

SAINT MATTHEW'S CHURCH
VOORHEESVILLE, NY
2019 PARISH REPORT

Tip O'Neill, the speaker of the House of Representatives from 1977-87, is credited with saying that "all politics is local". That is also blessedly true for church: "all church is local". Church is most basically about faith in God and community with God and with our neighbors. Jesus invites us to realize that all people are our neighbors, especially those in need. We are indeed blessed at St. Matthew's in so many ways but perhaps none more so than in our faith and in the way we worship and study that faith and in our care for one another.

In a year when our Roman Catholic faith has once again been in the news for the suffering and pain that a few of our priests and bishops in the past have caused, it is sometimes hard to be a Catholic. Our faith in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, and in Christ's ability to heal all wounds must remain our strength. Let us continue to pray for each other that especially those who have suffered abuse and our larger church community may be healed and renewed as Christ calls us to be more faithfully his followers.

This report will, I hope and trust, help you to see that our local community of St. Matthew's remains vital and strong thanks to your faith and your generosity. The vitality of our community is reinforced by the participation and involvement of each and every one of us. Thank you for your faithfulness to God and to this remarkable community of St. Matthew's.

Fr. Chris DeGiovine

PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS



Our parish has 1026 registered families an increase of 30 families since July 2018. 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/St. Bernadette's, Altamont, Christ the King, Westmere and St.

Thomas, Delmar. We are members of the Beverwyck Vicariate. The October 2018 Mass count showed an average number of 590 people per weekend vs. 566 in 2019. We currently have 443 families contributing through weekly envelopes and 68 E-giving families. 237 families have made pledges to the 2018 Bishop's Appeal.

2018-2019 FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH



Thanks to the support and partnership of staff, volunteers and the parish community, 2018-19 was another year of blessing and growth for our faith development programs. In *Generations of Faith*, our parish-wide faith formation program, we continued to live, learn and grow in faith together. This year, our theme was: "Building the Kingdom Jesus Proclaimed," and our special focus was on the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. In keeping with our mission of enriching, engaging and educating parishioners of *all* ages, *Generations of Faith* welcomed new and returning participants from age 0 to 80+! We continue to be inspired by the adults without children who join our program, as well as parents in the program who tell us things like this: "I thought I had learned everything about my faith when I was a kid in CCD. Now I know that faith formation really is a life long journey." And of course, one of our favorite memories is of the child who came up to us in May and said, "What do you mean this is it for the year? I have to wait 'till September for the next one?" Alleluia!

In the fall of 2018, our parish celebrated with 36 teens who received the sacrament of Confirmation. We were overjoyed and a little overwhelmed to discover that more than 20 teens decided to join the Peer Mentor program – a group of Confirmed teens who return to the Confirmation program as Peer Mentors, which entails: participating in the Confirmation prep sessions and retreat with the Candidates in a leadership capacity, from leading icebreakers, to giving witness talks, to helping to lead small group discussions and everything in between; attending Mass with the Candidates and serving as lectors, gift bearers, Eucharistic ministers, etc.; participating in the planning process for the prep sessions and retreat, including attending lots of extra meetings during the year and the summer; participating in and leading service projects; planning fun get-togethers to build friendships and trust among the Candidates ... in short, a huge commitment of time, leadership and witness of faith! The servant leadership and faith witness of these teens is truly inspiring and has been a deep source of blessing to our community.

In the spring of 2019, we celebrated again, this time with the 29 young parishioners who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion. Many of these young people are serving our community as altar servers this year; as well as serving as greeters, readers and gift bearers at our monthly Generations of Faith Masses. These young members of our parish family remind us that we are never too young – or old – to be servant leaders. They are where our present and future Church meet and we are grateful to them for the way they inspire us!

In 2018 we also welcomed and supported two Candidates through the RCIA program, who celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation in the fall of 2019. It is always a great honor and privilege to walk with these individuals on their journey of faith during the RCIA process. From July 2018 through June 2019, our St. Matthew's community was overjoyed to welcome 20 infants and children into our family of faith through the sacrament of Baptism.

Additional highlights from 2018-2019: We continued to offer adult faith formation opportunities through our bible study mini-course series: three bible study courses were offered in 2018-2019. The bible study courses remain a big hit in our community and we promise to offer at least three a year! We also provided additional adult faith formation programming through our Lenten Care for Creation theme, by way of two excellent workshops led by Sr. Linda Neil that introduced parishioners to Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, through artwork and Scripture. In the spring of 2019, we created a new ministry team: Ministry to Families with Young Children. This is a go-getter team! Just in the summer of 2019 the team planned and implemented several events: 1) a dinner to honor and connect families with children who celebrated the sacrament of baptism the prior year; 2) a summer family fun series that included three marvelous events ranging from a backyard splash party to an indoor drive-in movie! The team is working diligently on future recommendations and plans to connect and support families with young children through worship, formation and fellowship at St. Matthew's. Stay tuned!

We look back on the 2018-19 year of faith development at St. Matthew's with deep gratitude, and we look ahead to the 2019-20 year with great enthusiasm.



SACRAMENTS CELEBRATED

BAPTISM..... 20

FIRST COMMUNION..... 29

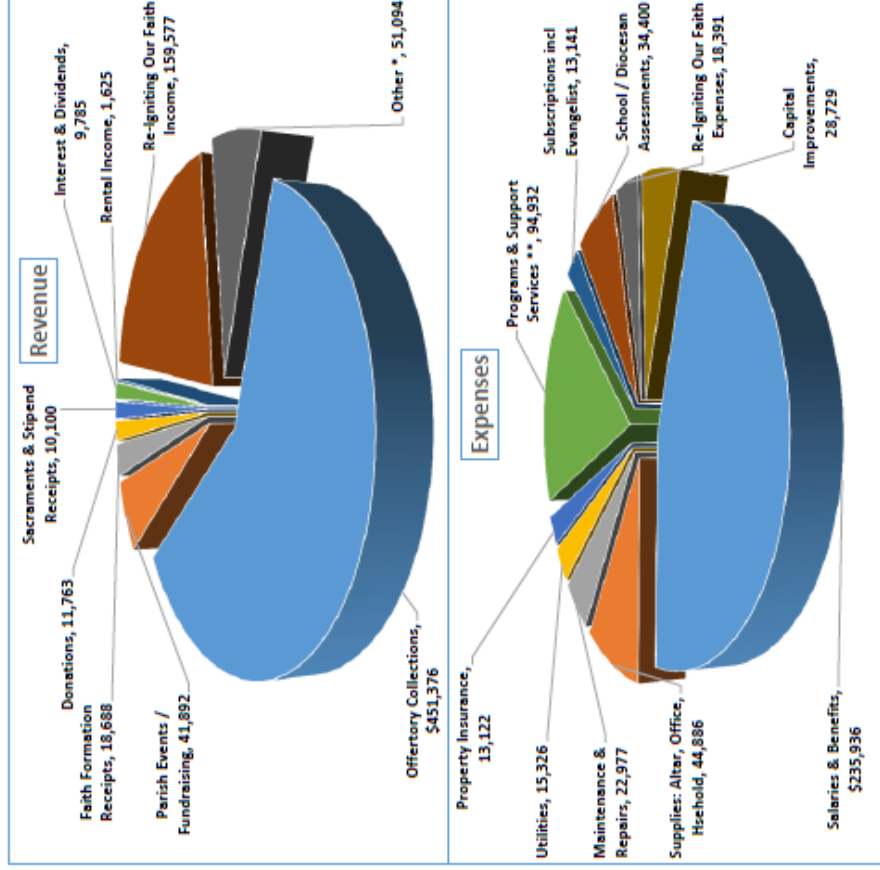
CONFIRMATION..... 36

MARRIAGE..... 3

FUNERALS..... 22

St Matthew's Church - Voorheesville
 Financial Operating Results
 for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Revenue:	
Offertory Collections	\$451,376
Parish Events / Fundraising	41,892
Faith Formation Receipts	18,688
Donations	11,763
Sacraments & Stipend Receipts	10,100
Interest & Dividends	9,785
Rental Income	1,625
Re-igniting Our Faith Income	159,577
Other *	51,094
Total Revenue	\$755,900
Expenses:	
Salaries & Benefits	\$235,936
Supplies: Altar, Office, Hsehold	44,886
Maintenance & Repairs	22,977
Utilities	15,326
Property Insurance	13,122
Programs & Support Services **	94,932
Subscriptions incl Evangelist	13,141
School / Diocesan Assessments	34,400
Re-igniting Our Faith Expenses	18,391
Capital Improvements	28,729
Total Expenses	\$521,840
Net Operating Income	\$234,060



* incl Realized Gain on Investment (\$8,153) and Unrealized Gain on Investment (\$31,815)

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

PARISH MINISTRIES

St. Matthew's is blessed with many Parish Ministries. Our Liturgical Ministers help to make our Eucharistic celebrations vibrant, grace-filled and welcoming.

Hospitality volunteers work behind the scenes to prep and serve during coffee socials, the Parish Picnic, 1st Communion & Confirmation Receptions and other Parish Special Events.

Our Men's Association serves up a hearty "Big Breakfast" twice a year, helps out with the Parish Picnic, and makes sure our church is aglow with Christmas decorations.

Family Promise volunteers extend hospitality to our FP guests providing food and shelter several weeks during the year.

One of our newest ministries, Ministry to Families with Young Children, strives to provide support to families with newly baptized children and organizes fun activities to help families grow in faith together.

Our Care for Creation Team which is another new ministry looks to follow the teachings of Pope Francis in caring for our planet.

Our Parish Ministries keep St. Matthew's a vibrant community. We are grateful to all our volunteers who share their time and talents. Please check out all of our ministries by going to our website: stmatthewsvoorheesville.org

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- ◇ New Water Fountain—Classroom Wing
- ◇ New Air Conditioning Unit—Church
- ◇ Driveway Replacement—Rectory
- ◇ Energy Saving Lighting Replacement—Church, Social Hall, Offices & Classroom Wing.
- ◇ Additional Storage Shed
- ◇ Improvements to Old Shed

RE-IGNITING OUR FAITH PROJECTS

- ◇ Purchase of Van for Youth & Senior Activities.
- ◇ Reconfiguration of Classrooms creating Media Room

HOSPITALITY & PARISH EVENTS

- ◇ Sight & Sound Theater "Jesus" Lancaster, PA
- ◇ Matt Maher Concert
- ◇ Feast Day Picnic: Southern Nights
- ◇ Dioceses Eucharistic Congress
- ◇ NYC Broadway "Frozen"
- ◇ Blessing of the Animals
- ◇ Confirmation Reception
- ◇ Blessing of Bikes
- ◇ Movie Event: "A Calling"
- ◇ Christmas Wreath Sale
- ◇ Parish Bowling Day
- ◇ Ash Wednesday Soup Supper
- ◇ Reconciliation Luncheon
- ◇ Sister Linda Neil's Lenten Creation Workshops
- ◇ Mary's Way of the Cross
- ◇ Bennett Hill Service Project
- ◇ Good Friday Soup Supper
- ◇ First Holy Communion Receptions
- ◇ Classical to Broadway Musical Concert
- ◇ Dinner for Families of Baptized Children
- ◇ Pentecost Receptions
- ◇ High School Graduate Reception

PARISH COMMITTEES

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

TRUSTEES

Chris Gorka & Peg Neri

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Philomena Donaldson—Chairperson, Bill Brett, Madge Devine, Carole Fraser, Andrea Freeman, Bob Harms, Peg O'Connor, Yiselle Ruoso, Barbara Sanchez, Colleen Schultz, Millie Selby, Paul Steinkamp