

On January 25, the Parish Council hosted an open meeting asking for input to help us create a common vision for St. Matthew's future. The many ideas discussed will be considered by the Future Planning Task Force which begins meeting this month. Here is an outline of ideas that were shared.

Where Do We Want St. Matthew's to be in 3 Years?

St. Matt's Culture – Continue to build on our commitment to welcoming all

- Ensure St. Matt's is a place where everyone, no matter their gender, race, etc. feels welcome, loved, and free to be their authentic self
- Serve as a healing place for Catholics who feel disenfranchised or marginalized
- Seek to increase age and ethnic diversity throughout our faith community
- Increasing Spanish speaking capabilities among volunteers and/or staff
- Create a more formal process for welcoming new members into our community
- During Mass, include time to greet the person next to you. Provide nametags for those who wish to wear them at Mass or other community events
- Look at what other parishes are doing well and explore how we can apply to St. Matt's

St. Matt's Leadership - Priorities and Concerns

- What can we, as a parish, do to prepare for and manage change?
- How can we ensure St. Matt's has a say in decisions made by the Archdiocese about our pastoral leadership?
- Who would we choose/what are we looking for in spiritual leadership?
- How can St. Matt's be a "Lay Leadership" model for other parishes?
- Mentor and support youth in active roles in the parish life through service and leadership opportunities
- How can we connect with potential partners who share our culture and charism?

Community Building & Outreach - Expand Events, Activities and Programs

- Provide opportunities for community input around programming, events and activities sponsored by the parish
- Continue to grow & invest in youth group
- Increase support to members of our community such as families with children, aging parishioners, etc.
- Continue to strengthen existing partnerships – encourage parishioners to learn about and volunteer/support our partners in ministries
- Reach out to new housing community in West Side
- Explore possible ecumenical activities & fellowship
- Support efforts to increase resources for people needing help with life essentials - food, shelter, utilities, health care, etc.
- Look at ways to increase and better use technology that would expand our reach and enhance experience of members

A complete list of items discussed at the meeting on January 25th is available on our website.