

SAINT MATTHEW'S CHURCH

VOORHEESVILLE, NY

2021 PARISH REPORT

I am happy to be able to report to you that in spite of everything that has gone on for the last year, faith, family and friends are very much alive here at St Matthew's! We are truly coming Together Again!

When I arrived in January things were hard. We were still in the midst of COVID. Fr. Chris retired without us being able to come together to thank him and support each other. There were questions and concerns about the plan to share a pastor. Who would that be? Would St Matthew's be able to maintain our own parish identity and culture, or would we get blended into some sort of bland homogenized church unfamiliar to us? When would the Mass tickets and masks come to an end? When would we be able to be "Together Again" – for Mass, hospitality, family visits, faith formation, Family Promise, and so much more?

The Hebrew scripture refers to a group of people known as the "Anawim". This faithful remnant had no earthly power to stop whatever held Israel captive. What they did have, was a deep abiding faith and steadfast hope that God would see them through and in the meantime do what they could do. Every heart here at St. Matthew's that has longed to worship and work together again can identify as Anawim. Every staff person and volunteer who re-invented ways of being together again can identify as Anawim.

These Anawim in our midst have made the best of things with live streaming and safety protocols for those attending in person. The Generations of Faith program marshaled on. People called and checked in on one another. Zoom became a thing – an imperfect thing, but still a way for the remnant in each of us to remain connected. Parish events and hospitality started to return. The parish council and staff worked hard with me to be sure that we continued to be the wonderful gem of the Church called St. Matthew's Church.

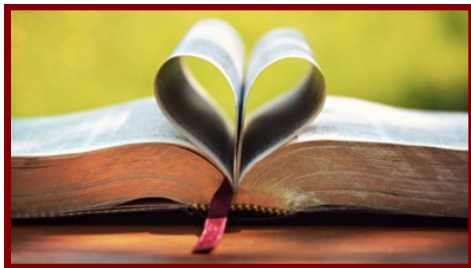
Spend some time looking through the rest of this report. I am thankful for the steadfast dedication of the "Anawim" which has kept our spark of faith and community alive. Each and every week we are adding back more of our community traditions and activities. I hope and pray that soon everyone will come home and be Together Again!

Fr. Rick



PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS

Total registered families	1042
2019 Avg. Weekend Mass Count	566 (3 Masses)
2020 Avg. Weekend Mass Count ..	209 people (2 Masses)
2021 Avg. Weekend Mass Count...	248 people (2 Masses)
June 2021 Avg. Online Mass viewers	100
Envelope Contributors.....	436
E-Givers.....	69
2020 Diocesan Appeal Total Gifts.....	\$63,208
Total Contributing Families.....	165



2020-2021 Faith Development at St. Matthew's Church

We were incredibly blessed to have so many people continue their faith development journey with us during 2020-21! Between in person and virtual opportunities and with the continued dedication of amazing volunteers, the St. Matthew's programs were well attended and COVID safe!

- Our 2020-21 Generations of Faith parish-wide faith formation program kicked off in October with 74 families registering. The theme for the year was "Living The Good News: How Reading the Bible As A Church Guides Our Journey Of Faith." Participants had the choice of meeting in person or watching the taped session from home. The year concluded with a service project called "Tied with Love", created by Brianna Bissel. Brianna began making the hand-tied blankets as a way to help comfort the hospital's hospice patients and their families, and after receiving a grant to make more, reached out to St Matthew's for help. The GOF families completed approximately 40 blankets!
- In addition to the GOF program, families participated in a four session virtual Advent wreath lighting experience, five virtual sessions called, "Pray the Rainbow" during Lent and a safety program, both in person and virtually, called "Circles of Grace." The weekly "Seasons of Faith" newsletter continued to be available to parishioners during 2020-21.
- The St. Matthew's sacramental programs started off and finished up strong with 31 candidates receiving 1st Communion in August and November, 2020. The fall season kicked off with a new group of candidates who prepared for the sacrament with three retreats and eight Generations of Faith sessions across the year that included special time for learning about the Mass and communion. In May and June of 2021, 32 candidates made their 1st Communion. Two of the candidates were prepared in 2019-2020, but joined this group to receive the sacrament.
- Following their Mini Confirmation Retreat, 29 teens and two adults received the sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany in October of 2020. We had the privilege to work with eighteen Peer Mentors as they helped candidates learn and prepare for Confirmation. Twenty candidates and sixteen Peer Mentors came together in October 2020 to start a new year of preparation for Confirmation. Teens met for 8 sessions, additionally participating in four service projects including serving meals at the Albany Mission, sorting clothes at Karie Jean's Closet, making blankets for Sleep in Heavenly Peace and helping at St. Matthew's. The group also came together for a bonding experience at Wild Play in Thatcher Park.
- After providing our community with wonderful faith development leadership for six years, Joy Galarneau stepped down. We are grateful for the heart, soul and wisdom she shared with our team and our parish families. Joy created a strong faith development program, nourishing our catechists and staff with her love for God, so we are ready to continue serving our parish family!



Anne Miller
Pastoral Assoc. for Faith Develop. K-5

Chrisi Young
Pastoral Assoc. for Faith Develop. 6-12



SACRAMENTS CELEBRATED

BAPTISM..... 7

FIRST COMMUNION..... 63

CONFIRMATION..... 31

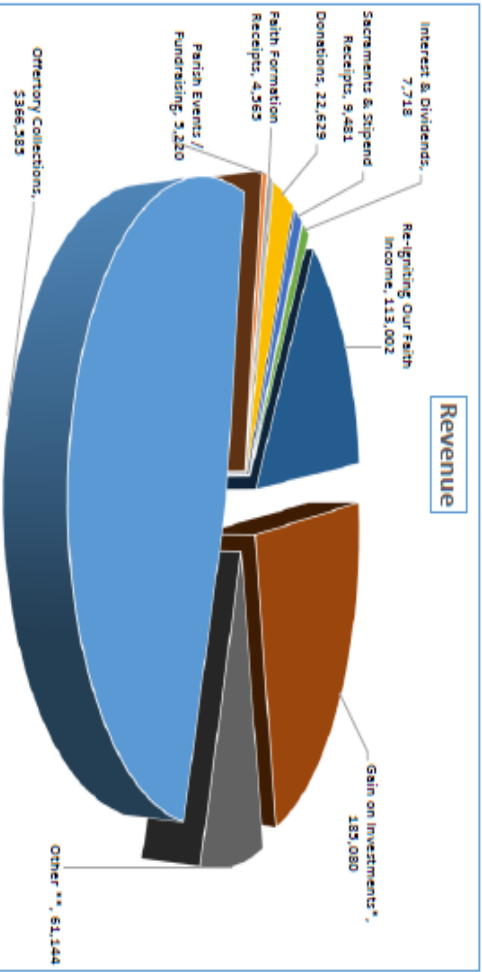
MARRIAGE..... 2

FUNERALS.....20

St Matthew's Church - Voorheesville
 Financial Operating Results
 for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

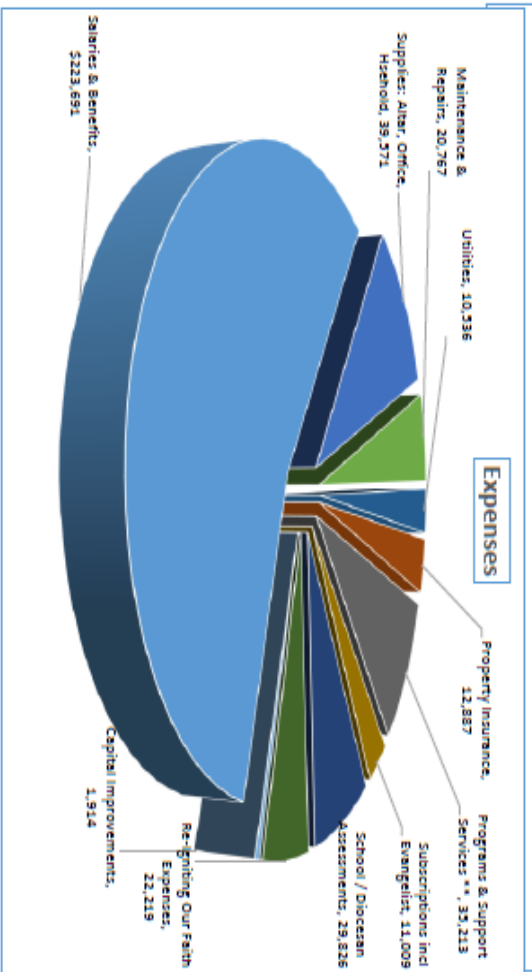
Revenue:

Offertory Collections	\$366,585
Parish Events / Fundraising	5,220
Faith Formation Receipts	4,565
Donations	22,629
Sacraments & Stipend Receipts	9,481
Interest & Dividends	7,718
Re-lighting Our Faith Income	113,002
Gain on Investments*	185,080
Other **	61,144
Total Revenue	\$775,424



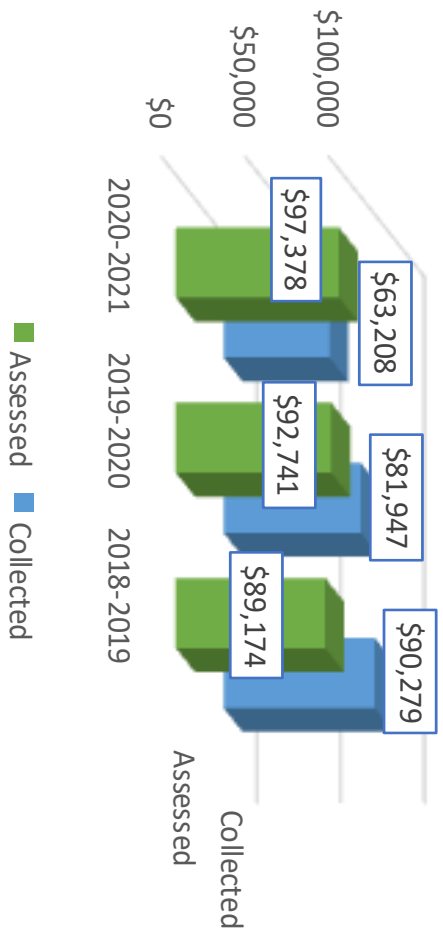
Expenses:

Salaries & Benefits	\$49,074	\$223,691
Clergy	62,248	
Faith Development	112,369	
Admin/Music/Maint	39,571	
Supplies: Altar, Office, Hsehold	20,767	
Maintenance & Repairs	10,536	
Utilities	12,887	
Property Insurance	35,213	
Programs & Support Services **	11,009	
Subscriptions incl Evangelist	29,826	
School / Diocesan Assessments	22,219	
Re-lighting Our Faith Expenses	1,914	
Capital Improvements	\$407,633	
Total Expenses	\$223,691	
Net Operating Income	\$367,791	



* Gain on Investment includes both Realized Gain (\$20,270) and Unrealized Gain (\$164,810) on Investments.
 ** Includes Rental Income and Reimbursed Expenses from the Diocese and St. Thomas the Apostle Church.
 ** incl Parish Events and programs, training, education, staff & parish appreciation, retreats, priest reimbursements and shared clergy expense.

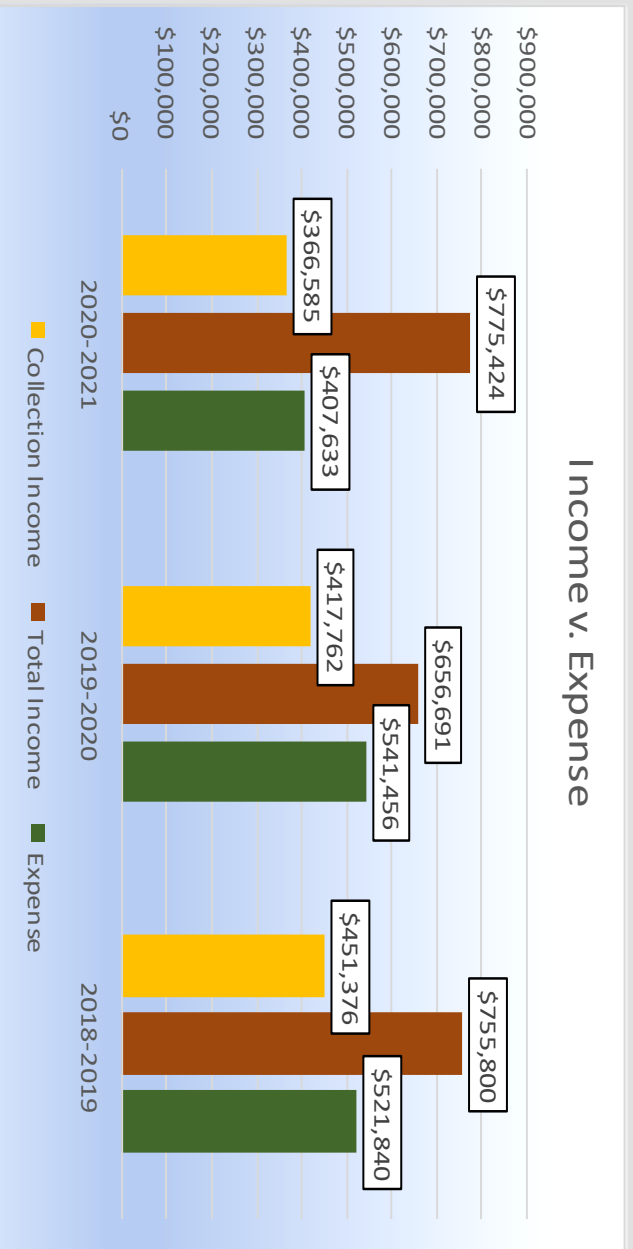
Diocesan/Bishop's Appeal



RE-IGNITING OUR FAITH CAMPAIGN

- AMOUNT PLEDGED TO CAMPAIGN \$ 750,918
- AMOUNT COLLECTED THRU 06/30/21 \$ 517,434
- PARISH SHARE OF COLLECTED FUNDS THRU 06/30/21 \$ 365,522
- RIOF PROJECTS THRU 06/30/2021:
 - MEDIA ROOM
 - NEW BOILERS FOR CHURCH
 - SOCIAL HALL RENOVATIONS
 - UPGRADED FIRE ALARM SYSTEM
 - SOCIAL OUTREACH DONATION TO COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS

Income v. Expense



PARISH MINISTRIES

Saint Matthew's is blessed with a very active group of Ministry Volunteers. A complete list is available on our website or by calling the Parish Office.

As some Pandemic restrictions have been lifted our Parish Ministries have become vibrant again including Music Ministry, Pastoral Care, Alzheimer Care Team and Family Promise.

We could not have continued with our liturgies without the added responsibilities put on our Liturgical Ministers and other volunteers during 2020 and first half of 2021.

We thank all of our volunteers who have made Saint Matthew's a vibrant community both during this Pandemic and under normal times.

PARISH COMMITTEES AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Tim Vivian-Chairperson, Sabrina Balbuena, Linda Conway, Deb Engel, David Ernst, Anne-Jo McTague, Danielle Nichols, Will Vivian

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chris Madden—Chairperson, Jim Connolly, Josette Guastella, Richard Polsonilli, Roz Robinson, Millie Selby - Parish Accountant

TRUSTEES

Chris Gorka & Peg Neri

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Philomena Donaldson—Chairperson, Bill Brett, Madge Devine, Andrea Freeman, Bob Harms, Yiselle Ruoso, Millie Selby,

HOSPITALITY & PARISH EVENTS

JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

- Blessing of the Pets
- Senior Citizen's 1st Friday Soups
- Book Club
- Bible Studies
- Easter Blessing of Food Baskets
- GOF Boxed Lunches – 3 months
- Yankee Stadium Ball Game
- Pentecost Celebration
- Tied With Love –Parish Blanket Project
- Together Again Logo Contest
- High School Graduation Mass Reception
- Logistical Planning for Liturgies

