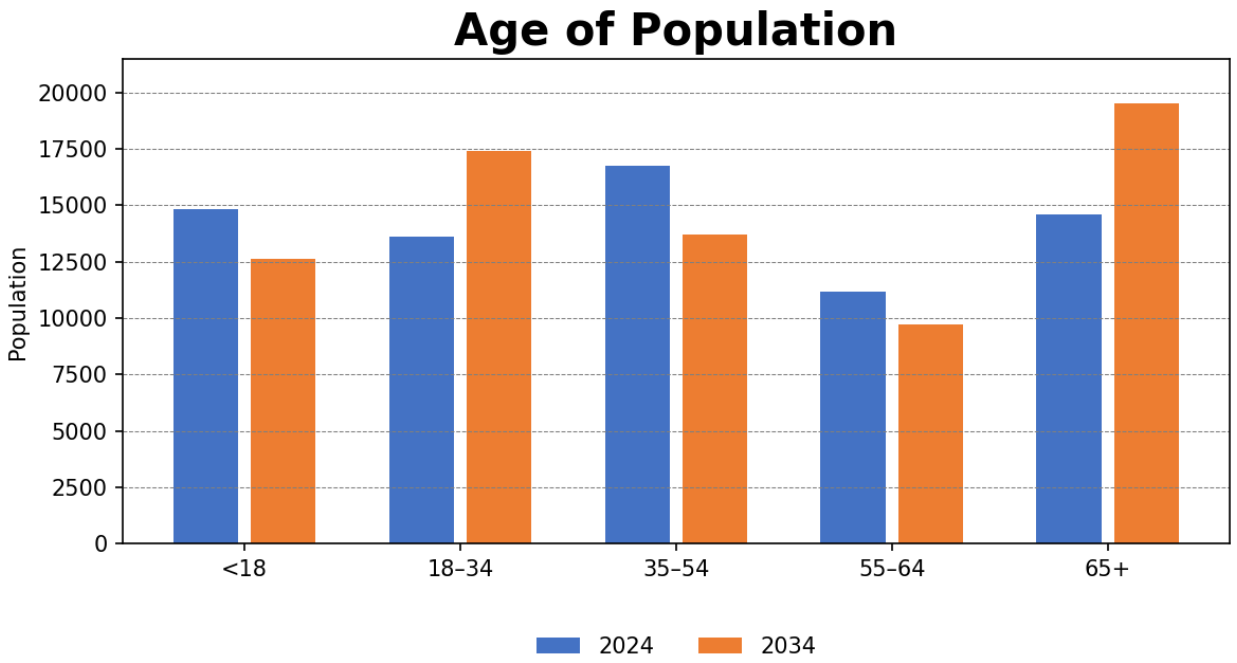


Ethnically, the area's largest population is White (NH) (76.2%), followed by Asian (NH) (10.1%), and Hisp/Latino (8.7%).



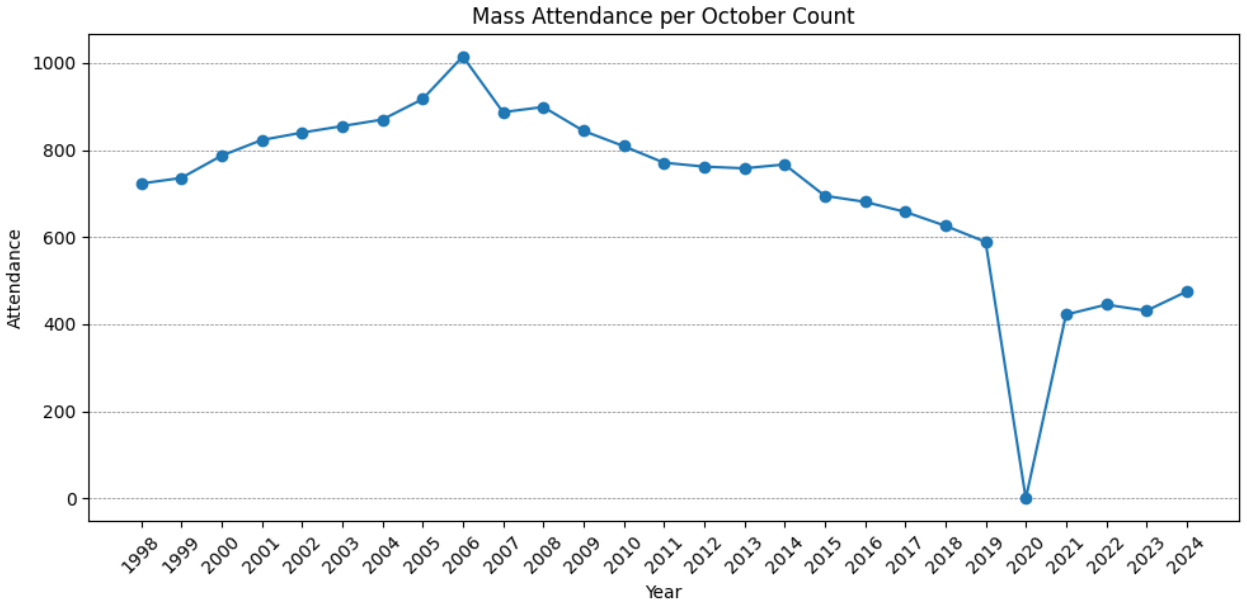
Parish Demographics

Data based on 3-mile radius from Church building



- The area's population is projected to moderately age, with a 6.15% increase in the 65+ age group from 2024 to 2034. Simultaneously, there is a projected -4.58% decrease in the school-aged population (ages 5–17), indicating a decline in the number of children.
- The % of two-parent (married couple) households is projected to slightly decrease by 0.69%, from 91.5% in 2024 to 90.8% in 2029.
- The estimated current-year average household income is $254,152. The average household income is projected to grow by 10.46% to $280,725.
- In 2024, 69.0% of the population in the study area hold a bachelor's or graduate degree, compared to 42.3% statewide. This suggests a highly educated population, which may influence community engagement, expectations, and economic behavior.

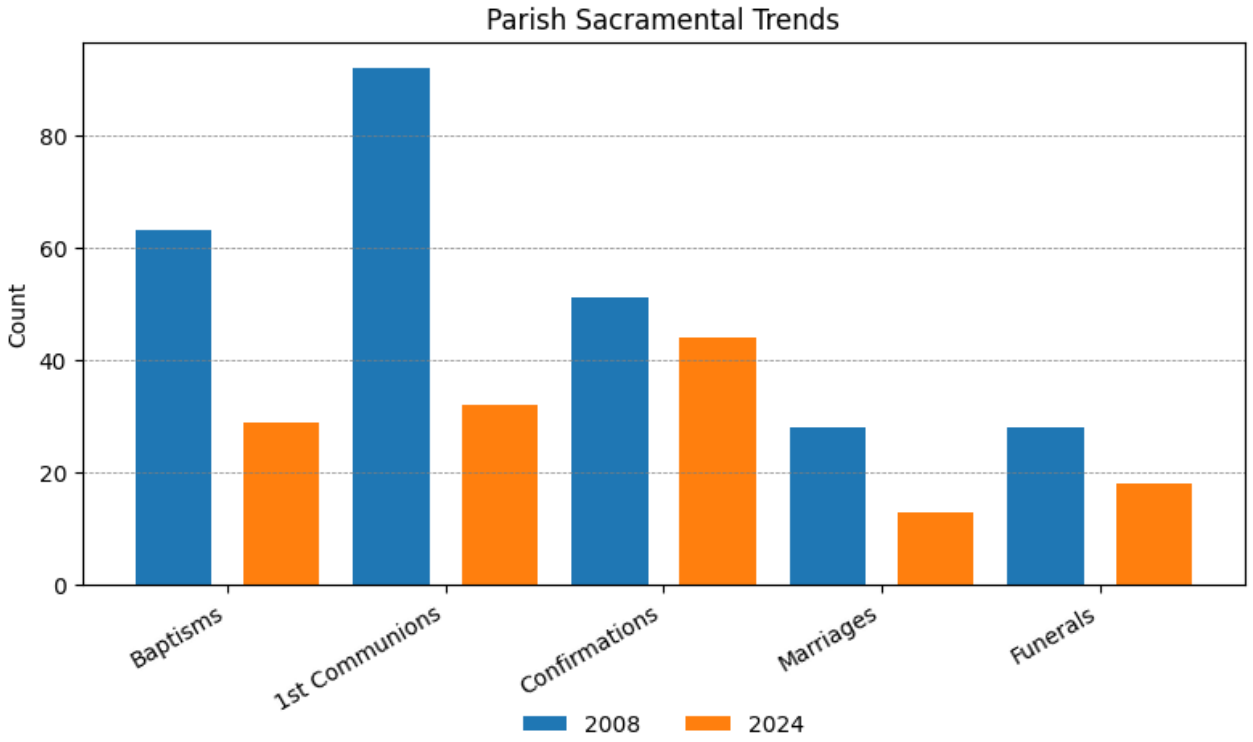
Parish Sacramental Trends



- Between 1998 and 2024, attendance decreased by 34%.
- From 2019 (Pre-COVID) to 2024, attendance decreased an additional 19%.
- Data for your parish is shown in the planning area section of the workbook.

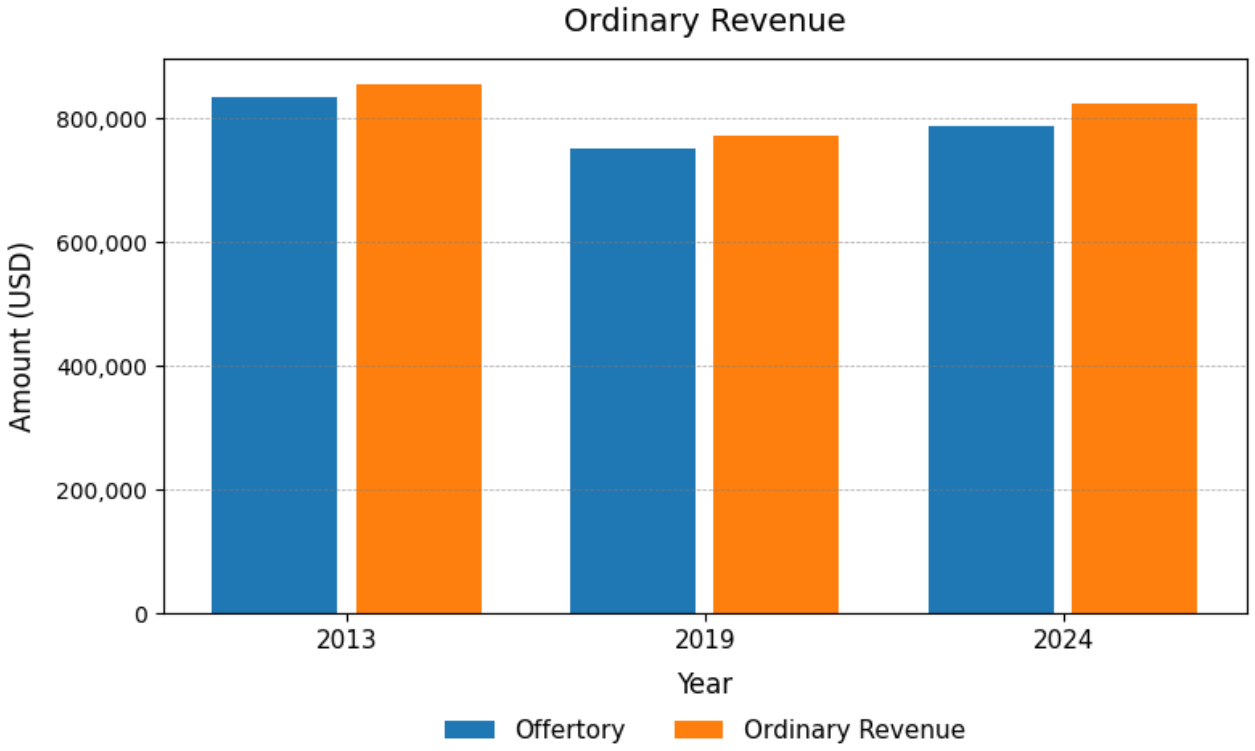
Please Note: Zeros represent that no data was reported in those years.

Parish Sacramental Trends



- Baptisms decreased from 63 in 2008 to 29 in 2024 — a 54% decrease.
- 1st Communions fell from 92 in 2008 to 32 in 2024 — a 65% decrease.
- Confirmations decreased from 51 in 2008 to 44 in 2024 — a 14% decrease, while marriages declined from 28 in 2008 to 13 in 2024.
- Funerals decreased from 28 in 2008 to 18 in 2024 — a 36% decrease.

Parish Sacramental Trends



- From 2013 to 2024, offertory collections decreased by 6% while Ordinary Revenue declined by 4%.
- From 2019 to 2024, offertory rose moderately (5%), from $752,384 to $788,402.
- Ordinary Revenue, rose by 7% over the same period (from $773,197 to $824,733).

Financial Summary

WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

St. Gabriel, Saddle River

	2022	2023	2024
Total Ordinary Revenue	818,760	816,999	824,733
Additional Revenue	114,732	106,288	113,512
Non-Operating Revenue	34,992	39,912	63,843
Total Revenue	968,483	963,199	1,002,088
Total Expenses	880,638	921,857	907,553
Change in Net Assets	87,846	41,341	94,535
Net Capital Projects	(34,419)	(20,146)	(16,525)
Total Change in Net Assets	53,427	21,195	78,010

- St. Gabriel has experienced a net gain in each of the past 3 years, with gains increasing.
- Ordinary Revenue has increased, making up about 85%–82% of total revenue annually.
- Total revenue increased from $968K (2022) to $1002K (2024).