

Saint Matthew Parish
P.O. Box 617
Avonmore, PA 15618

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Dear Parishioners,

Peace and blessings to you all!

It is with a grateful heart that I offer this year's annual report, *ThanksGIVING for Our Parish*. As we reflect on the blessings and growth of our faith community, we are reminded of Pope Leo XIV's inspiring call for every parish to recognize its vital role within the universal Church. Our parish is not simply a local gathering spot; it is a living part of the Body of Christ, united with the Holy Father and Catholics worldwide in mission, prayer, and service.

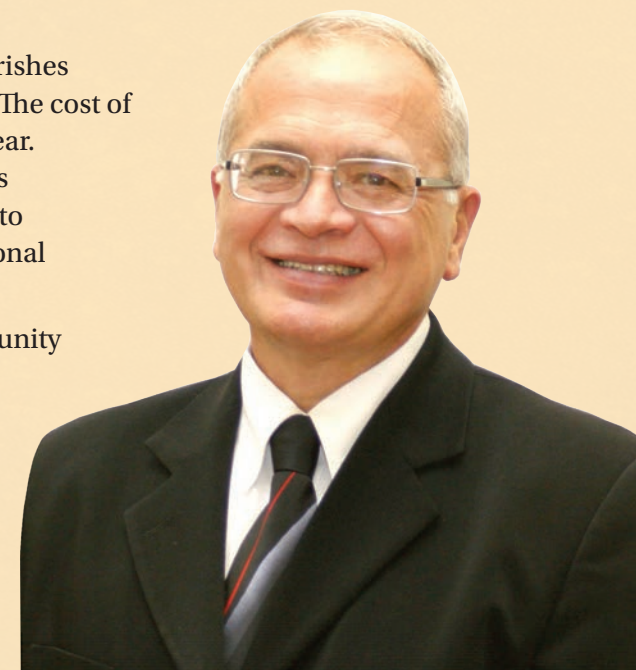
Bishop Larry J. Kulick has challenged us to build a strong and vibrant parish community that will flourish well into the future — rooted in faith, hope, and charity. Our parish has responded generously to this call by nurturing discipleship, deepening faith formation, and reaching out with Christ's love to those in need.

Through your prayers, time, and generosity, we continue to grow as a parish family united in Christ's mission. Our educational programs inspire the young, our sacramental preparation strengthens hearts, and our outreach ministers to the sick, the poor, and the elderly. We encourage you to explore the many ministries our parish has to offer and consider joining us in this joyful work. Your gifts are truly needed and welcomed!

Looking ahead, we are grateful for your support as we strive to help our parishes provide a meaningful faith experience for all ages, especially our children. The cost of maintaining a comfortable, clean, and safe environment increases every year. Please consider increasing your offering to help us provide needed services for our communities. For your convenience, a Giving QR Code is included to help you easily participate in online giving or make a year-end gift. Traditional offerings remain deeply appreciated as well.

Our parish is a blessing, not only to each other but also to the wider community and Church. Let us move forward together with thanksgiving in our hearts, confident that by strengthening our parish, we are answering the universal call to be a living witness of Christ's love in the world.

With gratitude and prayers,
Deacon Dan Frescura



thanks GIVING for Our Parish



GIVING QR Code

**Saint Matthew Parish
Annual Report 2025**



Our Shepherds

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church

Pope Leo XIV, elected in 2025 as the first American Pope, hails from Chicago. Before his election, he was Cardinal Robert Prevost. Known for his pastoral heart, theological clarity, and commitment to evangelization, Pope Leo brings a renewed focus to the vital role of the parish in the life of the universal Church. Pope Leo spent more than two decades in Peru, where he became a naturalized citizen and served as a missionary and Bishop. He is fluent in English, Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese, and also reads Latin and German.



The Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., Bishop of Greensburg

Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., is the sixth Bishop of Greensburg, having been appointed by Pope Francis on December 18, 2020, and consecrated on February 11, 2021. He is the first native Bishop of the Diocese, hailing from Leechburg. His episcopal motto is *Christus est veritas* ("Christ is the truth"), reflecting his deep devotion to truth rooted in the Gospel. He is steadfastly committed to strengthening and nurturing our parishes, ensuring they remain vibrant centers of faith and service for generations to come.

Deacon F. Daniel Frescura, Administrator

Deacon F. Daniel Frescura was ordained August 10, 2009, by Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt. He has served as Deacon at Christ, Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City; Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning; Saint Lawrence Parish, Cadogan; Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish, Yatesboro; Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysville; Saint Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Export; and Saint John Baptist de La Salle Parish, Delmont. He currently is serving as Administrator for the partner parishes of Saint Sylvester, Slickville; Saint Ambrose, Avonmore; and Saint Matthew. He is deeply dedicated to fostering and enriching the spiritual and prayer life of the parish community by guiding the faithful toward a closer union with Christ through piety, study, and apostolic action.



Father Roselo A. Melloria, Parochial Vicar

Father Roselo A. Melloria is a priest of the Diocese of Tagum, Philippines, and an international priest serving the Diocese of Greensburg. He has been in the priesthood for almost 11 years and has served as an Administrator in his home diocese. Father Melloria served as Parochial Vicar at Saint Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell, and in the New Kensington Catholic Community — Mount Saint Peter Parish, Saint Joseph Parish, and Saint Mary of Czestochowa Parish, and Pastor of Saint Anne Parish, Rostraver, and Holy Family Parish, West Newton. He currently serves as Parochial Vicar of the partner parishes of Saint Sylvester, Slickville; Saint Ambrose, Avonmore; and Saint Matthew. He strives to make a positive difference in the lives of those he serves. He is committed to compassionate pastoral care and faithful leadership. He listens to people, celebrates the sacraments, and supports families, the elderly, and youth. His goal is to help each community grow in faith and love for Christ.

Deacon Craig Gilbert

Deacon Craig Gilbert was ordained June 20, 2020, by Bishop Edward C. Malesic. He serves the partner parishes of Saint Matthew; Saint Ambrose, Avonmore; and Saint Sylvester, Slickville. He is committed to helping others grow closer to Christ through prayer, study, and service.



Our Parish by the Numbers:

Registered Households
 2025: 133
 2024: 131
 2023: 127

Baptisms
 2025: 6
 2024: 0
 2023: 6

First Holy Communions
 6

Confirmations
 8

Weddings
 2025: 0
 2024: 0
 2023: 0

Funerals
 2025: 3
 2024: 4
 2023: 9

Households that Give
 96

Households that Don't Give
 37

A Call to Serve

We truly need your help to serve our parish family. Whether as servers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, greeters, or catechists, your ministry brings Christ's light to our community. We are always looking for pierogi makers and workers for the Lenten Fish Fry. We also need more help with our booths at the town festivals in Slickville, Avonmore, and Saltsburg. With more workers, we can be more of a presence within our communities.

Please prayerfully consider answering this call. Reach out to Betsy Yaklich, our clearance coordinator, who will be glad to assist you in updating or obtaining your clearances.



Ministries in Action

Along with our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul chapter and the Westmoreland Food Bank, members of the partner parishes of Saint Sylvester, Saint Ambrose, and Saint Matthew work together to help feed the members of our greater community. Once a month, food boxes are distributed at Saint Ambrose Parish. Saint Sylvester Parish sponsors a "fresh express market" each month.

To meet the spiritual needs of parishioners, a team is undertaking a Wake Ministry. When a parishioner dies, this team visits the funeral home to pray with the family and offer them support in their time of need.

An additional team of parishioners visits the homebound and brings them the Eucharist on a regular basis.

Recently, the Pastoral Council Liturgy and Worship team, in collaboration with the Hospitality and Outreach team, has begun having special liturgies to celebrate each parish patron's feast day.

Parish Financials

| | 2024-25 | 2023-24 | 2022-23 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Offertory | \$ 84,152 | \$ 84,042 | \$ 81,867 |
| Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i> | 1,096 | 197 | - |
| Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i> | 87,802 | 29,814 | 43,160 |
| Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund | 2,038 | 3,073 | 2,853 |
| Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements and PPP Loan)</i> | 21,577 | 29,948 | 26,718 |
| Special Collections | 1,790 | 2,244 | 2,052 |
| Total Income | \$ 198,455 | \$ 149,318 | \$ 156,650 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Administration | \$ 33,955 | \$ 32,650 | \$ 34,004 |
| Church | 22,588 | 13,197 | 17,108 |
| Rectory | 2,270 | 2,413 | 1,957 |
| Education and Ministry | 14,258 | 13,896 | 14,078 |
| General Expenses | 56,599 | 49,382 | 51,617 |
| Special Collections | 1,643 | 2,333 | 1,587 |
| Extraordinary Expenses * | 11,418 | 28,785 | 41,845 |
| Total Expenditures | 142,731 | 142,656 | 162,196 |
| Net Operating Income (Loss) ** | \$ 55,724 | \$ 6,662 | \$ (5,546) |

* Includes \$24,741 added to Catholic Institute savings account in FY24 and \$24,317 in FY23.
 ** Excess cash sitting in checking due to withdrawal from institute for paving project about to begin.

Giving With Gratitude

This is our Giving QR Code. By scanning it, you can easily enroll in online giving, make your first gift, increase your weekly offertory, make a year-end gift, or donate in honor of or in memory of someone you love.



Or, visit our website to make a donation: PartnerParishesMAS.org and click on GIVING at the top of the page. Of course, traditional check or cash donations are always deeply appreciated too. Mail your gift to Saint Ambrose Parish, P.O. Box 617, Avonmore, PA 15618.