



**Saint Matthew
Catholic Church**

**Progress on
Parish Pastoral Plan
March 2025**

The Parish Pastoral Council is pleased to share with the Saint Matthew faith community the progress that has been made over the past months to achieve many of the goals set forth in our Parish Pastoral Plan first communicated in October 2023. (www.saintmatthew.org/pastoral-plan) Our Parish is rooted in our Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Guiding Values. Our Parish Vision Statement encompasses the following five major areas of focus:

Communication

Community

Evangelization

Faith Formation

Liturgy and Worship

Below, we will look at our overall goals and report current accomplishments and progress made to-date.

COMMUNITY

Community Goal 1: Foster a Christ-centered environment of hospitality that will promote a culture of welcome and belonging for registered and new parishioners.

This goal is actively being accomplished through many efforts, including utilization of the Narthex television monitors to celebrate sacramental and community activities. New parishioners are warmly welcomed by Fr. Bill, the Generous Hearts Commission, by personal greetings and welcome bags, and the parish community in general. We are growing!

Community Goal 2: Create opportunities to foster relationships across the generations.

This goal is actively on-track and has produced good fruit over the past months, including newly initiated activities: the Haiti Run created and organized by our high school students to raise awareness and funds for our sister parish in Bois de Lance; our initial Oktoberfest that involved a large group of Parish volunteers to foster its success; and a special Mass for graduating high school students before leaving for college to reassure them that they are in integral part of our Parish community. Innovative ideas for fostering spiritual/social gatherings that allow connection and belonging are on-going!

COMMUNICATION

Communication Goal 1: Evaluate current communication strategies and investigate communication tools to develop a plan to effectively engage more parishioners.

Communication Goal 2: Develop a Communications Committee to coordinate and disseminate information for both the school and parish supporting the parish communications coordinator.

Our communication goals are evolving with the technology available to the Parish currently and what may be possible in the future. Currently, there are multiple efforts being employed to effectively communicate with all parishioners, including social media, bulletins, Friday e-newsletter, and the Narthex television screens. Organizing the Communications Committee is currently in progress.

EVANGELIZATION

Evangelization Goal 1: Strengthen the commitment to the baptismal call to serve beyond the liturgy through increased participation in service and outreach as a witness of Christ.

Evangelization Goal 2. Build upon and develop ministries that create a family of faith.

This goal has been ongoing in cross connection with our Community Goal 2. Personal outreach to new parishioners is actively being achieved by Generous Hearts Commission, and further intergenerational events are being planned and considered. Saint Matthew 8th grade and high school students are volunteering at the St. Vincent de Paul food distribution center. The Parish will be hosting a Ministry Fair that will highlight all active commissions, on the weekend of March 1st and 2nd, 2025. It is encouraging that many new volunteers are actively participating in our ministries and activities. Additional plans are being considered for more youth ministry programs and activities, as well as events for young adults.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Goal 1. Develop formation opportunities that lead parishioners of all ages to spiritual growth and a deepening of their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Faith Formation Goal 1. Strengthen the knowledge of our parishioners on Catholic beliefs and teachings to live our faith to the fullest.

These goals are being actively pursued, including the creation of a core team of adult youth leaders to assist Pam Fleming as the Coordinator of Youth Ministry. Active programs also include Children's Liturgy of the Word, Confirmation preparation, Family Faith Formation, and Order of Christian Initiation for seven children to be fully initiated into the Parish at the Easter Vigil on April 19, 2025.

Other faith formation activities of the past months include a morning of reflection for all liturgical ministers offered by Fr. James Brockmeier, the Director of the Office of Worship at the Archdiocese. Bible study, facilitated by Jim and Amy Barbar, is active and growing. Further activities include a book study during Lent and Advent facilitated by Katie O'Brien, as well as the use of Every Sacred Sunday, a reflection guide for the Sunday scriptures. Future plans include a yearly intergenerational catechetical event.

LITURGY AND WORSHIP

Liturgy and Worship Goal 1. Make the experience of Sunday Mass the source and strength for parishioners to go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Our liturgical life has been strengthened through worship and preaching at Sunday Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Eucharistic Revival in 2024 and its ongoing mission. Liturgical ministers and altar servers gather with the celebrating priest for prayer before the Mass begins.

Liturgy and Worship Goal 2. Create intentional opportunities for parishioners to know and understand more deeply and clearly the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith.

This goal is currently being accomplished by encouraging more volunteers to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to offer Precious Blood at all Sunday liturgies. The number of volunteers present at Adoration on Wednesday evenings has increased. Fr. Bill teach and instruct about the Mass in 2025.

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