

SAINT MATTHEW'S CHURCH  
VOORHEESVILLE, NY  
2017 PARISH REPORT

*I am happy to report to you that the state of your parish July 2016 – 2017 was once again very good. By almost any measure you continue to respond with generosity and great love to the needs of the local, diocesan, national and international needs that face us. In Matthew 25:40 when Jesus separates the sheep from the goats he says: "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." You have done much this year for those in need.*

You continue to support our Family Promise ministry so ably lead by David Ernst and Kathy Sullivan. Over 100 volunteers allow us to host recently homeless families in our classroom wing overnight for a week every two months or so. You provide breakfast and supper, play with their children, and support these families in great need to reestablish themselves in new homes and rebuild their lives. You support each other in prayer and worship by serving as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, altar servers, and ushers. You care for the altar linens and knit prayer shawls for the youngest of our members and for those who are in grief. You plan for our future by being on the Pastoral Council or the finance committee. You pray for those in need on our prayer chain, attend Eucharistic adoration or Sunday Mass and offer prayers of praise and petition to our God. You attend our Generations of Faith program to become better educated in your faith and many of you volunteer as educators. In so many other ways too numerous to mention you worship God and serve God's people.

*You will see in this report that the state of your parish is very good financially and spiritually. But there is always more that we can do because the needs are so great. As you read this annual report, if you have any questions whatsoever, please do not hesitate to call. St. Matthew's is your parish and you should be very proud of how well you touch "the least of our brothers and sisters" for in doing so you have also touched the face of God.*

Thank you,  
Fr. Chris

#### PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS



Our parish has 968 registered families an increase of 17 families since July 2016. The majority of our parishioners reside in Voorheesville, Slingerlands, Altamont, Delmar, Guilderland, the Hilltowns and suburban Albany zip codes. Our parish is clustered with St. Lucy's, Altamont, Christ the King,

Westmere and St. Thomas, Delmar. We are members of the Beverwyck Vicariate. The October 2016 Mass count showed an average number of 585 people per weekend vs. 587 in 2017. We currently have 419 families contributing through weekly envelopes and 65 E-giving families. 293 families have made pledges to the 2017 Bishop's Appeal.



## 2016-2017 FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT

### ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

Thanks to the support and partnership of staff, volunteers and the parish community, 2016-17 was a year of blessing and growth for our faith development programs. We maintained and grew signature programs like *Family Faith Development*, welcoming many new and returning participants to our inter-generational religious education program. In our program's fourth year, we learned and grew in faith together while building our curriculum around the theme: "*Channels of Prayer: Pathways to God.*"

In the fall of 2016, our parish celebrated with the 57 teens who received the sacrament of Confirmation, and welcomed another 55 Candidates into the Confirmation preparation program. In the fall of 2016, recently confirmed teens partnered with the faith development program to create two new programs: 1) the HOPE Club (Helping Out People Everywhere,) a youth service group and 2) the Peer Mentor program, in which recently confirmed teens return to the following year's Confirmation preparation program as peer mentors. The leadership and contributions of these teens is truly inspiring and has been a deep source of blessing to our community. In the spring of 2017, we celebrated again, this time with the 27 young parishioners who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion. We further welcomed and supported two Candidates and one Catechumen through the RCIA program, joyously celebrating the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. And we celebrated yet again in the spring of 2017, when we welcomed Chrisi Young to the Faith Development staff, as Pastoral Associate for Faith Development, focusing on junior high and high school programs. Chrisi brings over a decade of catechetical experience to her position, as well as deep and positive connections with our parish community. It is a gift and a blessing to minister alongside Chrisi.

Additional highlights from 2016-2017: We continued to offer adult faith formation opportunities through our bible study mini-course series: three bible study courses were offered in 2016-2017, featuring the books of Judith, Joshua, Judges, and Daniel. During our "Hope of Lent" series, we partnered with Dr. David Hoffman, who presented "Health, Poverty and Race in America: A Look at the Unnatural Causes of Disparities in Health and Well-being"; we brought "Simply Peter" to St. Matthew's, a one act/ one actor play about St. Peter; we partnered with fellow Suburban Albany parishes to offer a Teen Lenten Retreat at Siena College, and we hosted a Stations of the Cross prayer experience at St. Matthew's. Finally we expanded our outreach to our tiniest parishioners through the creation of the Little Angels story hour.

We look back on the 2016-17 year of faith development at St. Matthew's with deep gratitude, and we look ahead to the 2017-18 year with great excitement.



#### SACRAMENTS CELEBRATED

BAPTISM..... 19 ( 1 adult- RCIA)

FIRST COMMUNION..... 30 ( 2 adult-RCIA)

CONFIRMATION..... 60 ( 3 adult-RCIA)

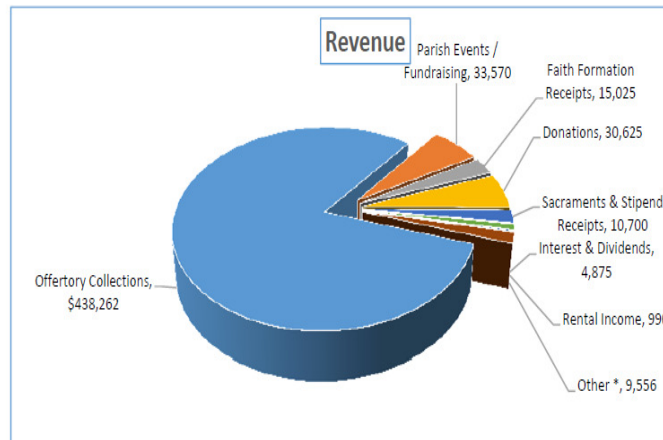
MARRIAGE..... 4

FUNERALS..... 20

St Matthew's Church - Voorheesville  
Financial Operating Results  
for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

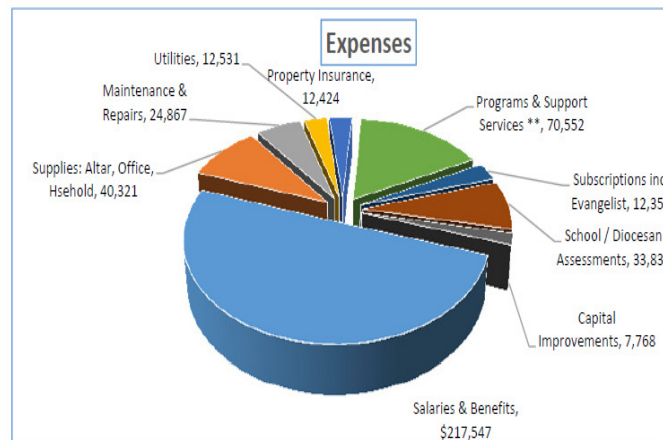
**Revenue:**

Offertory Collections	\$438,262
Parish Events / Fundraising	33,570
Faith Formation Receipts	15,025
Donations	30,625
Sacraments & Stipend Receipts	10,700
Interest & Dividends	4,875
Rental Income	990
Other *	<u>9,556</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$543,603</b>



**Expenses:**

Salaries & Benefits	\$217,547
Supplies: Altar, Office, Hsehold	40,321
Maintenance & Repairs	24,867
Utilities	12,531
Property Insurance	12,424
Programs & Support Services **	70,552
Subscriptions incl Evangelist	12,353
School / Diocesan Assessments	33,832
Capital Improvements	<u>7,768</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$432,195</b>



Net Operating Income \$111,408

\* incl Bishop's Appeal Rebate (\$3,629) and Unrealized Gain on Investment (\$2,481)

\*\* incl Parish Events and programs, training, education, staff & parish appreciation, retreats, and priest reimbursements

## PARISH MINISTRIES

Once again our parishioners did not disappoint us when polled to join our various Parish Ministries. Many new volunteers answered our call. Our newest ministry is Eucharistic Adoration on 1st Friday's of each month.

- ◆ Altar Linen Ministry
- ◆ Altar Servers
- ◆ Alzheimer Care Ministry
- ◆ Baptism Ministry
- ◆ Collection Counters
- ◆ Eucharistic Adoration
- ◆ Faith Development Volunteers
- ◆ Family Promise Ministry
- ◆ Funeral Ministry
- ◆ Liturgical Ministers
- ◆ Men's Association
- ◆ Music Ministry
- ◆ Pastoral Care Ministry
- ◆ Prayer Chain Ministry
- ◆ Prayer Shawl Ministry
- ◆ RCIA
- ◆ Respect Life Ministry
- ◆ Rosary Ministry
- ◆ Social Events/ Hospitality Committee
- ◆ Word of God Faith Sharing
- ◆ Young Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Family Promise Ministry has hosted families 4 times between July 2016 – June 2017; one of which was the busy week between Christmas & New Year's. It has been an enriching experience for all of our volunteers.

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- ◆ Exterior painting and new building facial on Church
- ◆ Additional Illumination of church parking lot
- ◆ Rectory patio refurbished
- ◆ Relocation of Mary & Joseph statues to reservation chapel along with candle stand.
- ◆ Installed new speakers for church sound system

## HOSPITALITY & PARISH EVENTS

- ◆ Golf Outing 2016
- ◆ Hooray for Hollywood & Nights on Broadway St. Matt's Picnic
- ◆ After Mass Coffee Socials
- ◆ Pet Blessing 2016
- ◆ Motorcycle Blessing
- ◆ Confirmation Reception
- ◆ Election Day Bake Sale
- ◆ First Reconciliation Luncheon
- ◆ Bus Trip to Radio City Christmas Show
- ◆ Christmas Wreath Sale
- ◆ Casting Crowns Concert—Glens Falls Civic Center
- ◆ Family Bowling Day
- ◆ Lenten Soup Suppers
- ◆ Simply Peter Presentation
- ◆ Holy Saturday Reception for RCIA Newly Initiated Catholics
- ◆ First Communion Receptions
- ◆ Broadway Bus Trip—Anastasia & Miss Saigon
- ◆ Rollout of Parish App



## PARISH COMMITTEES

**Pastoral Council:** Sabrina Balbuena became our newest member replacing Ray Lauenstein upon his death. She joined Rich Bogdany, Ellie Dorn, Deb Engel, David Ernst, Margaret Vivian, Tim Vivian and Michael Young.

**Finance Committee:** The FC has added 1 new member Mary Seeley who replaces Millie Selby who now resides on the Committee as our Parish Accountant replacing Bernie Rizzo who recently retired. Thank you Bernie for ten plus years of financial service to our Parish Community. Mary & Millie join Karen Finnessey, Josette Guastella, Diane Rapp, and Steve Vanderwarker as our committee members.

**Trustees:** Chris Gorka & Peg Neri

**Land Committee:** This committee which was established in 2015 is presently on hold pending Village Master Plan.

**Liturgy Committee:** Our Liturgy Committee was formed in 2017. Its goal is to meet the liturgical needs and concerns of our parishioners. Our members are Bill Brett, Madge Devin, Ellen Doolin, Maggie Doolin, Carole Fraser, Andrea Freeman, Bob Harms, Jim McAssey, Jenny Novosel, Terry Rodrigues, Colleen Schultz, Millie Selby, Paul Steinkamp.