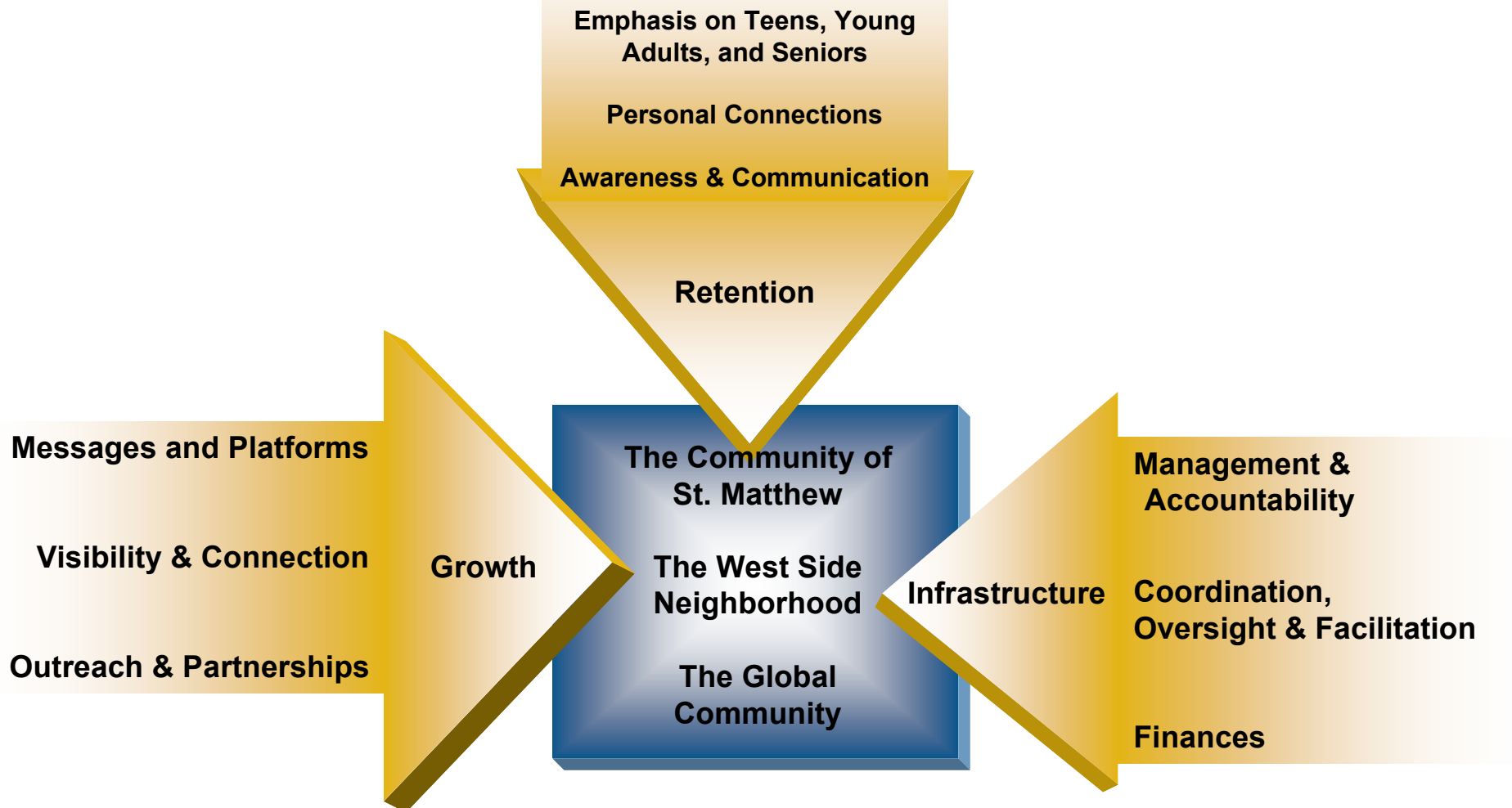


St. Matthew's Exists in the World as a Visible Expression of God's Love





St. Matthew's Exists in the World as a Visible Expression of God's Love

Top Initiatives for FY2006

- Monthly calendar of events prepared and distributed on the website and as a bulletin insert
- Brochure prepared from each committee & affinity group distributed on the website and as a component of an overall brochure to be used as a communication platform reaching out to prospective members
- Parish Open House and Ministry Fair
(week of Catholic Schools Week in January 2006)
- Parish Council annual meeting committed and scheduled for early next fiscal year (early September)
- Parish enrichment plan for lifelong learning developed (teen → death)
- Stewardship Committee formed (9-person organization focused on time, talent, and treasure, including the completion of a time/talent stewardship drive)
- Finances in place to support the recruitment of an appropriate leader to provide overall leadership to community operations
- Parish Council constitution and by-laws ratified
- Hospitality events (after Sunday masses beginning the 1st Sunday of Advent)

St. Matthew's Exists in the World as a Visible Expression of God's Love

St. Matthew's Parish Council Mid-Year Update for Fiscal Year 2006

Over the past few months, members of the St. Matthew's Community have met with Fr. Adrian, members of the Parish Council, and with each other to discuss matters of our community as they relate to these questions:

- What are we doing, and we should continue to do
- What are we doing, but we should stop doing
- What are we not doing, but we should be doing

Your Parish Council has received the feedback from these meetings, and has agreed to the following initiatives to be completed by the end of June 2006. For each initiative, a council member has agreed to oversee it to help ensure its achievement.

As an overview, it was agreed the three most important areas of focus for us are:

- 1) The Retention Of Existing Members Of The St. Matthew's Community
- 2) The Growth Of The St. Matthew's Community
- 3) The Infrastructure

From those ideas, nine SMART initiatives were put forward that were Simple, Measurable, Achievable, Realizable, and Timely-in this case, able to be completed by the end of June 2006. Listed here are the nine top initiatives that were forwarded to the Parish Council for action. After the list is a brief explanation of each for your review, insight and awareness. The Parish Council has agreed to adopt these initiatives and help ensure results by the end of June 2006.

If successful, we are confident improvement will be realized in each of the 3 important areas of focus we agreed to above.

Top Initiatives

1. Monthly Calendar Of Events Prepared And Distributed On The Website And As A Bulletin Insert
2. Brochure Prepared From Each Committee & Affinity Group Distributed On The Website And As A Component Of An Overall Brochure To Be Used As A Communication Platform Reaching Out To Prospective Members
3. Parish Open House (Week Of Catholic Schools Week In January 2006-1/29/06))
4. Parish Council Annual Meeting Committed And Scheduled For Early Next Fiscal Year (Early September)
5. Parish Enrichment Plan For Lifelong Learning Developed (Teen To Death)
6. Stewardship Committee Formed (9-Person Organization Focused On Time, Talent, And Treasure, Including The Completion Of A Time/Talent Stewardship Drive)
7. Finances In Place To Support The Recruitment Of An Appropriate Leader To Provide Overall Leadership To Community Operations
8. Parish Council Constitution And By-Laws Ratified
9. Hospitality Events (After Sunday Masses Beginning The 1st Sunday Of Advent)

Monthly Calendar Of Events Prepared And Distributed On The Website And As A Bulletin Insert

Members asked for more, and for more advanced visibility into the activities of the committees and affinity groups of the St. Matthew's Community. By the end of June, these will be pulled together on a monthly basis, and made available as an insert in the bulletin, as well as on the st-matts.org website.

Brochure Prepared From Each Committee & Affinity Group Distributed On The Website And As A Component Of An Overall Brochure To Be Used As A Communication Platform Reaching Out To Prospective Members

Members suggested a brochure be put together that would communicate the various ministries/services offered through the St. Matthew's Community. This brochure could be used to communicate with current members, but also be used to recruit new members. It would be made available on the st-matts.org website, individually by ministry or service, and as part of a comprehensive version.

Parish Open House (To be held January 29, 2006-during Catholic Schools Week)

Members suggested an event that would enable people to meet with members of the various ministries/services offered at St. Matthew's. It would provide them the chance to better understand what the ministries/services are about, and ask any questions they may have.

Parish Council Annual Meeting Committed And Scheduled For Early Next Fiscal Year (Early September)

Members asked that they have more visibility into the overall state of the St. Matthew's Community. An annual meeting type of format appears to be the best way of accomplishing this. Everyone will be invited to a meeting, and the state of parish will be communicated from the perspective of the parish council. This meeting is expected to include a review of finances, a report of the various ministries/services, and questions from the meeting attendees. This meeting will be scheduled (tentatively for the early September 2006 timeframe) and an agenda posted on the st-matts.org website, and as an insert in the bulletin, by the end of June 2006.

Parish Enrichment Plan For Lifelong Learning Developed (Teen > Death)

Members expressed interest in our developing a lifelong learning program around our faith that would supplement the religious education and training that currently stops for most of us after confirmation. With this in mind, the initial focus was suggested around young adults and seniors. This particular initiative would ask the Parish Enrichment Committee to plan such a curriculum by the end of June 2006, but if they don't feel they can do so because of the relatively small size of their committee, the parish council would be open to forming another committee that would be more program in nature, leaving the Parish Enrichment Committee to focus on individual events as they have in the past.

Stewardship Committee Formed (9-Person Organization Focused On Time, Talent, And Treasure, Including The Completion Of A Time/Talent Stewardship Drive

We will be forming a Stewardship Committee that will oversee and facilitate the stewardship mission of the St. Matthew Community as it relates to time, talent and treasure. This 9-member committee will be established, and up and operational by the end of June 2006. John Sekevitch has agreed to oversee this initiative. If you have an interest in joining this committee, please email John at jsekevitch@mac.com or call him any time at 651-303-7565.

Finances In Place To Support The Recruitment Of An Appropriate Leader To Provide Overall Leadership To Community Operations

One of the areas of interest by the members was that of overall operations leadership and management. The initiative we have in place here that can be accomplished by the end of June 2006 is that we want to be positioned in such a way that we will be able to add a staff member in this operations leadership role effective July 1, 2006, to help alleviate some of that workload from Fr. Adrian. That means we have to have our finances in place, the job description and selection process in place, recruitment of suitable candidates to have occurred, the selection process executed, and the person named and ready to start.

From a finances point of view, we need to come up with additional funds for the budget next year. We have a balanced budget for this year, but as you can see from the bulletin, we are running about \$20,000 short year-to-date. That means we have to make up that shortfall in revenue for next year's budget, because we can't really cut enough out of the budget, without cutting some of the programs we as a St. Matthew's Community have already deemed and committed to as being important.

Additionally then, we want to come up with the additional funds for this Operations Director position. The Stewardship Committee will be investing a good portion of its focus on time, talent and treasure on achieving this plan, and realizing this objective.

Parish Council Constitution And By-Laws Ratified

As you know, the Parish Council is in the process of moving from the role of being an advisory body for Fr. Adrian to one of being a governance body in partnership with him. In alignment with that more inclusive role, we are moving from a hierarchical decision-making process to a consensus decision-making process. We are making changes to the constitution and the by-laws of the parish council to accommodate these changes. We want the new constitution and by-laws to be ratified by the St. Matthew Community by the end of June 2006. Work still needs to be done, and more communication will take place to accomplish this goal. Stay tuned!

Hospitality Events (After Sunday Masses Beginning The 1st Sunday Of Advent)

One of the strong desires emerging from meeting with members of the St. Matthew's Community over the past few months is for members to get together to share their hospitality, and to know those opportunities are available on a regular basis. We are helping to meet that desire.

Every week, after each of the Sunday masses beginning the First Sunday of Advent November 27th, with the exception of holidays and special events, members of the St. Matthew's Community can get together to visit with each other while enjoying a cup of coffee or glass of juice, and a muffin, bagel, donut or danish in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome.

John Del Vecchio has agreed to chair the Hospitality Committee that will coordinate these events, and he is interested in having a committee of people that would enjoy participating in this ministry.

If you would like to participate on the hospitality committee, please call John at 651-221-0871. Again, everyone is welcome. See you after mass!

Other Thoughts

Not specifically identified as initiatives, but expectations the parish council has for areas of improvement through June 2006 include:

- 1) Better Communication - with the community, and with and among the committees and affinity groups.
- 2) Living up to the "welcoming" reputation of the St. Matthew's Community as a council, and as committees and affinity groups, to foster a real sense of belonging to community members and volunteers.
- 3) Recognizing in meaningful ways the extraordinary contributions being made by community members as they relate to time, talent and treasure in support of our mission.

We thank you for your investment of time, talent and treasure to our St. Matthew's Community. We welcome your continuing involvement, and even expanded participation in accomplishing the work of being a visible expression of God's love in our community.