

# Diocese of Bridgeport Parish Pastoral Plan “Building a Bridge to the Future”

## Part One: Introductory Information

**Parish:**

St. Matthew Church

**Pastor:**

Msgr. Walter C. Orlowski

**Date:**

October 8, 2016

**Parish Task Force Members:**

- 1) Msgr. Walter C. Orlowski
- 2) Fr. Sunil Pereira
- 3) Fr. Tomi Thomas
- 4) Sr. Sally Norcross
- 5) Beth Ann Murray
- 6) Mare Yannetti
- 7) Liz Reid
- 8) Kim Oeding
- 9) Lynn Burke
- 10) JoAnn Esposito
- 11) Mariko Dahl
- 12) Joanne Obst
- 13) Jennifer Barrett
- 14) Xavier Guzman
- 15) Michael Munisteri
- 16) Barbara Chiamulera
- 17) Christine Toombs

**Leadership Position:**

- Pastor
- Parochial Vicar
- Parochial Vicar
- Pastoral Council
- Pastoral Council
- Pastoral Council
- Pastoral Council
- Pastoral Council
- Pastoral Council
- Pastoral Council
- Pastoral Council
- Pastoral Council
- Member of Synod Commission
- Member of Synod Commission
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**Parish Mission Statement:** The Parish Family of Saint Matthew is a prayerful Catholic Community. Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness and celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we share our gifts with faith, hope and love in service to all.

**Signature of the Pastor:**



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**A. Pastoral Challenge to be addressed: Liturgy and Worship**

**B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:**

*“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20.* Worship encompasses the spiritual life of our Parish, which serves to build up the Body of Christ through personal and communal prayer. Through the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist, liturgies, sacraments and devotions, we proclaim our faith and carry out the mission of evangelization by giving public witness to the Gospel.

**C. Statement of the First Goal to be achieved:**

To grow, strengthen and enrich the worship life of adults and youth in our Parish and to foster spirituality, Catholic identity and personal commitment to an active participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

**a. Action Step #1 to achieve the First Goal:**

Adult and Youth Liturgical Mass Ministry Recruitment and Trainings equipping ministers for their role to enable the faithful to pray in a sacred place.

Timeline: Quarterly

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Tomi, Fr. Sunil, Louie Durango, Nancy Mola, Liz Reid, Lynn Burke, Mare Yannetti

**b. Action Step #2 to achieve the First Goal:**

Engaging Youth and Families in Worship

9AM Youth Mass, exclusively served by Youth Ministers

Timeline: Weekly

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Tomi, Louie Durango

9AM Family Mass, Youth Ministers and parents, siblings and family serve together

Timeline: Fourth Sunday of Every Month

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Tomi, Louie Durango

5PM Contemporary Mass, with Youth Band and Confirmation Candidates serving

as lectors and ushers.

Timeline: Weekly

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Tomi, Nancy Mola, Val Wyman

**c. Action Step #3 to achieve the First Goal:**

Expanded Devotional Programs

24-Hour Adoration, 24-Hour Rosary and Spiritual Healing Anointing

Timeline: Bi-annual

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Tomi, Ramona Bouffard

40 Hours of Adoration for Thanksgiving

Timeline: Once/year

Coordinator: Fr. Tomi

Intercessory Prayer Group

Timeline: Daily

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Tomi, Ramona Bouffard

Family Stations of the Cross

Timeline: Seasonal

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Sunil, Fr. Tomi, Michele Scholl, Lori Paladino, Liz Reid

Pilgrimages to Divine Mercy Shrine, MA and to Rome

Timeline: November, 2016; April, 2017

Coordinators/Task Force: Maria Pino, Lorraine DeRosa

Cost: Divine Mercy - \$35; Rome - \$2,899

**d. Action Step #4 to achieve the First Goal:**

Cultivating the Parish as a welcoming place where “*all* are invited to join in the feast, to the joy of being saved, to the joy of being redeemed,” in the words of Pope Francis.

Welcome Kiosk in the Vestibule

Timeline: Weekly

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Sunil, Sr. Sally, Kim Oeding

Welcome Mass/Reception for Newly Baptized Families, Godparents, Grandparents and friends Timeline: Bi-annual

Coordinator: Lorraine DeRosa

Welcome Mass/Reception Celebrating Couples' Wedding Anniversaries

Timeline: Monthly

Coordinator: Lorraine DeRosa

Welcome Mass/Reception for New Parishioners

Timeline: Once/year

Coordinator: Pam Kress

Book Give-Away Program/Welcome Brochure: Re-Engaging Disengaged Catholics and Increasing Engagement Among Regulars. Christmas is the biggest opportunity to reengage 32% of people who only come to Church once/twice a year.

Timeline: Christmas, 2016: "Resisting Happiness" by Matthew Kelly;

Ash Wednesday, 2017; TBD

Coordinator/Task Force: Msgr. Walter, Mariko Dahl

Evangelical Outreach Team: Home-visits/calls to inactive Catholics in the Parish

Timeline: January 2017

Coordinator: Fr. Tomi

Bi-Lingual Mass Readings, 24-Hour Rosary, Prayers of the Faithful, and Music

Timeline: Seasonal

Coordinator/Task Force: Msgr. Walter, Fr. Sunil, Fr. Tomi, Val Wyman

e. **Action Step #5 to achieve the First Goal:**

Faith Sharing Witness Talks at Mass, in Small Groups, Social Media

Timeline: Monthly

Coordinator: Fr. Sunil

f. **Action Step #6 to achieve the First Goal:**

Worship Together Masses, where all Ministries and newly-formed communities worship together as a group at Sunday Mass.

Timeline: bi-annual

Coordinator/Task Force: Ministry leader of each organization

g. **Action Step #7 to achieve the First Goal:**

Homiletics Seminar for Priests to improve the relevance and quality of homilies.

Timeline annual

Coordinator: Msgr. Walter

***\*The aforementioned programs are accounted for within the annual general budget. Programs that are paid for by program participants in portion and with scholarships are noted.***

**A. Pastoral Challenge to be addressed: Catechesis and Education**

**B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:**

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20.* Catechesis is the element which teaches, explains and informs parishioners of all ages in the Scriptures and traditions of the Church with each person led to a deeper relationship with Christ. Catechesis takes place in a wide variety of contexts, both formal and informal.

**C. Statement of the Second Goal to be achieved:**

To deepen our love for and knowledge of Christ so that like the Apostles and disciples we are inspired to share the Good News with others.

**a. Action Step #1 to achieve Second Goal:**

Teaching Masses by our Priests with written explanation (via bulletin/website/social media) for increased knowledge of and appreciation for the Celebration of the Eucharist.

Timeline: Bi-annual

Coordinator/Task Force: Msgr. Walter, Fr. Sunil, Fr. Tomi

**b. Action Step #2 to achieve Second Goal:**

Teaching Seminars, following 9AM

Mass Timeline: Quarterly

Coordinator: Liz Reid

Seminar # 1: “The Joy of Love” – Sr. Patricia McCarthy, Oct. 23, 2016

Seminar # 2: “Questions You Always Wanted to Ask but Were Afraid To” – Rose Talbot-Babey from The Catholic Center, Dec. 11, 2016

Seminar # 3: “The Eucharist” (request pending re Evan Psensik from The Catholic Center), Feb. 26, 2017

Seminar # 4: Heaven, Hell and Purgatory (request pending re Patrick Donovan from The Catholic Center), Mar. 26, 2017

**c. Action Step #3 to achieve Second Goal:**

Bible Study

Timeline – Bi-annual

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Tomi, Jennifer Gilchrist

Cost \$30/person.

**d. Action Step #4 to achieve Second Goal:**

Digital Technology Catechesis Programs for 24/7 Access:

Online Bible Enrichment Program: Fr. Tomi's Bible Quiz via email/Social Media

Timeline – Daily

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Tomi, Mare Yannetti, Ann Yannetti

Wednesdays with Fr. Video Series from our priests via Parish Website/Social Media

Timeline – Weekly

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Tomi, Ann Yannetti

Faith between Sundays - Early-Morning Daily Faith Inspirational designed to help parishioners keep connected to their faith, via email and Social Media

Timeline: Daily

Coordinator/Task Force: Mare Yannetti, Ann Yannetti

Mini Online Retreats/Homilies/Saint Stories via Loyola Press, EWTN

Multimedia Library, Presentation Ministries

Timeline: monthly

Coordinator/Task Force: Beth Ann Murray, Mare Yannetti, Ann Yannetti

**e. Action Step #5 to achieve Second Goal:**

Popular Speaker Events to address relevant Issues

Timeline: Bi-annual

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Tomi, Beth Ann Murray

**f. Action Step #6 to achieve Second Goal:**

Small Group Masses

Timeline: Quarterly

Coordinator: Fr. Tomi

**g. Action Step #7 to achieve Second Goal:**

Talk to A Priest – We’re Here for You Daily

Timeline: Monday-Friday, 9AM-12Noon

Coordinator/Task Force: Msgr. Walter, Fr. Tomi, Fr. Sunil

**h. Action Step #8 to achieve Second Goal:**

Enhanced Youth Catechetical Program and Opportunities for engagement, with a focus on *Faith in Action*. In addition to classroom teachings using the Matthew Kelly Decision Point Program, and a Retreat at the Holy Family Retreat Center in Farmington (Autumn, 2017, prior to Confirmation), our service projects are aimed at teaching through the practice of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and in conjunction with Community Building.

Coordinator/Task Force: Michele Scholl, Lori Paladino, Liz Reid

*Bus Rider Program*: youth assist with helping elderly parishioners on and off the bus before and after the 4PM Saturday Mass. Timeline: 6X/school year

*Notre Dame Pasta Supper*: youth assist with set up, serving, clean up, Nov. 10

*Adopt a Veteran Day* at Notre Dame Nursing Home, Nov. 12

*Spring Cleaning at Notre Dame Nursing Home* – assist with planting and Spring cleaning, Spring 2017

*Faith Formation Classroom Helper*, ongoing

*Cooking with a Purpose*: help prepare and cook on Tuesday nights for Wednesday Meal Deliveries for the elderly and those in need, 6X/school year; help set up, serve and clean up at monthly Community Dollar Dinners, 3X/school year

*Open Door Shelter*: help food shop and stock the pantry with the Manna House Ministry, 4X/school year

*Christmas Tree and Wreath Delivery*: help decorate and deliver wreaths to homebound parishioners, Dec. 3

*St. Matthew Food Pantry*: help stock shelves at pantry, 8X/school year

*Babysitting*: assist with watching children for Single Parent Support Group, 6X/school year

*Church Clean-up*: assist with cleaning and vacuuming of the Church, 8X/school year

*Family Service Confirmation Project*: candidates choose a project to do with one or more parent and siblings for: Al’s Angels meal bin assembly, *Sundaes on*

*Sunday, Malta House Painting with Knights of Columbus*

The Crew Youth Group: Middle and High School students deepen their personal relationship with Christ through service, faith growth and social activities. Students will be reaching out into the community to do service projects and to connect with other young Catholics in the Diocese. The Crew's mission is to respond to the Bishop's call to service during the Year of Mercy.

Timeline, 2016-17

Coordinator/Task Force: Mariko Dahl, Filomena Giannico, Mariaelana Bazzano

***\*The aforementioned programs are accounted for within the annual general budget. Programs that are paid for by program participants in portion and with scholarships are noted.***



**A. Temporalities and Administrative Challenge to be addressed: Community Life**

**B. Rationale for Choosing this Priority Area:**

*“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40.* Community encompasses many of the doctrinal themes of the Church. We are all one body united in Christ, forming one Church, one people, united by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As a Parish Community, we are called to engender a sense of belonging emboldened by our modeling inclusivity, mutuality and reaching out.

**C. Statement of the Third Goal:**

To proactively engage Parishioners in the life of the Community, promoting inclusiveness in all aspects of Parish life, and to recruit Parishioners for social justice and service opportunities that draw upon their interests, gift and talents.

**a. Action Step # 1 to achieve Third Goal:**

Social Service Programs: Our Family of Faith is invited to participate in our programs and activities which address the needs of our Parish and local Communities.

*Cooking with a Purpose Meal Preparation and Delivery from St. Matthew Kitchen, Coordinator/Task Force: Cristina Brown, Eric Benitez*

*Wednesday Meals for Seniors, Coordinator: Terri Sargent*

*St. Matthew Food Pantry, Coordinator/Task Force: Sr. Sally, Anita Mancusi*

*Community Dollar Dinner in the Great Room, Coordinator/Task Force: Cristina Brown, Eric Benitez*

*Community Garden on the Rectory Grounds, Coordinator: Lee Taylor*

*Open Door Shelter/Manna House Ministry, Coordinator: Laura Czegledi*

*Toolbelt Ministry, Coordinator: Greg Augustyniak*

*St. Martha’s Ministry, Coordinator: Lucy Mazzo*

*Tutoring, Coordinator: Sr. Sally*

*Bocce Teams, Coordinator: Mariko Dahl*

**b. Action Step #2 to achieve Third Goal:**

Support Groups:

*Single Parents*, Coordinator: Jennifer Covello, Timeline: Bi-weekly

*Immigration Consultation*, Coordinator: Anthony Febles,

Timeline: Weekly, (Oct-Dec 2016)

*Elderly & Caregivers*, Coordinator: Patrick Kelley, Timeline: Nov. 2016

*Bereavement*, Coordinator: Sr. Sally, Timeline: Weekly

*Stroller Brigade*, Coordinator: Mariko Dahl, Timeline: Weekly

**c. Action Step #3 to achieve Third Goal:**

Visitation Ministry: Pastoral Care Visits to our Homebound

Coordinator: Sr. Sally

Timeline: Weekly

**d. Action Step #4 to achieve Third Goal:**

Workshops on Relevant Personal Issues

Timeline: Quarterly

Coordinator/Task Force: Fr. Tomi, Beth Ann Murray

*Legal Seminar on Immigration: Know Your Rights*, Anthony Febles; Sept. 30, 2016

*Marriage, Divorce and Annulment*, Nov. 17. 2016

*Financial Peace University and Youth Financial Program*, Kim Oeding;

Sept. - Dec. 2016; Cost: \$49 per family

***\*The aforementioned programs are accounted for within the annual general budget. Programs that are paid for by program participants in portion and with scholarships are noted.***

## **Status of St. Matthew Parish Life under the Challenges Not Addressed**

**Finances:** Our Parish is financially sound and sustainable, with no debt. Finances as of June 30, 2016 show increased revenue; future Revenue Increase Initiatives are planned.

**Building and Facilities:** The current condition of our campus buildings is excellent. We own all of the buildings and grounds: Church, Rectory, Parish hall, and Barn. Grounds are in excellent condition with completion of parking lot reconstruction, repaving and drainage (Sept. 2016). We have installed new exterior/interior signage on our property to welcome and facilitate flow for visitors. We are investigating the feasibility of building a gymnasium on our grounds to foster recreational opportunities for youth and health-conscious adults.

**Family Life:** In the words of St. Pope John Paul II, *“As the Family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the world in which we live.”* St. Matthew recognizes and supports the diverse structures, needs, economic statuses and cultural heritages of our families. We partner with families in educating and supporting the faith formation of all family members across their lifespan. At St. Matthew, we are all part of the St. Matthew Parish Family – married, single, divorced, separated, child, teen, young or old – we are all connected in Christ’s family.

**Evangelization:** St. Matthew Church effectively calls *everyone* to know the Good News of salvation, not only those who attend Mass, but those who are marginalized and those who may have given up on their faith. We launched the Year of Mercy by closing down the Parish office and throwing open our doors to anyone who wanted to speak with a priest – about any topic – without an appointment. This initiative resonated not only at the Parish and Diocesan level, but was modeled nationally (Kentucky) and internationally (Archdiocese of Adelaide, South Australia). We continued to seek out innovative ways to spread the Faith on Ash Wednesday, by taking to the road to meet people *outside the pews*. The St. Matthew On the Move “Ashes to Go” Initiative brought our priests, nun and laity to businesses, parking lots and a college campus distributing ashes along with a “Welcome Bag” of Lenten reading material with bulletin. St. Matthew has heeded Bishop Caggiano’s call to be “Digital Evangelizers” engaging, informing, and inspiring people of faith on three social media platforms, the new marketplace of communication in our culture. We are bringing about a renewed enthusiasm to the members of our Parish for living and sharing their faith through our Faith-Sharing Witness Talks, and by uniting in *living our shared faith* through social service programs.

**Leadership:** Leadership at St. Matthew is strong and vibrant, with over 220 youth and adults in Mass Ministry and over 500 adults signed on for our *Faith Renewal Aspiration Programs*. All Ministry participants will attend the Diocesan Catholic Leadership Program.