

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

Archdiocesan Restructuring



The Archdiocese of Detroit began a season of intentional renewal in November 2025 through a two-year journey of discernment and planning. This March, we enter **Phase 2: Listening and Refinement**. More than 400 Listening Sessions will take place across the Archdiocese of Detroit offering parishioners the chance to review draft models, share feedback, and help shape the future of their parish and Planning Area. Your voice and prayerful input are essential to this process. Beginning in July 2027, different groups of parishes will form pastorates led by a single pastor and his team. While some communities may merge or buildings may change in purpose, no decisions have been made in advance; outcomes will be shaped by the collective wisdom of the faithful. You are invited to participate, listen, and journey with us as we discern a mission-focused future for our Church in Detroit.

Phase 1: Kickoff and Discernment

AUGUST 2025 TO MARCH 2026

- Parish, curia, and ministry data collected and analyzed
- Consultation and feedback with priests, deacons, and parish leaders
- Restructuring initiative announced to the public (Nov. 17, 2025)
- Criteria developed for pastorate models
- Parishes grouped into "planning areas" to begin discernment
- Priests meet to develop draft pastorate models (January 2026)



Pastorate Discernment Modeling Sessions (Jan 14-16)
170+ priests gathered for three days to pray, discuss, and discern new models for the structure of our parishes.

Phase 2: Listening and Refinement

APRIL 2026 TO DECEMBER 2026

- Parish workbooks (data & demographics) posted on restructuring website
- **Each parish holds two listening sessions open to public (Spring 2026)**
- Curia holds listening session
- Priest assignment process discernment begins
- Pastorate models refined and presented for Archbishop Weisenburger's consideration

What's NEXT?

LISTENING SESSIONS THIS SPRING

After Easter, you will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft models at your local parish listening sessions. There will be more than 400 across the archdiocese. **Dates and instructions for registration can be found at [RESTRUCTURING.AOD.ORG](https://restructuring.aod.org) beginning in mid-March.**

Phase 3: Preparation for Implementation

JANUARY 2027 TO JUNE 2027

- Archbishop Weisenburger announces pastorate decisions
- Priest assignments announced
- Curia realignment announced

Phase 4: Implementation

JULY 2027 TO JULY 2028

- New pastorates and priest assignments begin

How Can I Get Involved?

First and foremost, join us in prayer. You can view the Prayer for Archdiocesan Restructuring on our website. You can also sign up to receive specific prayer intentions each month, so you can include them in your personal prayer, or as part of your parish's intercessory prayer team. During spring of 2026, all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Detroit will have the opportunity to share their feedback on various drafts models. Each model proposes a different option for grouping parishes together into pastorates. Each Parish will host two listening sessions at which you can learn more about the plans and share your feedback. Within a few weeks of your Listening Session, every parishioner will be provided and opportunity to share additional feedback in an online survey. Every piece of feedback will be discerned and considered as valuable contribution to this process.

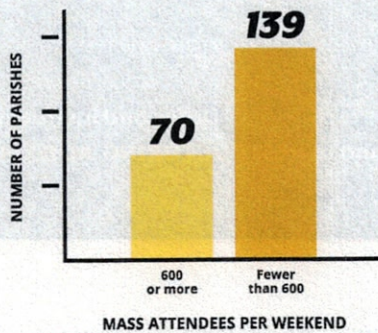
When Are My Local Parish Listening Sessions?

Every Parish will host two listening sessions, beginning in mid-April, through the month of June 2026. In total, more than 400 listening sessions will be hosted across the archdiocese. You can find information about your Parish listening Session and RSVP at restructuring.aod.org beginning in mid-March.

Why Does the Archdiocese of Detroit Need to Restructure?

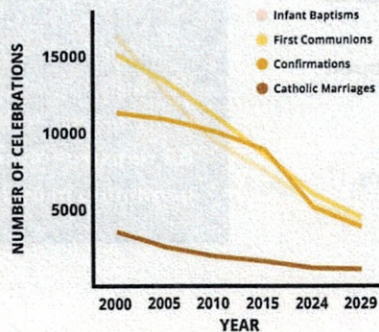
THIS INITIATIVE IS ROOTED IN OUR MISSION TO BRING CHRIST MORE FULLY INTO THE LIVES OF THE FAITHFUL AND TO STRENGTHEN SPIRITUAL AND COMMUNAL BONDS ACROSS OUR ARCHDIOCESE.

Over recent decades, we've seen significant shifts: fewer Catholics attending Mass, declining participation in the sacraments, and an ever-shrinking number of priests due to aging and retirement. Once serving 1.5 million Catholics, we now minister to approximately 900,000 – with fewer than half attending Mass regularly. At the same time, we've struggled to maintain buildings, structures, and ministries designed for a much larger Church, and that's left us stretched thin – making it harder to fully serve where people need us most.



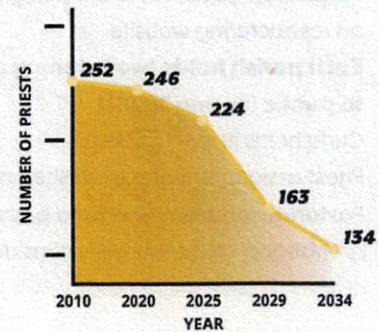
Mass Attendance

Today, 67% of parishes have fewer than 600 weekly Mass attendees. In the next five years, more than three-quarters of parishes are projected to shrink.



Sacraments

In the past 25 years, we've seen a dramatic decline in Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations, and a steady decline in marriages.



Fewer Priests

Most active priests are 50 and older, and the total number of priests is projected to decline by 40% in the next 10 years.