



GENERATIONS PLAN

2006 ❖ 2015

ST. MATTHEW
the Apostle Church

One Parish ❖ One Family ❖ One Journey

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OVERVIEW

2006 ❖ 2015

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Our Journey

Our journey at St. Matthew the Apostle Parish began in April 1959, when Bishop Clarence Isseman of the Diocese of Columbus purchased 11.5 acres of land on Havens Corners Road in Gahanna, Ohio. From that day forward, our parish mission became our parishioner's life work. As we move forward and plan for the future, we can reflect joyfully at an inspiring past. In the disciplines of Worship, Outreach, Education, and Fellowship, the parish has responded to the needs of a growing community of faithful Catholics throughout its forty-five year history.

St. Matthew Parish is more than just a name, a location on a map, or just a group of buildings. We are a family of faith made up of individuals that love God and their fellow human beings. This is evident by the wide variety of ministries, services, and programs sponsored by our parish. These programs are here because St. Matthew parishioners have a strong commitment to their faith and their neighbors. This commitment to God and family is the lifeblood of St. Matthew.

As Catholics, our journey has a definite objective. It begins in baptism and continues through our participation in the sacraments. Along the way, we are nurtured by our prayer life and love of God. We take comfort in knowing that God has a plan for us as we journey through life. But we, too, have a stake in this plan. For that reason we cannot just sit and wait. We need to take an active role in helping build the kingdom of God while here on earth. In an effort to partner with one another in the same mission, our parish is making every attempt to improve ministries, prayer life, as well as facilities.

In the waning months of the last millennium, St. Matthew embarked on a journey that would change our faith community forever. The road map for our trip is the *Generations* plan. This plan was announced to the parishioners of St. Matthew, coincident with a series of neighborhood meetings. It is a long-term plan for the parish and the neighborhood meetings were opportunities for our members to learn of the initial stages of the plan, and for those attending the meetings to have input into the plan development. As a follow up to the meetings, a parish wide survey was distributed to request additional input from all our members regarding faith formation, stewardship activities, educational needs, and capital projects. It is our hope that, by inspiring our parish to unify and take ownership of this plan, the *Generations* vision will become a reality.

Our plan is entitled *Generations* and our motto is: **One Parish ❖ One Family ❖ One Journey.**



Our Mission

The mission of St. Matthew Catholic Church is to gather the faithful into the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, to proclaim and teach the saving message of Christ, and to practice the charity of the Lord in all circumstances of life, especially to the least, the poor, and the suffering.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5). Our relationship with the vine, Jesus, is established with baptism and is nourished through Scripture, personal prayer, and especially through the sacraments. This occurs in relationship with the Church, specifically, the parish community. It is the responsibility of the parish to teach the important truths of salvation, to provide for preparation for reception of the sacraments and to enlighten the faithful on the rights and responsibilities of our baptism. Our individual homes are the domestic Church. The Gospel message is primarily taught in the home and children learn the doctrines of the faith. Parents are living examples of the Gospel message through a life in communion with God.

Pope Benedict XVI encourages us to take an active, conscientious, and responsible part in the mission of the Church. He directs us to see our daily activities as opportunities to join ourselves with God, to fulfill His will, to serve other people and to lead others to communion with God in Jesus Christ. As members of the Church we are called to spread the Gospel to others. In this way, the Gospel can reach as many places as there are daily lives of the individual members of the lay faithful.

Not only are we called to teach and proclaim, we are also called to live the commandment of love. Christ manifested the love and mercy of the Father through His passion and death. He lived as a servant to others. In imitating Christ, we reach out to others, especially to the poor and the suffering. Our hands become Christ's hands in our community. By serving others, we serve Him. St. Matthew, our patron, tells us that Jesus instructed His apostles, *"Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world!" (Matthew 1:28:20).* Guided by this directive and promise, we continue to live in relationship with Jesus in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, to teach and proclaim the good news of the Gospel to our parish and to the community, and to dedicate ourselves to serve God and one another.

Our Message

Our message is the outcome of our mission. The message of Saint Matthew Parish is: In baptism we are committed to follow and imitate Jesus Christ, to hear and proclaim the Word of God, to participate in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, to nurture a life of prayer, to hunger and thirst for justice, and to practice the commandment of love.

Our Saint

Traditionally the author of the first Gospel, St. Matthew was originally called Levi but took his new name, meaning "the gift of Yahweh," when Jesus called him to be a disciple. Until then he had been a tax collector for the Romans, a profession detested by Jews and Gentiles alike, and the basis of his patronage of bankers and accountants. After the Ascension he is said to have preached Christianity to his fellows Jews and was eventually martyred in Ethiopia or Persia. St. Matthew's colors are burgundy and gold and his feast day is September 21st.

Our Scope

During his first two and one-half years, our parish Pastor, Father Paul Noble, and key parish leaders, with significant input from the faith community, crafted a comprehensive plan with a ten-year planning horizon. The plan is titled *Generations* and it is updated every five years, highlighting past accomplishments and providing guidance for the next ten-year period.

This plan details the history of the parish and provides a relevant and passionate vision for our future. It includes a revenue profile, a demographic profile, a geographic profile, and a synopsis of current facilities. All aspects of the parish ministries have been assessed. While broad in scope, the plan has well defined goals and focused objectives, which significantly increases the likelihood of a successful outcome. *Generations* identifies immediate and future needs of the parish involving both physical facilities and ministerial and educational programs offered by the parish. Stewardship expectations and leadership accountability are an integral part of the plan.

The plan identifies three levels of parishioner involvement for individuals and families at different points on their spiritual journey: the Involved, the Semi-Involved, and the Un-Involved. The plan also organizes our ministries into Ministering Communities representing the disciplines of the church. This grouping fosters an environment needed for a healthy, balanced, and vibrant parish. Structuring our ministries and involvement level in this fashion allows for tailored programs designed to reach out to all members of our parish community.

Our parish embraces stewardship as the sharing of time, talent, and treasure. One avenue for stewardship is participation in a parish ministry or committee. These organizations may perform an ongoing service or support a one-time yearly activity. We strive to provide a diverse offering for the disciplines of Worship, Outreach, Education and Fellowship and have approximately 50 ministries, which fall within the following Ministering Communities:

A – Liturgy & Worship Ministries	Worship
B – Music Ministries	Worship
C – Community Outreach Ministries	Outreach
D – Passive Evangelism	Outreach
E – Adult Faith Formation	Education
F – Catholic School Ministries	Education
G – Religious Education Programs	Education
H – Youth Ministries	Education
I – Affiliated Clubs & Societies	Fellowship

The demands placed on the infrastructure resulting from growth in the parish that has occurred since 1959 continually stresses the existing physical plant. We see the growth in the area continuing, along with a commensurate increase in parishioners and the required venues to serve their varied needs. The plan has a facilities section encompassing capital maintenance, utilization, and availability. Our parish Facilities is represented by:

1. Church
2. Parish Administration & Meeting Center
3. Activity Center & Playground
4. School & Learning Center
5. Sports Fields
6. Convent (multi-purpose center)
7. Priests' Residence
8. Campus Grounds
9. Other

The foundation of any Catholic parish is its Pastor. This term denotes a priest who is bound in virtue of his office to promote the spiritual welfare of the faithful by preaching, administering and supervising efforts of the parish, giving precepts, and imposing the required corrections to meet the parish goals; powers rather paternal in their nature. He is the spiritual and motivational leader of the parish. Due to the enormous constraints on the Pastor's time, the plan provides for a support staff of laypersons to

perform the tasks associated with the day-to-day parish activities and to interact with the more than 1,100 employees and volunteers. In addition to his staff, the Pastor has at his disposal our parish administration group. This group includes our Parish Council, Communications Committee, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, and Welcome Committee. The above individuals and committees in unison are the *Generations* Team.

Our Goals & Objectives

As a parish, we have embraced six goals encompassing all aspects of parish life. They provide us direction as we travel on our faith journey. Under each goal, objectives designed to achieve the goal are presented with an assignment prefix; "C" for Communications Committee; "F" for Finance Committee; "P" for Parish Council; "S" for Stewardship Committee; "W" for Welcome Committee. A prefix of "A" indicates All Committees are responsible for the objective.

The first, and foremost goal of our parish is to increase participation at our Sunday Eucharistic Celebrations, as well as in the broader prayer life of the parish. We cannot build our community without joining in prayer – our reason for being.

- ❖ A1.1 – Increase the number of our parishioners attending mass on a regular basis, as a percentage of total households, by 1% per year
- ❖ C1.1 – Build excitement by highlighting and promoting the parish ministries that involve participation in the mass in the newsletter and on the web
- ❖ S1.1 – Continue to develop and improve our Adult Faith Formation ministry with guidance from Father Noble and his staff
- ❖ S1.2 – Continue to develop and improve our Liturgy & Worship Ministries and Music Ministries with guidance from Father Noble and his staff
- ❖ W1.1 - Promote daily Mass as a neighborhood social event
- ❖ W1.2 - Promote neighborhood support of the Mass by acknowledging First Eucharist celebrations within neighborhood families

Our second goal is to recommit ourselves to the celebration of the other six sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, Reconciliation, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. Traditionally, our parish family is truly committed to the first three sacraments. Together we commit to a deeper appreciation of the graces received through the sacrament of Reconciliation, to encourage and nurture vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and to provide preparation and ongoing support to those in married life.

- ❖ C2.1 – Promote the formation of Marriage Enhancement and improved Parenting Ministries
- ❖ C2.2 – Include newsletter and web story "Today's Reconciliation" for those that may not attend for fear of the changes that may have occurred. ("what to expect during reconciliation" for older or infrequent parishioners – to include why they should be taking part)
- ❖ S2.1 – Continue to develop our Vocations Committee to foster and promote the priesthood and religious vocations in the Catholic Church
- ❖ W2.1 – Promote neighborhood support of the sacraments by acknowledging Baptism, Confirmation and Matrimony celebrations within neighborhood families

Our third goal is to invite a greater participation in the active ministry of the parish. We put our prayer life into practice through, among other things, the variety of ministries used to reach the individual members of our parish and to spread the Gospel to the broader community. The ministry of the Church is not the exclusive property of the few, but the universal responsibility of all disciples to put their faith and prayer into practice.

- ❖ C3.1 – Demonstrating the social aspect of the ministries by the use of photos in the church lobby, newsletter (when space allows) and on the web
- ❖ C3.2 – Further developing the News and Notes section to keep it fresh with dates of future events and regular meeting information

- ❖ S3.1 – Promote ministry programs designed to reach our Un-Involved parishioners, and current & future ministry leadership, soliciting participation in the active ministry of the parish
- ❖ S3.2 – Hold a planning session with each of the ministry leaders to develop current program requirements and a 5-year planning horizon
- ❖ S3.3 – Continue to develop and improve our Fellowship Ministries with guidance from Father Noble and his staff
 - Study the feasibility of developing a Women’s Club to compliment our Home & School Association and a Men’s Club to compliment the Knight’s of Columbus
 - Develop a Catholic Parenting ministry
 - Continue to develop the Fellowship Leagues ministry
 - Transition the Marriage Encounter to a Marriage Enrichment program
 - Develop a Young Adults ministry
- ❖ S3.4 – Continue to promote our call to stewardship of time and talent with our fall renewal program
- ❖ S3.5 – Host the annual ministry fair and receptions on or about the Feast of St. Matthew in September
- ❖ S3.6 – Host the annual volunteer appreciation event in August featuring a luncheon and *Generations* update presented by Father Noble
- ❖ S3.7 – Develop a stewardship person of the year awards program to honor individuals or couples who have dedicated their lives to serve the church and others
- ❖ S3.8 – Continue to promote our Worship, Outreach, Education, and Fellowship ministries to insure a balanced, diverse program offering with “Something for Everyone”
- ❖ S3.9 – Increase active participation, as a percentage of total households, by 1% per year by creating an environment encouraging volunteerism
- ❖ S3.10 – Develop a “How To Get Involved” monthly workshop
- ❖ S3.11 – Develop a centralized volunteer placement system

- ❖ W3.1 – Build the neighborhood ministry into an active social influence in the lives of 50% of St. Matthew parishioners
- ❖ W3.2 – Recruit 5 new neighborhood coordinators quarterly (until all neighborhoods are staffed)
- ❖ W3.3 – Bring at least 1% of Un-Involved families into a greater participation in the parish through the neighborhood ministry annually
- ❖ W3.4 – Consistently provide a friendly and personal welcome for at least 80% of new parishioners through the registration process and invitation/participation in a newcomer welcome event
- ❖ W3.5 – Involve other parishioners in meeting and welcoming new parishioners
- ❖ W3.6 – Ensure all new parishioners are visited by their neighborhood coordinator within 2 months of registration
- ❖ W3.7 – Work to ensure each family in the parish knows at least 2-3 other families personally through the neighborhood ministry and welcome process.

Our fourth goal is to reach out to those in our parish who need our faith-filled and caring assistance. We are a growing community of families, some of whom have an acute need for help. We are also a parish of generous and caring people who are willing and ready to help.

- ❖ C4.1 - Promote all of the Outreach Committees and the Charitable Works Committee by covering and reporting their events and meetings
- ❖ C4.2 – Centralizing the upcoming events and meetings in the weekly bulletin into a separate box

- ❖ S4.1 – Continue to develop and improve our Outreach Ministries with guidance from Father Noble and his staff with an emphasis on volunteer recruiting
 - Continue to develop our Social Service Partnerships with an emphasis on external ministry through our “A Time To Serve” program
 - Develop a Peace & Justice Ministry to foster and promote community through advocacy and grass roots collaboration
 - Develop a Support Groups ministry

- ❖ W4.1 – Support our Charitable Works Committee, and other outreach ministries and committees, to insure resources and procedures are in place to allow adequate support of services generated through the Neighborhood Ministry and community at large

Our fifth goal is to educate our parishioners in the doctrine of the Church. Through the various adult education programs, we reach the adults of the parish. The youth of our parish are educated in our Catholic school and Religious Education program (PSR). Catholic values, appropriate judgment, prudent behavior, reasonable and just attitudes, and preparation for living lives in a Christ-like manner in an increasingly complex and secular world are communicated through instruction and action.

- ❖ C5.1 – Support educational programs using the various publications. Promote school and PSR through stories on the Youth ministry and their activities as well as covering the adult education programs

- ❖ S5.1 – Continue to develop and improve our Catholic School Ministries with guidance from Father Noble and his staff.
 - Develop a Special People In Catholic Education (S.P.I.C.E.) program for our school teachers and staff to facilitate the inclusion of students with special needs in our classrooms
 - Redefine the role of the Alumni Association meeting with the leadership to discuss purpose and activities of the ministry
- ❖ S5.2 – Continue to develop and improve our Religious Education Programs with guidance from Father Noble and his staff
- ❖ S5.3 – Work with our Youth Minister to improve the program and promote stewardship to the youth of our parish

- ❖ W5.1 – Foster participation in parish educational programs and opportunities by offering programs such as GIFT and bible studies as recommended neighborhood ministry opportunities

The sixth and final goal is to ensure that all parishioners are committed to the financial support of the parish and its work. We must position ourselves as a parish to address increased expenses as we work to accomplish our mission as Church.

- ❖ C6.1 – Continuous “blurb” in the bulletin and newsletter on ECO and tithing
- ❖ F6.1 – Work with the pastor to develop and monitor the parish budget
- ❖ F6.2 – Work with the Development Director to develop a Memorial and Honor Program for the parish
- ❖ F6.3 – Eliminate the parish debt by 2016
- ❖ F6.4 – Ensure the parish has the financial strength to provide the services and facilities to meet the spiritual and social needs of our parish community
 - Our short-term, immediate need is to work to adequately grow our offertory receipts on an ongoing sustainable basis in order to ensure our parish has the financial receipts and reserves necessary to financially support our continually broadening programs, worship, and facility needs
 - Our immediate and longer-term need is to build and maintain a safety net of parish cash reserves adequate to provide balances of an amount equal to support six months of our parish's operating expenditures (For example, given budgeted operating expenditures for fiscal 2006 amounting to \$ 1.8 million dollars our need is to have operating reserves established amounting to \$ 900,000)
- ❖ F6.5 – Maintain the parish Capital Maintenance and Improvement Plan with a rolling 5-year planning horizon
- ❖ F6.6 – Support and funding of our Parish school and religious education is a critical part of the Parish's mission.
 - The goal of our Pastor and our Parish is that the total of Parish receipts (excluding special and designated gifts) going to the subsidy of the school and the religious education programs not exceed 30%

- ❖ S6.1 – Host “State of the Parish” in the spring of each year while continuing to promote our “How Much Is Enough?” parishioner treasure commitment
- ❖ S6.2 – Continue to promote the Electronic Contribution Option (ECO) as the preferred method of offertory payment for the parish
- ❖ S6.3 – Develop a Capital Fund strategy to insure we retain our fair share of the dollars currently being contributed to the Church Building Fund as pledges are retired
- ❖ S6.4 – Increase household financial support, as a percentage of total households, by 1% per year through a program promoting proportional giving

- ❖ W6.1 – Ensure 80% of new parishioners are informed about ECO and tithing goals during the registration process

The *Generations* plan provides the direction and vision to embrace the future. However, if this plan is to reach fruition, we must continue our journey by implementing the goals and achieving the objectives outlined above. An integral part of the planning process is the annual action plan generated by each of committees of the parish administration group. These plans translate our goals and objectives into actionable items, setting realistic deadlines and assigning items to individuals most qualified to accomplish the tasks.

Our Commitment

Since the beginning of *Generations*, our parish has made a commitment to invite our members into a deeper participation in the life of the parish. We asked for a greater participation in the prayer-life of the

parish and we asked for a greater participation in the ministerial life of the parish; this in an effort to encourage all members to become involved in the daily mission of our Church.

We also asked all our families to adopt a need-to-give, versus give-to-need, philosophy when considering, time, talent and their financial support of our offertory and capital fund. *“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God” (Hebrews 13:16).*

We have developed and communicated our minimum expectations to our parishioners:

- ❖ Participate *1-hour* per week in community prayer (Sunday Mass).
- ❖ Devote *1-hour* per week volunteering in a parish ministry.
- ❖ Contribute *1-hour* of weekly income (2.5%) for financial support.

As a parish, we have made an amazing commitment to improve St. Matthew's facilities: new offsite sports fields, a new Parish Activity Center and playground, a new Church, new parish administration offices and meeting center, a new learning center, renovation of the old convent into a multi-purpose facility, renovation of the rectory into a residence for our priests, and much needed improvements to the school. The next phase of the plan will involve maintenance projects to the school including; new windows and a facelift for the original school facade, updating the Old Gym (Cafetorium), and updating the Parish School of Religion offices.

Beyond the capital projects, as a parish we have launched the Neighborhood Ministry. As our parish continues to grow in number, we are committed to making sure that all feel welcome, and that no one feels like a stranger. The concept is a simple one. The parish has been divided into ten regions. Each region contains approximately 200 families and has a Regional Administrator, who serves as a link between the parish and the Neighborhood Coordinators. Each parish region is further sub-divided into neighborhoods of 20 to 25 households with a Neighborhood Coordinator for each neighborhood. These coordinators do not solicit funds or recruit volunteers. Their role is to reach out and build community within their neighborhoods, in a way that matches the character and needs of that particular area.

The ultimate success of this plan continues to rest upon the commitment and generosity of the parishioners of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish.

Our Accomplishments

During the first six years of the *Generations* project, we have achieved the following:

- ❖ An average registered household growth rate of 4.6% annually.
- ❖ Household participation in ministries has increased from 28.0% to 33.0%.
- ❖ The number of households providing financial support increased from 70.3.0% to 77.9%.
- ❖ Active ministries have increased from 33 to 49 committees, organizations, groups, and/or societies.
- ❖ As for worship, we've seen a significant increase in Mass attendance requiring the addition of a 5:00 p.m. service on Sunday. On average, 35.0% of our parishioners attend mass on a regular basis.

The Journey Continues...



MINISTRIES

2006 ❖ 2015

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Discipleship

At the foundation of our St. Matthew ministries are the core values of Catholic discipleship: Worship, Outreach, Education, and Fellowship. As members of our parish, we are being asked to look at our priorities and the needs of our faith community and beyond. We need to encourage our parishioners to use some of their God-given time and talents for God's work. To be responsible stewards of time and talent, all must begin with an honest inventory of themselves. All we are comes from God. Our very lives are God's gift. His daily sustaining of this life is proof of God's continuing desire that we develop our talents and share them with others. To become good stewards, we need to know ourselves as God does and we need to take stock in ourselves. Good stewardship obliges us to take time for prayer and reflection, to assess our gifts, our time, and our order of life's priorities. This self-inventory is the beginning.

Stewardship is a gift from God. With the gift of faith received in baptism, we are called to become responsible stewards. In a sense, assessing our time, talent, and treasure is not an option. For a loving person of faith, it is part of the commitment to participate fully in the life of the Church.

"Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 4:8-11).



How Much Is Enough?

So, how much is enough? Traditionally, tithing asks that 10% of our income be given. That can seem a frightening concept. We suggest that "tithing" be applied to the sum total of all of our charitable contributions. There are many worthwhile charities asking for our support. As Christian stewards, we need to support those charities as generously as possible. And, while it may not be the best example of a "free will" offering, some tithing has been included in the taxes collected by our government. In other words, a percentage of our tax dollar is used to support the poor and needy of our community. And finally, there is the church asking for its share of that charitable dollar.

By looking at tithing through a simple formula, each family can pledge its support to our parish. Tithing based on a 40 hour work week would mean that 4 hours, or 10% of a household income each week should be contributed to charity. From that 4 hours, deduct 2 hours credited to contributions given via the taxes you pay. Take 1 hour each week for other charitable causes. And then allot 1 hour of each week's income to our parish. This means the amount given the church is not 10% but 2.5%. We are

asked to spend one hour each week in community prayer (Sunday Mass) and one hour each week volunteering our services. It's reasonable we should give a minimum of one hour each week in financial support. As we ask our parishioners to contemplate their financial commitment to our parish, we encourage them to take a moment to reflect on the following scripture passage:

"No one shall come before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give in proportion to the blessing which the Lord, your God, has bestowed upon you" (Deut. 6:17).

In the real world of working, sleeping, eating, and spending quality time with family and friends: how much time can I share? Let's take a look at the numbers. There are 168 hours in a week. Of these we spend: 44 working and commuting, 56 sleeping, 21 eating meals, and 7 on personal grooming, leaving 40 hours of disposable time. If we allocate 7 hours to personal time, 4 hours to spiritual time, and 25 hours to quality time with family and friends; this leaves us with 4 hours to return to God in the service of others. We are asked to spend one hour each week in community prayer and a minimum of one hour each week in financial support of the church. It's reasonable we should give one hour each week volunteering our services to support the ministries of the parish. We ask our parishioners to prayerfully consider their stewardship commitment of time and talent, while reflecting on the following passage:

"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required: and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." (Luke 12:48).

Electronic Contribution Option

The Electronic Contribution Option (ECO) is our parish's preferred method for offertory and capital donations. This program helps the contributor to offer the first fruits, not the leftovers, to God. Instead of using a weekly envelope, parishioners are invited to use our parish "Electronic Contribution Option" program. This is a direct transfer of funds from savings or checking accounts to the parish account. It is important to note that the traditional envelope system for weekly contributions will remain as an option for those who wish to use it. The ECO program provides our parish with reliable income each month. The more income we receive through this program, the more accurately we can project and control our cash flow.

By making contributions more convenient, the ECO program also provides the contributor with some advantages. They merely identify the amount that they would like to contribute, the account from which they would like the money transferred, and the frequency. Transfers can be made once per month for the whole sum, or twice per month for half the sum, eliminating the need to write a check. Another valuable, though less obvious, advantage of ECO is that it helps the individual to sustain their financial commitment to the church. The average, well-intentioned church contributor would like to give a certain amount to the parish. However, church contribution is not typically the first expense allocated once they set about the business of paying the bills. The end result is that the church is one of the last "bills" to be paid. Often, it is not what one hoped to give, but what is left over that goes to the parish. We ask our parishioners to take a moment to reflect on this opportunity to support the ongoing stewardship efforts at our parish. In doing so, consider the following passage from the Old Testament:

"The choicest of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God" (Ex 21:19).

Parishioner Involvement

We've identified three levels of parishioner involvement at St. Matthew Parish: the Involved, the Semi-Involved, and the Un-Involved. All are registered parishioners. An Involved Parishioner of the parish

attends Mass on a regular basis, participates in at least one parish ministry, and provides reasonable and regular financial support to the church. An Un-Involved Parishioner rarely attends Mass, does not participate in any parish ministries, and does not financially support the church. The Semi-Involved Parishioner bridges the gap between the other two levels of involvement. The plan addresses all three of these target audiences.

"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate in cheerfulness" (Romans 12:6-8).

Ministering Communities

At St. Matthew, we have organized the disciplines of Worship, Outreach, Education, and Fellowship into Ministering Communities. Within each community are groups of ministries with like agendas and activities. These activities appeal to parishioners with a common set of interests and talents. This format not only creates structure and accountability, it greatly improves communications between the ministries within the community.

Our nine Ministering Communities include the Liturgy & Worship Ministries, Music Ministries, Community Outreach Ministries, Passive Evangelism, Adult Faith Formation, Catholic School Ministries, Religious Education Programs, Youth Ministries, and Affiliated Clubs & Societies. Each plays a vital role in the mission of our Church.

Liturgy & Worship Ministries – Worship

The Liturgy & Worship Ministries assist the priests in the celebration of the Liturgy. Liturgical celebration is all those rites through which the Church publicly praises God in Jesus' name. It includes the Mass, baptisms, weddings and all the other sacraments. It also includes other rites, such as Christian burial and the blessing of water, palms, and ashes. Its focus is the event, which has changed human history – the Easter event, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The liturgy is public and open to all. We need no special knowledge, no devotion to a particular saint or fondness for a particular form of prayer, to participate in the Church's liturgy, only membership in Jesus' living Body. The liturgy shows us gospel living and how to interact in a changing world. Catholic morality, how we deal in justice and charity day by day with great and small matters, is to be encountered and uncovered from our active participation in the liturgy.

The Liturgy & Worship Ministries have a steering committee comprised of the leadership of this Ministering Community. The Liturgy Committee has the overall responsibility for the design and implementation of liturgical celebrations that enable us to express our praise and thanks to God. The committee also implements liturgical policy as found in church documents in conjunction with the Pastor. Included in the Liturgy and Worship Ministries at St. Matthew the Apostle Church are the following:

- ❖ 100 – Altar Servers
- ❖ 110 – Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- ❖ 120 – Lectors
- ❖ 130 – Nursery
- ❖ 135 – Sacramental Preparation
- ❖ 140 – Sacramental Support
- ❖ 150 – Ushers & Greeters
- ❖ 160 – Vocations Committee

A volunteer for this group: Loves prayer and celebration; is happy in gatherings of people; is committed to community worship; likes positive, uplifting church celebrations and preparing feasts and seasons; wants to hear, spread, and live the word of God.

For detailed information on the programs of the Liturgy & Worship Ministries visit our website at www.stmatthew.net under Stewardship.

Music Ministries – Worship

The Music Ministries assist the priests of our parish in liturgical celebration. As a group, they select hymns and music and perform heartfelt community prayer, which is inherently musical. How they present their music to the assembly affects the entire scope of the mass. Music is a way to express our experiences of God through sung prayer. It helps us form words of praise, joy, faith, hope, mercy, justice and love as one body. Singing a hymn in church may be the closest some of us get to publicly verbalizing our experiences of God.

Singing "creates a mood," and an environment that encourages our communal and personal response to God's Word. Even more important, singing instructs the assembly in a way of prayer. Singing hymns moves us and leads us to places of spiritual attentiveness and sensitivity that the spoken word cannot achieve.

Our parish choir and musicians, more than anyone else, teach the congregation that our singing is one of the greatest gifts we can bring to the Mass. It is through these individuals that we first taste and then fully enter into prayer in shared song. We become committed to singing because we continually experience Mass in terms of community prayer poured out in song. What the choir and musicians do at Mass touches us all. Liturgical music has the power to shape the prayer we offer to God, assembled as the body of Christ.

Included in Music Ministries at St. Matthew the Apostle Church are the following:

- ❖ 200 – Choir & Musicians
- ❖ 210 – Youth Choir

A volunteer for this group: Understands the contribution of music to the liturgy; has talent with a musical instrument or possesses a strong voice; loves prayer and celebration; is happy in gatherings of people; is committed to community worship; likes positive, uplifting church celebrations.

For detailed information on the programs of the Music Ministries visit our website at www.stmatthew.net under Stewardship.

Community Outreach Ministries – Outreach

Our Community Outreach Ministries assist the Pastor in reaching out to those inside, and outside, our parish borders who need our faith-filled and caring assistance. In the Gospels, Jesus instructs his followers of the importance of practicing corporal works of mercy. When we act in kindness and concern for another human being, we do it for Him as well. On a daily basis, we are faced with social and moral issues that test the core values of our faith. In these times, the plight of the poor and homeless appears to be an unbreakable cycle of misery. Abortion is a moral and social evil that must not be condoned.

Euthanasia and capital punishment are two other examples of social policy that conflict with Catholic belief in the sanctity of life. We need to speak out strongly against these policies and other social

injustices. Working through our social action ministries we can effect positive change. One person can make a difference.

Included in the Community Outreach Ministries at St. Matthew the Apostle Church are the following:

- ❖ 300 – Bereavement Committee
- ❖ 310 – Charitable Works Committee
- ❖ 320 – Holy Name Parish
- ❖ 330 – Peace & Justice Ministry
- ❖ 340 – Respect Life Ministry
- ❖ 350 – Social Service Partnerships
- ❖ 360 – Support Groups

A volunteer for this group: Enjoys working with others in our faith community to achieve a common goal; desires to effect positive change of social issues that conflict with Catholic beliefs; is willing to reach out to help those in need within, or outside, our parish borders.

For detailed information on the programs of the Community Outreach Ministries visit our website at www.stmatthew.net under Stewardship.

Passive Evangelism – Outreach

As a parish, we must learn to excel at communicating the uncompromised gospel so that all can understand and respond. Even more, every parishioner must discover his or her unique role in building a church that is open and welcoming to those still outside the family of God. As our parish continues to grow in number, we are committed to making sure that all feel welcome, and that no one feels like a stranger to God.

That is why our parish launched the Neighborhood Ministry; not to recruit funds or solicit volunteers, but to help all parishioners feel connected to our parish and our faith. St. Matthew Parish is very large, and it is sometimes difficult to get to know each other and to feel a part of a caring community. By forming neighborhood groups, we have created a more welcoming environment for newcomers and provided an atmosphere that will help friendships grow. We are also passively reaching out those in our parish who would like to move forward on their faith journey in the disciplines of Worship, Outreach, Education, and Fellowship but just aren't sure where to begin. We are all on the same path and we are all at different points in our journey.

Included in Passive Evangelism at St. Matthew the Apostle Church are the following:

- ❖ 400 – Neighborhood Ministry

A volunteer for this group: Enjoys working with others in our faith community to achieve a common goal; desires to make all members of the parish feel welcome, and that no one feels like a stranger; is willing to reach out to help those in need within our parish neighborhoods; committed to get the uninvolved of our parish involved.

For detailed information on Passive Evangelism programs visit our website at www.stmatthew.net under Stewardship.

Adult Faith Formation – Education

Our Adult faith Formation program is a journey that challenges our parish to become a more dynamic community of faith and service. Through an emphasis on learning and growth in discipleship, we are placing faith formation in the center of our parish life. As a community, we are committed to the formation of mature adult disciples of Jesus Christ. We pray all our adult members will commit to this rich and fulfilling lifelong formation process.

Our task is to implement the vision presented in the United States Bishop's pastoral plan "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us." The plan seeks to address six areas for adult catechesis: Knowledge of Faith, Liturgical Life, Moral Formation, Prayer, Communal Life, and Missionary Spirit. We seek to form parishes that are vitally alive in the faith. These communities will provide a parish climate and an array of activities and resources designed to help adults more fully understand and live their faith. We also seek to form adults who actively cultivate a lively baptismal and Eucharistic spirituality with a powerful sense of mission and apostolate. Nourished by word, sacrament, and communal life, they will witness and share the Gospel in their homes, neighborhoods, places of work, and centers of culture. (OHWB, #17).

The following ministries are included in our Adult Faith Formation program at St. Matthew:

- ❖ 500 – Catholic Inquiry
- ❖ 510 – G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together)
- ❖ 520 – Prayer Groups
- ❖ 530 – R.C.I.A. (Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults)
- ❖ 540 – Retreats

A volunteer for this group: Likes to explore and help others explore God's word in all facets of their lives and make it the foundation for all we are and do; believes in the power of prayer; believes that in knowledge there is strength; is excited about the spiritual and mental growth for themselves and others; desires to share knowledge and faith experiences with others.

For detailed information on the programs of the Adult Faith Formation visit our website at www.stmatthew.net under Stewardship.

Catholic School Ministries – Education

Our Catholic School Ministries support the Pastor and Principal in social, spiritual, administrative, and fund raising activities.

Schools represent a vital part of any society. Through them, the wisdom and culture of a people are passed along to new generations. The Church sponsors and supports schools because it recognizes that, for a people of faith, the wisdom and culture transmitted by a school are enriched and put into perspective by the Gospel message and by the history of Christian people. Our school's mission is to enhance student learning in an environment that evokes the Catholic principles of love, respect, honesty, integrity and service to others.

St. Matthew Catholic School is one of 46 Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Columbus. Catholic schools strive to educate the whole child. Students learn not only to read and compute, but they are taught that respect for self and others, concern for the rights of others, and responsible decision-making, are the basis for achieving successful Christian lives. The school is chartered by the state of Ohio and meets all state minimum requirements.

St. Matthew School is fully accredited by the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association. Religious education is an integral part of the school day. All religion teachers take course work through the Department of Religious Education to become certified as religion teachers.

Included in the Catholic School Ministries are the:

- ❖ 600 – Alumni Association
- ❖ 610 – Home & School Association
- ❖ 620 – School Advisory Board
- ❖ 630 – S.P.I.C.E. (Special People In Catholic Education)

A volunteer for this group: Enjoys working to benefit our children; believes that in knowledge there is strength; is excited about the spiritual and mental growth of others; desires to share knowledge, experiences, and skills with others.

For detailed information on the programs of the Catholic School Ministries visit our website at www.stmatthew.net under Stewardship.

Religious Education Programs – Education

The ministries of the Religious Education Program, support the Pastor and Catechetical leaders in the spiritual development of the youth of our parish family. It is important for all Catholics to grow in the knowledge of their faith and in their love of Christ and His Church. This can be accomplished with the extended help and support of all members of our parish family.

Our Parish School of Religion exists to support parents by providing Religious Education classes, providing a formal learning situation, and by offering opportunities for peer and community expressions of faith. Parents, by their example and guidance, are the primary religious educators of their children. The Church is committed to the religious education of its young people. In order to accomplish this for students who do not attend parochial school, parishes provide classes for school-aged children of the parish.

The following ministries included in the Religious Education Programs at St. Matthew the Apostle Church:

- ❖ 700 – Catechist
- ❖ 710 – Children's Liturgy of the Word
- ❖ 720 – Pre-School Religious Education
- ❖ 730 – R.C.I.C. (Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Children)

A volunteer for this group: Likes to explore and help our youth explore God's word in all facets of their lives and make it the foundation for all we are and do; believes that in knowledge there is strength; is excited about the spiritual and mental growth of our parish youth; desires to share knowledge, experiences, and skills with others.

For detailed information on the programs of the Religious Education Programs visit our website at www.stmatthew.net under Stewardship.

Youth Ministries – Education

Our Youth Ministry empowers our young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, draws them to responsible participation in the life and work of the Catholic faith community, and fosters each individual's total personal and spiritual growth. As a Christian Community, must respond to the spiritual and emotional needs of young people and encourage the sharing of their unique gifts with the larger community. Youth Ministry at St. Matthew is part of a larger diocesan obligation to minister to youth who are both the present and future of our church. Our programming to middle school and high school students continues to be based on our mission statement:

"We are the youth of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, together in Christ. We stand for the Catholic faith, advocate for youth, and spread Jesus' example through love and unity. We meet regularly to learn about God, serve others, pray, and know ourselves better through social interaction. We bring together the youth in our parish out of love for Christ, in order to strengthen our relationship with God." Included in our Youth Ministries are:

- ❖ 800 – T.I.C. (Together In Christ High School Ministry)
- ❖ 810 – K.R.I.C. (Kids Rooted In Christ Middle School Ministry)
- ❖ 820 – Youth Leadership Team

A volunteer for this group: Enjoys working to benefit our children's faith experience; believes unity and love are core foundations; is excited about the spiritual and mental growth of our youth; desires to share knowledge and experiences with children of the parish.

For detailed information on the programs of the Youth Ministries visit our website at www.stmatthew.net under Stewardship.

Affiliated Clubs & Societies – Fellowship

Our Affiliated Clubs & Societies are organizations, societies, associations, and special programs dedicated to promoting the values of the Catholic faith. These ministries provide spiritual and social activities for all age groups of our parish.

One of the desired outcomes of *Generations* is to provide education and faith formation activities which remind us of our responsibility to be Christ's disciples. The diverse selection of activities available through these family life groups provide opportunities for all parishioners, young and old, to participate in the mission of our parish. Included in the Affiliated Clubs & Societies at St. Matthew the Apostle Church are the following:

- ❖ 900 – Athletic Association
- ❖ 910 – Catholic Parenting
- ❖ 920 – Catholics In Scouting
- ❖ 930 – Fellowship Leagues
- ❖ 940 – Festival Committee
- ❖ 950 – Garden Club
- ❖ 960 – Knights of Columbus
- ❖ 970 – Marriage Enrichment
- ❖ 980 – Young Adults
- ❖ 990 – Young Elderly

A volunteer for this group: Enjoys working with others in our faith community to achieve a common goal; enjoys social interaction through participation in affiliated clubs or societies; looks to enrich their lives; and is willing to reach out to help others.

For detailed information on the programs of the Affiliated Clubs & Societies visit our website at www.stmatthew.net under Stewardship.

Planning & Promotion Cycle

We have developed a rolling 5-year planning cycle to communicate the Pastor's expectations, clarify ministry focus, provide a channel for ministry feedback, and explore opportunities for the individual ministries, committees, and organizations within our Ministering Communities.

The promotional cycle was developed to insure a balanced presentation of all disciplines of Worship, Education, Outreach, and Fellowship. While we will continue to promote all areas, the emphasis will be on the Ministering Communities representing the featured promotion for that year. The annual planning and promotional cycle is as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Planning</i>	<i>Featured Promotion</i>
2006	Adult Faith, Catholic School, Religious Education and Youth Ministries	Education
2007	Affiliated Clubs & Societies	Fellowship
2008	Liturgy & Worship and Music Ministries	Worship
2009	All Ministering Communities	All – 50 th Anniversary
2010	Community Outreach Ministries, Passive Evangelism	Outreach
2011	Adult Faith, Catholic School, Religious Education and Youth Ministries	Education
2012	Affiliated Clubs & Societies	Fellowship
2013	Liturgy & Worship and Music Ministries	Worship
2014	All Ministering Communities	All – 55 th Anniversary
2015	Community Outreach Ministries, Passive Evangelism	Outreach



FACILITIES

2006 ❖ 2015

ST. MATTHEW
the Apostle Church

One Parish ❖ One Family ❖ One Journey

Facility Categories

Our parish facilities include: our church, our school, our parish offices, our priest's rectory, our meeting and gathering places, our recreational facilities, and our campus grounds. Often taken for granted, they are the most valuable physical resources that the parish owns and their maintenance is a significant portion of the parish budget. While providing the basic needs of shelter and availability for sacramental celebrations, they also inspire and remind us that God is woven into every thread of our daily lives.

These facilities are the home of our parish family, warranting the same care and respect given to our personal residences and are represented by the following nine facility categories:

1. Church
2. Parish Administration & Meeting Center
3. Activity Center & Playground
4. School & Learning Center
5. Sports Fields
6. Convent (multi-purpose center)
7. Priests' Residence
8. Campus Grounds
9. Other

In addition to a facilities plan, fixtures and equipment housed in these structures are an integral part of the day-to-day operations at St. Matthew the Apostle Church. While sometimes overlooked, these items are the tools used by our parish to instruct our children, manage our parish finances, and celebrate our sacraments. Some items are old and some are new. Some items need to be repaired and some need to be replaced.



A complete parish Capital Maintenance & Improvement Plan can be requested from the Finance Committee or Parish office. You can also access the plan through the *Generations* page on the parish website.

Offertory & Capital Fund

It's been over five years since we began our journey titled *Generations*. From the beginning, this journey has been no ordinary undertaking. It was destined to change the very way we operate our parish in the areas of worship, education, outreach, fellowship, and administration. We've made major strides in the development of our Ministering Communities. Also, *Generations* has addressed the demands placed on the infrastructure, resulting from growth in the parish that has occurred since 1959, with an aggressive series of capital projects. These include everything from a new church and activity center to offsite sports fields and updated restrooms in the school.

As Disciples of Christ, we have always given of ourselves and shared what we have received – sometimes generously and sometimes even heroically. But in reflecting together, we are being asked to support our parish through giving that is consistent, sacrificial, and based on faith. One way to do this is by

contributing regularly to the parish offertory. The offertory is allocated to funding the day-to-day operations of the parish (salaries and benefits, utilities, insurance, educational activities, etc.). Another way is to provide financial support through our Capital Fund.

How do we spread the responsibility of financial support of major capital expenditures between current and future parishioners? How do we pay to replace worn out furniture, fixtures, and equipment on a timely basis? How do we prevent our parish facilities from falling into a state of disrepair? How do we build and replenish depleted parish reserves? Read on.

We don't have building fund drives at St. Matthew. The Capital Fund was developed to eliminate the need for major fundraisers; the traditional funding source growing parishes use to pay for major capital expenditures. Through regular contributions to the fund, our parishioners have made a commitment to invest in the future of their parish, their community, and their church.

We live in a transient society with families joining and leaving the parish on a regular basis. Through the Capital Fund, new parishioners are provided the opportunity to support the projects of the past and those leaving have contributed to future endeavors. All have acknowledged the financial responsibility for development and maintenance of the physical resources of our parish.

To insure accountability, our Finance Committee has developed the Capital Maintenance & Improvement Plan (CMIP). This plan has a rolling ten year horizon and details action items for each of our nine facility categories. In addition to addressing general repairs and maintenance of our buildings, the plan includes an itemized depreciation schedule for the furniture, fixtures, and equipment of the parish. This is an effort to maintain the quality standard developed in the first three phases of the *Generations* plan.

Reserves are an integral part of any sound financial plan. At St. Matthew, they are used to finance items detailed in the CMIP and emergency funding requests. The Finance Committee has calculated our required level of cash reserves at approximately \$900,000. The figure is based on CMIP projected costs and a reasonable number of months operating expenses held in arrears. Depleted reserves are replenished through our parishioners giving regularly and generously to the Capital Fund.

When considering the benefits of the Capital Fund, we encourage our parishioners to take a moment for prayerful reflection on the following scripture passage:

"Each one should give, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause" (2 Cor 9:7-8).

Church

A church building is the story of a common people united in faith. It is a story about the life of a particular community, of those who believe and their relationship to God, and their relationship with the universal Roman Catholic Church.

We, the church of St. Matthew the Apostle, treasure our rich Catholic tradition and seek to build on that tradition as we embrace the challenge of making God present in every aspect of our lives. Much time was devoted and sacrifices made to shape the physical aspects of our church building. The principal beauty of this house of praise and worship will be the spiritual unity of our assembly, the eagerness with which we hear the Word of God, the devotion with which we celebrate the sacraments – especially the Holy Eucharist – and the love which we embrace as we build up God's Kingdom on earth. We remember our shared history, we celebrate who we are and are called to be, and we believe in a future full of promise

and hope for all of God's people. This is the story that finds expression in our church and our parish community.

In thanksgiving, may all who gather in this holy temple come to recognize it as our spiritual home when, gathered together in Christ's name, we may grow even more united in spirit, truth and His love.

Our Church completed in 2004, was designed to provide our parish a traditional worship space to service the Gahanna and Blackick area. Based on our current family demographic and our 5 scheduled Masses, our worship facility will provide ample space to accommodate our ever growing parish population. The Church includes:

- ❖ Floor seating for 1,200 parishioners
- ❖ Gathering Space
- ❖ Enclosed Vestibule
- ❖ 2 Confessional Rooms
- ❖ Choir Loft with elevator access
- ❖ Director of Music office with Choir rehearsal room
- ❖ Sacristy
- ❖ Ushers Room
- ❖ Lectors area
- ❖ Men's and Women's Restrooms
- ❖ Storage
- ❖ Parking

Utilization: Our church is used for celebration of daily and weekend Masses, It is also used for celebrations of the sacraments of: Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, Reconciliation, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. Individual and group adoration and prayer activities are also schedule in the church and chapel. Non-performance religious celebrations may be held in the church with the approval of the Pastor.

Availability: The Church and Chapel are open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends. Events and activities can be scheduled through the parish office.

Church Exterior: St. Matthew the Apostle Church is a cruciform church, of traditional design by Meacham & Apel Architects, constructed of simulated stone and stucco by Messer Construction Company.

The Bell Tower: The bell tower houses three bronze bells purchased from The Verdin Company, topped with a Celtic cross. Blessed on November 1, 2004 by Fr. Paul Noble, the largest bell was forged in 1872 at the Meneely & Kimberly foundry in Troy, New York. The Verdin Company at their foundry in Belgium forged the two smaller bells. The tones for the respective bells were taken, via digital measurement, from the tone of the large bell. They form a major chord producing what is known as the American Peel. The bells will ring on the hour daily from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. with the Angelus being rung at 7:00 a.m., 12 Noon, and 7:00 p.m. A three-bell peel will be rung for weddings and special celebrations; the large bell will toll for funerals.

Entries: The main entry faces the rectory, with a secondary entrance beneath the portico facing the school. The cornerstone, placed to the left of the main entrance, is carved with the Roman Numerals MMIV A.D. (2004) with the original 1968 cornerstone placed beneath it. The original statue of St. Matthew the Apostle is located to the left of the main entrance.

Gathering Space: Parish staff offices, the Sacristy and restrooms flank the gathering space. It is here where people may gather prior to or after Mass to meet and converse, for inside the actual church Sacred Silence is always to be observed for all who are in prayer.

The Church Nave: The Stations of the Cross, located on the interior walls of the Nave, are replicas of antique prayer cards. The tapestries made of wool and silk are from a digitized image, and were mechanically woven in Canada.

The organ pipes within the choir loft come from the museum collection at Holy Family church. The central painting within the dome of the ceiling is indicative of the outpouring of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit – wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

The Stained Glass Windows: Designed and crafted by Redbarn Studios in Powell, Ohio the stained glass windows are Tiffany style. The Annunciation window depicts the Angel Gabriel bringing the news to Mary that she will be the Mother of God. The window will be flanked by the Joyful and Luminous mysteries of the rosary. The Resurrection window depicts the angel proclaiming the news to the women that Christ has risen from the dead. The window will be flanked by the Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries of the rosary. As you look at both of these windows, you will notice the sun setting in the Annunciation window and rising in the Resurrection window. The significance of this detail is to remind us of the ending of the old covenant and the beginning of the new.

The centerpiece of our three windows is the rose window. While the Resurrection and Annunciation windows tell their story through pictures, the rose window is rich in symbolism. In the center of the window, are the letters I.H.S. Latin for Jesus the Christ, these fire-orange letters symbolize Jesus as the consuming fire, central to all life. The twelve golden rays tipped with red represent the twelve apostles receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Sanctuary: Hand-carved from Alabama limestone by Tennessee artist John Czernoczky are the altar, the ambo, and the baptismal font. The relics of St. Eulogius and St. Vigilans are deposited in the aperture of the altar. A Celtic cross is carved in the front of the altar to mirror the Celtic cross atop the bell tower. Carved within the base of the baptismal font are three arches that replicate the architectural design of the latticework behind the altar and the stained glass windows. Within the ambo is carved the Greek Alpha and Omega – symbolic Christ being the Beginning and the End.

The corpus from the 1968 church has been mounted on a cross and is positioned above the altar. Also reused from the 1968 church is the tabernacle. Encased in a carved base, the tabernacle is appropriately given a central focus within the church, and is illuminated under the baldicino.

The prayer chapel is located behind the tabernacle, with seating for six and a rail for kneeling; the prayer chapel will serve as a quiet area for private prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Parish Administration & Meeting Center

Our Parish Administration and Meeting Center, also completed in 2004, were incorporated into the design of the Church building. These facilities provide space for our Pastor and his staff to conduct the day-to-day operations of the parish.

The administration offices are adjacent to the gathering space with a door for outside access. Contained within the facility are the offices for the Pastor, staff offices, a reception area, and private meeting space. The facility includes:

- ❖ Pastor's office
- ❖ Associate Pastor's office
- ❖ Pastoral Associate office
- ❖ Business Manager office
- ❖ Director of Development office
- ❖ R.C.I.A. office
- ❖ Parish Secretary workstation
- ❖ Administrative Assistant workstation
- ❖ Volunteer workstation
- ❖ Workroom with storage
- ❖ Kitchenette
- ❖ Conference Room
- ❖ Restrooms

The Meeting Center is utilized by our diverse group of ministries in their efforts to carry out our mission by making our parish a more-friendly, welcoming, and prayerful environment for all our parishioners both new and old.

The meeting facilities with additional offices are located beneath the church in the undercroft. Within the undercroft are the parish meeting rooms, counseling space, the youth gathering space, the nurseries and several offices.

- ❖ St. Anthony is the largest of the meeting rooms and includes a kitchen and seating for 100
- ❖ St. Gabriel, St. Michael, and St. Raphael are the three smaller meeting rooms with seating for 30
- ❖ The St. Monica and St. Martin rooms serve as the infant and toddler nursery, complete with a mounted television for watching the Mass
- ❖ Our youth group will meet in the Spirit Room
- ❖ Youth Minister office
- ❖ Group counseling in the St. Cecilia Room
- ❖ Counseling office
- ❖ Director of Technology office
- ❖ Men's and Women's restrooms
- ❖ Coat Room
- ❖ Elevator access
- ❖ Storage and Mechanical rooms

Utilization: The Meeting Center has been designed to accommodate the ever-growing needs of our Ministering Communities. These communities contain over 50 ministries dedicated to serving our parish community and beyond. All are encouraged to utilize these facilities for meetings and other events. All rooms are scheduled through the parish office.

Availability: The Parish Offices are open: Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon), and closed on Sunday.

The Meeting Center is open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends. Events and activities can be scheduled through the parish office.

The Saints: From the early days of the church, saints have played key roles as intercessors between God and mankind, as a source of protection and miraculous cures. When we invoke their help we feel their grace, when we contemplate their deeds we are spiritually nourished, and when we dwell upon the eternal truth of their message we continue always to be nurtured by the strength of their devotion. Inspired by their sacrifices, we have chosen to name our Meeting Center rooms after the following saints.

St. Anthony was a teacher and preacher so charismatic that the crowds who came to hear him during the nine years of his mission could not be contained in the churches. Instead they gathered in the marketplaces to hear his attacks on usury and avarice, the two great enemies of the poor. A Portuguese nobleman by birth, Anthony joined the Augustinian canons at an early age and later joined the Franciscan friars. He gained a major reputation as a worker of miracles. Anthony is the patron saint of lost property.

Not much is known of *St. Cecilia*. According to her colorful legend, she was an aristocratic Christian girl unwillingly betrothed to a pagan, Valerian. She sang to the Lord in her heart as the organs at her wedding feast were playing, hence her patronage of musicians, and refused to consummate her marriage. Instead she converted her bridegroom to her faith. He returned from his baptism to find Cecilia standing next to an angel who crowned both of them with roses and lilies.

St. Monica is the mother of eminent theologian St. Augustine. Augustine was leading a life of debauchery and self indulgence and fled to Italy to escape his mother's ministrations. Monica followed him and convinced him to accept the Christian faith and to be baptized. She soon died having declared all her hopes had now been fulfilled and that she had no more need for a life on earth. Monica is the special patron of married women and a pattern for motherhood.

In the Old Testament, *St. Gabriel* interprets Daniel's visions and announces the time of the coming of the Messiah to him. In the New Testament, he foretells to Zacharias the birth of his son John the Baptist. But Gabriel's principal role is as God's ambassador to Mary. One of the three archangels, Gabriel appears in the bible always as a messenger of God, hence his patronage of diplomats, who are also message bearers.

One of the three angels who stand before the throne of God, *St. Michael* is described in the Book of Revelation as the leader of the victorious heavenly armies in the battle against Satan and his forces. God sent him to cast out Lucifer who led a rebellion among the angels. He is generally identified in the Old Testament as the "Angel of the Lord." Michael is also the angel who receives risen souls and weighs them in balance, the basis of his patronage of grocers.

The name Raphael means "God heals," an apt description of the role *St. Raphael* plays in the Old Testament Book of Tobit. God sends him to restore Tobit's sight and to bring about the marriage of his son Tobiah to Sarah while driving the demons from her body. Raphael is also identified as one of the three archangels. Because he was Tobiah's traveling companion, pilgrims have a protective kinship with this saint.

The Stained Glass Windows: The stained glass windows located throughout the parish offices and undercroft were salvaged from the old church. All the meeting rooms contain light boxes, crafted from oak, displaying glass from the old corridor and gathering space. The hallway windows of the St. Anthony room are crafted from the floor to ceiling windows that were located behind the sanctuary.

Parish Activity Center & Playground

Our Parish Activity Center (PAC) has been designed to host educational, fellowship, and faith formation activities, facilitating our journey to be Disciples of Christ. This diverse offering of activities, provides opportunities for all parishioners, young and old, to participate in the mission of our parish. Our parish motto was the inspiration behind our undertaking of this project: One parish, One family, One journey.

The PAC was completed in 2002, and was designed as a multi-purpose facility for athletics, parish events, and physical education activities. The facility hosts multiple parish events annually and is rated to host 4th through 8th grade sporting events including tournaments. The PAC includes:

- ❖ Double court gymnasium
- ❖ Bleacher seating
- ❖ Performance stage
- ❖ Locker rooms
- ❖ Concession Stand
- ❖ Restrooms
- ❖ Athletics office
- ❖ Gym Teacher offices
- ❖ Playground
- ❖ Storage
- ❖ Parking

Utilization: Our PAC may be used for any approved Parish event, parish athletic practice or contest, and the school for physical educations activities, meetings, and performance events.

Availability: The facility is available for parish use from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays during the school year and 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekends. Events and activities can be scheduled through the parish office. Check with the parish office for Summer availability.

PAC Exterior: The Parish Activity Center is traditional design by Meacham & Apel Architects, and was constructed by the Spinosi Brothers.

School & Learning Center

Our School and Learning Center are vital components in the mission of our parish. Through them, the teaching of our faith is passed on to future generations. Through our school, the fundamental teachings of Christ assist students in achieving excellence in their religious, academic, physical, social, and emotional development. Our students are educated in a Catholic environment that strives to bring each child to his or her full potential. Our school's mission is to enhance student learning in an environment that evokes the Catholic principles of love, respect, honesty, integrity and service to others.

The original school was built in 1963, with the addition of a second set of class rooms and the Media Center being added in 1992. The Learning Center, with a latch-key facility and science lab, was completed in 2005. The School & Learning Center include:

- ❖ School administrative offices
- ❖ Parish School of Religion offices
- ❖ Kindergarten (2)
- ❖ 1st grade (2)
- ❖ 2nd grade (2)
- ❖ 3rd grade (2)
- ❖ 4th grade (2)
- ❖ 5th grade (2)
- ❖ 6th grade (2)
- ❖ 7th grade (2)
- ❖ 8th grade (2)
- ❖ Enrichment room

- ❖ Music room
- ❖ Art room
- ❖ Technology room
- ❖ Science lab
- ❖ Media Center
- ❖ Guidance office
- ❖ Nurses office
- ❖ Cafetorium w/ stage
- ❖ Kitchen
- ❖ Latch-key room
- ❖ Staff lounge
- ❖ Restrooms (2)
- ❖ Storage
- ❖ Parking

Utilization: Our School and Learning Center are designate for use by our Catholic School and Parish School of Religion.

Availability: The Cafetorium is available from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays during the school year and 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekends when not being utilized for school activities. Check with the parish office for availability.

Exterior: School and Learning Center is traditional design of stone and stucco by John Gibboney Architects. The façade is scheduled for a face lift, to better compliment the Activity Center, as part of the *Generations* project.

Sports Fields

Our Sports Fields are located at an off-campus facility and are rated at 4th through 8th grade play. The facility is used for our football, soccer, and baseball programs. Activities include practices, scheduled Diocesan games, and tournaments. The fields include:

- ❖ Combination Football/Soccer field with bleachers
- ❖ Baseball diamond with fencing
- ❖ Warm up area
- ❖ Portable Concession area
- ❖ Port-A-John area
- ❖ Storage
- ❖ Parking

Utilization: Our Sports Fields are designate for use by the St. Matthew Athletic Association.

Availability: The facilities are available during daylight hours for activities. Check with the parish office for availability.

Convent (Multi-Purpose Center)

Our Convent is a multi-purpose facility utilized by St. Matthew Charitable Works, Knight's of Columbus, Boy and Girl Scouts, and other ministries within the parish. Activities include meetings and special events. The Convent includes:

- ❖ 2 Meeting Rooms
- ❖ Kitchen
- ❖ Charitable Works facility
- ❖ Storage
- ❖ Parking

Utilization: Our Convent is designate for use by the Ministering Communities of St. Matthew.

Availability: The facilities are available from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends. Events and activities can be scheduled through the parish office.

Priest's Residence

Our Priest's Residence has the capacity to house four priests. Currently three priests' are in residence. The facility includes:

- ❖ 3 second floor suites
- ❖ 1 first floor suite
- ❖ Kitchen
- ❖ Dining room
- ❖ Entertainment space
- ❖ Living room
- ❖ 2 car garage
- ❖ Private garden
- ❖ 1st floor ½ bath
- ❖ Storage

Utilization: Our Priest's Residence is designated for the use of our priest's and their guests.

Availability: Access to the facility is solely at the priest's discretion.

Campus Grounds

Our Campus Grounds contain numerous gardens and green space. Maintenance of the grounds is coordinate by the Pastor's Staff with the help of contact and volunteer labor.

Other

Other facilities include state supplies classrooms and storage structures located around the campus.



LEADERSHIP

2006 ❖ 2015

ST. MATTHEW
the Apostle Church

One Parish ❖ One Family ❖ One Journey

The Team

Our *Generations* Team includes our Pastor, his staff, and our parish administration group. As a team, they assist, advise, and counsel the Pastor in the administration of the parish assets, income, expenses, and all other management and financial matters. As a group, they ensure that a clear, concise and consistent parish message is presented to parishioners, and to the community at large.

As a team they gather, assimilate, and distribute information about the parish, and its activities in a focused and timely manner. They work together in developing and producing printed materials, managing the parish website, formulating press releases, and maintaining the parish image program. Providing a mentoring link for new families of the parish is also the responsibility of the group making our parish a more prayerful, more giving, and more hospitable place to live and worship. They motivate our parishioners to aspire to the goal of being Christian stewards and are responsible for the development of new ministries, providing a forum for existing ministries to spread the word, volunteer placement, and chairperson recruitment and development.



Included on the team are:

- ❖ Pastor
- ❖ Designated Parish Staff
- ❖ Parish Council
- ❖ Communications Committee
- ❖ Finance Committee
- ❖ Stewardship Committee
- ❖ Welcome Committee

St. Matthew has a Development Board comprised of leadership appointed by the Pastor. Their role as a group is the development, maintenance, and implementation of the *Generations* plan.

A member of the team: Likes to make processes and organizations work; supports parish activities and organizations; is willing to work with and support others to achieve common parish goals; is a team player; is a do-er rather than an observer; and is committed to the concepts of stewardship renewal. Job descriptions for each of these committees are posted on our website at www.stmatthew.net in *Generations under The Team*.

Parish Staff

In many locales within the Diocese of Columbus, the shortage of priests has reached crisis proportions. Due to this shortage, laypersons are being called to assume active high-profile roles and responsibilities for the life and operation of their parishes. At St. Matthew, the individuals assuming these roles are our

Pastoral Staff. These dedicated employees, work for our parish and report to our Pastor. For the *Generations* plan to be completely successful, the following key positions will be required:

- ❖ Administrative Assistant
- ❖ Adult Faith Coordinator
- ❖ Business Manager
- ❖ Catholic School Principal
- ❖ Director of Development
- ❖ Director of Fellowship
- ❖ Director of Music
- ❖ Director of Religious Education
- ❖ Director of Technology
- ❖ Pastoral Associate
- ❖ Youth Minister
- ❖ Parish Psychologist

Parish Council

The following charter defines our purpose, activities, background, responsibilities, and commitment:

Purpose: The Parish Council is "called together in faith to respond to the needs of our diverse parish community." The Council is a team of servants elected to consult with and advise the Pastor. It is the Council's duty to be informed of parish activities and to monitor the pulse of the parish. "The agenda flows from its vision and prompts realistic pastoral planning that is life-giving" (*Handbook for Parish Pastoral Councils, Nashville Diocese, pg. 3*).

Activities: The Council holds 3 meetings annually to address matters of concern to the parish and to advise the Pastor. Parishioners bring matters to the Council's attention via letters, open discussion (announced topics), and open forums (any topic of concern). Members listen to the pulse of the parish, become informed of parish-wide activities, and represent our parishioners in advising the Pastor of the needs and decisions affecting the parish community. Operating on a consensus basis, all members must come to common agreement on issues through prayerful discernment, discussion, respect, and trust.

Council keeps parishioners informed through the weekly bulletin, St. Matthew Quarterly newsletter, and parish website. Development of the *Generations* plan and management of ad-hoc committees lies within the scope of the Council.

Background: In October 1987, a committee was formed by the Pastor for the purpose of instituting a parish council. The committee conducted a parish-wide election in January and February of 1988 to seat the Council. This first Council attended a retreat in March that focused on spiritual renewal, community building, and leadership training. After the period of formation, the Council actively began its deliberation of parish issues.

In 2005, the Council was reorganized to represent geographical regions as defined by our parish Neighborhood Ministry. Each council member is partnered with a Regional Administrator to address the particular concerns of their neighborhoods.

New Council members are nominated by the Pastor and approved by current members of the Council. Each member must have received the sacrament of Confirmation and be a registered parishioner. The Parish Council is comprised of the Pastor, a Youth Leadership Team representative, and a members

representing each of the regions in the Neighborhood Ministry. Our Ministering Communities are invited to appoint liaisons providing guidance to the council in the areas of worship, education, outreach, and fellowship.

Responsibilities: The Council is responsible for: Providing leadership, through example, with regard to parishioner stewardship expectations of the giving of time-talent-treasure; providing a passionate vision for the parish through the development and maintenance of the *Generations* plan; advising the Pastor on matters pertaining to administrative, worship, education, outreach, and fellowship issues; through regional representation, providing a forum to address parishioner concerns; maintaining council membership at the required levels through retention and recruitment; and maintaining procedural documentation relating to this ministry.

The council includes the following positions:

- ❖ President
- ❖ Vice-President
- ❖ Secretary
- ❖ Regional Representative
- ❖ Youth Representative

Commitment: Adult seats are 3-year terms, plus one additional (consecutive) year, which is voluntary; the youth seat is a 3-year term, or until high school graduation. As of 1990, no two members of the same household may serve simultaneous terms. Meetings are 1 to 4 hours in length depending on the issues at hand. From time-to-time, Council members will be asked to chair ad-hoc committees commissioned by the Council.

Communications Committee

The following charter defines our purpose, activities, background, responsibilities, and commitment:

Purpose: The purpose of the Communications Committee is to ensure that the message of the Parish is well presented to parishioners and to the community at large. Information about the Parish and its activities will be presented in a focused, consistent and timely manner. All of these activities are done in accord with and at the direction of parish leadership.

Activities: The committee is separated into five areas of responsibility: print communication; website communication; development and image; ministry communications and activities. These activities involve: producing our quarterly newsletter, maintaining our parish website, building an archive of church history, and acting as a communications conduit for parish leadership.

Background: In September of 2000, Our Pastor and Parish Council identified the need to improve communications between the leadership and laity. As a result, the Communications Committee was chartered.

In a world of instant communications, there is available an insurmountable amount of information at any given time. Therefore, it is critical to present a consistent, accessible, focused and timely message. In order to serve the Parish and the community, this message must be highly visible and available through many varied media. Parish leaders commissioned a committee to utilize the most current technologies to communicate with parishioners. These tools range from desktop publishing and interactive presentations, to parish websites and "hot links." The Communications Committee sees that the message of St. Matthew is heard loudly, clearly and often throughout the Parish and the community.

In order to do this, the committee develops and produces printed matter; manages the parish website; formulates press releases; and develops logos, letterhead and signage to present a polished, consistent message. The Committee works with parish leaders and ministry committee chairpersons to facilitate the accomplishment of a broad range of goals and objectives.

Responsibilities: The Communications Committee is responsible for: Providing leadership through example with regard to parishioner stewardship expectations of the giving of time, talent and treasure; Recruiting of volunteers; Communicating our parish mission to the community at large; Working with the Development Board on the Generations plan and public relations activities; Scheduling, producing and distributing the quarterly newsletter; Reporting on parish events; Maintaining a verbal and visual archive of our parish history; Evaluating new technologies; Supporting the parish website; Working with other parish ministries to communicate the vision of the Generations plan in a clear, concise and consistent manner; and Maintaining procedural documentation relating to this ministry.

Commitment: The length of service for the committee chairperson is a 2-year term with each of the committee members serving a minimum of 1-year. 8-hours of service per month are the expected time commitment. Committee meetings are held quarterly, with project teams meeting as required.

Finance Committee

The following charter defines our purpose, activities, background, responsibilities, and commitment:

Purpose: The Finance Committee assists, advises, and counsels the Pastor on fiscal and financial administration matters including management, administration, and safeguarding parish assets and funds. The Finance Committee is a Diocesan required committee, appointed by the Pastor.

Activities: The Finance Committee advises and assists the Pastor in the preparation of the annual parish budget, monitors receipts and disbursements, advises the Pastor and recommends remedial actions regarding variances from budget where warranted; prepares and submits to the parish community the Annual Report of Parish Financial Activity, Receipts, Disbursements, and Financial Condition. Committee members meet with parish organizations on a periodic basis to review fiscal and operational results, assist in the organization's budget activities, and to serve as the representative of the Pastor in an advisory capacity.

Background: The Finance Committee was chartered in the 1960's and is the only member of the parish administration group required by Canon Law. The committee's mission is to assist, advise, and counsel him in the administration of parish assets, income, expenses, and all other fiscal and financial matters. It serves in an advisory capacity and has no policymaking or administrative authority or responsibility. The Pastor has the authority and responsibility to establish and administer spending policies, directions, objectives and goals. Committee members, as a group, serve at his direction.

Due to the nature of the Committee's mission and purpose as financial advisors to the Pastor, volunteer(s) seeking appointment to the Committee should consider their skills and experience in the areas of budgeting and fiscal management. The Finance Committee is comprised of no less than five (5) and no more than nine (9) non-staff Parish members including a member serving as Chair to the Committee. Parish staff members serve as ex-officio members.

Responsibilities: The Finance Committee is responsible for: Providing leadership, through example, with regard to parishioner stewardship expectations of the giving of time-talent-treasure; Providing a vision for the parish through the implementation of the financial objectives of the Generations plan;

Developing budgets in conjunction with the parish Business Manager; Providing assistance with the parish long-term financial planning; Working with the Development Director on fund drives and appeals; Developing a capital asset maintenance plan; Counseling the Pastor on parish financial matters as required; and Maintaining procedural documentation relating to this ministry.

Commitment: The Finance Committee meets regularly, on a quarterly basis, and additionally as needed. Committee Members must commit (i) to serve a minimum of 2 years, and (ii) to attend all meetings.

Stewardship Committee

The following charter defines our purpose, activities, background, responsibilities, and commitment:

Purpose: The Stewardship Committee challenges members of our parish to aspire to the goal of being a Christian steward. The Committee is responsible for the development of new ministries, providing a forum for existing ministries to spread the word, leadership recruitment and development, volunteer appreciation, and inviting the Un-Involved to participate in the mission of the church.

Activities: The committee coordinates our annual stewardship renewal program beginning in August and ending in October of each year. *Stewardship Weekend* is usually around the Feast of Saint Matthew, and includes ministry promotional and fellowship events. We also host *Volunteer Appreciation Weekend*, which includes a catered luncheon for our parish volunteers, and *"The State of the Parish" Weekend*.

We use a combination of mediums to promote our renewal efforts including the St. Matthew Quarterly Newsletter and our parish website. Specific activities include: Developing new ministries; recruiting new leadership; working with chairpersons to continually promote and improve services and activities offered by their ministries; and working with the Communications Committee to ensure stewardship program and service materials are up-to-date.

Background: In June 1999, our Pastor and Parish Council envisioned a renewal of our stewardship commitment at St. Matthew. That vision was the impetus for the formation of the Stewardship Committee. Today a call is sounding in the church for Christian Stewardship which places God in the center of our lives and creates an understanding that God is the source and provider of all we have – our life, our family, our health, our talents, our abilities, our worldly goods are all gifts from God. Through stewardship we are called to joyfully share our gifts with our parish and others in need. Stewardship renewal is part of our parish mission. As human beings, as people of faith, and as disciples of Jesus Christ, we need to express our gratitude for the many gifts and blessings we have received.

Responsibilities: The standing committee is responsible for: Providing leadership, through example, with regard to parishioner stewardship expectations of the giving of time-talent-treasure; providing stewardship budgeting requirements to the Pastor or his designate; recruiting the leadership of the laity; insuring our stewardship renewal theme reaches the Un-Involved members of the parish; volunteer placement; coordinating stewardship related events; and maintaining procedural documentation relating to this ministry. The committee includes the following positions:

- ❖ Chairperson
- ❖ Time & Talent Coordinator
- ❖ Treasure Coordinator
- ❖ Volunteer Placement Coordinator
- ❖ Events Coordinator
- ❖ Events Volunteer

Commitment: Any adult parishioner can become a member of the standing committee or volunteer to participate in stewardship renewal activities. The length of service for the chairperson is a 3-year term with the other 5 standing committee members serving a minimum of 2 years. The standing committee meets quarterly to monitor the progress of the program throughout the year. Sub-committees meet as required.

Welcome Committee

The following charter defines our purpose, activities, background, responsibilities, and commitment:

Purpose: The Welcome Committee establishes personal contact with new families and is responsible for the registration process. Once new parishioners are registered, the committee facilitates contact with parishioners by the Neighborhood Ministry coordinators. In addition to welcoming new parishioners, committee members act as their contact to answer questions during an introductory mentoring period.

Activities: Members of the Welcome Committee register new parishioners every week on Wednesday evening and after the Sunday morning Masses. Names are then provided to the parish office. During registration, the new families receive a welcome packet, a welcome gift, and a welcome card inviting them to a Sunday celebration event. This event is a part of a larger parish event, which includes a welcome reception for all participants. At the welcome event, new families meet the pastor, key parish representatives and members of the Welcome Committee. The Welcome Committee member who registered the family normally makes a follow-up telephone call, reminding them of the Sunday celebration event. This gives the new family members an opportunity to reconnect with a parish member they know, ask questions and get additional information on the parish.

Background: In July 2001, the committee was established by the Pastor and Parish Council to provide a mentoring link for families during the first six months they belong to the parish. During this time, Welcome Committee members greet new members, and communicate with them about opportunities to participate in ministries, the school, and various spiritual and social activities.

Responsibilities: The standing committee is responsible for: Registration; welcoming new parishioners into our faith community; coordinating parish welcome events; building community through neighborhood outreach; discerning parishioner needs and communicating them to the parish staff; providing Welcome Committee budgeting requirements to the Pastor or his designate; and maintaining procedural documentation relating to this ministry.

Commitment: The length of service is open. Meetings are held semiannually, with communication among members accomplished primarily through email, calls, and letters from the chairperson or her representative.



PROFILES

2006 ❖ 2015

ST. MATTHEW
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Demographic

The following demographic profile, based on the 2000 census, was created from data purchased from ESRI. The zip codes are: Gahanna (43230), Blacklick (43004), and Pataskala (43062).

Snapshot	43230	43004	43062
Population	50,070	8,919	20,406
Households	19,630	3,540	7,409
Annual Trend – Households	+1.90%	+5.56%	+2.95%
Average Household Size	2.53	2.52	2.74
Median Age	34.50	30.80	36.40
Diversity Index	31.00	36.70	8.90
Average Household Income	\$72,326	\$94,213	\$62,193
Median Household Income.....	\$59,238	\$73,651	\$51,064
Annual Trend – Median Household Income.....	+4.33%	+5.85%	+3.34%

Number of Households by Income	43230	43004	43062
< \$15,000	1,021	108	664
\$15,000 - \$24,999.....	1,311	170	815
\$25,000 - \$34,999.....	2,156	292	856
\$35,000 - \$49,999.....	3,295	439	1,262
\$50,000 - \$74,999.....	5,144	794	1,921
\$75,000 - \$99,999.....	3,071	601	983
\$100,000 - \$149,999.....	2,436	611	644
\$150,000+	1,195	527	265

Percentage of Households by Income	43230	43004	43062
< \$15,000	5.2%	3.0%	9.0%
\$15,000 - \$24,999.....	6.7%	4.8%	11.0%
\$25,000 - \$34,999.....	11.0%	8.2%	11.6%
\$35,000 - \$49,999.....	16.8%	12.4%	17.0%
\$50,000 - \$74,999.....	26.2%	22.4%	25.8%
\$75,000 - \$99,999.....	15.6%	17.0%	13.3%
\$100,000 - \$149,999.....	12.4%	17.3%	8.7%
\$150,000+	6.1%	14.9%	3.6%

Percentage of Population by Age	43230	43004	43062
< 5	7.1%	10.6%	7.6%
5 – 14.....	15.7%	13.2%	15.4%
15 – 19.....	6.7%	5.1%	6.8%
20 – 24.....	5.6%	7.7%	4.3%
25 – 34.....	15.7%	22.3%	13.4%
35 – 44.....	19.0%	16.6%	17.6%
45 – 64.....	22.6%	19.3%	26.6%
65 – 74.....	4.2%	3.4%	5.2%
75 – 84.....	2.6%	1.4%	2.3%
85+	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%

Parish Receipts

The following profile is based on information presented in the demographic profile and data provided by the pastoral staff. The primary zip codes represent 86.1% of parish households. These zip codes are: Gahanna (43230), Blacklick (43004), and Pataskala (43062). Other represents an average of the primary zip codes.

The Household Averages table calculates a weighted average receipt at the 2.5% contribution level. It uses mean statistical data, factoring out highs and lows, as the basis of the calculation. In other words, if everyone one in the parish gave 2.5% of their household income, the average would be \$1,510. The Household in Giving Range at 2.5% table, converts the census income ranges to a 2.5% giving range. For example, 2.5% times \$15,000 equals \$375.00 annually. Each line item is weighted to calculate an average. In other words, if everyone gave 2.5% of their household income, the actual percentage in each range would equal the target average. The analysis is a variance of actual versus a 2.5% target goal.

Households Averages	43230	43004	43062	Other	Average
Percent of Households in Primary Zip Codes	66.4%	16.1%	3.6%	13.9%	N/A
Mean Household Income	\$59,238	\$73,651	\$51,064	\$61,017	\$60,402
Mean Offertory Receipts @ 2.5% Contribution Level	\$1,481	\$1,841	\$1,277	\$1,326	\$1,510

Households in Giving Range @ 2.5%	43230	43004	43062	Other	Average
\$0.00 to \$9.99	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
\$10.00 to \$374.99	5.2%	3.0%	9.0%	5.7%	5.1%
\$375.00 to \$624.99	6.7%	4.8%	11.0%	7.5%	6.6%
\$625.00 to \$874.99	11.0%	8.2%	11.6%	10.2%	10.5%
\$875.00 to \$1,249.99	16.8%	12.4%	17.0%	15.4%	15.9%
\$1,250.00 to \$1,874.99	26.2%	22.4%	25.8%	25.0%	25.4%
\$1,875.00 to \$2,499.99	15.6%	17.0%	13.3%	15.3%	15.7%
\$2,500.00 to \$3,749.99	12.4%	17.3%	8.7%	12.7%	13.1%
\$3,750.00 to \$24,999.99	6.1%	14.9%	3.6%	8.2%	7.7%

2005 Analysis	Actual	Target	Variance
Number of Registered Households	2,226	N/A	N/A
Average Annual Contribution	\$1,116	\$1,510	-\$394
Number of Non-Contributing Households (\$0)	491	0	-491
Annual Parish Receipts	\$2,485,089	\$3,361,260	-\$876,171
Contribution Rate	1.9%	2.5%	-0.6%

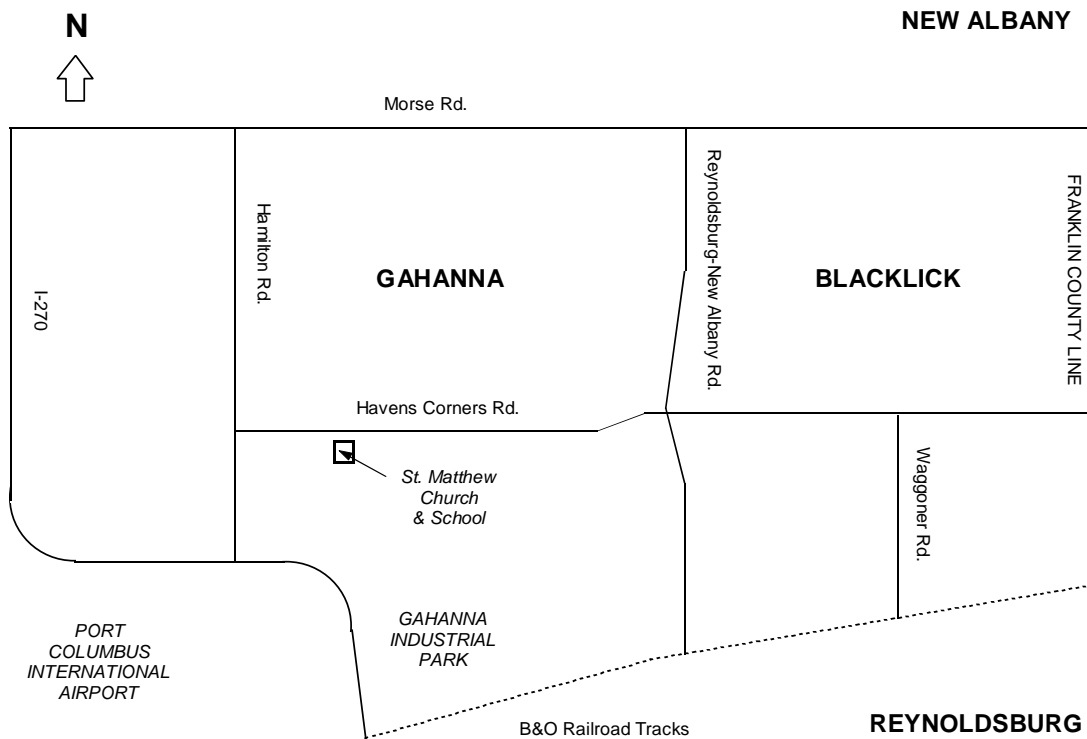
Geographic

St. Matthew the Apostle Church is part of the Diocese of Columbus, which is made up of all the Catholic parishes within 23 counties in central and southern Ohio. The church property is a 11.5 acre parcel in northeast Franklin County. The parish encompasses a 59 square mile radius, bordered on the:

- ❖ North by Morse Road
- ❖ South just beyond Taylor Road by the B & O railroad tracks
- ❖ East by State Route 310
- ❖ West by I-270

The city of Gahanna (zip 43230), representing 22 square miles of the subscribed area, is located on the West side of the parish. Blacklick (zip 43004) is in the center of the parish with 12 square miles of the area. Pataskala (zip 43062) is to the East, with an area of 25 square miles. The border between Blacklick and Pataskala is the Licking County line, or Dixon Road.

Five sister parishes border our service area. These are; St. Paul's to the northwest, Resurrection to the northeast, St. Thomas to the southwest, Holy Spirit to the south, and St. Pius to the southeast. In addition the following cities border or reside within St. Matthew's service area, Gahanna is west, Pataskala is east, Reynoldsburg is south, and New Albany is north. In addition, St. Matthew Catholic School serves the New Albany area, composed of another 26 square miles. At this time, New Albany's Church of the Resurrection Parish does not have a school. Plans to build a school are on hold. To a much lesser degree, our school services our other sister parishes. Our plan includes realigning our eastern border to the Franklin County line. This realignment has already been discussed with the Bishop.



Growth

Our parish is growing at a rate of approximately 100 households per year. We project this trend will continue for the next 10 years.

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
# Registered Households	1,693	1,744	1,795	1,901	2,015	2,090	2,226
% Registered Households Increase	N/A	3.0%	2.9%	5.9%	6.0%	3.7%	6.5%
# Registered Parishioners	5,173	5,312	5,471	5,810	6,157	6,375	6,846
% Household Financial Support	70.3%	71.6%	73.0%	74.3%	75.9%	77.2%	77.9%
% Households In Ministry	28.0%	30.0%	31.0%	32.0%	32.5%	33.0%	33.0%

% OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Gahanna	81.0%	77.0%	72.8%	71.9%	70.5%	69.4%	66.4%
Blacklick	7.7%	7.9%	8.2%	9.8%	11.8%	13.3%	16.1%
Pataskala	2.6%	2.8%	3.1%	3.2%	3.3%	3.1%	3.6%
New Albany	4.3%	5.5%	6.7%	6.8%	7.0%	7.0%	6.8%
Other	4.4%	6.8%	9.2%	8.3%	7.4%	7.2%	7.1%



HISTORY

2006 ❖ 2015

ST. MATTHEW
the Apostle Church

One Parish ❖ One Family ❖ One Journey

The Beginning

In April 1959, Bishop Clarence Isseemann of the Diocese of Columbus purchased 11.5 acres of land on Havens Corners Road in Gahanna, Ohio for the purpose of establishing a new parish. Catholics in this area went to Saint Thomas or Holy Spirit Parishes. In August, Father John Soltis was assigned pastor and founder of Saint Matthew the Apostle Parish. The first Mass in the new parish was offered on September 25, 1959, in the garage of Father's home (and temporary rectory) at 400 Rocky Fork Drive, North. For several months, Sunday Mass was celebrated with 180 families in attendance in the rented auditorium of Lincoln Elementary School.

An Altar and Rosary Society (later named Women's Club) began meeting in October, 1959. By December, a temporary church had been established across the street from Father Soltis' new home at 297 Rocky Fork Drive.

The 1960's

On December 2, 1962, ground was broken for a school to be built. The parish facilities moved to its intended location at 807 Havens Corners Road when Saint Matthew School opened in September 1963, with the first four grades only. Mass was celebrated in the west wing of the school. The school was staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1964, the convent was completed.



Father Romano Ciotola was appointed the first assistant pastor in June 1965. In October, the priests moved into the newly constructed rectory, which included parish offices and living quarters for three priests. Father Thomas Lowery joined them, and shortly thereafter Father Carl Drake became assistant pastor.

Groundbreaking for a new church took place on March 17, 1968. The sale of bonds to parishioners was offered in an effort to raise funds needed for the construction of Saint Matthew Church. In 1969, the Tenth Anniversary of the parish was celebrated with the first parish Festival. The Festival was such a huge success that it became an annual event.

Although the interior of the church was incomplete and many of the furnishings of a temporary nature, the first Mass in the new church was offered on Christmas Eve of that year with many of the nearly 800 families in attendance. Among the most outstanding features of the new structure were the beautiful stained glass windows, depicting the Scriptures, behind the sanctuary wall and along the ramp area of the church.

The 1970's

Father Carl Clagett was appointed pastor in January 1970. Serving with him was Father David Craft as assistant pastor and Father David Petry was in residence. In June 1970, Father William Dickas became associate pastor. Later, Father Brice Metzger became associate pastor and Father Richard Endres was in residence.

While the parish continued to grow, the first parish newsletter, the Laity News, was published; athletic programs coached by volunteer parishioners were introduced; Parish Council was established with representation of all parish committees; a Religious Education Board and the Home and School Association were formed; the continuation of the summer Festival, the annual New Year's Eve Party, and the yearly spaghetti dinners were offered as fund-raisers. Men's Retreats and Women's Retreats were opportunities for spiritual growth and were well attended. The Women's Club sponsored an annual mother-daughter banquet, as well as hosting parish receptions and serving luncheons to bereaved families.

Father Paul Smith was appointed pastor in June 1975, with Father Arthur Wiles as associate pastor. Father Justin Reis was assigned associate pastor in 1977 and Father Thomas Martin in 1981. Father Robert Miller became associate pastor in 1983. The parish was blessed with the assistance of the Salesian brothers and priests from 1976 through 1986. Beginning in the fall of 1978, classes for preschool age children were offered on Sunday morning. Strong programs in religious education were initiated along with the formation of the TAFT High School Youth Group. The Deacon program was introduced; the St. Vincent de Paul Society was formed to assist those in need; the laity took a more active role in the liturgy and service to the community; and this vibrant parish grew to more than 1,000 families.

The interior of the church was completed in 1979 made possible by the great generosity of the parishioners and the leadership of Fr. Smith. This included the installation of pews in the congregational area, which replaced the many metal folding chairs; a pipe organ obtained from the former Holy Rosary Church; a new choir area providing more seating; sanctuary lamp and choir music stand; a tabernacle fitting the overall contemporary design of the church; statuary of Saint Matthew, our patron, and the Holy Family, sculpted by Gary Ross who fashioned the corpus on the sanctuary wall; wood acoustical baffling; sanctuary furnishings of presider's and servers' chairs, ambo and altar, with relics of the Holy Martyrs Eulogius and Vigilans placed in the altar stone of the altar. A bronze and sculptured baptismal font was placed at the main entrance of the church.

The 1980's

On June 8, 1980, Bishop Edward J. Herrmann concelebrated a Mass of Dedication for a Church already in use, a place where we come together to hear God's word, to pray together, to receive the sacraments and above all, celebrate the Eucharist.

Because of the generous and prayerful support of the laity, Saint Matthew answered God's call to become a Stewardship parish and retired the debt in 1982. In June 1983, a new parish was founded in New Albany (to the northeast of Gahanna), and 230 families from Saint Matthew, living within the newly formed boundaries, became members of the Church of the Resurrection. However, Saint Matthew Parish continued to increase its membership to over 1,200 families. The new boundaries for Saint Matthew reach as far as Rt. 310 to the east, Morse Road on the north, I-270 to the west, and along the railroad tracks to the south.

The Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Saint Matthew Parish was commemorated during September 1984, with a month long celebration of parish activities including a choir concert, vaudevillities production, parish picnic, and a Mass of Thanksgiving. It brought together the faith community with the clergy who had served it during those twenty-five years and provided a time of joyful reflection upon our past and upon our purpose as Church.

That same month, Father Richard Young, O.Praem. became associate pastor. Two parishioners, David Hohl and Joseph Poland, served our parish as Permanent Deacons. The parish school enrollment

increased, and a kindergarten class was introduced in the fall of 1986. The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) began, and the laity became more involved in the responsible activities of parish life. Lector and Eucharistic minister workshops were offered regularly. Communion to the homebound by ministers of the Eucharist continued to be an important ministry within our parish, as additional nursing care facilities became part of the Gahanna community.

In November 1986, Father Thomas Brosmer was appointed pastor. The challenge was presented to form a closer, more hospitable community among our 1,350 families with the introduction of an usher-greeter program. The liturgies were innovative with greater emphasis placed on praising God through music. Special attention was given to the preparation of the sacraments and on adult education programs. The parish mission was well received. There was renewed interest in our parish evangelization program and in the various ministries. In keeping with the spirit of renewal, a new Parish Council took office in the spring of 1988.

Father James P. Black, newly ordained, and Father Stephan J. Moloney, vice chancellor of the diocese, were assigned to Saint Matthew Parish in July 1988. Father Black was associate pastor and Father Moloney was in residence. Few parishes have been blessed with three priests to serve in their midst. Fund-raisers were an important means of financial support, and many volunteers generously offered much needed talent and time to innovative events. There were many bake sales, donut sales, years of bingo, candy and gift wrap sales, raffles, fruit basket sales, the ever famous Christmas bazaar, and silent auction. All types of activities were in progress bringing the community together beyond our liturgical celebration.

By the summer of 1989, our parish had grown to 1,500 families. Just as growth was taking place in the Gahanna area, our school and religious education enrollment had also increased, and space for a proper learning environment became a serious concern. At the request of Parish Council, a study was made to determine the need for adding to the school.

The 1990's

In July 1990, Father Edward J. McFarland was appointed pastor of the parish. He brought years of administrative experience to the parish at a time when Saint Matthew had to make the important decision to expand its learning facilities.

The school enrollment increased to over 400 students (K through 8) and the religious education enrollment to over 600 students (pre-school through 12th grade). Plans for a building expansion program were presented, and in June 1992, the first phase of the program began with the addition of four classrooms to the southwest wing of the school, which were ready for occupancy when school opened in the fall of 1992—another milestone for a vibrant parish.

In November 1992, two of our priests, and our parish, were honored when Pope John Paul, II, and our Bishop James A. Griffin, announced that Father McFarland and Father Moloney were among those priests of the Diocese of Columbus designated with the title of Monsignor.

Father Richard C. Weyls was assigned to our parish as associate pastor in July 1993 and assumed responsibility of working with the parish high school youth. The final phase of the building expansion was completed in 1995 and consisted of additional classrooms, a new media center and teachers lounge. A much needed office was provided for the Religious Education Department, so they might better serve as a valuable resource to both catechists in the religious education program and school teaching staff. The new facility succeeded in providing an atmosphere for learning, for religious training and sacramental

preparation at every level, where the students will not only know *about* God, but truly come to *know* God.

In July 1996, Father David Getreu became the associate pastor. A Youth Minister was hired in May 1998 to assume the responsibility and leadership in the important ministry of providing good, well-rounded religious education to our parish middle school and high school youth.

Father Paul Noble was assigned associate pastor in July 1998. Having served as superintendent of diocesan schools and principal of several high schools, his experience and knowledge were deeply respected and appreciated by our parish community.

In an effort to improve our liturgies and worship environment, the need to replace the pipe organ built in the 1940's was presented. Once again the overwhelming generosity of the parishioners made possible the purchase of an electronic Allen organ, which was dedicated in the spring of 1999.

In April 1999, Msgr. McFarland retired from active ministry. Father Paul Noble succeeded him as pastor of Saint Matthew Parish. Because it was evident there would not be an associate pastor assigned to the parish, Father Noble announced he would hire a lay person to fill the position of pastoral associate.

At this time, the parish has nearly 1,700 families. More than 200 parishioners serve in the many important parish ministries. Saint Matthew School, with an enrollment of 608 students, the Parish School of Religion, with over 650 children and 70 volunteer teachers, and the high school youth ministry program, adult education program, RCIA and RCIC programs continue to provide spiritual growth and enrichment to all ages of our parish family.

Saint Matthew, our patron, tells us that Jesus instructed his apostles, "*Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world!*" (Mt:28:20) With this message of direction and hope, we continue to search for ways to proclaim the good news of the Gospel to reach out to the parish community and to the broader community in which we live and work, to dedicate ourselves to the commitment to serve God and one another.

Our parish family is filled with hope and excitement as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Saint Matthew the Apostle Parish, and we look forward to the future as we commence upon the parish *Generations* program, weaving together our time, talent and treasure to make us better stewards of God's gifts to us, under the leadership of our pastor, Father Paul Noble. We also take time to look back upon our heritage--to the parish of Saint Matthew where community and friendships have been established, to the church of Saint Matthew where we come together to celebrate our faith in God in the Eucharist, knowing that He is with us always.



SURVEY RESULTS

2006 ❖ 2015

ST. MATTHEW
the Apostle Church

One Parish ❖ One Family ❖ One Journey

Generations Survey

Prior to beginning Generations in the year 2000, we identified immediate and future needs of the parish involving both the physical facilities and the ministerial and education programs.

Based upon information collected at our Neighborhood Meetings, it was determined a parish wide survey would be needed in an effort to gather input, comments and suggestions from all parish households. The survey was mailed to all parish families of whom 24.7% responded.

How long have you been a member of the Parish?		What is your age group?		Do you have children?	
26.8%	Less than 5 years	8.7%	Less than 35	86.2%	Yes
23.9%	5 to 10 years	47.1%	36 to 50	12.0%	No
14.0%	11 to 15 years	17.4%	51 to 65	1.8%	No response
7.7%	16 to 20 years	25.4%	Over 65		
27.0%	Over 20 years	1.4%	No response		
0.6%	No response				

If you have children: Are they, Have they, or Will they attend Catholic Schools?		Are you involved in any ministry activities?		If uninvolved, would you participate in ministry activities?	
33.2%	Are attending	24.5%	3 or more activities	11.8%	Yes
24.0%	Have attended	38.9%	1 or 2 activities	24.1%	No
12.0%	Will be attending	31.9%	Uninvolved	64.1%	No response
13.1%	Other	4.7%	No response		
17.7%	No response				

What do you like about our Parish?

1. 28.2% The priests and clergy.
2. 21.6% The friendly environment.
3. 13.1% The people.
4. 12.1% The sense of community.
5. 9.3% The location (close to home).
6. 15.7% Other items.

What do you like about our School?

1. 62.6% The dedicated, caring teachers and qualified Catholic education.
 2. 13.4% The sense of community.
 3. 9.2% The great communication between teachers and parents.
 4. 9.2% The encouraged parental involvement.
 5. 3.5% The neighborhood location.
 6. 2.1% Other items.
-

What do you like about our PSR program?

1. 35.2% The organized and qualified curriculum.
 2. 33.8% The dedicated staff and volunteers.
 3. 12.7% The class schedule is convenient.
 4. 4.2% The many TIC (Together-In-Christ youth group) activities.
 5. 2.8% The Camp KRIC (Kids Rooted In Christ) program.
 6. 11.3% Other items.
-

What would you change about our Parish?

1. 16.2% The music program.
 2. 8.1% A more friendly community.
 3. 8.1% Enlarge the church and facilities.
 4. 7.7% Install kneelers in the church.
 5. 7.2% Change the features of church to more traditional.
 6. 52.7% Other items.
-

What would you change about our School?

1. 36.8% The class size.
 2. 9.2% The grading criteria and curriculum.
 3. 8.5% Create programs for gifted or special needs children.
 4. 5.0% Remodel the school.
 5. 3.6% Upgrade the computers/technology.
 6. 36.9% Other items.
-

What would you change about our PSR program?

1. 21.1% More good, dedicated teachers, who make the instruction more interesting.
 2. 11.3% Reduced cost.
 3. 7.0% Increase inclusion.
 4. 7.0% More priest involvement.
 5. 5.6% Conflicting schedules.
 6. 48.0% Other items.
-

Are the current parish programs and services meeting your needs?

76.5% answered Yes. 7.0% answered No. 16.5% had no response.

If you answered no, what is lacking?

1. 25.7% More religious programs for adults.
 2. 22.9% More bible study programs.
 3. 11.4% More current music liturgy.
 4. 8.6% More religious programs for older kids and youth.
 5. 5.7% More support groups.
 6. 25.7% Other items.
-

Would you agree that in order to build a new church and/or make improvements to the school and other parish facilities, a fund drive is necessary?

84.0% answered Yes. 4.0% answered No. 12.0% had no response.

If you answered no, what funding source would you recommend?

1. 42.4% Doing various fundraisers.
2. 28.1% Use diocesan funds.
3. 19.4% Get a mortgage.
4. 6.2% Make repairs only.
5. 2.5% Increase weekly offering participation.
6. 1.4% Other Items.

Would you financially support A fund drive?		If we had a fund drive, would you volunteer to call on others asking for their financial support?		If you make a pledge to the fund drive, would you still maintain your offertory giving level?	
80.0%	Yes	14.8%	Yes	81.7%	Yes
6.0%	No	65.5%	No	3.5%	No
14.0%	No response	19.7%	No response	14.8%	No response

Observations

The following observations are based on the above survey results:

1. One fourth of the parish households responded.
2. The respondents represented a good cross-section of parishioner demographics.
3. Overall, respondents appear to be pleased with the Parish, School and PSR program.
4. The Parish, School and PSR staffs received high marks for their dedication and service.
5. Only, 4.0% of households responding to the survey, voted that a parish fund drive was not the best way to generate money needed for the capital projects.
6. Only, 6.0% of households responding to the survey, indicated they would not support a fund drive financially.
7. Only 3.5% of households responding to the survey, would reduce their church offertory giving level if they made a pledge to the capital fund drive.