

Slow rebound from COVID plunge

Catholic Herald Staff Report

The annual Mass count shows that 24.2 percent of registered parishioners in the Arlington diocese attended Mass weekly on Saturday night or Sunday in 2022. That's an increase from 2021 when 21.9 percent attended weekend Masses, but the results are still below pre-pandemic numbers. In the 2018 Mass count, 29.6 percent of

parishioners attended Mass. "In reviewing the latest data from the October Mass count, it is clear we are still recovering from the significant decline in attendance following the COVID-19 pandemic," said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge. "While many people have returned, we have yet to reach our pre-COVID numbers. "Looking at various causes and needs as they relate to this information, we can

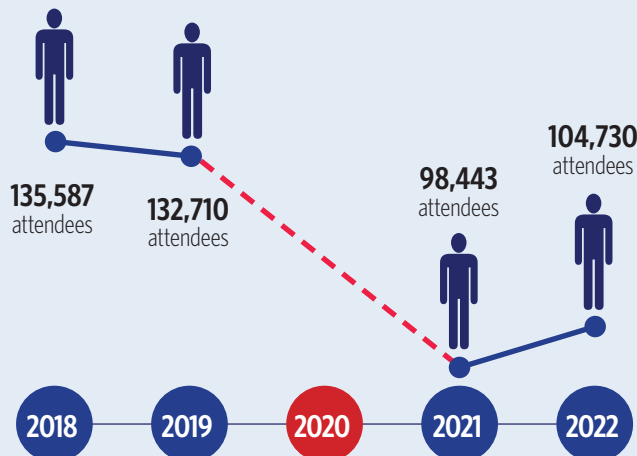
recognize a tremendous opportunity for all of us to inspire new vibrancy in the faithful of our diocese," he said. "Within the pillars of evangelization and fostering discipleship in our diocesan Strategic Plan, we are developing and promoting the tools to help equip our parishes and members of the faithful with best practices on how to attract and encourage non-participating Catholics to return home.

"Additionally, all of us should consider how we can become more active in our parish life, ministries and activities," said Bishop Burbidge. "Above all, I ask everyone in the Diocese of Arlington to unite in prayer as we explore the most profound and personal ways to invite others into full and active participation at Mass and in the life of the church."

AVERAGE WEEKEND MASS ATTENDANCE

Approximately 24.2% of the estimated 443,400 registered Catholics were in attendance at Mass during the 2022 October count. This figure was 29.6% in 2018, 29.3% in 2019 and 21.9% in 2021. There was no Mass count in 2020. The current year attendance represents a 2.3% increase from October 2021 attendance. 72% of parishes experienced an increase in Mass attendance this year.

For the average weekend in October 2022, the 76 parishes/missions and three campus ministries reported a total of 104,730 persons in attendance at 400 regularly scheduled Masses. The average for 2022 is more (6.4% or 6,287) than the October 2021 average of 98,433.

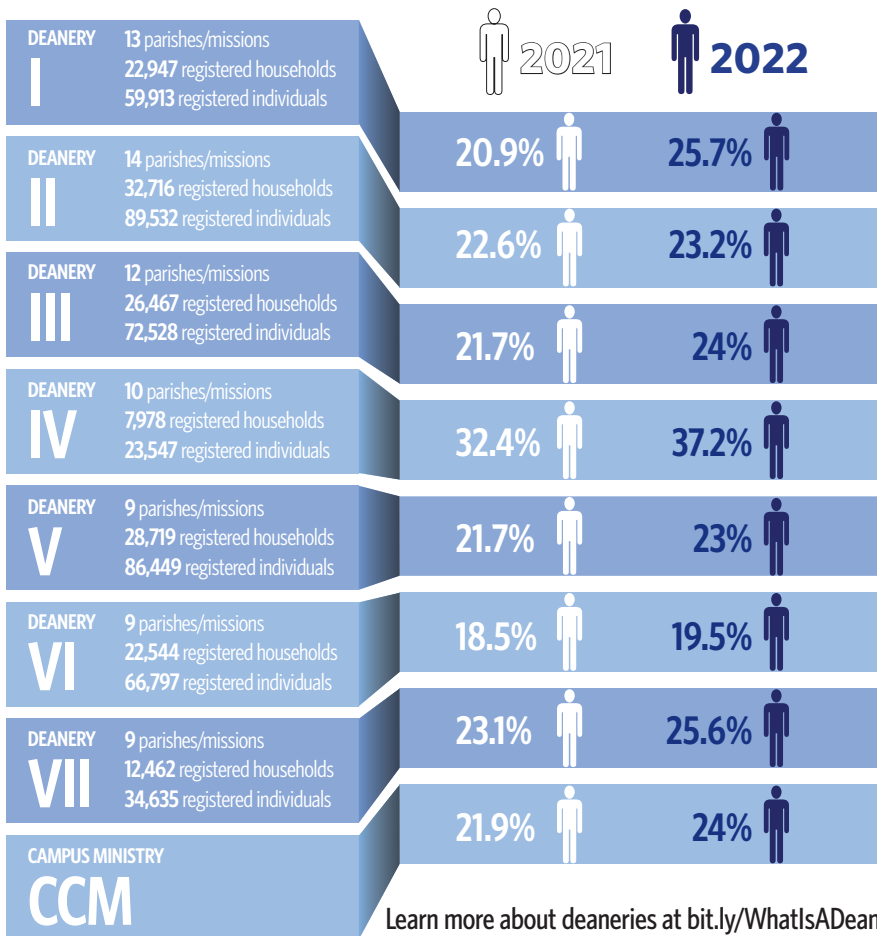


105K
Average weekend attendance in October 2022

24%
Attendance as percentage of registered parishioners

-22%
Change in average attendance over the past five years

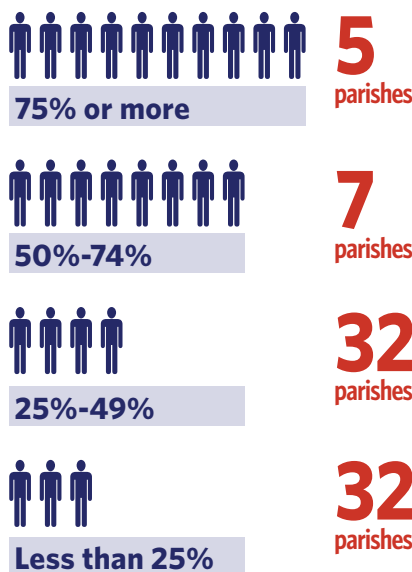
AVERAGE WEEKEND MASS ATTENDANCE BY DEANERY



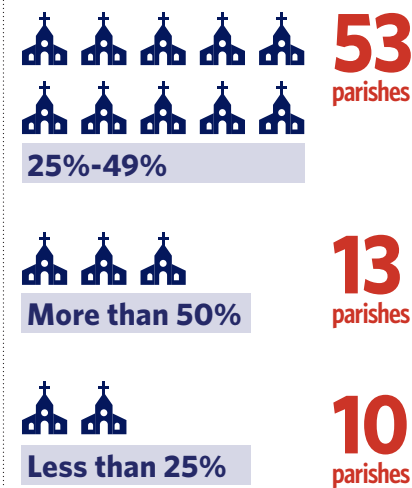
- In 32 parishes, October Mass attendance counts represent between 25%-49% of the registered individuals in the parish. 12 parishes have an attendance total that is 50% or more of the registered individuals in that parish. 32 parishes have a Mass attendance total that is less than 25% of the registered individuals in that parish.

- 53 of the parishes utilize between 25% and 50% of their capacity in a typical weekend. 13 parishes use 50% or more of their capacity while 10 parishes use less than 25%.

PERCENT OF REGISTERED INDIVIDUALS



PERCENT OF CAPACITY

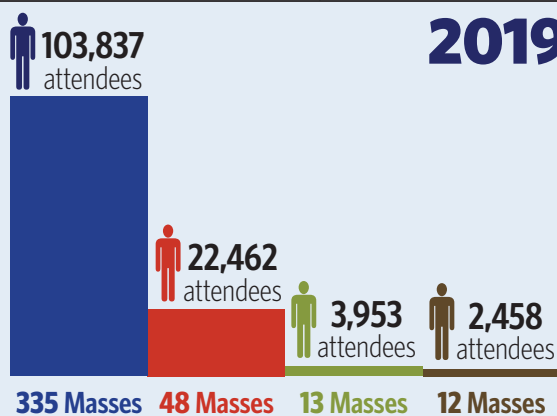


MASSES AND ATTENDANCE BY LANGUAGE

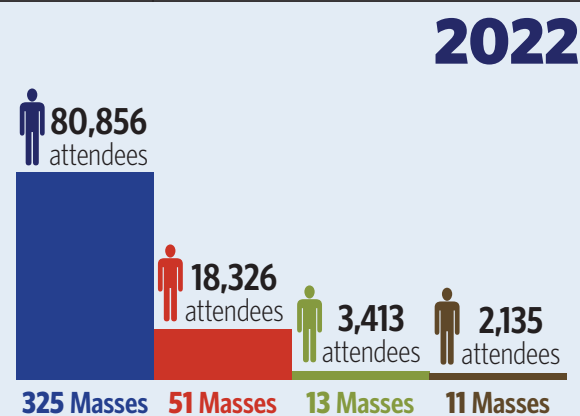
- 33 of the 76 parishes/missions celebrate weekend Mass in English only. 36 offer a Mass in Spanish, eight in Latin, and three in other languages (Korean, Vietnamese, etc.)

- The average number of weekend Masses per parish is five, but 41% of parishes have six or more Sunday/Saturday vigil Masses.

English Spanish Other Latin



2019



2022