

# Welcome

**Listening Sessions to provide feedback on new Mass schedule**

*March 13-14, 2025*



# Tonight's Agenda

- Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- Brief overview of the Transition Team and introductions
- Factors influencing the Mass schedule
  - National and Local Trends
  - Archbishop's directive on capacity & Canon law requirements
  - Attendance & Church capacity data
- Your input: Suggestions and comments
- Timeline
- Concluding prayer

# Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*Come, Holy Spirit!*

*Fill us with your wisdom, peace, and hope as we begin this meeting.*

*Throughout our time together, help us to remain attentive to your promptings so that we may be vessels of your Will.*

*With each passing gathering, deepen the bonds of communion among us. Grace us with clear vision, strong faith, and the consolation that you are with us always.*

Amen.

# Transition Team: Brief Overview & Introductions



# The Role of a Transition Team

- A Transition team gives advice and counsel to the pastor of merging parishes on issues preceding the actual merger, for the benefit of his decision making
- The team is comprised of appointed members from both Most Holy Trinity and Church of the Resurrection parishes
- Brief introductions from team

# Factors influencing the Mass schedule



# National and Local Trends

## National

**40% fewer** priests serving in the United States since 1985

Total U.S. Priests 1985: **57,317**

Total U.S. Priests 2023: **34,092**

## Local

Number of priests in the Archdiocese of Hartford has declined from **587** to **230** over the last 50 years (includes **121** priests who have retired).

*Between now and 2030:*

- Total Retirements: **22**
- New Ordinations: **5**



# Archbishop's guidance & Canon Law requirements

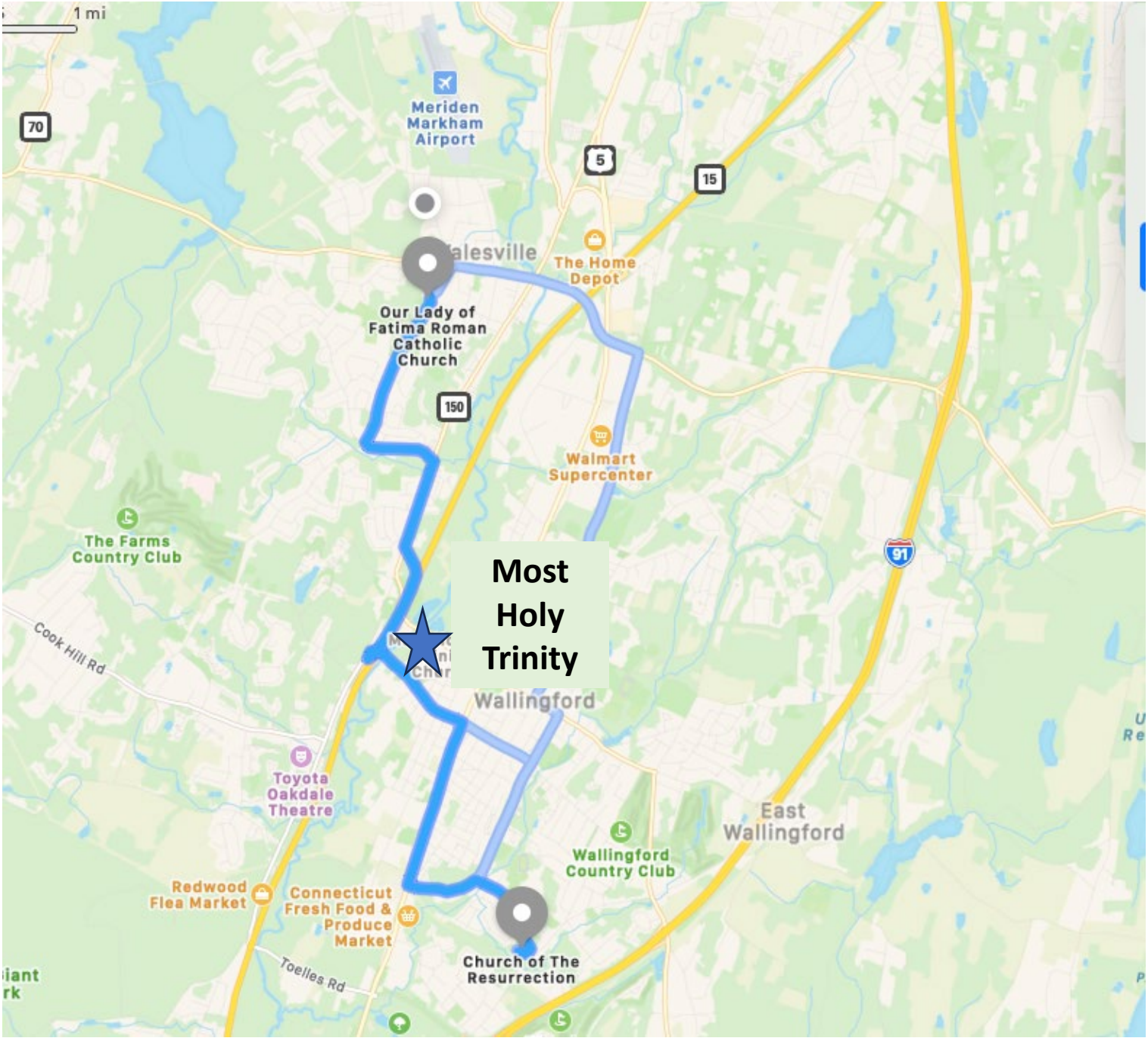
- Letter from Archbishop Blair and Archbishop Coyne on 1/26/24 requested **all** parishes review Mass schedules due to the current “undue multiplication of Masses.”
  - Three reasons cited: Better liturgy, parish unity, and the health of the priest.
- Guidelines from our Archbishop:
  - Each parish should have an average of at least **50% of its seats filled** for every Mass (better liturgy, more unity).
  - **One priest** must be able to cover the Mass schedule of a parish on a typical weekend.
  - Each priest should be celebrating **no more than three Masses per day (i.e., three on Saturday and three on Sunday)**





	COR	MHT	OLF
Resurrection (COR)		2.6	5.5
Most Holy Trinity (MHT)	2.6		3.3
Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)	5.5	3.3	

- Traffic not factored into the data above





# Weekend Attendance and Church Capacity Data

Exhibit One: Mass data sorted by number of people attending

Mass	Attendance*	Total Church Capacity**	% filled
12:15 Holy Trinity	425	505	84.16%
10:30 Resurrection	304	655	46.41%
5:00 Resurrection (Sat)	256	655	39.08%
9:00 Holy Trinity (OLF)	243	660	36.82%
10:30 Holy Trinity	232	505	45.94%
9:00 Resurrection	213	655	32.52%
4:00 Holy Trinity (Sat)	168	505	33.27%
7:30 Resurrection	166	655	25.34%
7:30 Holy Trinity	143	505	28.32%
5:30 Holy Trinity (OLF) (Sat)	91	660	13.79%

*\*Counts took place during the fall of 2024*

*\*\*All pews measured; 24 inches per person assumed*



# Attendance and Church Capacity Data

Exhibit Two: Mass data sorted by % full (Archbishop’s Directive: 50%)

Mass	Attendance*	Total Church Capacity**	% filled
12:15 Holy Trinity	425	505	84.16%
10:30 Resurrection	304	655	46.41%
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# Daily Mass Attendance and Church Capacity Data

- The average attendance for daily Mass at both Church of the Resurrection and Most Holy Trinity Church is between 30 to 45 persons at each liturgy.
- The capacity of The Church of the Resurrection is **655**; the capacity of Most Holy Trinity Church is **505**.
- At the same time, on any given day, there can also be anywhere from 0 to 4 funerals occurring between both parishes.
- Therefore, given the number of Masses priests are allowed to celebrate each day, this means that we will also need to reduce the number of English daily Masses to one. The times/locations for daily Mass are still to be determined.



## Our goal:

- Craft a weekend Mass schedule that meets the Archbishop's 50% capacity benchmark AND allows a single priest to cover all Masses on a given weekend
  - Existing 10 Mass schedule is unsustainable with two priests
- A 7 Mass interim weekend schedule is a step toward our ultimate goal of a long-term 6 Mass schedule
- With regard to daily Masses, we are looking at 1 English Mass each day, 1 Spanish weekday Mass per week, as well as increased opportunities for Holy Trinity School students to attend Mass.



Your input: Suggestions and  
Comments



# Timeline

- The Transition Team will prayerfully consider your feedback and finalize its recommendation to Father Mendoza.
- We expect the interim Mass schedule (with 7 Masses) to be released in the coming months.
- In the meantime, we ask your prayers for our parishes, clergy, Transition Team and merger process.

# Closing Prayer