

St. Matt's Future Planning, January 25, 2024

Goal: What do we want St. Matt's to look like in 3 years? What do we need to do to achieve that vision?

Where do we want St. Matt's to be in 3 years?

Culture

- Inclusivity & Diversity
 - Seek to increase age diversity throughout our faith community
 - Welcoming diversity - All are welcome here
 - Ensure St. Matt's is a place where everyone, no matter their gender, race, etc. feels both welcomed & loved, and are free to be their authentic self
 - A healing place for disenfranchised Catholics
 - Remain & make more broadly know that St. Matt's is a "big tent" + "field hospital" in the words & wisdom of Pope Francis
 - Community outreach & celebrating diversity
 - Language inclusivity
 - Greeters - Spanish & English & remain in back during mass continuing to minister to the community as needed
 - Spanish speaking capacity - perhaps older community of Saints students could help?
 - Spanish speaking staff person
 - Increased bilingual support may draw more young families
 - Grow our Spanish speaking population - attendees at mass & sacraments
- Ways to continue to welcome our community
 - New Parishioner Welcome & Connection
 - New Parishioner Welcome Dinner
 - When a new parishioner joins, asking parish council member to connect, call, welcome - then flop month - invite to coffee Sunday (and other programming)
 - Invitation - Joanne knew my name week 3 and Walsy stopped by to say hi after mass
 - Name Tags so the community can get to know each other?
 - Community 2 minute "greet the person next to you" if it's not someone new - great! Before mass begins or near the end of mass before
 - Ways to foster connection
 - Grandparents day mass - ways to invite people in
 - "Homecoming" mass
 - Sacraments - When students are receiving sacraments have them during regular mass with the full community (rather than private) so the church community can see & welcome them & their families
- St. Matt's as a "Campus rather than "Church"
- "Church" is a verb - not a Noun
- What are other parishes doing well and how can we apply to St. Matt's? Examples - St. Thomas More Meet & Greet, women preaching, tons of small groups

Leadership

- Youth
 - Youth are looking to play active roles in service & leadership & we all want to see youth in leadership roles
 - Attract younger and newer members to leadership positions
- Diocese & Future Leadership
 - How are we as a parish community preparing ourselves for change?
 - Ensure St. Matt's builds connections and has a voice to be able to advocate for itself within the diocese
 - Desire to choose our own spiritual leader(s)
 - Work with Fr. Steve & diocese on "transitional leadership"
 - "Lay Leadership" - How can St. Matt's potentially be a model for other parishes
 - Deacon - would this help serve our community, finding the right fit
 - Can we expand connections with the Twin Cities Jesuits? Demontreville Retreat Center & Christo Rey High School
 - A desire for our parish community to remain open minded through-out the leadership change (especially for the desired traits of a new priest) & ensuring there is closure with Fr. Steve before he goes to ease the transition
- Short Term Planning for when Fr. Steve or another priest isn't available
 - What would the model be and how could St. Matt's have a communion service rather than a Eucharistic Celebration if a priest isn't available?
 - Logistically think through preaching & how to get the Holy Eucharist to distribute

Community Building

- Events & Programming Ideas
 - Routine survey's/questionnaires to see "what are you interested in?" when it comes to groups, opportunities, serving our community etc.
 - Grow & invest in youth group
 - Alumni & Friends Events (masses - social hall, etc.)
 - Graduating class mass
 - "Homecoming Mass"
 - Continue Coffee Sundays - consider having them more often
 - More community small groups (Crafts Groups, Young Moms/Dads group)
 - Parishioner Talks - like "Ted Talks" to share their passion, experiences, etc....
 - Family Folk Dance
 - Sing-alongs
 - Community Picnics - Invite Community of Saints Families, Alumni, etc....
 - Have more community dinners or activities for the Saturday night mass participants
 - More spiritual programs or opportunities for ongoing adult education in the faith (both for RCIA candidates, but also present Catholics) - could include bible study or we could survey the community for topics
 - Have a "fair" that showcases all the volunteer and community building opportunities so that people can get an idea of ways to participate
 - Invite Community of Saints to participate in more of St. Matt's events & increase synergy with students & parents to attend St. Matt's more often
- Ways for our community to serve

- More Liturgical Opportunities (with a St. Matt's twist)
- Youth Choir
- Children's mass - music, servers, greeters, readers
- Other ways for young people to serve in a visible way with mass (greeters, collection, altar servers)
- Supporting our Community
 - Find more ways to support families
 - Support for aging parishioners, spiritually as they approach end of life (legal issues, power of attorney, executor, advanced directives)
 - Provide childcare for activities such as the Future Initiative Planning session to support the involvement of families with children

Volunteer/Outreach

- Reach out to new housing community in West Side
 - Possible event: Mass in the Park - Harriet Island to draw in new housing community
- Ecumenical activities & fellowship
- Continue to go to the margins of society through our ongoing outreach. Jesus is at the margins.
- More resources for people needing help with life essentials - food, shelter, utilities, etc....
- Volunteering
 - Engage additional volunteers in activities they want to lead
 - Community outreach/opportunities for families & kids
 - Embrace active participation by young people & children in ways that they want to participate

Parking Lot - Other ideas not under major subheadings

Technology/Tools/Resources that might be needed

- Email list & Phone #'s, Photos of parish members (digital parish directory)
- Digital Presence - Website (more robust), Email Communication, Social Media
- More videos representing parish programs
- Robust technology as a means of growing strengths and community
- Overhead Projectors with Song Words & Responses to encourage participation
- More visible exterior signage