

Our Path
FORWARD



**OUR LADY OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
PARISH**

OPENING PRAYER

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers
dwell together as one!”

—Psalms 133:1



WELCOME & HOW WE GOT HERE

“Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you.”

—Romans 15:7



OUR TEAM

Brian Foley

Jim Gutsmedl

Julie Hirsch

Jill Meister

Joerg Oberschmied

Randy Reid

Mark Sherman

Joe Tomaino

Glen Villano

WHAT WE'LL COVER

Welcome and How We Got Here

Our Story

Our Parish Spaces

Financial Reality

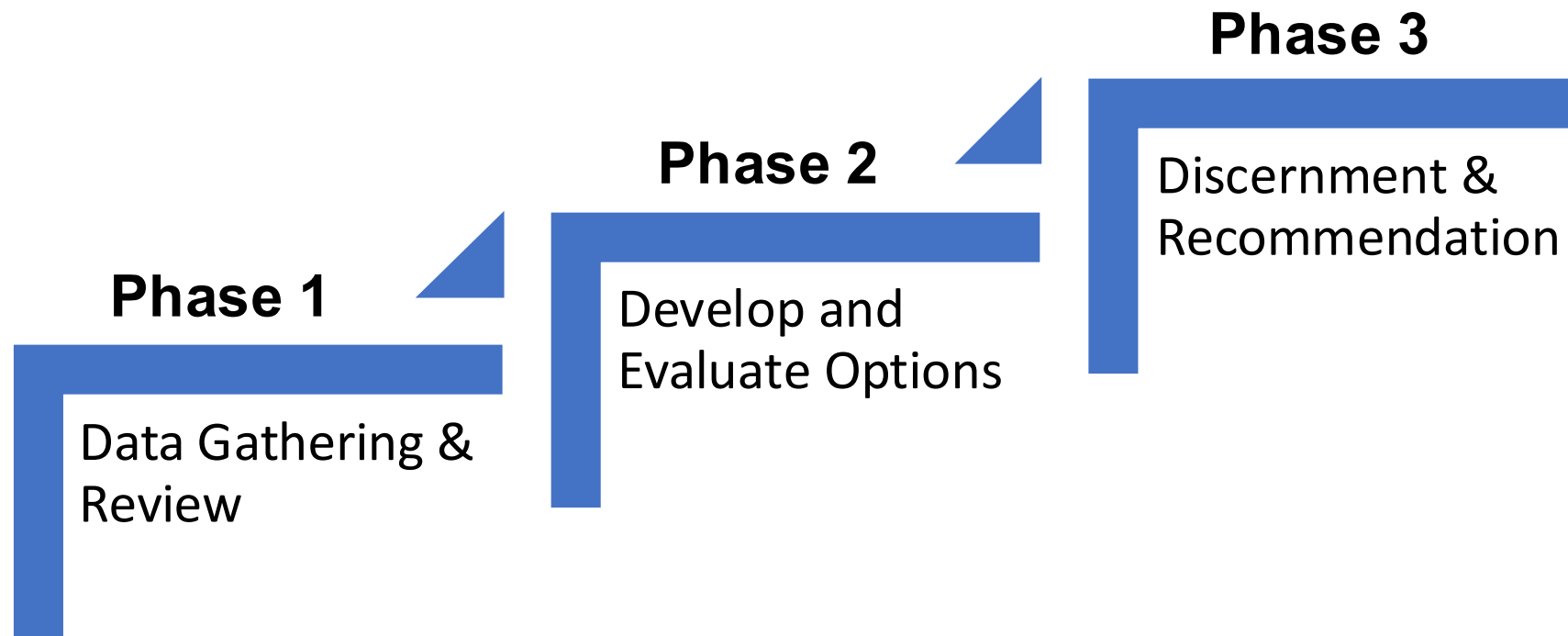
Recommendation

Q & A

PARISH MULTI-SITE REVIEW

- The Multi-Site Review Process
- Options Considered

MULTI-SITE REVIEW PROCESS



PHASE 1 – DATA GATHERING AND REVIEW

- **Assessed parish facilities** with a focus on what matters most
- Prioritized **critical maintenance** needs
- Reviewed **Mass attendance trends** and trajectory
- Captured how **ministries and committees are using space**
- Evaluated **financial position** and future outlook

PHASE 2 - OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- Take **no action** at this time.
- Retain all current facilities while **divesting the unused portion of the St. Julian Eymard (SJE) campus.**
- **Consolidate the Parish into the Queen of the Rosary (QR) campus** and divest the entire SJE property.
- **Consolidate the Parish into the SJE campus** and divest the non-school portion (church, rectory) of the QR campus.

The pros and cons for each option were thoroughly evaluated.

PHASE 3 – DISCERNMENT & RECOMMENDATION

- Focused on options that reflect the **reality and needs of our parish today**
- Took time for **prayerful listening and honest conversation**
- Discerned, together, the path that **best supports our future**
- Arrived at a unified recommendation, **fully supported by the team**
- We will **share that recommendation** with you tonight

OUR STORY

“Above all things, let your love
for one another be intense.”

—1 Peter 4:8



GOD WORKING AMONG US

- Before there were even church buildings, there was **community**
- Places where **lives have been lived and celebrated**

Queen of the Rosary Church, built 1962

GOD WORKING AMONG US

- Built through **faith, sacrifice, and commitment**
- Moments that **brought people home**

St. Julian Eymard Church, built 1978

GOD WORKING AMONG US

- Today, one parish, one path guiding us forward, together

OLBS Corpus Christi Procession, 2024

OUR PARISH SPACES

“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established.”

—Proverbs 24:3



ST. JULIAN EYMARD



- Built in 1978, the church has seating for 450 parishioners.
- The property includes the church and parish ministry.
- The building also accommodates the administrative personnel and the ministry activities in conference rooms and Shea Hall.
- The property constitutes 9.2 acres.

QUEEN OF THE ROSARY



- Built in 1962, the church has seating for 900 parishioners.
- The campus includes the church, school, rectory, and administrative building. Along with sports field features and playground.
- The property constitutes 11 acres, with the church and rectory utilizing one-third of the total.

FINANCIAL REALITY

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

—Acts 20:35

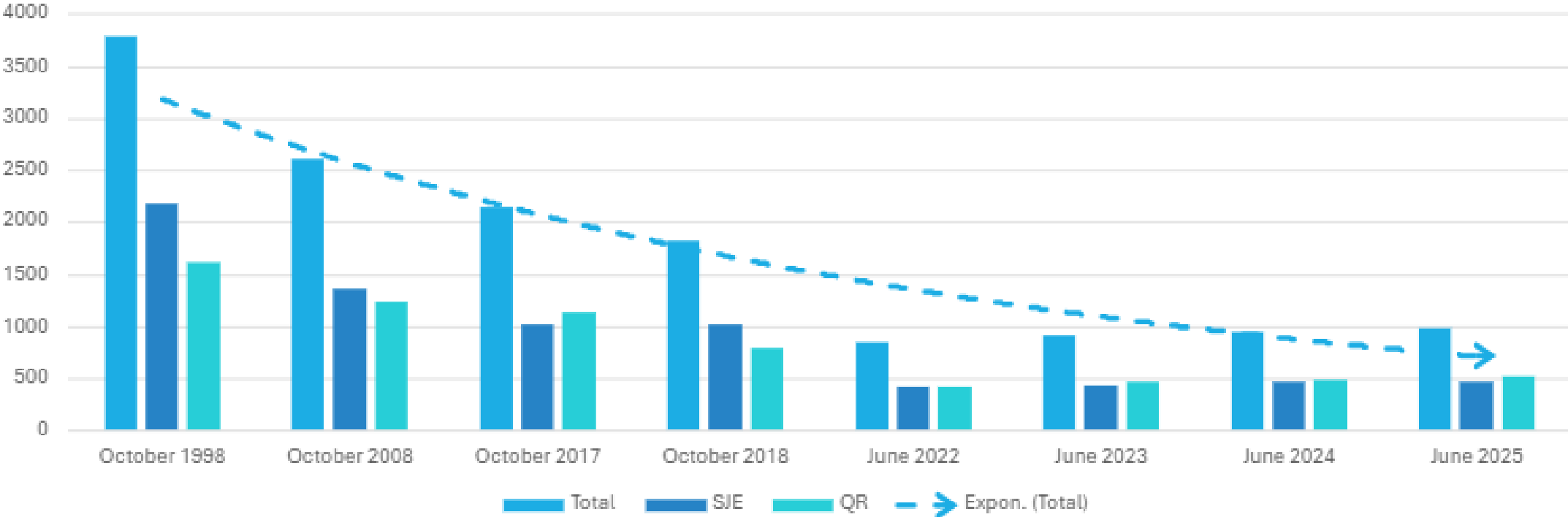


STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY

- Sunday Mass attendance is just over **half of what it was pre-unification**
- Costs have **continued to rise**, much like what we see in our own households
- Offertory has **remained flat**, not keeping pace with even modest attendance gains
- Maintaining two worship sites means **duplicating expenses across many areas**
- The Parish has been depleting reserves to operate, and this is **not sustainable** long term

DECLINING ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

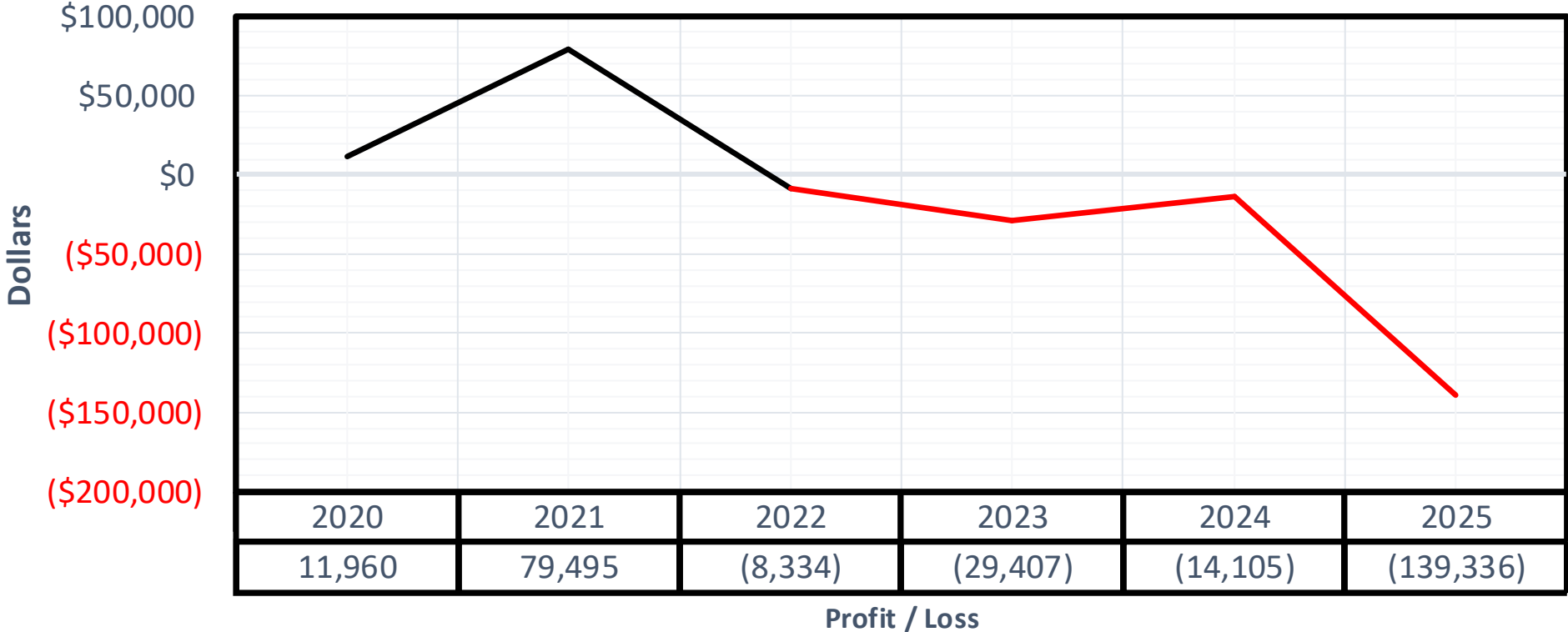
Avg. Weekend Mass Attendance



Since 1998, weekend mass attendance has fallen 74%.

DECLINING REVENUE NUMBERS

Net Income from Church Operations since 2020



Since 2022, church revenues have been insufficient to cover its expenses.

RECOMMENDATION

“But the wisdom that comes from above
is first of all pure.”

—James 3:17



TEAM RECOMMENDATION

This was...

- fruit of prayerful discernment by our Multi-Site Review Team

This was not...

- an easy decision
- arrived at quickly
- one taken lightly
- predetermined by the Archdiocese of Chicago

TEAM RECOMMENDATION

- To grow as **one parish community centered on Christ**
- To more fully **share in worship, ministry, and parish life**
- To **focus our Time, Talent, and Treasure** where each will have the greatest impact

TEAM RECOMMENDATION

- After careful discernment, the shared recommendation is to consolidate **Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish** at our **Queen of the Rosary Campus**
- While **our Queen of the Rosary School** was not formally part of the evaluation criteria, it became clear that **our commitment to forming young people in the faith is closely connected to the presence of an active worship space** on the same campus

NEXT STEPS

- Fr. Arthur has accepted the team's recommendation
- Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils will review the recommendation
- Recommendation to be presented to the Archdiocese of Chicago's Presbyteral Council
- Presbyteral Council approves and the Cardinal accepts and formalizes in a decree
- Transition team to be assembled

Normal operations including Mass, Ministry, and Parish Office will continue at St. Julian Eymard through January 2027.

OUR PATH FORWARD

- One Parish, One Family
- Stronger Sense of Belonging
- Enhanced Worship Experience
- More Present Pastoral Care
- Better Stewardship of Resources
- Stronger Ministry, Greater Impact
- **Clearer Sense of Identity**...one home base that reflects who we are and where we're going, together.

Q & A

“For everyone who asks,
receives.”

—Matthew 7:8

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- As we shared, this decision was arrived at after fruitful discernment, and not an easy decision, or one arrived at quickly, or one taken lightly
- Throughout this process there were many questions
- We know you will have questions as well
- We want to take some time now to hear those questions and respond as best we can
- Some questions may not have simple, or quick, answers, but we will approach our path forward together

CLOSING PRAYER

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers
dwell together as one!”

—Psalms 133:1





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BLESSED SACRAMENT**
PARISH

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