

**REPORT OF SATURDAY-SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE
FOR OCTOBER 2017
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO**

SUMMARY

Approximately 20% of Chicago Area Catholics in attendance at mass during 2017 October count

For the average weekend in October 2017 the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese of Chicago reported a total of 395,928 persons in attendance at 1,641 regularly scheduled masses plus other special weekend celebrations. In addition, there were at least 12,775 persons in attendance on the average weekend at other reporting institutions in the Archdiocese. The parish and mission average for 2017 is less (-1.2% or -4,800) than the October 2016 average of 400,728. The combined parish, mission and institution actual count of 408,703 is 18.7% of the estimated 2,180,000 Catholic population of the Archdiocese.

PARISHES AND MISSIONS

The overall count at parishes and missions decreased by ~1.2% (about 4,800 persons), but ~42% of the parishes/missions experienced an increase.

345 out of 355 parishes and missions reported counts in both 2016 and 2017, 57% reported decreases. Among these 196 parishes and missions the average decrease was about 92 persons per parish/mission between 2016 and 2017 or a total of 17,968 persons. 42% of the parishes and missions responding in both years reported increases. For these parishes the average increase was 90 persons per parish/mission between 2016 and 2017 or a total of 13,172 persons. Three parishes reported the same average for both 2016 and 2017 (the weekly totals and individual mass counts differ between the years). The net result for the 345 parishes and missions reporting in both years is an overall decrease of 4,796 persons or 1.2%.

OTHER CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS

47 non-parish institutions hold mass for ~ 13,000 persons

Many of the non-parish Catholic institutions in the Archdiocese, such as hospitals and religious communities, schedule regular weekend masses for staff and the special publics they serve. Since the October count project began in 1986 several hundred have been contacted. By 1990 it was found that just over one third have regularly, scheduled weekend services. Each year some new institutions are added to the list and some that no longer have services are asked if they have started again. For the October 2017 count 80 institutions were asked to participate if regularly scheduled services were held. From the 80, 47 or 59% participated in the 2017 count.

The participating institutions report an average weekend attendance for October 2017 of 12,775 persons. There were 37 institutions that participated in both October 2016 and 2017. For October 2016 these 37 reported an average attendance of 12,220 persons. For October 2017 they report an attendance of 11,409, a decrease of 6.6%. For those reporting in both years, 18 report increases in attendance while 17 report decreases in the count for 2017, two remained the same. Estimated attendance for institutions not participating suggests that around 1,660 persons were in attendance at these sites. Hence it is accurate to say that around 13,880 persons attended masses in non-parish/mission settings in the Archdiocese of Chicago during the average weekend of October 2017.

Hospitals serve ~550 mass-goers on average weekend in October, and aging and residential care centers serve another ~1,600

Seven of the 11 Catholic hospitals holding weekend services participated in the October count project for 2017. These 7 taken together had an attendance average of 466 for October 2017 or roughly 67 persons per institution. Five participated in both years and had their attendance decrease from 386 in 2016 to 313 in 2017. Based on past responses it is accurate to say that around 596 persons attended masses in 11 Catholic hospital chapels during the average weekend of October 2017. Four other hospitals that had regularly scheduled weekend services report a combined total of 77 persons in attendance. Among 13 Catholic nursing, retirement and residential care homes that responded, there was a combined average of about 1,227 persons in attendance or about 94 persons per weekend per institution. Among the 10 institutions reporting in both years there was a decrease of -7.5% from 998 in 2016 to 914 in 2017.

Three campus ministry sites serve ~1,600 for mass

Three campus ministry sites participated in the project for 2017. A combined total of 1,599 were reported in attendance for the average weekend of October 2017.

Men and women religious communities have weekend services with count of ~3,100, while shrines/oratories count ~6,300

Five of the six communities of men religious reported their weekend services were attended by 37 to 2,601 persons at the sites. Four of the sites use languages not available in nearby parishes. (Three are retreat centers as well as houses of men religious). The five reported a combined total of 2,855 persons in attendance for the average weekend of October 2017. Six of the eight communities of women religious reported weekend services for a combined total of 267 persons in attendance per weekend.

Ten non-parish shrines/oratories with regularly scheduled weekend services report a combined total average attendance of 6,305 persons--with 73% of that total attending Maryville-O.L. Guadalupe Shrine. Airport ministries reported an average of 202 persons per weekend.