

Saint Matthew Parish

C/O P.O. Box 617
Avonmore, PA 15618

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Dear Parishioners,

The safety and health of every member of our parish have been in my daily prayers as together we continue to face the ups and downs of the pandemic. Many of you, I know, have endured great pain and personal loss, not to mention the numerous concerns that have developed as the pandemic has imposed an ongoing struggle with fear and isolation in many people's lives. Still today, there is the ongoing uncertainty of what is next.

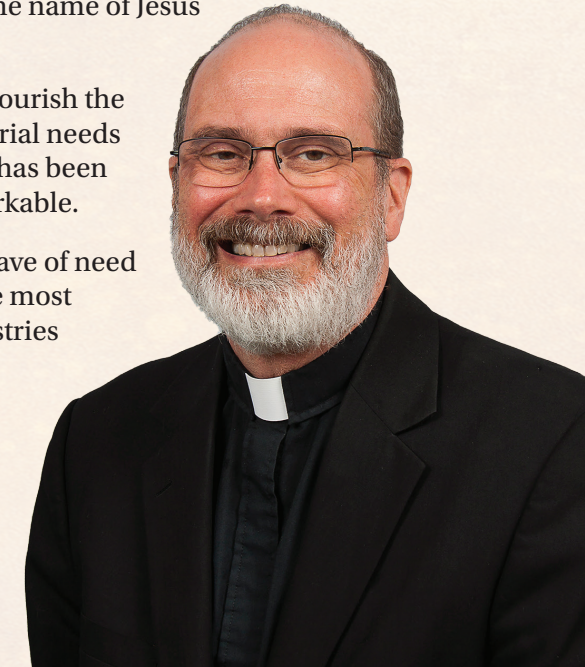
I hope you have been comforted by our local and Diocesan outreach through streaming Masses and commitment to get things to the "new normal" in the parishes. There were also special collections to support mission work at home and around the world, food drives to help the hungry, and volunteers who cleaned and sanitized our churches to protect our at-risk parishioners, and Father John and our eucharistic ministers have gotten back to doing Communion calls. Deacon Craig will begin doing these soon. These are just a few examples of the outpouring of love we saw in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the pandemic.

I want you to know that through it all, Saint Matthew Parish has continued to nourish the seeds of faith that have been planted, seeking to care for the spiritual and material needs of our entire parish community. The good news in all of this is that the harvest has been bountiful! In fact, the support provided by you, the faithful, has been just remarkable.

As excited as I am about the impact of our outreach, I also realize that a tidal wave of need is still on the horizon. Economic uncertainty and continued isolation mean the most vulnerable among us will need us now more than ever. Our missions and ministries cannot continue to meet that need without your help.

I want to sincerely thank you for all that you have given to our parish either financially or with your time. Remember, your contributions keep this parish vibrant and impactful. Please remember your parish this year, and prayerfully consider increasing your stewardship (time, talent and financial) so we can continue God's work.

Yours in Christ,
Father John J. Harrold



Growing Support for our
FAITH
Community



Saint Matthew Parish Annual Report 2021

Flowers that Feed the Soul: Our Ministry Listing

Please keep in mind that to volunteer in the parish you need to have the six Diocesan child protection clearances. If you don't have them, we will be happy to help you get them. These can be easily accessed and completed online. Everyone over the age of 18 should have these clearances because we all should be involved in the work of the parish.

- Altar Servers
- Adult Altar Servers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Lectors
- Ministry of Hospitality
- Liturgy Decorating Volunteers
- Partner Parish Pastoral Parish Council
- Finance Council Member
- Facilities Committee — Painting, Electrical, Carpentry/Construction, Concrete Work, Grounds/Landscaping, Gen. Maintenance
- Altar Rosary Society
- Bereavement Committee
- Martha Ministry (NEW)
- Baking or Preparing a Dish for Parish Functions
- Parish Office Helpers
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Knights of Columbus
- Saint Ambrose Food Pantry
- Fundraising Volunteers



Cultivate the Garden Within: Capital Improvements



Your contributions to our parish help maintain the facility, making it the center of prayer in our community. Last year, I sent you our State of the Parish Report, which provided detailed information about how we are working to grow support for our faith community and facilities. It highlighted that over the

last three years, we completed installing air conditioning in the church and upgrading our electrical panels, replacing the social hall floor and stair treads, cleaning and renovating the cry room, installation of a new drainage ditch behind the Church, and replacement of the cracked and unlevel sidewalks.

Parish Financials

	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Offertory	\$ 83,209	\$ 79,639	\$ 79,547
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	(174)	305	-
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	28,391	16,174	26,502
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	3,424	1,223	3,152
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements, and PPP Loan)</i>	16,712	26,215	130,319
Special Collections	2,324	3,667	4,740
Total Income	\$ 133,886	\$ 127,223	\$ 244,260
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 29,383	\$ 35,713	\$ 34,734
Church	11,135	10,329	14,444
Rectory	2,857	3,793	5,028
Education and Ministry	12,007	12,419	13,834
General Expenses	45,072	48,443	45,616
Special Collections	2,134	4,547	4,724
Extraordinary Expenses	28,841	20,568	119,468
Total Expenditures	131,429	135,812	237,848
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 2,457	\$ (8,589)	\$ 6,412

Our Garden



Registered Households
2021: 144
2020: 144
2019: 136

Single Member Households

61



Baptisms
2021: 2
2020: 1
2019: 0

Weddings

2021: 0
2020: 1
2019: 0



Funerals
2021: 7
2020: 7
2019: 4



Weathering COVID-19

Just as God has provided for you, you have provided for our parish. Your investment is like the tilling of the soil, helping us to grow stronger. Despite the pandemic, our parish offertory remained strong, primarily due to the generosity of some of our parishioners, but it was also assisted by some parishioners beginning to use online giving. Sadly, we still have about 21% of the parish who do not financially support the parish.

As I am sure you can imagine, our parish had to adapt in our fundraising activities. Last year, our Lenten dinners were takeout only, and we did very well. We also did well selling pierogis at Canal Days. This fall we plan to sell pierogis at the Saltsburg Oktoberfest and for the holidays. Please keep an eye on the bulletin and parish website for upcoming fundraisers.



Ways You Can Give



BY MAIL:
Saint Matthew Parish
C/O P.O. Box 617
Avonmore, PA 15618



IN PERSON:
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9:00AM - 1:00PM



ONLINE:
partnerparishesmas.org

