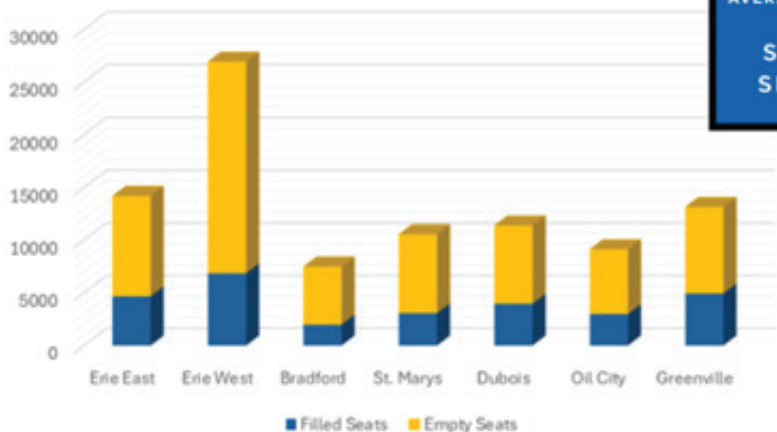


Attendance and Seating by Deanery

SUNDAY SEATING CAPACITY: 92,872
 AVERAGE MASS ATTENDANCE: 28,490
 SEATS FILLED: 31%
 SEATS EMPTY: 69%



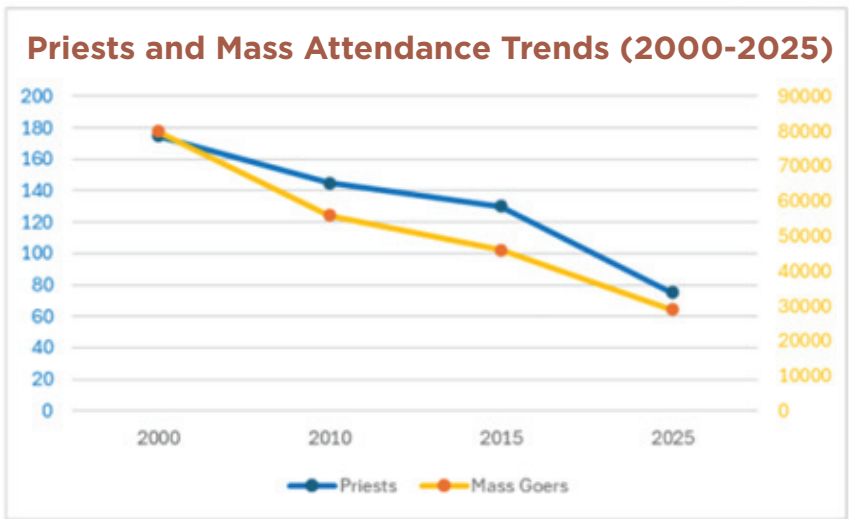
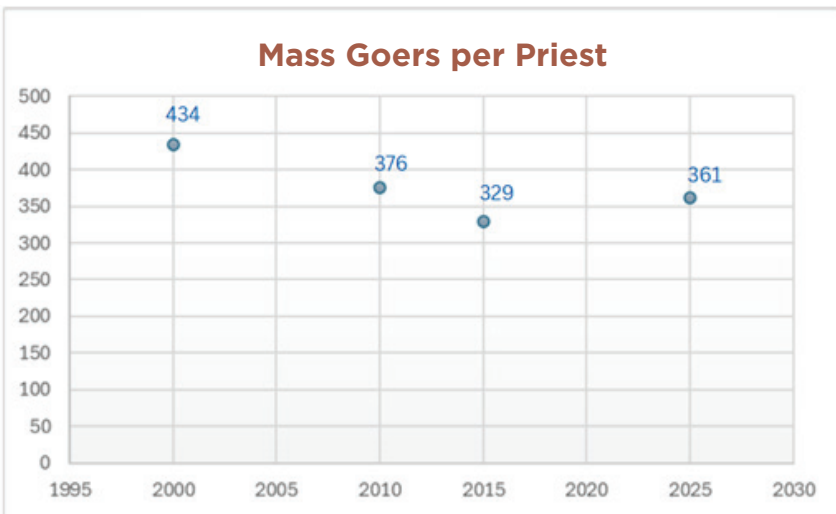
Mass Seating

Across the Diocese of Erie, available church seating significantly exceeds current weekend Mass attendance. This reflects long-term shifts in participation that have occurred across the Catholic Church in the United States.

Attendee to Priest Ratio

Over the past several decades, the Church has experienced significant changes. Average Sunday Mass participation in the diocese has declined by roughly 65%, while the number of active diocesan priests has declined by nearly 58%.

At the same time, the diocese continues to serve 13 counties, over 10,000 square miles, maintaining churches, parish buildings and ministries throughout the region.



Ratio Trend

Over the past two decades, both the number of diocesan priests and Sunday Mass attendance have steadily declined. While the ratio of priests to Mass attendees has remained relatively consistent, the nature of ministry has changed.

Priests now carry broader responsibilities, often serving multiple parishes, missions and secondary churches, while also managing increased administrative and pastoral demands.

Planning for the Future

With fewer priests and changing patterns of Mass attendance, the Diocese of Erie continues to responsibly adjust parish structures, Mass schedules and collaborations among parish communities to serve the faithful well. These efforts help ensure that the Eucharist and the sacraments remain accessible while strengthening parish life for the future.