

Message from the Pastor

The past couple of weeks, more and more people have been asking me about the Archdiocese's strategic plan called *Beacons of Light*. It's understandable that more people have been asking about this as the Archdiocese and parishes, including ours, have been promoting it and asking people to sign up to stay informed and involved in this process. If you would like to hear more about it, you can use this link: <https://catholicaoc.org/beacons-of-light>. There are two sorts of questions I get about *Beacons of Light*: "Why is the Archdiocese doing this?" and "What will it mean for our parishes?"

The "why" is somewhat easy to answer: the numbers don't add up anymore. Perhaps the biggest factor is that there have been fewer priests being ordained and those numbers—while better in the last 10 years or so—haven't kept up with the number of priests that are retiring. In the next 5 years or so, the Archdiocese is expecting to go from about 140 active priests to 113. On the backside of this page are some of the "hard data" and more numbers are available on the *Beacons of Light* website. Populations have shifted and there is a general decline in birth rates as well as participation in the Sacramental life of the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion, and Marriages. Throughout the Archdiocese, we've seen that on average, parishes are only 33% full in Sunday Masses. While these numbers don't perfectly reflect our numbers up here in the Northern part of the Archdiocese, we haven't been immune. We're seeing that particularly with Mass attendance numbers post-Covid. Even with the obligation to attend Sunday Mass back in place, our average at Holy Rosary per Mass has been close to 250 people. At St. Patrick's, that number has been 140. I don't know where people are, but they're not at Mass.

Ultimately, I think the "why" is quite easy: because we have an internal structure problem and "normal" isn't cutting it anymore. If we're honest with ourselves, "normal" hasn't been cutting it for a long time. If we want to be fruitful and active in the future, things will have to change. That's the hope: by using our resources differently, our parishes will be better equipped to invite more people to follow Christ: whether that's living a good, holy, and fruitful marriage where the faith plays a central life of the family or inviting young men to pursue the priesthood and become good, holy, and spiritually fruitful pastors or enabling young women to give themselves completely to Christ in the religious life, the Archdiocese wants our parishes to be fruitful and active places where Christ is visible to a world that is getting further from Him. And that's what we should want from our parishes, too!

The harder question to answer is what that will look like for our parishes. And that's not something that I know. Priests and pastors are told the same information as is available to you all. I don't have any special insight. Will we be grouped in with another parish or other parishes? Maybe. But I can't say either way with any level of certainty. It is one of those situations where we will have to wait and see. This isn't an optimal answer. Many people want answers, but all I can say is that when I have more information, I will let you know!

A question that I've been asking myself through this process has been, "What is God calling me to do right now?" And as I've prayed about that, I think for you and I, the thing God wants us to do is trust in Him and keep working to become a saint. Jesus says in the Gospel, "*Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today*" (Matthew 6:34). Worrying about it won't change much—if anything! What can I do then? Become a saint! I look at my life and the friends I had growing up who don't practice the faith very much or at all. What would the Church look like today if those families had made their relationship with Christ central and they lived by the truth that the only thing that truly matters in this life is for us to become saints? Chances are we wouldn't be in this situation. But we can't just ruminate on the past; we have to find the way forward. Things may change because of *Beacons of Light*, but there's one thing that never changes: Jesus Christ is Lord. And if we lean into that truth—rather than worrying about things you and I can't change—He will see us through everything, renewing His Church and renewing us, too!

In Christ,

Fr. Witt

What is the Priest & Pastor Situation in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati?

Sacramental Life: 2010 vs 2019

What were the numbers like then versus what they are like now:

Baptisms: 5,922 vs 4,795 (-19%) First Communion: 6,921 vs 5,275 (-23%)
Confirmations: 7,126 vs 5,595 (-21%) Weddings: 1,954 vs 1,409 (-27%)

Scope & Definitions

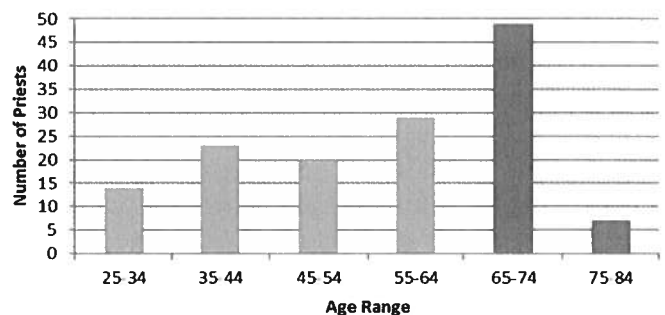
- The information shared here is about active archdiocesan priests. It does not include retired priests or religious order priests.
- Archdiocesan priests can be assigned as Pastors, Parochial Vicars (also known as Assistant Pastors or Associate Pastors), Offices in the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, Professors at the Seminary (or studying to be a Professor) or as a chaplain.
- Parochial Vicars (PV) – all newly ordained priests are assigned as a PV for at least 2 years but hopefully 4 years. Older priests may request to be PV's if they are not able to continue to be a pastor – generally health issues but are not old enough or don't want to retire.
- The retirement age in the Archdiocese is 70 years of age.

Active Archdiocesan Priests Situation

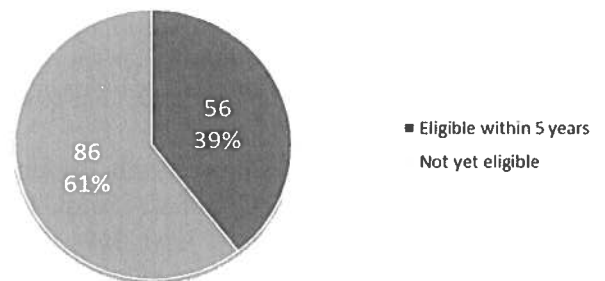
Currently there are 143 active diocesan priests in the Archdiocese. There are 212 parishes in the Archdiocese with 176 currently pastored by Archdiocesan priests. The remaining parishes are pastored by religious order priests.

As of 2021, 19 % of all active archdiocesan priests will be eligible to retire. In the next 5 years, 39% will be eligible to retire.

Ages of Active Priests as of 6/30/21



Nearly 40% of Active Priests Eligible to Retire Within 5 Years

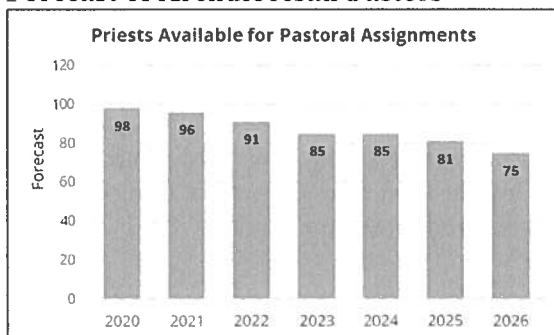


Pastor Situation Now & Future

Situation Today

	Total Priest	Total Pastors
75+	11	9
65 - 74	47	38
TOTAL	58	47

Forecast of Archdiocesan Pastors



Ordinations & Impact

While it is true that ordinations have been better in the last 10 years, they have not kept up with the retirements, particularly retirements in the next 5 years. The current ordination projection is an average of 5 men per year over the next 5 years.

58 Priests Eligible to Retire vs 25 New Priests Ordained – a gap of 33 priests to stay even with today.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RCIA Starts September 1st

RCIA will resume on Wednesday, September 1st. If you or someone you know would like to join the Catholic Church or are an adult and haven't received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church, please call Nan at 419-300-1045.

You Asked - We Listened!

Parish-Wide RCIA Starts September 15th

We hear from so many parishioners saying that they wish they could learn more about their faith as those going through the RCIA. A Parish - Wide "RCIA" for our pastoral region will begin on September 15th.

We will meet most Wednesday nights from 7-8:00pm from September through April for 45 minute classes followed by Q and A and small group discussions.

Fr. Witt will be teaching the majority of the classes, so you will want to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday nights to come and learn the beauty of our God-given Church. We are trying to get a preliminary head count so we have ample room for all - please call the office if you're planning to attend.

Sisters in Christ Summer Event August 9th "Behind the Shrine"

Join us as we tour Maria Stein Shrine and Grounds and finish our evening with prayers in the chapel.

Tour will begin at 6:30pm
Carpools will leave Holy Rosary at 6:00pm.
Please bring a \$7 donation.

Questions can be directed to:
Stacy Smith (419-733-5805) or Nan Mielke (419-300-1045)

Baptism Class

Are you expecting a baby or have a child who needs baptized? Baptism Preparation Classes are offered for Holy Rosary and St. Patrick parents, on the second Thursday of every month. Our next class is scheduled for August 12, at 6:30pm, in the Upper Room.

Pre-registration is required - please call the parish office to register prior to the class at 419-394-5050.

2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal

Archbishop Schnurr thanks the faithful of Holy Rosary and St. Patrick parishes for the very generous donations to CMA. Holy Rosary pledged \$20,221 and St. Patrick pledged \$2,937 to the Appeal. This response is a testament to the generosity of our parishes. A special thank you to the families that participated in this year's Appeal.

September
17 & 18

Holy Rosary Festival and Reverse Raffle 2021 Top Prize \$15,000

REVERSE
RAFFLE

1,000 tickets are now available for \$100 each.

The drawing will take place September 18.

Tickets can be purchased at the parish office,
weekdays (M,T, TH, F) 7:30am - Noon
Wednesday 10:00am - 1:00pm
After weekend Masses

Kid Games

You can also send a check to the office:
511 E. Spring St., St. Marys, OH 45885
We will fill out the ticket and mail your ticket stub to you.



For the tickets - we accept cash, checks or
Venmo - Holy-Rosary-1
(no credit cards)

This will be a family friendly picnic with concessions,
children's games and live entertainment.

Reverse Raffle Gift Cards

This year in place of baskets we will give away gift cards. Anyone wanting to donate gift cards for the raffle, please drop them off in the collection baskets or at the office.

** Please indicate on the cards the amount that the card is worth.

Gift cards can also be purchased at the parish office through the SCRIP program.

WEDDING BANNS ANNOUNCED



The First Time:
Jennifer Kemp & James Yahl

The Second Time:
Ashley Scott & Cody Mihm

PAROUSIA THE BIBLE AND THE MASS

September 14—November 16

6:30pm

Holy Rosary Upper Room

Presented by Linda Lunn & Dr. Todd

To Register: Call Patti at 419-394-5050

Or email hrsecretary@bright.net

Join us for an inspiring bible study and discover your place in the Story of Salvation.

- + See the liturgy in Scripture and the Scriptures in the Liturgy
- + Experience the Mass as heaven on earth
- + Learn the deeper meaning of "Parousia"

AUGUST 8, 2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	August 8
8:00am	Mass at Holy Rosary
9:30am	Mass at St. Patrick
11:00am	Mass at Holy Rosary - Live Streamed
Monday	August 9
8:00am	Mass at Holy Rosary
6:30pm	Sisters in Christ - Tour Maria Stein Shrine & Grounds **Carpools will leave HR at 6:00pm
Tuesday	August 10
8:00am	Mass at Holy Rosary
Wednesday	August 11
11:30am	Confessions at Holy Rosary
12:05pm	Mass at Holy Rosary
Following Mass	Legion of Mary - Upper Room
Thursday	August 12
8:00am	Mass at St. Patrick
6:30pm	Baptism Prep Class - Preregistration Required
8:00pm	Knights of Columbus - K of C Hall
Friday	August 13
8:00am	Mass at Holy Rosary
Saturday	August 14
3:30 - 4:15pm	Confessions at Holy Rosary
4:30pm	Mass at Holy Rosary
Sunday	August 15
8:00am	Mass at Holy Rosary
9:30am	Mass at St. Patrick
11:00am	Mass at Holy Rosary - Live Streamed

Holy Rosary Collection

Weekly Collection July 31 & August 1	\$ 6,272.10
Online Giving	\$ 1,482.85
Mailed in Donations	\$ 0.00
Total Collected for the Week	\$ 7,754.95
Total Collected for July	\$ 41,594.02
Budgeted for Month of July	\$ 34,166.66
Budget Short/Over	\$ 7,427.36

St. Patrick Collection

Weekly Collection July 31 & August 1	\$ 1,348.00
Online Giving	\$ 193.70
Total Collected for the Week	\$ 1,541.70
Total Collected for July	\$ 4,138.91
Budgeted for Month of July	\$ 5,833.33
Budget Short/Over	\$ (1,694.42)

Live Stream Sponsorship

Sponsorship for the Month of August
Holy Rosary Altar Society

If you would like to sponsor a month of the live stream in memory or in honor of someone, please stop by the parish office. The cost of live streaming the Mass is \$250 per month. November and December are still available for sponsorship for this year.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 08/09	St. Teresa of Benedicta of the Cross <i>Dt 10:12-22; Mt 17:22-27</i> 8:00am HR Those With Cancer
Tues. 08/10	St. Lawrence <i>2 Cor 9:6-10; Jn 12:24-26</i> 8:00am HR Lavera Rhoades
Wed. 08/11	St. Clare <i>Dt 34:1-12; Mt 18:15-20</i> 12:05pm HR Louise Rye
Thurs. 08/12	St. Jane Frances de Chantal <i>Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Mt 18:21-19:1</i> 8:00am SP Mary Burke
Fri. 08/13	St. Pontian & St. Hippolytus <i>Jos 24:1-13; Mt 19:3-12</i> 8:00am HR Florence Jones
Sat. 08/14	St. Maximilian Kolbe <i>Jos 24:14-29; Mt 19:13-15</i> 4:30pm HR Marvin Buehler
Sun. 08/15	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56</i> 8:00am HR Auddie Niekamp 9:30am SP Dave & Jeannette Brown - 50th Wedding Anniversary 11:00am HR Alfrieda Backs

Prayer Hotlines

Holy Rosary
Julie
419-305-7937
St. Patrick
Melissa
419-733-6341

Weekend Mass Attendance

4:30pm 265
8:00am 223
9:30am 98
11:00am 271
817

This Week's Bulletin Sponsor

Steve Schmitmeyer

Western/Southern Insurance

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sat. August 14 HR 4:30pm Mass

Lectors: Barb Hamberg, Dan Hoelscher

Servers: Volunteers - Grades 8-12 & have been retrained

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: Volunteers

Sun. August 15 HR 8:00am Mass

Lectors: Alex Pittman, Lil Heitkamp

Servers: Volunteers - Grades 8-12 & have been retrained

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: Volunteers

Sun. August 15 SP 9:30am Mass

Lector: David Oen

Sacristan: Ellen Brown

Servers: Chloe Ott, Owen Ott

Ushers: Janet Ott, Mike Ott

Sun. August 15 HR 11:00am Mass

Lectors: Carla Eaglowski, Greg Eaglowski

Servers: Volunteers - Grades 8-12 & have been retrained

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: Volunteers