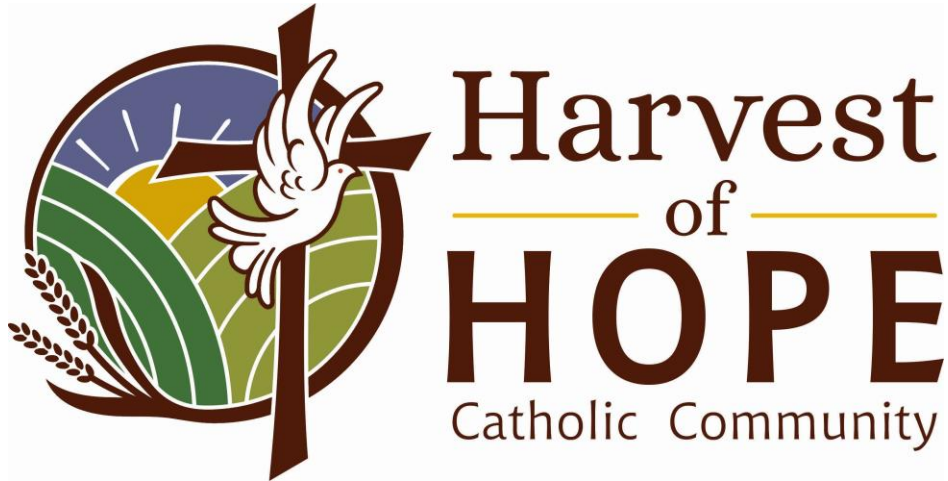


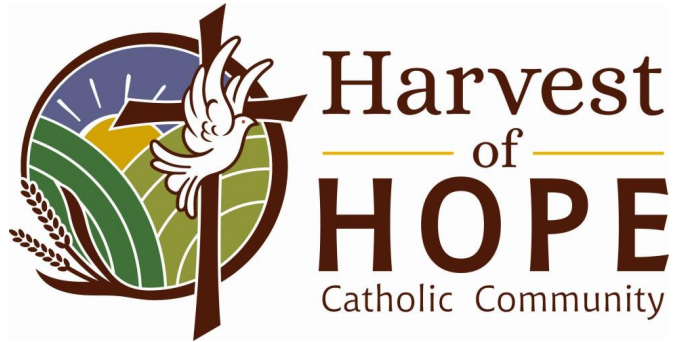
All Things New Listening Sessions



Agenda

1. St. Cloud Diocese
2. Guiding Principles and Parameters
3. Harvest of Hope ACC
4. Becoming One Parish Corporation
5. Next Steps
6. Questions

St. Cloud Diocese



St. Cloud Diocese

131 Parishes

Priests serving Parishes: 55

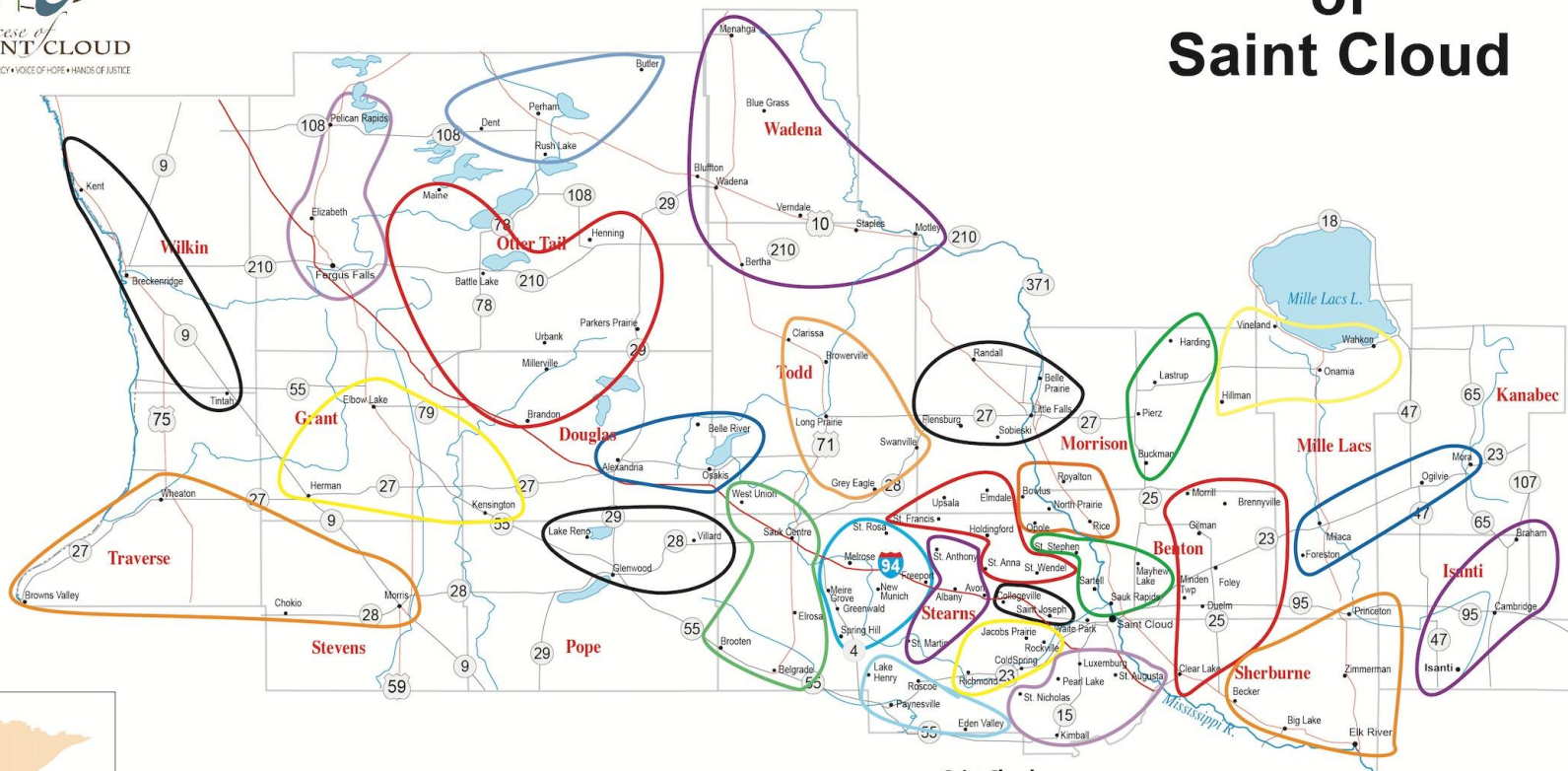
Anticipated Number of Priests: 45-50

Drops in Mass Attendance

Rising Insurance Costs

See “2024 Current Reality” at [@stcdio.org](https://stcdio.org)

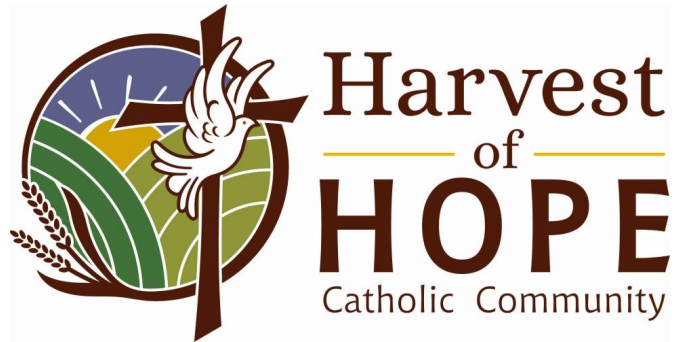
Diocese of Saint Cloud



Saint Cloud

1. St. Paul
2. St. John Cantius
3. St. Peter
4. St. Mary's Cathedral
5. St. Augustine
6. St. Anthony
7. Christ Church Newman Center

Guiding Principles and Parameters



Guiding Principles

- Missionary Discipleship
- Sacramental Life
- Engaging the Laity
- Listening as a Way of Being Church
- Prudent Stewardship

Parameters: Sunday Mass

- 80% of parishioners must have access to Sunday mass within a 20 minute drive
- No rotation of Mass schedules between churches

Parameters: Budgeted Ministries

- One central administrative office per ACC if under 3000 households
- Paid ACC Business Administrator
- Liturgical Ministries
- Formation Ministries
- Hispanic Ministries if 10% of the Population
- Pastoral Care
- Social Outreach

Parameters: Priests

- Limit of three Sunday Masses per weekend/priest
 - Not including weddings and/or funerals
- Priests will spend at least 50% of their time in pastoral ministry
- Desire to live in the ACC

Parameters: Churches and Buildings

- Church buildings must be physically accessible, hospitable and safe
 - Restrooms in Church
 - Church is either on one level or has an existing elevator
- ACC Plan must specify how empty buildings will be repurposed or used for secular but not unbecoming use, ideally within five years

Parameters: Governance

- Reduce the number of parish corporations

Parameters: Finances

- Each finance council will approve an attainable and reasonable annual balanced budget
- Parish investment in Catholic Schools may not exceed 40% of plate/envelope within 5 years
- Routine church and building operating expenses may not exceed 25% of plate/envelope

Our Area Catholic Community



Harvest of Hope Members: 2019-2024

	2019	2024	Change	Percent
St. Anthony	386	377	-9	-2.39%
St. Benedict	1674	1223	-451	-36.88%
St. Martin	825	851	+26	3.06%
Seven Dolors	2180	2395	+215	8.98%
Total	5065	4846	-219	-4.32%

Four Independent Parishes and One Oratory



Harvest of Hope Churches & Properties

4 Churches

1 Oratory

4 Parish Houses

5 Cemeteries

1 Parochial School

1 Former Public School

1 Parish Center

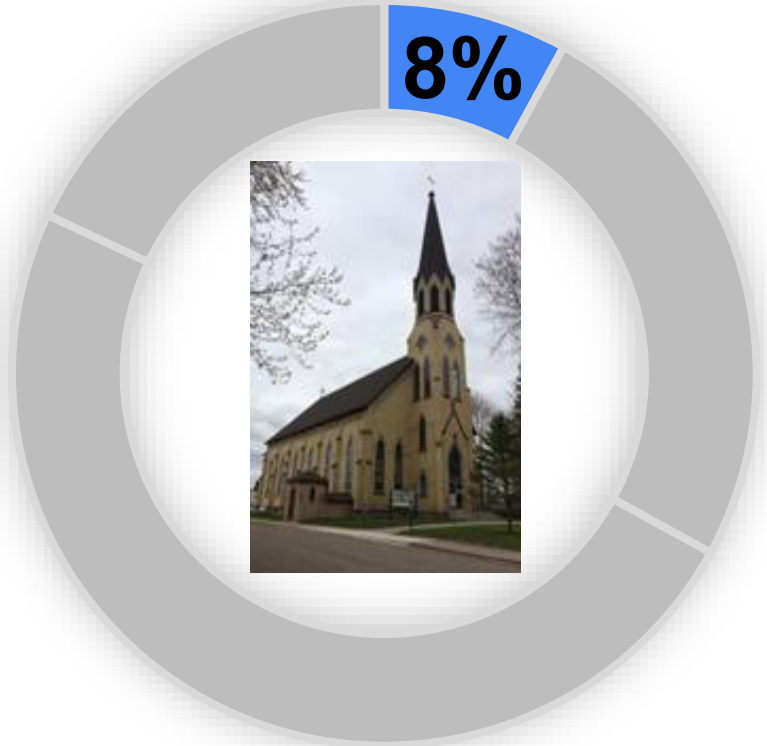
1 Storage Shed

1 Park and Pavilion

1 Garage

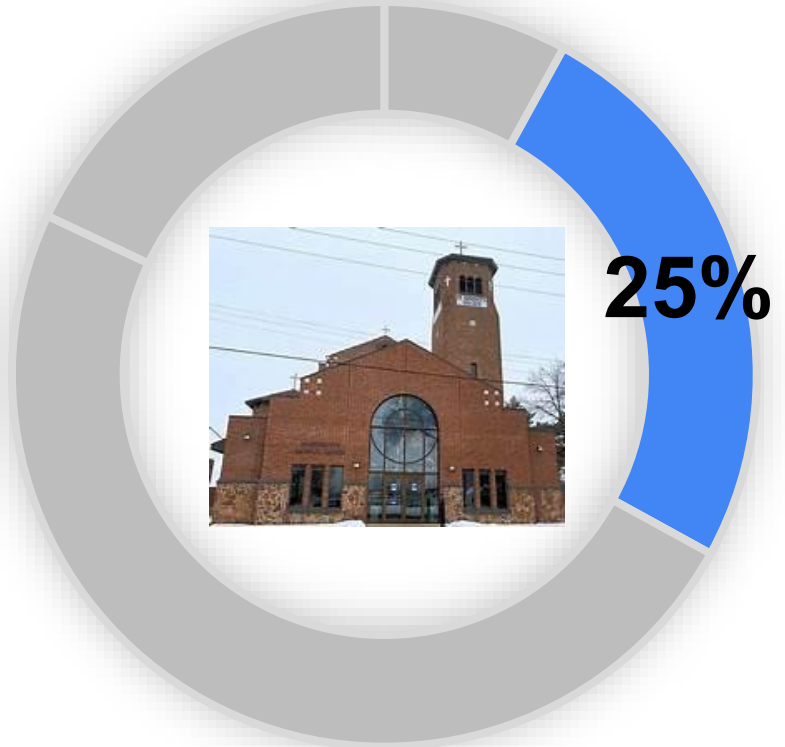
St. Anthony: 377 Parishioners

- Church
- Parish House
- Park and Pavilion
- Garage
- Cemetery



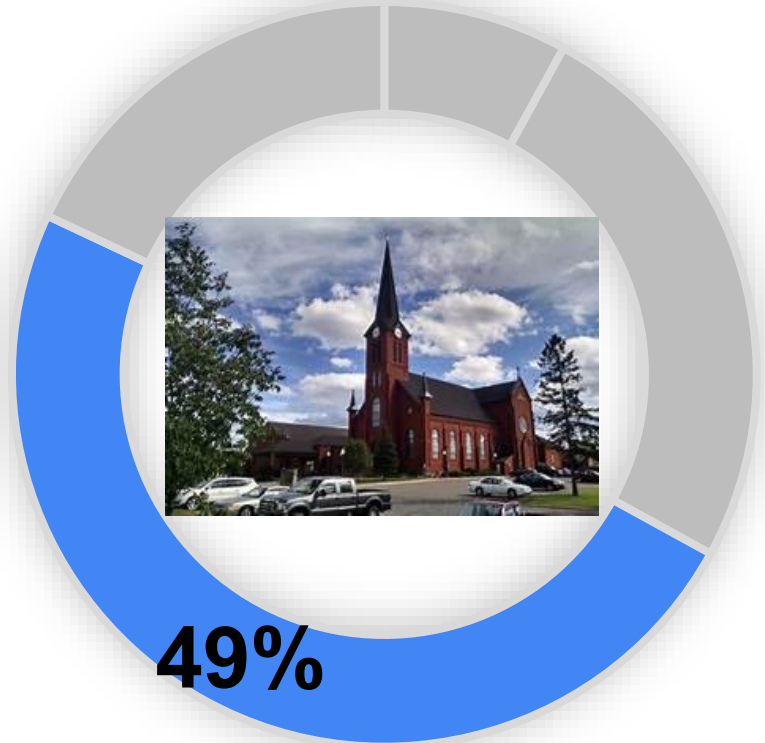
St. Benedict: 1,219 Parishioners

- Church
- Parish House
- Former Avon Public School
- Cemetery



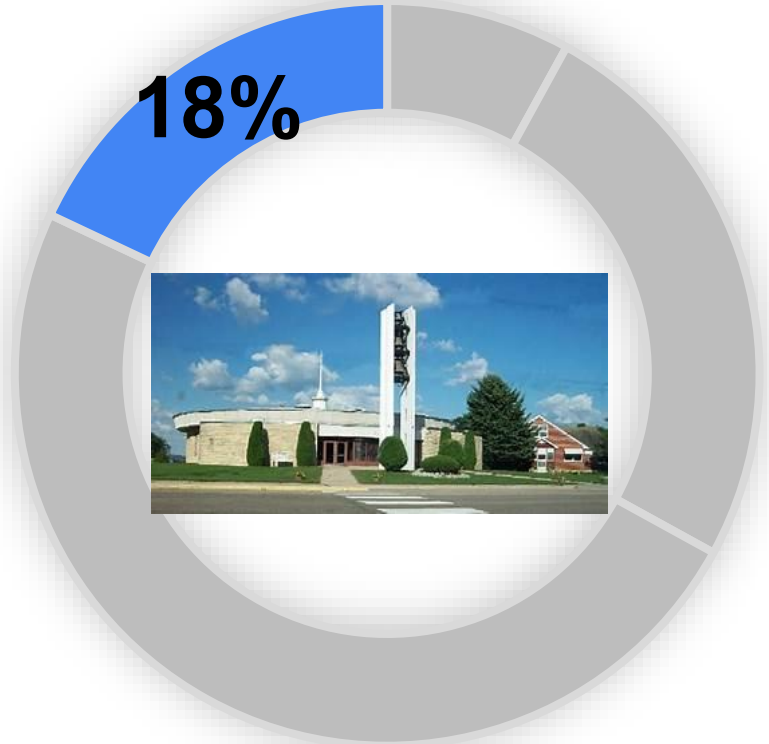
Seven Dolors: 2,395 Parishioners

- Church
- Parish Houses
- Parochial School
- Cemetery



St. Martin: 851 Parishioners

- Church
- Parish House
- Parish Center
- Storage Shed
- Cemetery



St. Catherine: No Parishioners

- Church
- Cemetery
- Parishioners joined other churches
- Records are stored at St. Martin



Challenges and Opportunities

- One full-time and 2 part-time (retired) priests
- Strong possibility of only one priest in the future
- According to Canon Law, only a priest may perform the Eucharistic rites

Challenges and Opportunities

- Own a lot of properties which we share with our communities
 - While we receive income for these properties, we also have a lot of expenses
 - Maintenance and insurance costs are rising
- St. Anthony Church's bathroom is in the basement—there is not an elevator

Challenges and Opportunities

- We have begun living as one faith community
 - Combined bulletin
 - Combining ministries, such as sacramental preparation, Lenten Studies and Faith Formation
 - Parishioners attend mass at other churches
- Parishes may close in other ACC's, which may increase membership in our ACC

Challenges and Opportunities

- In a recent survey of the Harvest of Hope youth, Emma Morgan and Emma Jean Johnson found that our young parishioners valued the Eucharist, growing in their faith, and being part of a community.



Our Next Generation



Church is more than just attending service on Sunday. Church is community. It's getting involved in things to help the church group and be able to reach out to many people. Church is a great way to bond with people over God's love for us. By building a strong church community, you can deepen your own faith and know that you have people to turn to when challenges arise. Church is a family in Christ.



Our Next Generation



To me, church means having a place where I belong and where I can grow in my faith. It's not just about learning stories from the Bible, but also figuring out how to live my life in a way that's kind, forgiving, and close to God. Church gives me a chance to slow down on my life and school and sports and just focus on what really matters. It's also a place where I can spend time with friends and family and help others in need. Church reminds me that I've never alone because God and my church community are always with me.

Our Next Generation

Church means

- Community
- Connection with God
- Universal
- Involvement
- Eucharist
- Belonging



A welcoming church has

- Greeters
- Participation & involvement
- Friendliness
- Non-judgment
- Joy
- Familiarity
- The Cross

Planning for the Future

- Strive to keep all churches open
- Focus our resources on our churches and ministries
- Learn from St. Catherine's on how to keep a faith community thriving through change
- Continue to collaborate as a community of believers
- Prepare our ACC for one priest
- Listen to the needs of the youth

Becoming One Parish Corporation



Today—Five Corporations Four Independent Parishes & One Oratory



One Parish Corporation



Seven Dolors: Central Church

- 49% of parishioners
- Centrally located
- Most youth enrolled in Albany School District
- Has the largest seating capacity



Seven Dolors: Central Church

- Weekend Masses
- Ministries
- Staff
- Festivals



Sts. Anthony, Benedict & Martin: Partner Churches

- Weekend Masses
- Special Masses:
Weddings & Funerals
- Festivals



Finances

- One budget for our ACC
 - General Fund = Shared Expenses
 - Special Funds = Each Church
 - Each church would have a maintenance fund
 - All church funds prior to merging would stay with that church

General Offertory

What we share

Mass Supplies

Salaries

Ministries

Utilities

Insurance

Special Offerings

*Items for a
specific church
building*

General
Offertory

What we share

Special Offerings

Building Maintenance
Cemetery Maintenance
All Funds Prior to Merger

Properties

- Keep all cemeteries
- Negotiate moving Avon School to Over the Hills Club
- Negotiate moving St. Martin Parish Hall to the city or a non-profit
- Cities may expand on how buildings are used
- Save on building maintenance and insurance
- Non-profit groups could have better access to grants

Big Plans to Details - 2026

- Finance Committees become one group to determine the budget
- Liturgy Committees determine daily and holy day mass schedules
- Form maintenance committees for each church
- Other committees may need to be created and/or combined

If we have only one priest

- We will already operate as a single parish
- At that time, determine church closings and/or becoming oratories
 - Church closings would be based on mass attendance and building maintenance

Why not close a church now?

- We want to strengthen how we work as a single parish
- We want to monitor population shifts based on other ACC's
- We currently can operate within our two-priest model

How Will We Benefit By Becoming One Parish Corporation?

- Our plan blends the Diocesan Guidelines and Parameters with the voices of the HOH parishioners.
- Most of our parishioners want to keep all of our churches open.
- We believe that the structure of one parish corporation will help us keep our churches open for as long as possible.

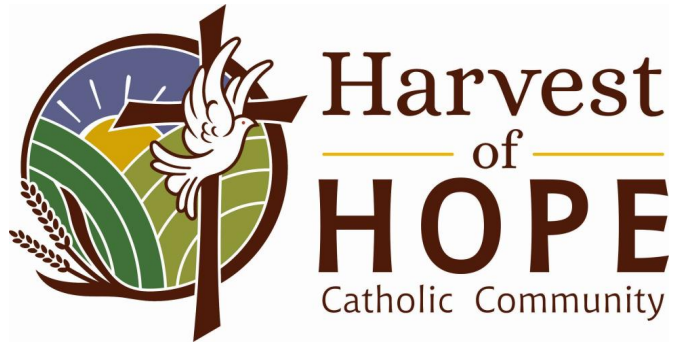
How Will We Benefit By Becoming One Parish Corporation?

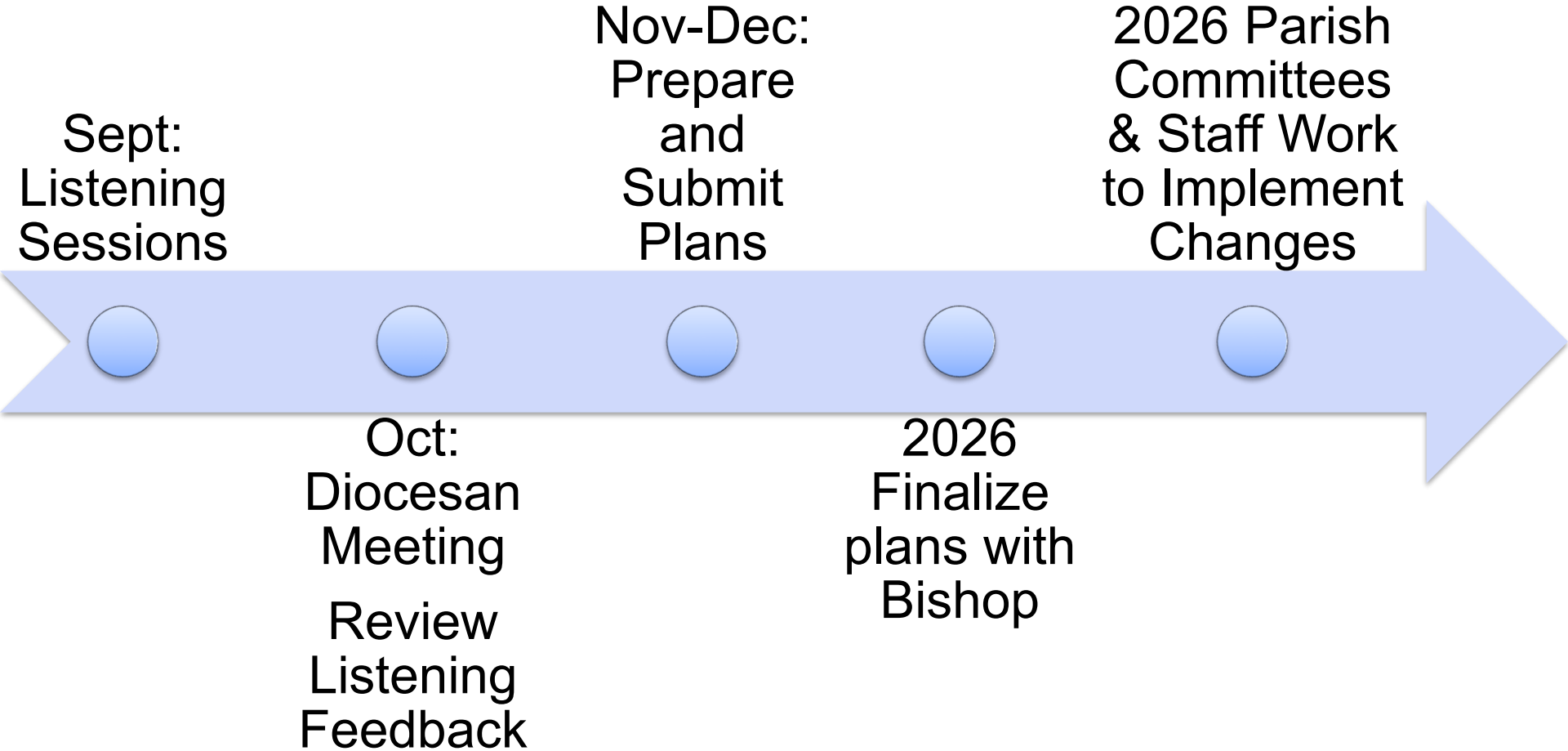
- Focusing on strengthening our parish corporation will help us to better serve each other if we eventually have one priest.
- Relinquishing some of our buildings will provide us with more funds to strengthen our ministries while maintaining our church buildings.

How Will We Benefit By Becoming One Parish Corporation?

- Our youth are telling us that they value a strong faith community.
- Becoming one parish corporation will provide our youth with a larger community for developing and living their faith.

Next Steps





Questions, Comments & Recommendations

Look for the person with the microphone

Write your comments on the cards in the pews

Contact a Pastoral Council Member

Respond on the “All Things New” Section of the website