

# Father's Notes

May 11, 2025

On January 12th I wrote to you, explaining that one of the things that we began back in July, is taking a head count at every Sunday Mass. I'm continually grateful to our ushers for carrying out this task and recording it, as it's an additional task to their list of responsibilities. These counts can be insightful. What follows here is the Mass schedule for each parish, showing the average attendance in July thru November, and beneath it, December thru March.

## **SAINT THOMAS (seating capacity 335):**

### **Sat 5:00pm**

- Jul-Nov average attendance 88
- Dec-Mar average attendance 74

### **Sun 8:30am (Spanish)**

- Jul-Nov average attendance 431
- Dec-Mar average attendance 487

### **Sun 10:30am**

- July-Nov average attendance 246
- Dec-Mar average attendance 253

## **SAINT PHILOMENA (seating capacity 455):**

### **Sat 5:30pm**

- Jul-Nov average attendance 131
- Dec-Mar average attendance 140

### **Sun 8:30am**

- Jul-Nov average attendance 200
- Dec-Mar average attendance 209

### **Sun 10:30am**

- Jul-Nov average attendance 258
- Dec-Mar average attendance 268

### **Sun 1:00pm (Spanish)**

- Jul-Nov average attendance 558
- Dec-Mar average attendance 573

### **Sun 5:00pm (Spanish)**

- Jul-Nov average attendance 397
- Dec-Mar average attendance 472

For both parishes combined, there are eight Sunday Masses (5 English, 3 Spanish) with a combined average of 2476 persons attending (compared to 2308 in July-November). The change in numbers from Jul-Nov to Dec-Mar (whether showing an increase or decrease) is not significant (perhaps, except for St. Thomas 8:30am and St. Philomena 5:00pm). More to come on what we can potentially extrapolate from these numbers.

Regardless, I think we all can agree that even if we see these numbers as a good sign of a healthy faith community it is not the only indicator. There are other important indicators of life: How well are we serving the poor? Are we engaged and growing in faith? Are we a living sign for each other and for others of God's presence at work in our lives?

The fact is, we are called to do better in these areas, both as individuals (certainly, including me), but also as a community, in what we offer as a parish, and in how each of us engages to what is offered. I'm preoccupied with (haunted by?) these thoughts! More to come on this too, as I thank you for your continued patience.



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

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

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