

# SAINT MATTHEW'S CHURCH

## VOORHEESVILLE, NY

### 2020 PARISH REPORT

For over 6 years I have had the great honor, privilege and grace to be your pastor. On October 4, 2020 I celebrated my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. On October 31, 2020 I retired as the pastor of St. Matthew's Church. I am so very grateful for these years with you. Your commitment to St. Matthew's by your hospitality to one another and to our guests, your willingness to serve in one of our many ministries, your attendance at our Generations of Faith program(s), your personal and financial support of the many works of your parish have made my leading this community a great joy. I will miss you very much but know that you will always be in my prayers and never far from my heart. May God bless you abundantly as you continue on your journey of faith.

I am happy to share this last annual report with you. It is a testament to all that you are and do as a parish family. If you have any questions about this report please feel free to call the office. St. Matthew's is your parish and will always be strong and vibrant as long as you continue to be a vital part of the family.

*Fr. Chris DeGiovine*

## PARISH DEMOGRAPHICS



Our parish has 1041 registered families an increase of 15 families since July 2019. 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 2019 Mass count showed an average number of 566 people per weekend. During COVID-19 Pandemic we taped liturgies during the pandemic "pause" and averaged 250 views. Upon reopening our average in church attendance was 210 people with an average online of 150 viewers. We currently have 371 families contributing through weekly envelopes and 81 E-giving families an increase of 13 families since July 2019. A total of 249 families contributed to the 2019 Bishop's Appeal with total gifts of \$81,559. The 2020 Diocesan Appeal (formerly the Bishop's Appeal) was a direct mailing from the Diocese. As of end of October 83 families have pledged \$27,754.00



## 2019-2020 FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

We know that this year was one like no other! We thank God for the many blessings that helped us persevere through the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic:

In the fall of 2019, we welcomed new and returning participants to our parish-wide faith formation program: Generations of Faith. Our 2019-2020 theme was: "Seasons of Faith: Following the Church Calendar to the Heart of Catholicism." Although our final session was cancelled due to the pandemic "pause," we continued to connect with our households and provide weekly faith formation opportunities throughout the spring and summer by way of the *Seasons of Faith* electronic newsletter. Produced by our Faith Development team here at St. Matthew's, the mission of the *Seasons of Faith* newsletter is to provide lectionary-based, Gospel-centered faith formation for St. Matthew's households on the go. From reflections to activities to poetry to prayer, these weekly resources are designed to help households of all ages, sizes and shapes to live, learn and grow in. This summer, we opened *Seasons of Faith* to the whole parish and now welcome anyone to sign-up to receive this resource. (Contact Joy Galarneau at [stmatthewsfaithdevelopment@verizon.net](mailto:stmatthewsfaithdevelopment@verizon.net) to be added to the list.) We are now also producing the newsletter all year, not just during the academic year.

Our sacramental preparation programs started off and finished up strong, despite the pandemic pause in the middle! In September of 2019, 36 teens and 2 RCIA candidates were confirmed at a beautiful liturgy at St. Matthew's Church. We then jumped right into our 2019-2020 preparation year with 29 Confirmation candidates and almost 20 Peer Mentors. During the pause, Confirmation candidates were encouraged and supported by Mrs. Chrisi Young, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, through many creative means. Although they were facing their own challenges, these compassionate and resilient teens still found time to write letters to members of our parish family and share their love. In the summer, the candidates finished up their preparation with zoom and then in-person sessions, as well as a beautiful reconciliation retreat. We are thrilled to share that the teens were confirmed at the Cathedral just a few weeks ago along with two RCIA candidates. What a celebration! Speaking of celebrations, we could not have been more grateful and excited to celebrate First Communion with 30 amazing young parishioners at 4 special Masses this past August. They had patiently been waiting to do so since May. During their "pause," First Communion families received weekly "First Communion Connection" lessons, participated in a zoom service project, and once we could gather again in small groups, participated in final preparation retreats. We were inspired by this resilient group of young parishioners and their families, who showed us that First Communion could be beautiful and meaningful, masks and all.

We offered three adult Bible studies again this past year, though the final one was "paused" mid-way through – we are so happy to be starting up our Bible Study again this fall, with limited seating and safety measures in place. Our Pastoral Associate for Faith Development, Joy Galarneau, is now also teaching Bible studies and facilitating programs at the Dominican Retreat Center. As of now, those programs are online – we will share these opportunities as they become available.

In July we were delighted to welcome Mrs. Anne Miller to the Faith Development staff as our new part-time Coordinator of First Reconciliation and First Communion. Mrs. Miller brings a wealth of experience and expertise in education and catechetical leadership. Bringing Mrs. Miller on staff has allowed Joy Galarneau to continue to serve as director of our faith development ministries here at St. Matthew's and reduce her hours to half-time.

We spent the summer developing plans for our 2020-2021 faith development programs. Thanks to our Generations of Faith team – an amazingly dedicated group of volunteers and staff, we are offering a hybrid GOF program this year, which includes an onsite option featuring small cohorts as well as a virtual option. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Young have also planned and kicked off creative and meaningful sacramental preparation programs for the 2020-2021 year. As we move forward into a new year, we lift up our whole family of faith and pray for a year of blessings, growth, good health, and love. We thank our parish for all of your support and prayers!



### SACRAMENTS CELEBRATED

BAPTISM..... 12

FIRST COMMUNION..... 30

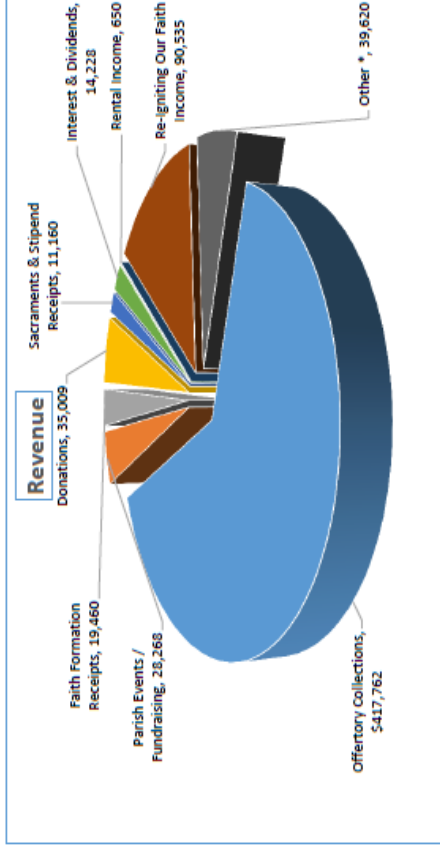
CONFIRMATION..... 38

MARRIAGE..... 2

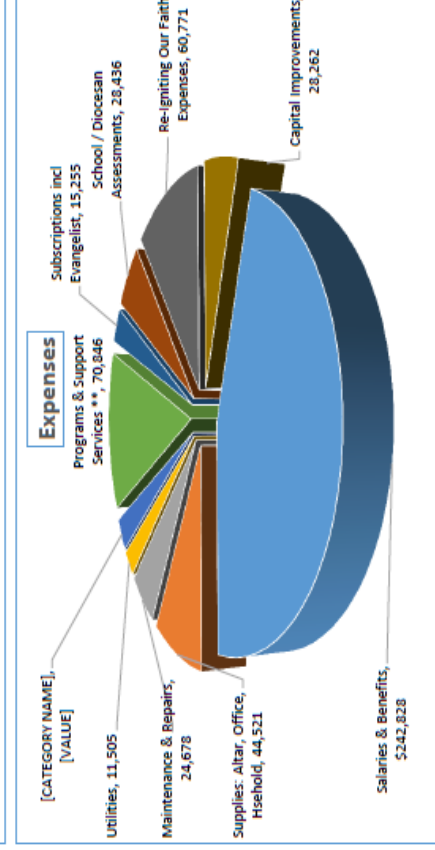
FUNERALS..... 18

St Matthew's Church - Voorheesville  
 Financial Operating Results  
 for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

<b>Revenue:</b>	
Offertory Collections	\$417,762
Parish Events / Fundraising	28,268
Faith Formation Receipts	19,460
Donations	35,009
Sacraments & Stipend Receipts	11,160
Interest & Dividends	14,228
Rental Income	650
Re-igniting Our Faith Income	90,535
Other *	39,620
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$656,691</b>



<b>Expenses:</b>	
Salaries & Benefits	\$242,828
Supplies: Altar, Office, Hsehold	44,521
Maintenance & Repairs	24,678
Utilities	11,505
Property Insurance	14,354
Programs & Support Services **	70,846
Subscriptions incl Evangelist	15,255
School / Diocesan Assessments	28,436
Re-igniting Our Faith Expenses	60,771
Capital Improvements	28,262
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$541,456</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$115,235</b>



\* incl Realized Gain on Investment (\$12,756) and Unrealized Gain on Investment (\$14,532)

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

## HOSPITALITY & PARISH EVENTS

*JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020*

**Matt Maher Concert**

**Feast Day Picnic—Sept. 2019**

**Confirmation Reception**

**Blessing of the Animals**

**Autumn Coffee Social**

**All Soul's Day Coffee Social**

**Dave Pettigrew Concert "There Is Hope"**

**Christmas Wreath Sale**

**Gaudete Coffee Social**

**Winter Coffee Social**

**Valentine's Coffee Social**

**Fr. Toole's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

**Family Bowling Day**

**Ash Wednesday Soup Supper**

**Casting Crowns Concert -Times Union Center**

## FACILITY IMPROVEMENT

- ◆ **New LED Sign**
- ◆ **New Copier for Parish Office**

## RE-IGNITING OUR FAITH PROJECTS

- ◆ **Refurbished Social Hall with new paint colors, new flooring & new window treatments.**
- ◆ **New Boiler**

## PARISH MINISTRIES

St. 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.

The COVID -19 Pandemic has greatly affected our Ministries. Most were halted during the shutdown. Some such as our Family Promise Ministry had to revamp the way they cared for our Family Promise guests. Since guests were not able to be housed in our classroom wing and remained at the Day Center; meals were prepared and delivered to the Day Center during our assigned weeks.

Liturgical Ministers took on new responsibilities as Masses resumed at the end of June. We added reception, ambassadors and sacred restorers to this Ministry in order to meet CDC and NYS guidelines to make in church worship a safe experience.

Pastoral Care was restricted from visiting parishioners in their homes, nursing homes and hospitals. We are happy to report that following CDC guidelines they are once again able to visit parishioners in their homes.

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

## PARISH COMMITTEES

### 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, Barbara Sanchez, Millie Selby, Paul Steinkamp