

2020 Annual Parish Pastoral Report

From the Pastor's Desk



An annual *Parish Pastoral Report* is submitted to the archdiocese each year to provide specified statistical data to our Archbishop to help him identify current pastoral issues and set priorities for the future. Our *Parish Pastoral Council* also reviews these statistics to help us assess the current state of the parish and plan for the future.

Each year I provide the parish at large with this summary with the hope that prayerful reflection on the raw data helps each parish organization — and each parishioner — in setting priorities.

The year 2020 was the year of the pandemic. Archbishop Pérez dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays as of March 15th, and between March 15th and June 7th the celebration of public Mass was suspended. The parish began live streaming one weekend Mass as well as the 9:00 A.M. weekday Masses and the 8:00 A.M. Saturday Mass. At the beginning of August, the Apostles of Jesus began assisting at weekend Masses, and at the beginning of September, Father Brian Izzo began ministry a our new Parochial Vicar.

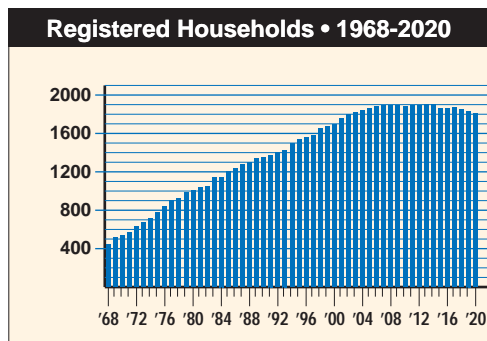
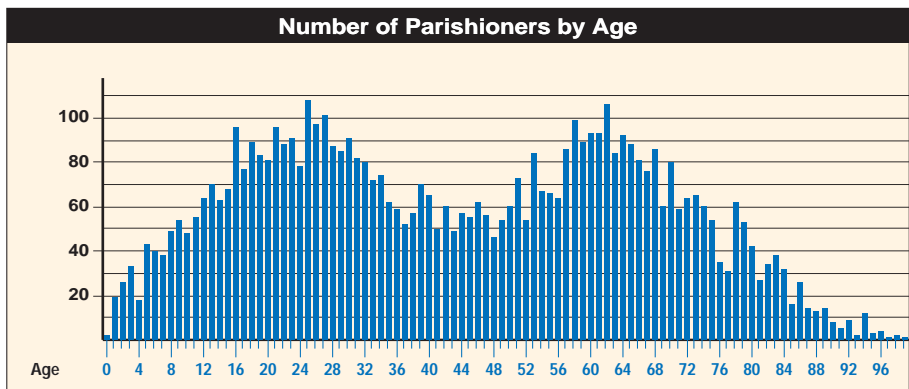
As vaccinations increase and Covid mitigation protocols are relaxed, together we must reflect on how this experience can bring us closer to God and to his Church. Remember that St. Paul says that all things produce good for those who truly love God. Let us pray that we can come to see some good coming out of the pandemic, and build on it to give greater glory to God, and greater ministry to one another.

Archbishop Pérez has informed me that I will be ministering with you this year, and that I will be assigned to retirement status in June, 2022, thus this will be a year preparing for transition — both for me and for the parish.

As you review this report, pray with me that the data inspire us to deepen our individual and parish commitment to build up the Kingdom in our parish and in our homes. At the same time, we must remember the tremendous joy in heaven over *one* sinner who repents, so our mission is not in "better numbers," but in a deeper spirituality so that we become better witnesses to Christ for those who are looking for the way, the truth and the life.

Parish Population (as of Dec. 31st)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total registered parishioners.....	6,021	5,932	5,904	5,806
Total registered households.....	1,960	1,943	1,926	1,901
Estimate the unregistered Catholic families .	250	250	250	250
Weekend Mass attendance (October count) .	1,059	957	977	473
Households donating at least once a month.	605	560	531	449



From the parish's foundation in 1968 the number of parish families grew steadily until 2007, when it began to plateau as families moving into the parish replaced long-term parishioners moving to smaller homes or warmer climates. Now, the number of families is diminishing; this seems to be the result of families leaving the Church because of the sexual abuse crisis, as well as families moving into the parish who are "spiritual, but not religious," and who are, therefore, not registering.

Our average age is 43.5 — five months older than last year — but the age chart at the bottom of the first column does not show a "normal distribution." Young adults going out on their own or beginning a new family cannot afford to live within the parish boundaries, leaving a relatively small number of parishioners in their late 20's through the early 40's. Since 2001, our average age has moved from 35 to 45.

Among the principal blessings of the Holy Spirit are unity and peace — two things most agree are in much need in our country, and our world, at present. As Christians we are called to be signs of God's presence in the world, and to be instruments of transformation in our society as a leaven. We can begin by strengthening our unity and peace with God and with one another as Church. As we emerge from quarantine and social distancing, let us commit to more vibrant celebration of God's gift of the Eucharist, and to being a more effective sign of his presence to others.

I invite you to join with me in committing the parish to uniting more fully with the Lord, and sharing more fully his love, his forgiveness and his healing with one another.

2020 Parish Pastoral Report *(continued)*

Administration of Sacraments 2017 2018 2019 2020

Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism.....	31	31	32	31
Confirmation.....	63	2	1	38
First Eucharist.....	64	48	44	42

Sacrament of the Sick

Total Anointings for the year.....	52	65	71	43
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Matrimony

Both Catholic.....	5	10	10	3
Catholic/Baptized.....	2	1	2	1
Catholic/Non-baptized.....	1	0	1	0
TOTAL.....	8	11	13	4

Funerals

Total funerals for the year.....	53	54	66	58
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Parish School Age Population 2017 2018 2019 2020

Catholic Schools

St. Katharine Drexel, Holland.....	11	11	16	22
Nativity of Our Lord, Warminster.....	12	8	5	12
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Southampton.	6	1	1	0
Private Catholic Elementary.....	8	9	9	8
Diocesan High Schools.....	18	18	12	12
Private Catholic High Schools.....	15	16	14	16
Other Catholic Schools.....	6	6	8	8
TOTAL.....	76	69	65	78

Public or Non-Catholic Private Schools

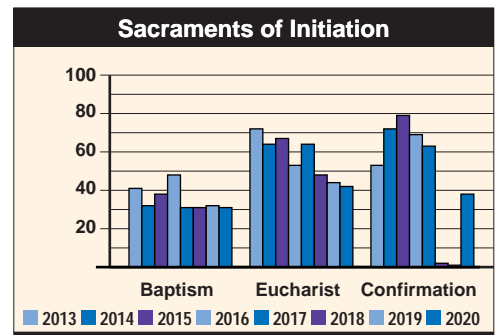
Elementary (K - 6).....	372	348	357	320
Junior High (7 - 8).....	156	139	122	94
Senior High (9 - 12).....	318	306	307	285
TOTAL.....	846	793	786	699

Parish Religious Education 2017 2018 2019 2020

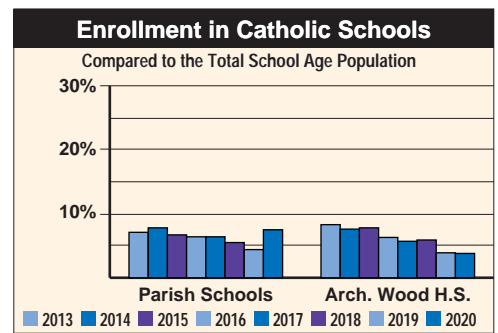
Elementary (K - 6).....	305	268	250	232
Junior High (7 - 8).....	14	10	52	48
High School (9 - 12).....	12	8	12	4
Total Catechists.....	26	26	27	23

Adult Faith Formation

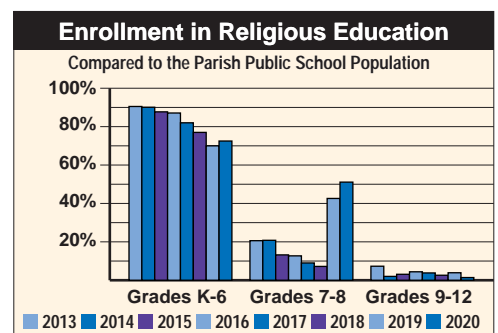
The Pastoral Report submitted to the Archdiocese also includes adult faith formation programs with attendance estimates. The programs include our Baptismal Preparation Program, programs for the parents of our First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation candidates. Programs offered during 2020 to the parish were greatly curtailed because of the Covid-19 mitigation protocols; however, the Sunday Readings Bible Study continued, first in person and later virtually.



The consistently higher numbers for those receiving First Eucharist than for those being baptized reflect the figures in the age chart. No Religious Ed students were confirmed during 2018 and 2019 because of an Archdiocesan policy which moved confirmation from 6th to 8th grade.



The above enrollment figures are for the neighboring parish schools attended by our parishioners, and our nearest Archdiocesan high school. Enrollment figures for those attending private Catholic schools and academies are estimates.



The above percentages are based on the figures given in the report. Since our Religious Ed program is 1-6 and public school figures are K-6, the actual percentages are slightly higher. The increase in attendance in grades 7 and 8 for the last two years, is a result of moving Confirmation from 6th to 8th grade.