



Saint Matthew Church

216 Scribner Avenue • Norwalk, Connecticut 06854 • (203) 838-3788 • stmatthewnorwalk.org

PRELIMINARY CASE FOR SUPPORT

Our Community of Faith

From its humble beginnings in 1957 as a parish without a proper church, Saint Matthew has blossomed into a vibrant and prayerful Catholic community empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness and to celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Inspired by the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, Saint Matthew's parishioners generously share their gifts in service to all, especially those most in need.

Our Challenge

Over the course of the past 60 years, Saint Matthew's community has lived through nearly every element of the founding and development of a parish. In less than the span of one lifetime, we have known the challenges of the multi-purpose Spiritual Center, the joy of building our parish church, and the fulfillment of our dream to have a Parish Center that serves as a life-giving hub of faith formation, pastoral ministry, and community celebration.

Today, in an increasingly secular time, we face our next great challenge as a community of faith: to maintain the Church as the heart of our spiritual, service, and social lives.

Our Vision

At the time Saint Matthew was founded, a parish was still at the center of most people's cultural experience. People worshipped in parish churches; children were educated in parish schools; families socialized with one another at parish functions; and the elderly came together for regular parish activities. Today, the average family has so many demands on their time and energy that they are very often pulled away from a more meaningful experience of parish life.

Our vision for Saint Matthew is to create a safe, welcoming, and practical recreation space that would offer people of all ages the opportunity to engage in a variety of social, physical, intellectual, and catechetical activities while remaining connected to our parish family.

To realize this vision, Saint Matthew is considering a fundraising campaign to develop a new multi-purpose recreation center, while also enhancing some of its current parish facilities in need of maintenance.

PARISH SNAPSHOT

Founded in 1957

Current church built in 1982

2,073 Parish families

523 children in Religious Ed

Six weekend Masses

Church capacity of 1,000 people

Over two dozen Parish programs

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Msgr. Walter C. Orłowski, VF, KCHS
Dean & Pastor

Rev. Sunil Pereira, I.M.S.
Rev. Tomi Thomas, I.M.S.
Parochial Vicars

Sr. Sally Norcross, C.N.D.
Pastoral Minister

Mare Yannetti
Administrative Assistant

Maureen Moccia
Secretary

Steve Buckett
Bookkeeper

Ralph Bosch
Parish Financial Advisor

Richard Albertelli
Pastoral Minister Assistant

Ann Yannetti
Communications

Melodie Noga
Director of Religious Education

Liz Reid
Confirmation Coordinator

Megan Riobo
Youth Coordinator

Valerie Wyman
Director of Music Ministry

Lisa Moretti
Adult & Youth Choir

Betsy McGowen
Angel Choir

Tim Horne & Jack Consiglio
Maintenance Engineers

Lorraine DeRosa
Baptism & Wedding Coordinator

OUR PLAN *for* THE FUTURE



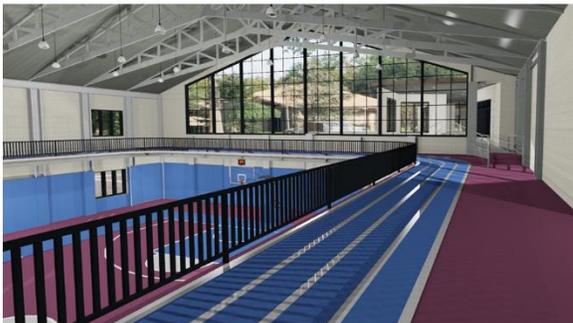
Perspective from Parking Lot



Connection of New Recreation Center to Existing Hall



Lower Level Court



Upper Level Track

Capturing the Moment

The recent Synod here in the Diocese of Bridgeport challenged every person in the Diocese to take up the Gospel mandate by addressing the needs of the whole person – mind, body, and spirit. As the demands and opportunities of our culture continue to draw people away from parish life, the Church must take up the call of the Synod if we are to remain viable now and into the future.

Parish Recreation Center

The proposal to develop a Parish Recreation Center aims to invite parishioners and the broader community to place the Church at the center of their lives by building upon and enhancing the success of our Parish Center since its dedication in 1996. The Recreation Center will enable Saint Matthew to offer a variety of new programs and events, including the following:

- Organized athletic programs for people of all ages
- Team and league-based sporting events
- Exercise opportunities for youth and families
- Walking programs for more senior parishioners
- Catechetical and faith formation classes
- Interactive programs focused on care of the whole person

The center will feature a **multi-purpose gymnasium with a full-sized basketball court, an elevated walking track, and additional meeting space** to supplement what is already available in the Parish Center.

The additional meeting space will be focused on catechetical and faith formation classes for all ages and a new series of programs to care for the mind, body, and soul of children, teens, adults, and seniors.

Renovations to the Church, Chapel & Parish Center

In addition to the transformative Parish Recreation Center project, Saint Matthew has a variety of maintenance needs that require our responsible stewardship:

Church Renovations

- Replace the carpeting, which is 11 years old
- Inspect and replace (as needed) all upholstery and cushions on pews and kneelers
- Repair flat roofs, which are currently leaking

Chapel Renovations

- Install a new, state-of-the-art furnace and ventilation system

Parish Center Renovations

- Replace the air conditioning, which is 21 years old, on the roof on the Center
- Reconfigure and update the interior to create a warmer and more welcoming environment to serve as the daily face of Saint Matthew

OUR RESPONSIBILITY *to* THE CHURCH

Partnering with Our Diocese

Our parish planning comes at a time when the Diocese of Bridgeport is in the early stages of its own capital campaign, a comprehensive fundraising effort involving every parish in the Diocese. This timing presents our parish with the opportunity to partner with Bishop Caggiano and the Diocese to support the mission of Saint Matthew and the broader Church of Bridgeport. The Diocesan campaign seeks to raise \$75 million to promote the initiatives of the Fourth Diocesan Synod by advancing the following key objectives:

- **STRENGTHEN LOCAL PARISHES** by sharing 50% of the funds raised with parishes to support evangelization, education, and worship programs; the renovation or construction of parish facilities; and permanent funding for maintenance \$37,500,000
- **ENSURE THE VIBRANCY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION** by directing current-use and endowment funds to Foundations in Education, Inc., to advance student scholarships, academic innovations, and professional development \$12,500,000
- **ENHANCE PASTORAL MINISTRIES** by endowing programs that enrich religious education, faith formation, and youth ministry; form young men for the priesthood; provide for the future care of retired priests; increase evangelization efforts; meet the pastoral needs of the elderly in nursing homes; and support those with developmental disabilities \$15,000,000
- **EXPAND WORKS OF CHARITY FOR THE POOR AND DISENFRANCHISED** by endowing the mission of Catholic Charities to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, welcome the stranger, and support families in need \$10,000,000

This campaign will catalyze renewal throughout the Church of Bridgeport by addressing vital needs within our parishes, schools, ministries, and charitable programs.

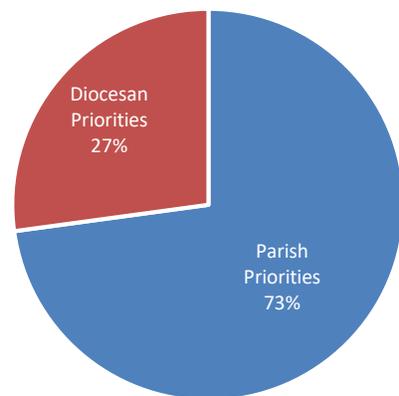
Combining Our Goals

As part of the larger campaign, each parish in the Diocese has been assigned a goal based on a percentage of its annual offertory. In the case of Saint Matthew, our Diocesan goal is \$1,062,192, which *includes* our parish's Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) commitment of \$200,000 for 2018.

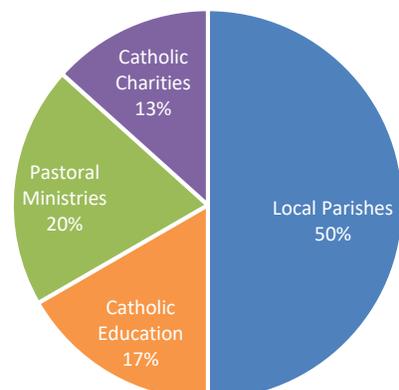
The Diocesan campaign will be joined with Saint Matthew's parish campaign to provide for both the needs of our parish and the needs of the broader Church of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Parish Priorities	Amount
Recreation Center	\$2,600,000
Renovations to Church, Chapel, and Parish Center	\$250,000
Diocesan Campaign Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Education • Pastoral Ministries • Catholic Charities 	\$862,192
2018 Annual Catholic Appeal Goal	\$200,000
TOTAL	\$3,912,192

Breakdown of Saint Matthew's Total Goal



Breakdown of Diocesan Campaign Priorities



OPPORTUNITY *to* HELP

Our Feasibility and Planning Study

After much prayer and deliberation, Msgr. Walter and the leadership of Saint Matthew have decided to conduct a Feasibility and Planning Study to determine if moving forward with a parish fundraising campaign is a sound decision. This study will take the form of a series of strategic interviews and surveys designed to provide important information about the financial resources available at Saint Matthew and the level of support for the proposed plans.

The study will be conducted by CCS, a professional fundraising firm with 70 years' experience in evaluating, designing, and leading capital campaigns for Catholic parishes throughout the United States, including parishes within the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Your Participation

Msgr. Walter and the Parish leadership ask you to participate in the Feasibility and Planning Study.

Your participation in the Study will be essential to understanding the best ways to plan and position a campaign for Saint Matthew. The objective of the campaign would be to ensure that every family or individual connected with Saint Matthew Parish is invited to support the effort in a meaningful and sacrificial way.

Saint Matthew's parish leadership will use the results of the Study to formulate a strategy regarding the proposed campaign, determine a reasonable financial goal, and identify volunteer leadership to spearhead the fundraising effort.

Thank you for your thoughtful participation in this important initiative.

