# PARISH CENSUS

# Frequently Asked Questions



#### What is a parish census?

A parish census is a survey done every 3 to 5 years to gather or update information on all parishioners and to assess the state of the overall parish community.

#### Why do we need a census? Don't we already register new parishioners?

Our registration records are incomplete and unreliable. People move in and out of our parish. People get married and have children. People pass away. As one parish family, it is important to know the members of our family. The census and ongoing registration will help us to get to know each other and keep track of changes as people come and go.

### How will this census benefit me and my parish?

It's all about making our parish a place where everyone feels at home.

Up-to-date and reliable registration information will help our pastor, parish staff and key volunteers as they plan and make decisions about the things that matter most to our parishioners.

### Do all of parishioners need to participate?

Participation is 100% voluntary – but we hope everyone will participate! Every voice matters, and together, we'll make our parish flourish.

#### I'm already registered. Do I need to complete a census form?

Even if you are already a registered parishioner, we need you to participate in the census. This will help to ensure our records are up to date and that we have the same information on all of our parishioners.

## I only attend Mass a few times a year. Should I register?

Yes! Your registration will help us understand the whole Catholic community served by our parish, even if you are not currently registered or actively involved in parish life.

#### I am a young adult (18+) living at home. Should I register?

Yes! This is a great time to make your own commitment to your parish and to prepare for the many changes that are likely to come in the years ahead, e.g. moving out, getting married, having children, etc.

#### What information do I need to provide? Can I limit how much I share?

You'll be asked to share basics like your name, contact info, and a bit about your family and faith life. You can decide to share what you're comfortable with—no pressure! Whether you give us your whole life story or just the basics, we're thrilled to have you join in.