

# Father's Notes

January 12, 2025

One of the things that we began doing, soon after I started here, is taking a headcount at every Sunday Mass. I'm grateful to our ushers for carrying out this task and recording it, as it's one more thing added to their list of responsibilities. They carry it out cheerfully.

These counts can be insightful. The following are based on the Mass counts from July through November 2024.

First, I'll share the stats for St. Thomas. The seating capacity is 335 and there are three Masses, as follows:

- Sat 5:00pm – average attendance 88
- Sun 8:30am (Spanish) – average attendance 431
- Sun 10:30am – average attendance 246

Next, I'll share the stats for St. Philomena. The seating capacity is 640 and there are five Masses, as follows:

- Sat 5:30pm - average attendance 131
- Sun 8:30am - average attendance 200
- Sun 10:30am - average attendance 258
- Sun 1:00pm (Spanish) - average attendance 558
- Sun 5:00pm (Spanish) - average attendance 397

For both parishes combined, there are eight Sunday Masses (5 English, 3 Spanish) with a combined average of 2308 persons attending.

- The three Spanish Masses have a combined average of 1385 (an average of 457 per Mass)
- The five English Masses have a combined average of 922 (an average of 182 per Mass)

As you look at these, is there anything that surprises you or anything that stands out to you? I don't personally have a specific conclusion that I've drawn from these figures, but I believe they reveal that there is a lot of life at our two parishes. More to come. In the meantime, we'll continue to count.

On a different note, I'm pleased to report that we have hired a new Pastoral Assistant for Administration for St. Philomena, Tita Ruiz, who will start her role with us in a couple of weeks! We received numerous applicants, and several were very good options. I'm grateful to the hiring team for helping with the interviews and to select the candidate that will best meet our needs.



**Father Todd O. Strange** (*Pastor*)

+ St. Philomena Parish & School (*Des Moines, WA*)

+ St. Thomas Parish (*Tukwila, WA*)