

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS FROM ADULT FOCUS GROUPS

Discover: What is going well at St. Matthew?

BUILDING and FACILITY	Responses
Nice Facility; Beautiful campus; a lot of green space; our campus and grounds Lots of Land; We have the right space we need; Good location in the city; Reasonably good facilities: gym, meeting rooms, kitchen, cafeteria, fitness center, football field; We have 14 acres; plenty of room; We take pride in our facility	15
Maintenance staff and volunteers do a great job of maintaining the facility We have a good maintenance staff	2
Share space very well	1
Easy parking lot; means a lot to have close, ample parking Church is accessible; where handicapped parking spaces are located	2
Mary Garden; a place to reflect	1
Building arrangement: parish and school offices located next to each other; says “we are one”	2
The way the church is organized: easy to see and hear everything	1
COMMUNICATION	Responses
We communicate well: email, bulletin, website, Warrior World, Friday Follies Bulletin is upbeat in the way things are presented Good communications; very good	4
Information packet was wonderful; told us about all the ministries	1
Great directory	1
Thank you’s appear in the bulletin; nice to recognize good things happening	1
Appreciate the email bulletins	1
Bring a bulletin for people who aren’t comfortable coming back to mass I like the invitation to take a bulletin for someone who is unable to come to church	2
Live Streaming of Masses Very important to continue	4
COMMUNITY (people, volunteers, descriptors)	Responses
People are genuinely good; Friendly Parishioners; supportive of one another; People; not a lot of negativity; Welcoming people; Family, Friends; Connection with friends; Friends and fellow parishioners; Community; The kids; Wonderful people/families; Friendly Community; inclusiveness; Family Life; Family environment; friend group is growing; love seeing children in church The people at St. Matthew are kind, welcoming, and eager to connect and be included; kind; culture of welcoming; I feel like they are an extended part of my family; lots of great friends; Welcoming Community: Come as you are Servant Leadership: many wonderful examples Authentic and unpretentious; friendliness; Inviting: we wanted to belong here All walks of life can be seen – We are a heterogeneous community I stay in the parish no matter what’s happening because it’s my parish; friends – a social outlet; We are great at giving back to the community Strong community and I feel a part of it. A good mix of people: long-time, new, all ages, single, married A sense of selflessness and humbleness	56

<p>Talented, generous, committed people; we have good people resources People are normal, open, warm, a good vibe, feels comfortable, there is an energy and vibrance; This is home. We can make connections Warm and friendly atmosphere; big enough, but not so big you feel lost; welcoming feeling when you walk in; Been a member for so long and met so many people. Open community, especially to non-Catholics; felt supported and welcomed Sense of peace in being here; spiritual home/roots True community (overall parish and school); a good example of the definition of community; Sense of community; wonderful parishioners I care deeply about this community and I appreciate the gift of other people in both the school and church; Consistent emphasis on community In our family, we each have connections and we come together at church People are warm, welcoming, open; welcoming to everyone When I first came, people reached out to me; very welcoming</p>	
<p>Multi-generational community; some people have been in the parish a real long time; a collective history which is good to see; something to celebrate All encompassing – not missing any age groups</p>	5
<p>Generosity</p>	2
<p>Generous Volunteers who are willing to help; Volunteerism; Volunteer opportunities; The volunteers and generous spirit; Many involved parishioners; There is a core group who will always pitch in; Respond well to parishioners who have a need; Many strong groups who function well and get things done Involved parishioners, especially seasonally; you see the same people all the time; commitment and consistency of volunteers; The people who participate do a lot! Great people who are on it; always saying “Yes”; Willing to help with anything</p>	16
<p>RCIA Team Pat Witt’s leadership on this is great!</p>	4
<p>Arts and Environment Committee Do a beautiful job! Fabulous</p>	6
<p>Spiritual Life Commission</p>	2
<p>Volunteer Receptionists</p>	2
<p>Moms group: connects moms of young children</p>	1
<p>Altar Society Ladies</p>	1
<p>Middle School Youth Parent Volunteers</p>	1
<p>Virgil Madden at 7:30 AM mass; pulls everyone in; great job as mass coordinator</p>	3
<p>Leslie and Sharon Kerr are inspiring</p>	1
<p>Steve and Anita Sergi: welcoming and present</p>	1
<p>We are coming back together as a community after COVID In-person; mass in-person; seeing people return to church and more people are returning.</p>	3
<p>Diversity and inclusion of all people; accepting of people with differences and including them all The makeup of the community in the school and parish is diverse (builds on this base to be a thriving community) diversity helps us touch bases outside our own interests Value the diverse backgrounds in our community</p>	8
<p>St. Matthew is known in the community: local restaurants and shops owned by parishioners</p>	1

People know where we are	
St Matthew is on the more liberal side of Catholicism; St. Francis style	1
There is a balance of spiritual and social activities	1
Many opportunities for people to be engaged (social events, enrichment, scripture study, service, liturgy, etc.) Many invitations for people to be engaged Many ways to be involved: using time, talent, treasure, different levels of commitment (no matter how much time you have) Variety of opportunities to serve – both in the parish and in community outreach Community outreach; many activities to be involved in	7
There is a new energy; people are excited People are coming back to mass; a renewed interest With new parishioners consistently announced at mass, we are growing	9
Steve pulled me in and it keeps me coming back	1
FAITH FORMATION/CATECHESIS	Responses
Excellent sacramental prep program: baptism, first eucharist, confirmation (Jackie is back!); Unique, practical approach for making programs come alive; practical Faith Formation for youth; keeps families growing up Catholic and connected to the faith	4
Challenge our youth (school and parish) in a positive way; we involve and engage them	2
Curriculum is excellent	1
Men's and Women's retreats Value these opportunities	10
Bible study; Very strong ministry; Scripture study is enriching; learn so much Appreciate Leslie's enthusiasm; Leslie and Sharon are a blessing to our community; They did Zoom during COVID; appreciated so much Continues to grow; not only studies the bible, but also teaches about our Catholic faith/catechism	21
Parish Mission – opportunities to learn about faith	2
Small Faith Sharing Groups	1
RCIA was a very positive experience; even in pandemic Enduring relationships and connections from this experience	2
LITURGY and WORSHIP	Responses
Great homilies with helpful tips for living the Gospel Not preaching at us, but to us Homilies delivered humbly (shares his own struggles), earnestly Homilies are terrific and leads to further discussion at home Homilies have touched me Homilies; feel personally fed; amazing	6
Provide options for worship; able to meet many needs Mass times; the variety of mass times means that people can select the one that works best for them and stick with it; it creates a small community within the whole church Wednesday Night Mass Communion services Opportunities for prayer: Rosary, Stations of the Cross, mass times	16

Mass and sacraments The spirituality of the mass itself: hymns, mass, homilies; you feel good when you leave Mass – what pulls me in; worship 7:30 mass is quiet and contemplative; provides solitude	
Wonderful music ministry Committed people; many beautiful voices Beautiful; beautiful music at 11:30 mass and holidays 5 PM mass has a “groovy band” Bell choir, Choir, Cantors/soloists, Music Director Enlivening music: director, choir, and cantors Music at 9:30 mass tends to be more traditional; I appreciate it Music ensemble at 5:00 and 11:30 masses is fabulous (been together for 20 years); they enjoy it and you can tell Deb does a wonderful job with our music: choirs, cantors, all musicians	22
Children’s Programming Planning and communication of children’s programs Liturgy of the Word Pastor can relate to children; communicates ta their level	6
Lectors do an excellent job; enjoy the different styles	1
Mass coordinators	1
Greeters; hospitality with door greeters	2
Dimming lights after communion prompts you to stay in a prayerful moment	1
Seeing kids as altar servers; servers who want to serve	3
MINISTERIAL/SACRAMENTAL	Responses
Variety of ministries	2
Programs	1
Advent and Lenten programs that draw people in	1
Advent Evening of Music and Reflection	2
Eucharistic Minister Training	1
Baptisms	1
Funerals (We do death well)	2
Funeral luncheons: hard-working people who organize it, meets the needs of family, they are amazing and appreciate the service	2
Stations of the Cross connected to the fish fries	7
All Souls Memorial Mass was beautiful; very touching	1
RELATIONAL/SOCIAL	Responses
Big meal gatherings/social events that bring us together; a good variety; different social groups to gather with; Can bring in families from the neighborhood Great opportunities to bring people together during Lent Fellowship: many opportunities to gather together We are good at throwing parties and social events; We are a social parish Variety of activities for school and families; nice variety	15
Easter Egg Hunt; Volunteers make that happen	1
Lenten Fish Fry; Best Fish Fry: food, fellowship, fund raiser Very fun community event	10
Chili Supper	7

Parish picnic	2
Gala	6
Coffee and Donuts after mass	1
Happy Hour; First Saturdays	6
Large sports program; CYO Parents and coaches; teaches responsibility	8
Scouting program	1
Supper Club	1
Movie Night	2
SCHOOL	Responses
School; school is terrific; wonderful; School as ministry; a wonderful ministry that keeps us growing; Seeing your child love going to school Health and safety so kids can be in school St Matthew has the best school: faculty (teachers), school administration, school leadership; 3 rd grade teacher; The teachers and staff; very committed Quality of education: spiritual, social, psychological, educational Great teachers and school staff; school staff cares about families Mr. Smock; Devoted teachers who are a treasure to our school (Sr. Heidi) Reaches out to kids from all income levels of parents (to have a better life) Teaching staff is wonderful; Good teaching staff and auxiliary help Dedication and quality of school staff; some have been here a long time School office staff is so friendly and helpful: Robin, Kathy, and Elizabeth Mary Marsh is a wonderful influence for the students Keeps our church vibrant Teachers who came to school here come back to teach here. They are wonderful, caring, and believe in the school Teachers are members of the parish; great for kids to see them in church; connects them to the students	36
School is adapting to Choice program and learning styles	1
Genuinely good students who are willing; don't behave as entitled Have a sense of service; are so willing to help Students build relationships with each other; community of friendship Students was able to transition easily when starting in middle school	3
PFA is involved and creative	2
Fr. Bill's presence at school events	1
Resource Department is excellent; Chose SMS because of it	1
Preschool/Pre-kindergarten program	1
School registration process is positive and proactive	1
SERVICE and OUTREACH	Responses
Service and outreach; community outreach; Many great outreach ministries; very generous; Many charitable activities in which to participate Many social justice ministries; these programs are visible It's great to have SVdP and Birthline in the lobby and rotating displays We reach out to the community to serve others: our own parishioners, as well as community-at-large; Giving is very strong at St, Matthew: time, talent, and treasure	9
St. Vincent de Paul Society; an important outlet to serve	7

Garden (as ministry); A unique ministry to work with parishioners and serve the poor; great to see it come alive; great use of our land; a service to our community; we are feeding the poor	21
Men's Club; Some members step up to help at every single event They are the backbone of the community. They do great things. They sponsor events and are wonderful at engagement; very active Good opportunity for fellowship and opportunities to serve parish Very important to our parish; do so many great things; Truly remarkable;	13
Prayer Shawl Ministry	2
Haiti Committee; Links us to the outside world	10
Dr. Ellen's Mission	8
Easter Basket Project Involves youth and parish for collecting cans of fruit, putting baskets together, and distributing them	2
Crib for Birthline	1
Advent Giving Tree; so great to see gifts that seem to spread out to the parking lot	7
Right to Life	1
Peace meal committee	2
Deaf Community is supported	1
Fund raisers in school, like Cystic Fibrosis	1
Scrip Program: unique in that you can designate proceeds to tuition or other ministries in the parish	1
Recycling program	1
Good at fund raising; many creative people with great ideas: 50/50, trivia night, flower donations, etc	2
Appreciate focus groups and the chance to share ideas; we continue to be open to new ideas	2
Clothing bin in parking lot	1
STAFF	Responses
Parish staff is great; support one another, work as a team; Great having Pat and Jackie back! They are responsive; Pat is back; great!	5
Good office processes in place Maintenance of sacramental records	2
Approachable Pastor; Great Pastor, The best homilist; Relatable, great public speaker; he is warm and open; Welcoming, caring, a good faith leader A willing and able leader in Fr. Bill and he will help our community thrive. Thrilled to have Fr. Stumpf here; Welcoming spirit; he brings me to church Good spiritual leadership; Our new priest; present; Our new pastor: open to ideas, changes, and improvements; Fr. Bill; happy he's here with us; wonderful addition to St. Matts; Fr. Bill is tender; creates a nice environment	26
Parish leadership us strong; real sense of commitment to the school and parish; New and seasoned people with new energy and ideas	1

Dream: How can we become even better?

BUILDING and FACILITY	Responses
Use the greenspace: create a wildlife habitat/nature preserve, make a grotto, put saint statues on grounds Revamp meditation garden, perhaps add a Stations of the Cross Utilize our outdoor space; Paved walking path around the perimeter of campus	5
Widening Forest Manor for easier entrance and exit Improve campus signage	2
New playground equipment; clean up the playground to improve it's appearance	2
A space for outdoor education	1
Clean up the grounds; perhaps a rock garden with rocks painted by children	1
Clean up the physical structure of the building	1
Re-line parking lot	2
Look at physical structure of building and repair properly rather than band-aid (roof, leaky skylights, etc); Capital Improvement plan Do a thorough walk-through of the facility and make a list of everything that needs to be refreshed, painted, spruced and prioritize the tasks; do the tasks well so it doesn't have to be redone; this is what I do at home	4
Fix the digital sign on Binford Blvd	2
Increase/improve technology; improve multi-media capabilities 1:1 for school, screens in church; Fully upgrade technology Parish: project/TV/screen, church, communication School: complete upgrades in classrooms, labs, 1:1 in all grades Add technology screens in church to project the order of Mass Continue Live Streaming, but make improvements in consistency and quality Perhaps tap into MS/HS students to do as volunteer service (Matt Mahoney) Music lyrics on a big screen	8
Hire an interior designer to look at our sanctuary and narthex to create a plan to spruce it up, as well as maximize the use of the space (painting, carpeting, pew refinishing, recover Father's chair) Make it more welcoming; Beautify the church; Brighten the gather space: modernize; Get rid of 70s decor (if money were no object) Church upgrades; pews, carpet, walls Start a project for people to rally around: updates to church, altar, pews, carpeting to improve our curb appeal; the area is competitive in church attendance we need to step up our game and provide a nice environment for people to be in (this could be done in steps)	15
Deep Cleaning of church and school building	2
Improve the sound system in church, especially for the music ministry; so that everything works and enhances the sound quality (sound board, microphones, cables, etc) Improve sound system for hard of hearing and hearing impaired	3
Organize and beautify the narthex; make more user friendly	1
Expand and update fitness center	1
Update bathrooms and bridal room	3
Upgrade the cafeteria	2
School Building improvements	2
What does the rectory need? Rectory upgrades	5
Open the rectory for parish meetings and gatherings (Happy Hour)	2

Build an outdoor kitchen with a huge area to entertain, cook, store supplies, and gather	1
A building dedicated solely to adult ministry	1
Create an Indoor Meditation Area	2
We need an Adoration Chapel	3
A space for 20-somethings to come and hang out; new gym, coffee shop, comfortable meeting rooms	1
Have a prayer wall so that people can put their prayers on the wall and then turn the card over when the prayer is answered	1
COMMUNICATION	Responses
Increased and better communication within pastoral council, commissions, and committees; Perhaps live and/or virtual introductions of leaders Making sure leaders are known in the parish; Photographs, introducing at mass, reporting to parishioners; Parish leaders should have more visibility; names and faces; Have Pastoral Council and Board of Ed elections so people know more about them and roles they play; what the commitment is	11
Tap into social media and other online tools as a communication form Would be a great tool for connecting with teens and young adults Modern approaches to communication along with paper tools, and use it to it's fullest: email, texting, app; Have a social media presence	5
Put Fr. Bill's sermons in the bulletin; perhaps small bites could be tweets throughout the week	2
Keep directory and ministry information up-to-date; emails, cell numbers Can it be made virtual with people submitting their own photos?	3
Bulletin inserts that list ministries in the parish; Ministry programs in the bulletin; frequently; Better communication/ more ways to know what's going on	3
Pass out bulletins before mass; people may actually read them and stay off their phones	1
All encompassing directory for available sports and clubs for each age group each semester	1
Pay attention to the conflict between school and secular events (sports) and parish and spiritual events. Parking lot can be so filled with cars for sports that parishioners have no place to park for parish events. Adult meetings and gatherings are often bumped for children; Not fair	2
Cards for Baptism Anniversary (confirmation, funerals?)	2
Send birthday cards or anniversary cards at benchmark years	1
Better coordination of music ministers Can we list music ministers in the bulletin alongside lectors, etc?	2
Make sure people are called when they offer to volunteer	1
The request for donations can be overwhelming; but maybe do once a month; give a report on how proceeds were used	1
Make over parish website; seems dated; could be used for sign-ups and registrations; needs to be more user friendly	1
Create a calendar of events so people know what is going on; would be so helpful to new families. Should include holiday mass times so people know what to expect	1
Create an information area in the narthex; perhaps a kiosk with information and a bulletin board with photos; a place where people can post information	2

Put a screen in the narthex to run a slide show with events, photos, information	
Peal the bells with hymns (evangelization for neighborhoods)	1
Speak to day cares and invite children to attend St. Matthew; perhaps build a relationship with a few	1
Crosswalk at 56 th and Binford (The church's voice could be helpful and be a light in the neighborhood)	1
Advertise! Market what we have	2
Establish boundaries: how to approach people in the correct way	1
COMMUNITY (people, volunteers, descriptors)	Responses
Get more people in church: help them understand their Baptismal call Fill the Pews; Increase mass attendance; seeing lots of families in mass build our community; Call parishioners to invite them back to church, to re-ignite Grow our parish; we need more parishioners; How do we attract more people? We will grow; get more people involved Systemic outreach campaign to re-engage people, welcome people back, and connect people to ministries Growth of our parish: there is value in belonging; help people see that Help people develop a lifelong commitment to the parish so our community stays intact regardless of the pastor; How do we get people to come back after pandemic? Campaign to get previous parishioners back – personal invitation Getting more families to mass; want a family feel where mass is a regular routine More engagement: more in-depth, emotional, connection with others	25
Better school/parish connection; whole parish support of school Outreach to parents of public-school children so that all feel welcomed Parish and school operating as one community. Take note of our changing times. School is a ministry of the parish That public school families and parish school families are treated equally Continue strengthening the bond between parish and public-school families Work to build school and parish; remove separation, build connection	9
Sport teams attending mass together	1
Bring back the Ministry Fair so that people know what's going on and how they can help/be involved Make the fair witness-enriched where people share how their gifts were needed	5
Hope to describe the parish as VIBRANT (everyone connected in ways that best suit them, present and welcoming to each other, singing and praying with whole heart and soul at mass, wanting to be involved, actively practicing missionary discipleship, and it seems as if no one wants to leave)	1
Hispanic Heritage celebrations; be inclusive of all people	1
People feel welcomed; An open community that welcomes all people True hospitality; Would love to see diversity expanded – welcoming for all Be a welcoming parish; "2.0" What does 2.0 look like? We are good at welcoming; we need to be better at engaging As welcoming as we are, we could be more welcoming	9
Nametags for parishioners? Knowing people's names would be of value and would build our community	3
Staff the Welcome table Have an extroverted group of people to take over welcoming	3
How to get high school involved in the parish	2

Make an invitation to teens. Be more appealing and vital. What doors do we need to open for them? Be attuned to their culture	
Build specific volunteer areas and communicate needs effectively; Announce at mass; personally invite; Make the various opportunities to volunteer better known, especially to new parishioners and keep these in front of people Encourage participation by personal invitation Develop job descriptions for volunteer roles; Get more people involved; increase parent involvement; A place for everyone; increase kid involvement; Get younger parishioners involved, like younger men in men's club; Ask/invite specific people to help with specific roles; Tap into talents of people; Increase volunteerism across our service opportunities Connect people to ministries by telling stories about the impact of the ministry (for example: benefit of garden as told by the soup kitchen staff) Create an "ask environment" to get people involved Use sign-up Genius; find a way for everyone to be involved	19
Develop leaders across all ministries Create succession plans for ministries so that leaders aren't "stuck" Having succession plans in ministries so it sets the groundwork for those who follow; Break down projects (fish fry) Many are run by one person or small group. Leading a smaller sub-committee is easier than a whole project; Cross-train or perhaps introduce apprenticeships Start a buddy system approach to volunteering: team people up to learn/train/support; work is easier when done together	12
Have a presence in the community Parishioners helping out in St. Matthew t-shirts Reach out to local neighborhoods; participate and engage	2
Connecting with public school youth to get them involved Engage high school youth not at Catholic schools Tap into their NCYC experience (music)	3
When introducing new parishioners, it would be nice to know who they are to welcome them. Stand at mass? Picture in narthex?	1
A welcome dinner for new families (seen at another parish); Every few months, bring new families together with current parishioners as a get-to-know-you event. It builds community and is inviting; could include a packet of information that is presented at the dinner	2
An improved new parishioner packet and a personal contact made to welcome them to parish	2
More events and programs on Sunday before and after mass	1
Get a dog for Msgr. Bill	1
Active greeters after mass, to help connect people in the narthex	1
Create a greater sense of community: reaching out, deepening connections – small faith sharing, CRHP; Strengthen community via small faith sharing groups, social groups like dinner club with faith elements Make it easier for people to connect with others	3
Start a ministry of volunteers that gets people into the right place	1
Require school families to attend mass	1
Diversity and inclusion: expand and focus (Hispanic, deaf, special needs, elders)	1
Support our parishioners who need a helping hand; a collective effort on how the village can help	1

Balanced expectations: are we doing the right things with the resources they have; do they support our mission and do we have the resources to do them well?	1
EVANGELIZATION	Responses
Grow evangelization; "Touchpoint to Christ" Through school, athletic events, social events	3
Evangelize: bring in converts and unchurched Target families with children in the school who do not attend mass or go through RCIC; Develop a strategy to convert non-denominational folks to catholic Find ways to evangelize/invite neighbors; Invite the neighbors to join us for events	6
Guest outreach	1
Have occasional women homilists	1
Don't forget that we are CATHOLIC	1
Using FORMed more widely and often; a great faith resource	1
What if St. Matthew were a regional hub, to connect people to opportunities to service – our community and the community-at-large. People could reach out to us and we could connect them where help is needed; for kids and adults to serve (Paint at park, help elderly at home, raking leaves, neighborhood events, etc.)	1
Interactive class/talk about the difference between our Catholic faith and Protestant faiths; how we are the same and how we are different	1
FAITH FORMATION/CATECHESIS	Responses
Grow Family Faith Formation to get more participation	1
More catechists for confirmation	1
Confirmation: the sacrament marks a beginning	1
Use RCIA program to build parish	1
Adult Catechism classes; refresher courses for our faith	3
Bring parish and school kids together in this program (Sunday faith formation)	1
Start small faith sharing groups Help match people (empty nesters, young adults, couples, etc) so they don't just stop; keeping working with them until something fits	4
Retreats focused on people's needs (Steve Agrisano) Expanded topics and opportunities throughout the year Vary retreat opportunities Can women's retreat be held at St. Meinrad? Other locations?	7
Continue parish missions	1
A more robust youth ministry program Expand options; bring together catholic school and public school youth; focus on youth Build Core Team for youth to focus on and develop ministry	7
Really push to welcome and get excited about Catholic faith, especially at milestones: Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage	1
Cursillo, CRHP, Welcome by Matthew Kelly	6
Early childhood ministry programs; enhance what we already have	5
FINANCIAL	Responses
Parish discretionary Fund that can be used to help parishioners in time of need	1

Start and nurture an endowment to help relieve tuition increases, attract/retain/reward staff, and many other important parish and school needs	1
Use Gala for things we need in silent auction as an option rather than bidding on stuff	1
Online giving tool; make more user friendly for one-time giving, as well as recurring	1
LITURGY and WORSHIP	Responses
Order of Worship that is easy to follow for visitors and new Catholics	1
Intentional, brief prayer before mass; starts to prepare us for the Eucharist; quiets our hearts	1
Healing mass for anyone to receive sacrament of healing on a regular basis; once a month/every other month	1
Start a children's choir Children's mass or children's choir Middle school and high school music group	7
Start a youth band	1
Music group for each mass	1
Musical people contribute more	1
Use instruments: encourage people to play	1
Music: variety at different masses, traditional and more contemporary, not always, but change it up a bit; may attract more young people; Big choir, Big music!	2
As good as the music is, get more people involved; expand the groups	1
Play organ more often	1
More reverence at mass: silence in the sanctuary before and after mass for people who are praying/reflecting	1
Greater devotion to the Eucharist: Eucharistic Adoration Perhaps once a week or once a month	5
More opportunities for prayer and worship at different times to accommodate schedules and families (early morning, later evening)	5
Homecoming mass	1
Reach out to deaf community to let them know we have this ministry	1
Provide descriptions of each mass: how they are different so you know what you might prefer	1
Update server robes	1
Expand Children's Liturgy of the word at other masses Make more kid friendly Perhaps start a nursery?	3
Nursery and preschool program on Sunday morning so adults can truly attend mass	1
Update creche	1
MINISTERIAL/SACRAMENTAL	Responses
Focus on Young Adult/Young Singles Outreach to 30-somethings (get them to come back to church and see the greater good of belonging) Connect them Single Adult Ministry; those without children yet	22

Talk to them and find out why they aren't coming to the Catholic church Make our faith relevant to them Youth outreach, especially to 20-somethings; they think church is boring	
Start Mature Adult Ministry: more than just social, service and outreach Offer rides to church for elders (Like Christ the King): lunches, worship, field trips, social, educational	4
Mental health ministry – meet needs where we can; would be great to have a counselor with long-term experience with emotional crisis	1
Start a parish care ministry to meet the various needs of people (new baby, serious illness, funeral, aging, etc) prepare meals, transportation, small household jobs	1
Start programs for young families (parents and children together) Opportunities for families to connect Activities they can participate in	8
Ways to connect with other women in the parish: women's club, small faith sharing, CRHP More frequent, like once a month MOMS group – help moms see where they are gifted Women's club: social, service, spiritual supportive affirming; a support system A way to connect people	7
Discernment process for lay leaders	2
Better programs for grief and difficult life transitions like divorce	3
Re-ignite program for ministering to homebound	1
Support groups to meet a variety of needs: drug, alcohol, care giver, elder care, etc	3
Five Wishes	1
Pilgrimage with Fr. Bill: linked to St. Matthew, Rome (doesn't have to be out of the country)	1
All Souls cemetery blessing of graves and headstones	1
Restart CRHP	5
All-ages single women's group/single parents	2
RELATIONAL/SOCIAL	Responses
More attendance and promotion of activities after mass; Get people to linger after mass; Sunday morning donuts (after all masses)	4
Bring people together; More social/spiritual gatherings Connecting social and spiritual events; A big fall activity (like Fall Fest) Matchmaker events (small families getting together) By invitation only types of events; Date nights, Bingo, Trivia, reverse raffle, pitch-in meals; Informal gatherings for parishioners so we can get to know each other More parish picnic-type events; with "Mass in the Grass"; Food Truck Festival	13
Senior luncheons	1
More intergenerational events – involve older parishioners with school or school events	1
Gala: when you invite people from outside the parish, could tickets be at a reduced cost for the guests?	1
Increased parish loyalty; this is our parish	1
Volunteer Appreciation Event	1

Dinner and Auction that is truly a total parish event (rejuvenate the gala to make it a total parish event)	2
SCHOOL	Responses
Help the school grow: create positive buzz Increase school enrollment	2
Promote early learning (pre-school) to attract young parishioners	1
Build school resource program so we can use that to increase enrollment	1
Start a curriculum Committee for parents to be involved; make sure religion curriculum isn't watered down because of non-Catholics	1
More ways for parents to be involved: a classroom committee rather than a classroom parent. Have classroom parents/committee in Pre-K	1
Opportunity with resource department to serve a more diverse population; a perfect marketing tool	1
SERVICE and OUTREACH	Responses
Have more people in the parish participating in existing programs like SVdP and garden; we can always use more volunteers	2
Re-invigorate Peace Meal Committee	3
Be more progressive in having ministers that deal with real needs of the community: job search, (taking care of the) environment, diversity (welcoming people of all races) Current issues addressed in a thoughtful way	2
Safe haven baby box at the fire station across the street Build a relationship with them	1
Get involved with anti-violence efforts (gather a group of churches together to sponsor a billboard at 56 th and Emerson)	1
Anti-death penalty: like prayer partners for unborn babies, how about prayer partners for inmates on death row?	1
Look for ways to expand pro-life ministry to include an all ages approach. Babies, yes, but also elderly (prayer partners for them?)	1
The Garden: make it more known in the parish: Blessing of the seeds, make an appeal for help, make it more visible by putting bushels of food in the narthex, tell stories of where the food goes, let people know how they can be involved	2
Engage children in the garden: lessons on nutrition, science, nature	1
More outreach programs, service-type ad connecting them with school to give children early experiences with service	1
STAFF	Responses
Hire staff: youth ministry, confirmation, young adult/adult/mature adult ministry, volunteer coordinator (to plug people into places of need), receptionist/administrative assistant, young family ministry	9
Proper amount of paid staff to support ministries Parish staff; full-time and qualified	3
Develop and clarify the goal and mission of the parish staff: have succession plans, back-up plans for illness and vacations, being present to each other/parishioners, able to handle requests, and cross training	4
Parish staff work schedule should include weekends for presence at liturgies when parishioners are there	2

Get Msgr more help: he defines and we solve (as parish staff)	1
Review positions of staff and school. Do we have the right people in the right positions? Re-evaluate staff: do we have what we need Create appropriate job descriptions	3
A more responsive parish staff	1

Design: How do we get there?

BUILDING and FACILITY	Responses
Invite designers to create and present update ideas	1
Begin to explore a capital campaign for physical needs (i.e., roof in next ten years)	1
Create a grounds committee to keep ahead of needs around campus	1
Tap into volunteers who are ready to help (beautify the grounds)	1
Spruce up the building; it looks old and not maintained	1
If it's broken; fix it. If it's dirty; clean it. Make a list and do what we can do when we can do it. (The gym bathrooms smell!)	1
COMMUNICATION	Responses
Mission: to make disciples of all nations We are here to engage and connect with Christ. How do we make that known?	2
Peer-to-peer programs similar to the school buddy program Is someone willing to take this on right now?	3
Improve communications; Go beyond bulletins; have more options Perhaps a yearly calendar with events for planning purposes Magnets with dates	3
Show people evidence that change is happening	1
Have a ministry fair with new approaches; set up mass in the gym so that displays can be seen all around them	1
Survey people for ideas	1
Invite the parish to open meetings for all councils, committees, and commissions so the work they do can be seen and understood	1
Nothing like an invitation from the pastor: pulpit invitations	1
Coordinate needs and opportunities; Share opportunities to be involved	2
Spotlight ministry programs through the year; have reps at mass; ministry details in bulletin: who, what, when, where, how, why Let people know what we need in the bulletin; be specific Have ministry presentations at mass – what is their impact and how to be involved	4
Recognize groups of people, like new parishioners or ministry groups or service groups.	1
Expand use of sign-up genius: volunteering, events; reminders are helpful	1
Centralized location to know about things: events, ministries (perhaps a carousel, screen, or kiosk in narthex)	1
Photos of deceased parishioners (it would help connect who the person is. I may not know a name, but I may know a face.)	1

How do we measure success? We have so many great activities, but do they all fit our mission? How many people do we touch and do we lead them to Christ?	1
Put flyers on the ends of pews for people to take	1
COMMUNITY (people, volunteers, descriptors)	Responses
A new parishioner packet that includes a list of ministries, what is needed and how to be involved; assemble a welcoming packet; its an important way to capture people when they join the parish Create a yearly calendar of events	4
Look at how we welcome new parishioners and make the process less cumbersome; New parishioner meet and greet events	3
Invite people to come back to mass; Personal invitations Make personal invitations; ask people to help How do we help people fall in love with God again? We need to remind them that God loves us. Meet people where they are; Get more people to be here; Accompany people on their faith journey Volunteers to call parishioners and invite them back; Can we access 2019 database of parishioners to call? How do we know which people are coming to mass?	10
Ask and invite young people specifically to share what they would want to see, what they would participate in, etc	2
Benchmark against younger mega churches to attract young people What are other parishes doing for youth and young adults	2
Start small groups of young adult singles; bring them together in faith and for support of each other	1
Get young families into our community early	1
Do a "call out" for women interested in starting a women's club as an active ministry; may be a great way to start small women faith sharing groups	2
Develop groups that are assigned to achieve goals/projects	1
Gather people together in ways that reflect who we are: young families, empty nesters, long-term parishioners, etc	1
Ensure that public school families feel included (honor their school choice) Build a bridge between families with children in our school and those in public school	2
Start an alumni association; Sponsor an event for alumni to bring them back; perhaps alumni group; honor the graduates	5
Parishioner name tags	1
Help people connect names and faces	1
Divide the focus group information by active commissions: give them the information and ask them to develop plans/projects and next steps	1
Develop a strategic plan using focus group information: who we are, where we should go, values/priorities, be transparent; for school and parish	1
Just smile: it goes along way; build relationships with other parishioners	1
EVANGELIZATION	Responses
Parish day of service in the community	1
Advertise and invite through neighborhood newsletters	1
Have events in the front parking lot for visibility in the neighborhood; add signage about the event with an invitation to join us	1

This was to the point someone made about "requiring" people to bring a new person to an event: counsel current ministry/event leaders to reach out and invite 1-2 people personally.	1
Put visitor cards in the pews and invite visitors to complete the form; contact them and invite them back	1
FAITH FORMATION/CATECHESIS	Responses
Find good facilitators and materials for small and large groups	1
Start a parish book study	1
Take advantage of programs already in existence to re-energize, re-ignite the parish (dynamic parish, FORMED programs, other church programs) Build on what we already have	3
Contemplation AND action: they go together (most important word is AND) What is our mission and how do we live it? Find ways to help people find their action: CRHP, Cursillo, etc. to build foundation for relationship with Christ and we live our faith	2
Invite people to attend a RCIA session; very informative	1
FINANCIAL	Responses
Start an endowment process	1
Let the school kids raise money and write papers for a dog	1
Let the classroom raise money	1
INSPIRATIONAL/GENERAL	Responses
I liked the point about being encouraged at even the small 'successes'. Start small; Set reasonable expectations; start small; even one is OK	3
I'm going to call this write-in "More Jesus". To the point about getting a "young person that is on fire", I was reflecting maybe that desire was to have a constant amidst changing priests. Then it hit me that is not a person that should do that - it is Jesus. :)	1
Pray for the Holy Spirit to give us love to share	1
MINISTERIAL/SACRAMENTAL	Responses
Ministry to mature adults	1
Select one new ministry and implement it	1
RELATIONAL/SOCIAL	Responses
More food after mass with sign-ups for new ministry options Free food as a hook (ministry fair)	2
Social/Spiritual events like blessing cup meal, but that involve different groups of people and families	1
Bring people together with like interests Connect people; Find a place for everyone to belong/help	3
Coffee and donuts	1
Bring back things we cut off and engage people in faith (social events)	1
Find someone who: gathering game to get people to step out of their normal circle	1
Have a social event after each mass	1

Whatever ministry sponsors happy hour, they should have information about their ministry and how to be involved	1
Tap into retired people	1
Tap into young families getting started	1
SCHOOL	Responses
Strong promotion and outreach for our early learning program	1
To become known as the school that fostered "all those priests (or religious) vocations".	1
Grade level families could come to mass together and share a meal afterwards	1
SERVICE and OUTREACH	Responses
Get more people involved so that the work doesn't fall on just a few people	1
Coordinate needs and opportunities around the parish so youth can easily fill their service hour requirements or interested parishioners can join	1
Provide job descriptions of volunteer roles and encourage people to work together (easier to co-chair than chair alone)	1
Reach out to parishioners with specific skills and talents	1
STAFF	Responses
Hire a young person on fire; we need their ideas and energy	1
Combine a young adult minister like is done with Cari for the youth. (SPX has one?). Or at least in the short term ask/pay that person for some help to get started.	1
	1

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS FROM YOUTH FOCUS GROUPS/SURVEY

Discover: What is going well at St. Matthew?

COMMUNITY (people, volunteers, descriptors)	Responses
More people are attending mass	3
More people joining our parish	1
Community; how the community supports each other	2
Parish council is growing	1
FAITH FORMATION/CATECHESIS	Responses
Children's Liturgy of the Word is a program that helps children hear God's word in a way they will understand it	2
Vacation Bible School Program has always gone well	1
LITURGY and WORSHIP	Responses
A variety of mass times; everyone can find one they like	3
Music program is very good: band, piano, singers across all masses; music is great	3
Length of mass is good for all ages; you don't lose focus	1
I like Fr. Bill's homilies; loving the homilies	2
We live stream masses for those who can't attend	1

The way we do church	1
MINISTERIAL/SACRAMENTAL	Responses
Available confession times	1
RELATIONAL/SOCIAL	Responses
More people participating in events	2
The re-introduction of coffee and donuts	1
SERVICE and OUTREACH	Responses
Service hours for helping with Children's Liturgy of the Word; I enjoy it	1
There are opportunities for service hours	1
STAFF	Responses
New priest is good; nice; feel like he's more involved/present; very nice priest; I think change in priest is making Saint Matthew a more positive and happier place. People are enjoying Father Bill	7

Dream: How can St. Matthew become even better?

Building and Facility	Responses
Expand the church and make it more natural, light.	1
It would be great if we could update the Church, such as replacing the carpet and old furniture	1
Communication	Responses
advertise out more	1
COMMUNITY (people, volunteers, descriptors)	Responses
Engage youth after confirmation. Give them a place to belong	7
Connect public school students with Catholic school students	1
FAITH FORMATION/CATECHESIS	Response
More programs for younger students to get them excited to go to mass	1
LITURGY and WORSHIP	Responses
Once confirmed, high school students could serve as sacristans	1
Have families carry down the gifts again	1
Kids could be more a part of the mass	1
The policy on mask wearing keeps some people from coming to mass. It's important to consider those who are vulnerable	1
I would make the music more up to date.	1
MINISTERIAL/SACRAMENTAL	Responses
More organized and fun youth ministry program	1
Look at the confirmation program; make it fulfilling and inspiring; less rushed; find witnesses who inspire us; closer to our age	7
RELATIONAL/SOCIAL	Responses
Create more youth ministry events that allow us to meet each other	2

North Deanery events help you meet people from other schools. That is helpful for moving onto high school. Look for ways to improve/increase them and engage youth in these events	2
Having more events directly after church	1
Having more get-togethers (maybe a lock-in for teens) could help	1
SCHOOL	Responses
Connect youth ministry program to the middle school so that we build a community we don't want to leave; we can build a relationship with God; public school and school ministry – we should build community	4
If there were middle school retreats, high school students/school alums could retreat to give witness talks	1
SERVICE and OUTREACH	Responses
Provide more opportunities for youth, looking at local issues. Can raise money and volunteer with non-profit organizations; nursing homes, food pantries; More service projects like Easter	4

Design: How can St. Matthew become even better? (online survey only)

- ✚ Keep growing and being positive
- ✚ Trying to put the church and our facilities out there more.
- ✚ Have more events directly after church, and example of this is the pancake breakfast
- ✚ My dream is just see the pews full of people again. And I think we do that by convincing people that this a safe space from Covid so they can come back.
- ✚ I think COVID limits the events and options that would create more of a sense of community.

Design: What can we do at St. Matthew to improve for youth? (online survey only)

- ✚ Make it more fun (like outings)
- ✚ Have a younger person come in to teach a Sunday school classes or something around those marks so they can relate to the kids on a better spectrum.
- ✚ For the programs such as confirmation for example, maybe have more times throughout the month, but not for 3 hours, like 2 times a month, but for an hour or something like that
- ✚ Just be more involved with social media. That's what everyone is doing and it's a great way to spread the word to the youth to come to church.
- ✚ Having events where youth could connect would be helpful, even events that would act as more opportunities for service that would count towards both high school and their confirmation goals

Important Quotes

- ✚ "Our faith formation feels segmented. There are good programs when we were younger: Children's liturgy of the Word, First Communion program, and vacation Bible School. But then there is nothing until Confirmation. That is too late."
- ✚ "Why can't faith be fun?"
- ✚ "BCHS is where my faith is. I would like to feel connected to my parish, but I don't."
- ✚ "The church needs to be more inviting, less old-fashioned."
- ✚ "I see my protestant friends more involved in their youth ministry programs."