October 4, 2026 Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

ST. MARK & ST. MATTHEW
PARISH FAMILY



Our Lady of the Rosary with Child
by Simone Cantarini

St. Mark
18033 15th Pl NE, Shoreline, WA 98155
saintmarkshoreline.org
Church Hours: M-F 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

St. Matthew
1240 NE 127th St., Seattle, WA 98125
stmatthewseattle.org
Church Hours: Mass Days, 8:30 am -10:30 am

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday	5:00 pm	St. Mark St. Matthew
Sunday	8:00 am	St. Matthew
	8:30 am	St. Mark
	10:00 am	St. Matthew
	10:30 am	St. Mark

DAILY MASS

Monday	9:00 am	St. Mark
Tuesday	9:00 am	St. Matthew
Wednesday	6:00 pm	St. Mark
Thursday	9:00 am	St. Matthew
Friday	9:00 am	St. Mark
Saturday	9:00 am	St. Mark

CONFESSION

Wednesday	5-6:00 pm	St. Mark
Saturday	3-4:30 pm	St. Mark
	4-4:30 pm	St. Matthew

Or by appointment

St. Mark & St. Matthew Parish Family

@stmarkmatthewparish

PARISH FAMILY CALENDAR

ST. MARK

Sunday, October 4 ~ St. Francis of Assisi
Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am ~ Sunday Mass, Coffee Hour, Hall
10:30 am ~ Sunday Mass, Coffee Hour, Hall

Monday, October 5 ~ St. Faustina

9:00 am ~ Daily Mass (*Emma Reed*)
2:00 pm ~ Parish Prayer Team, Church
6:30 pm ~ Family Rosary, Church
7:00 pm ~ Boy Scout Troop Meeting, Cafeteria
7:00 pm ~ Friends of St. Francis Meeting, Hall

Tuesday, October 6

10:00 am ~ Bible Study, Hall
7:00 pm ~ Women's Group Meeting, Hall
7:00 pm ~ St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, Library

Wednesday, October 7 ~ Our Lady of the Rosary

11:30 am ~ Women's Group Rosary, Hall
5:00 pm ~ Confessions, Church
6:00 pm ~ Daily Mass (*Lorene Rushton* +)
6:45 pm ~ Confirmation Class, Library
6:45 pm ~ Foundations of Faith/OCIA Class, Hall

Thursday, October 8

4:00 pm ~ First Reconciliation Class, Library
~~6:00 pm ~ Volleyball Open Gym, Gym~~

Friday, October 9

9:00 am ~ Daily Mass (*Patti D'Angelo*)
Followed by All-Day Adoration, Church

Saturday, October 10

7:30 am ~ Lion's Den Meeting, Hall
8:45 am ~ Benediction, Church
9:00 am ~ Daily Mass (Art & Clara Johns+)
3:00 pm ~ Scout 70th Anniversary BBQ, Gym
3:00 pm ~ Confessions, Church
5:00 pm ~ Vigil Mass
6:00 pm ~ Young Adult Group Meeting, Hall

ST. MATTHEW

Sunday, October 4 ~
Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am ~ Sunday Mass, Coffee Hour, CC Gym
10:00 am ~ Sunday Mass, Coffee Hour, CC Gym
11:00 am ~ Catholic Conversation, Conf. Room

Monday, October 5 ~ St. Faustina

~~5:00 pm ~ Legion of Mary Meeting, Parish Ministry Room~~
7:30 pm ~ Adult Volleyball Games, CC Gym

Tuesday, October 6

9:00 am ~ Daily Mass (*Justo & Luis Lozada* +)
9:45 am ~ Sr. Group Family Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet, Church
7:00 pm ~ St. Vincent de Paul, Conf. Room

Wednesday, October 7 ~ Our Lady of the Rosary

9:00 am ~ Sr. Group Novena to Mary & Family Rosary, Church
10:00 am ~ Sr. Group Rosary Making, Library
6:30 pm ~ CYO Adult Volleyball, CC Gym
7:00 pm ~ Psalms Study, Parish Ministry Room

Thursday, October 8

9:00 am ~ Sr. Group Novena to Mary & Family Rosary, Church
11:00 am ~ Funeral Mass (*Therese Agnes Phipps* +)
12:30 pm ~ Graveside Blessing, Holyrood

Friday, October 9

None Scheduled

Saturday, October 10

8:00 am ~ Cursillo Movement, Parish Library
11:30 am ~ Public Rosary Rally, Grotto
4:00 pm ~ Confessions, Church
5:00 pm ~ Vigil Mass

PARISH FAMILY STAFF



Pastor
Fr. Ross



Director of Operations
Julianna D'Angelo
DOO@stmps.org



Principal
Kathryn Palmquist Keck
principal@stmss.org



Stewardship
Jeannette Acheson
jeannettea@saintmarkshoreline.org



Parochial Vicar
Fr. Davis



Director of Facilities
Eddie Ross
Facilities@stmps.org



Faith Formation
Anne Lombard
Anne@stmps.org

Information Technology
Stephen Sprague
IT@stmps.org

ST. MARK

Parish Office
(206)-364-7900
office@stmkmt.org

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline
(206)-767-6449



Bookkeeper
MyLinh Ngo
bookkeeping
@saintmarkshoreline.org



Music Ministry
Greg Teeter

Liturgy
Russ Foisy

Facilities
Joe Lombard

ST. MATTHEW

Parish Office
(206)-363-6767

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline
(206)-767-6449



Admin. Assistant
Cris Rivera
parishoffice
@stmatthewseattle.org



Bookkeeper
Susan Rivera
bookkeeper
@stmatthewseattle.org



Music Ministry
Pamela Nim
MusicMinistry
@stmatthewseattle.org

Facilities
Brian Dimak
bdimak
@stmatthewseattle.org

Mark Nguyen
maintenance
@stmatthewseattle.org

For emergencies involving danger of death, please dial (206)-364-7900 x9

Marriage, baptism, confirmation, and first sacraments, please contact Anne Lombard (206) 796-9657.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

St. Matthew



Sara Lane
Co-Chair
SaraPFAC@
stmps.org



Mariela M. Fletcher



Tom Grabowski

St. Mark



Tom Martin
Co-Chair
TomPFAC@
stmps.org



Hope Marozwa Park



David Reed



Leo Van Hollebeke

STEWARDSHIP

ST. MARK

Registered Households	617

Mass Attendance September 26-27

Saturday 5:00 pm	128
Sunday 8:30 am	240
Sunday 10:30 am	254

Parish Collection September 26-27

Weekly Mass Collection	$12,091.00
Weekly Budget	$17,721.18
Over/Under	**($5,630.18)**
Year to Date Collection	$210,674.07
Year to Date Budget	$230,375.34
Over/Under	**($19,701.27)**

Outstanding Debt Balance 09/30/2026

N/A

Scan this QR code to set up your recurring online giving for St. Mark

ST. MATTHEW

Registered Households	421

Mass Attendance September 26-27

Saturday 5:00 pm	83
Sunday 8:00 am	89
Sunday 10:00 am	123

Parish Collection September 26-27

Weekly Mass Collection	$6,188.79
Weekly Budget**	$9,439.46
Over/Under	**($3,250.67)**
Year to Date Collection	$133,368.44
Year to Date Budget**	$122,712.98
Over/Under	**$10,655.46**

Outstanding Debt Balance 09/30/2026

PRF Line of Credit	$50,399.82
PRF Mortgage	$244,877.10

Scan this QR code to set up your recurring online giving for St. Matthew

**St. Matthew Stewardship budget does not fully cover operating costs

ST. MARK & ST. MATTHEW PARISH FAMILY

Register Today

PARISH NEWS

PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL UPDATES

PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

- **Thank you for your participation** in our August Parish Family listening sessions and survey addressing our Challenges and Opportunities. The Parish Family Advisory Council (PFAC) is actively working to synthesize the information and release it back to the Parish Family in the coming weeks.
- **The next round of Parish Family listening sessions are scheduled for November 5-8, 2026**

REGISTRATION SUNDAY

Are you new to the parish family? Does your information need updating? Do you have a question about parish ministries? The FIRST SUNDAY of each month is Welcome/ Registration Sunday.
Look for the table in the St. Mark Church Narthex.
After each mass, volunteers will be available to assist you.
It only takes a few minutes. We'd love to welcome you !

Scan to Register!

You're Invited to Celebrate Our Parish Family:
Together in Faith, Together in Joy

14TH NOV

DINNER & DANCE

6-11 PM

St. Matthew Parish Community Center
Cocktail / Semi-Formal Attire
Great Food, Music, Dancing, & Door Prizes

Ticket Info Coming Soon

ST. MARK & ST. MATTHEW
PARISH FAMILY

PARISH LIFE

SAVE THE DATE! PARISH EVENTS

Saturday, October 10
Public Rosary Rally, 12 pm, St. Matthew Grotto

Young Adult Group Volunteering Event, 11 am-1 pm, Jean Kim Foundation Hygiene Center

Scout 70th Anniversary 3 pm - 7 pm, St Mark Gym

Saturday, October 17
World Mission Rosary & Potluck,
11 am, St. Matthew Church & CC

Wednesday, October 21
Building the Heart of the Home: Reading, Faith, and Friendship, 6:30 pm, St. Mark Gym

Saturday, October 24
Ron Ryan led Retreat: Finding God in Challenging times, 2 pm - 4 pm, St. Matthew

Saturday, October 24
Halloween Carnival, 6 pm, St. Mark Gym

Thursday, November 5
Partners in the Gospel Virtual Listening Session

Saturday, November 7
Partners Listening Session, 10 am, St. Mark

Saturday, November 7
Wine & Cheese Social, 6 pm, St. Matthew CC

Sunday, November 8
Partners Listening Session, Following 8:00 am Sunday Mass, St. Matthew

Sunday, November 8
Partners Listening Session, Following 10:30 am Mass, St. Mark

Saturday, November 14
Dinner Dance, 6 pm, St. Matthew CC

Saturday, November 21
Ron Ryan led Retreat: Healing through Forgiveness, 9 am - 3 pm, St. Matthew

OUR PARISH FAMILY IS HIRING

St. Mark & St. Matthew Parish Family is hiring two positions:

- **Pastoral Assistant for Communications & Advancement**
- **Administrative Assistant & Front Desk Receptionist**

Every member of our team is valuable, and every role is an opportunity to use one's gifts in joyful service of God and neighbor. If you or someone you know feels called to offer the gifts of your time and talent in support of our Parish Family, we'd love to hear from you! Learn more and apply at **https://saintmarkshoreline.org/staff**.

Please pray for those who feel called to apply and for our entire Parish Family staff.



Young adults (age 18-35) from St. Mark & St. Matthew are invited to serve food to homeless guests on Saturday, October 10th.

Come volunteer alongside other young adults in our Parish Family while performing this **corporal work of mercy**. We hope to see you there!

What: Feeding homeless guests
When: October 10th, from 11am-1pm
Where: Jean Kim Foundation Hygiene Center (19726 64th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA 98036)
Who: St. Mark Young Adult Group and YOU!
Why: Fellowship, mercy, and sanctification
Register:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA4AD2AA4F9C61-66263653-feed
Questions? Contact:
stmark.youngadultevents@gmail.com

PARISH LIFE



You're Invited to a Public Rosary Rally

In Honor of Our Lady of Fatima & the Miracle of the Sun

On October 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared to nearly 70,000 people gathered at Fatima, Portugal. There, they witnessed the extraordinary Miracle of the Sun.

Let us come together in public prayer to honor this great miracle, asking God for His mercy and placing our nation, families, and communities under Our Lady's powerful intercession.

What: Public Rosary Rally
Refreshments to follow
Where: St. Matthew Grotto
When: Saturday, October 10
Assemble at 11:30
Rosary begins at 12:00 noon

For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

Are you seeking time and space for reflection and healing?

This fall, our Parish Family is grateful to host two retreats led by Ron Ryan, D. Min. Ron served in full-time Catholic Church ministry for 43 years. Now retired, he continues to provide retreats, seminars, and spiritual direction.

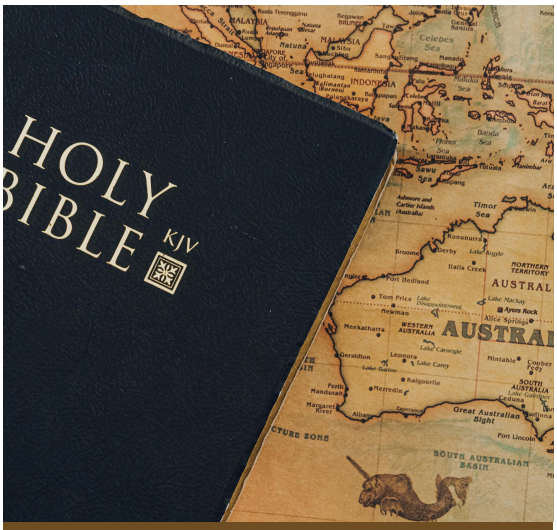
Finding God in Challenging Times ~ Mini Retreat, Saturday October 24, 2pm-4pm
Scripture teaches us that, while loss and conflict can be painful, they're also opportunities for God to strengthen us and deepen our faith. Reflecting on the image of Jacob from the Bible, Ron Ryan will help us reflect on our past and present challenges (as individuals and as a Parish Family) so that we can look forward to our future with hope.

Healing through Forgiveness: Embracing the Grace of Letting Go ~ Full-Day Retreat, Saturday November 21, 9am-3pm

Both retreats will be hosted at St. Matthew.
Please watch the bulletin and parish website for more details and registration.

PARISH LIFE





WOMEN'S GROUP BOOK STUDY

Join the Women's Group to resume their Bible Study using Jeff Cavin's *The Great Adventure Bible Timeline* from Ascension. We meet on Tuesdays from 7-9pm in Sullivan Hall at St. Mark.

Building the Heart of the Home: Reading, Faith, and Friendship

Take an evening to refresh your heart! All women are invited to **join Well-Read Mom founder Marcie Stokman on October 21 at 6:30pm in the St Mark Gym, following the 6pm daily Mass** for an encouraging presentation on how good books, faith, and friendship can enrich our lives and homes.

Whether you're a longtime reader or a busy mother wondering how to find time for a book, come discover the joy of reading together. **Bring a friend! All women, at every stage of life are welcome!**

Well-Read Mom helps women make time for great literature and spiritual classics through monthly book discussions and friendship. Learn more or RSVP at www.WellReadMom.com/events or contact Jennifer Villanti at 206-794-4415.

Well-Read Mom
READ MORE. READ WELL.

PRAYER & LITURGY

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED

6TH ANNUAL WORLD MISSION ROSARY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026 AT 11:00AM

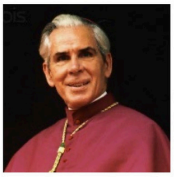
ST. MATTHEW PARISH – 1240 NE 127TH AVE, SEATTLE, WA 98125

WORLD MISSION ROSARY

Created by **Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in 1951**, the World Mission Rosary honors the missions and prays for conversion and world peace. **The five colors represented in each decade call to mind the regions where the Church continues her evangelizing mission.**

Asia **Oceania** **Europe** **The Americas** **Africa**

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR ARCHBISHOP SHEEN



This September, the Church celebrates **the beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in St. Louis, MO.** May his missionary spirit inspire us to pray for people of every nation and share the love of Christ with the world.

JOIN US IN THE CHURCH

Join us in praying the **World Mission Rosary** as we share our languages and cultures, celebrating the beautiful diversity of our Parish Family. **Wear your traditional clothing**, if you wish, and be part of this special celebration.

INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK LUNCH

Following the prayer, join us for an **International Potluck Lunch at the Community Center. Bring a favorite dish from your culture to share as we enjoy fellowship together!**

SIGN UP TO JOIN US

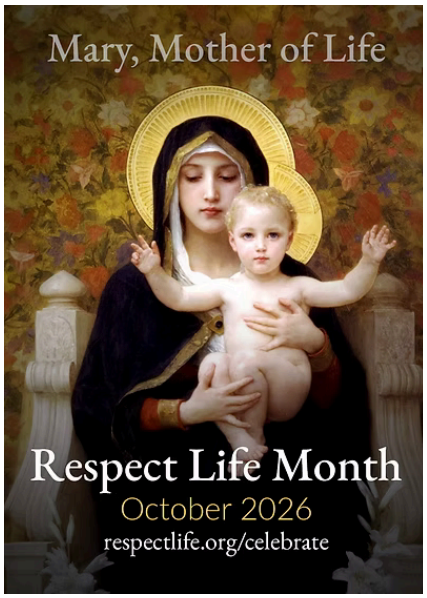
Sign up by **October 4, 2026** to:

- **Lead "Hail Mary" in your native language or another language you know.**

Sign up by **October 11, 2026** to:

- **Attend**
- **Bring a dish to share**

Scan the QR Code, **See** Prisca or Sao or **Contact** St. Matthew Parish Office at (206) 363-6767.



Pray like a Pirate

The next time you enter into personal prayer, remember this acronym: **ARRR.**

A: acknowledge that God is in your midst. Invite Him to be with you in prayer.

R: relate your thoughts, feelings, and desires to God. This is your time to talk with Him unfiltered – "here's what's going on, God."

R: receive whatever God has to say in response. Ask, "what do you have to say about it?" Oftentimes, this is when we're tempted to think God's not there, but listening to Him is important.

R: respond. How is God asking you to respond to your prayer session? What are your next steps?

Please Pray For:

Gloria Cabansag + Therese Agnes Phipps +

Mark Lunde Nina Hartati

For Anointing of the Sick, funeral arrangements, and Mass intentions, please call the parish office. All Mass readings available in your missal in the pews. You may also visit: https://bible.usccb.org

FAITH FORMATION

Saint Francis: Visionary of Life

Read the full version at respectlife.org/francis-visionary-of-life.

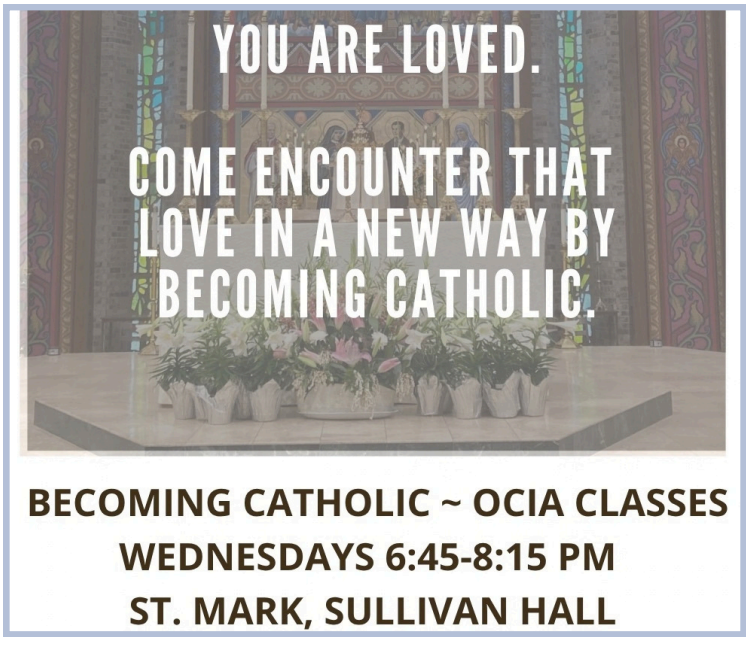


Saint Francis proclaims that the created world reveals the glory of God himself.

This is particularly true for the human person, created in the image of God, whose life from conception to natural death is to be honored and protected. Among all creation, the human person has the unique capacity to praise God, highlighting the distinctive dignity of human life.

During this Year of Saint Francis, may we seek his intercession for the protection of human life and the courage to defend it.

This is a summary of a USCCB article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. © 2026, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.



BECOMING CATHOLIC ~ OCIA CLASSES
WEDNESDAYS 6:45-8:15 PM
ST. MARK, SULLIVAN HALL

SAVE THE DATES

Friends of St. Francis invite all from our Parish Family to learn about our ministry.

Sunday, October 4, is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi and the 800th Jubilee Anniversary of his death. **We will have a trifold display outlining our aspirations** to instill loving care of God's diverse yet harmoniously masterful creations. We hope you will stop by during coffee and donuts!

On October 5 at 7PM in Sullivan Hall, we will host a viewing of the movie, *St. Francis, A Sign of Contradiction* from Formed.org. Come enjoy light refreshments with us!



First Reconciliation Classes begin October 8, 4-5pm, St. Mark Library

Another FREE resource for learning about the faith is Formed.org.

Sign up today: formed™

1. Visit formed.org/signup.
2. Search parish by Zip/Postal Code.
3. Click on your parish.
4. Register with name & email.

SCHOOL NEWS



Our school has been beautifully refreshed for the new school year, and **we still have opportunities for new families to join us.** There is still time to choose a school where your child will grow in faith, wisdom, virtue, and wonder. **We invite you to come and see** what is happening at St. Mark & St. Matthew Catholic Classical School. **Schedule a personal tour with Kathryn Palmquist-Keck, principal@stmss.org.**



Upcoming School Events

Sunday, October 4
Cross Country Meet 3 Championship: K-3 @ 1:00 pm, 4-8 @ 3:30 pm

Saturday, October 24
Halloween Carnival @ 6:00pm,
Gym at St. Mark

Sunday, Nov 1
School Open House

Sunday, Nov 1
Cub Scout Information Night @ 3pm
School Cafeteria at St. Mark



ARCHDIOCESE

NW CATHOLIC WOMEN'S RETREAT

at Holy Family Parish, Kirkland

Abide in Jesus:

A Day Retreat for Women



New this year
Young Women's Track
Ages 15-18

with Dominican Sisters of Nashville

October 24, 2026
9:00am - 4:00pm
Doors open at 8:00am

Start planning your trip today!
Visit versoministries.com/seattle-wyd

Join us in Seoul, South Korea!

World Youth Day 2027

AUGUST 1 - 10, 2027

Come with us to Seoul for World Youth Day 2027! Experience spiritual awakening and Korean culture alongside other young Catholics from around the globe. This is more than just a trip. It is a life-changing encounter with your faith and with the world.

Register by Oct 15, 2026

VERSO MINISTRIES | Archdiocese of Seattle



SACRED HEART RADIO

25th Anniversary

CELEBRATION *Dinner*

Come join us



Dr. Tom Curran
Sound Insight Host

WITH GUEST SPEAKERS

Special Meet & Greet with Fr. Wade Menezes During Event Book Signing

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Fr. Wade L.J. Menezes, CPM
EWTN Open Line

Saturday **OCT 17, 2026**
AT 7:00 PM

Holy Family Parish Center
Kirkland, WA
Doors open at 6:15 PM

TICKETS
Limited seats. Buy tickets today!

$35 PER PERSON
OR
$210 PER TABLE OF 6

Come celebrate our past and bright future together!

sacredheartradio.org



BUILDING
Our Mission to the Missions

The Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build up the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.

BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION
www.blackandindianmission.org

St. Matthew
Catholic Church

October 1, 2026

Brothers & Sisters of St. Matthew Parish,

I am sorry to share this painful news with all of you.

This past summer the St. Matthew Finance Council presented a financial update regarding our parish's ongoing financial crisis, and a recommendation for better stewarding the St. Matthew resources going forward.

The recommendation was in response to a very serious financial reality that has developed over the past decade: **parish revenue no longer covers expenses, cash reserves have been depleted, and we are operating with borrowed funds.** Without meaningful action, **the parish is projected to exhaust all cash and available line of credit before the vacant property is sold,** which will force us to close the campus with no other options available to us.

The Finance Council recommendation is to drastically reduce costs, by moving all operations to St. Mark, and leasing the St. Matthew campus to cover the costs of our debts and expenses that we still need to pay. Following this plan would require us to discontinue regular Sunday Masses at St. Matthew as early as January 2027 and no later than June 2027.

I can tell you I know how truly painful this is for our community, and I have no joy in being presented with this recommendation. I also know the Finance Council has carefully discerned this recommendation and takes no pleasure in making it. This has caused me, and I am sure all of you, many sleepless nights. Your prayers during this time have been much needed and appreciated.

After the Finance Council made their recommendation, we have had opportunities to pray and hear your feedback through our town halls, listening sessions, and surveys. Thank you for speaking honestly. I am grateful for your feedback and for showing such deep care for St. Matthew.

After bringing this feedback to prayer, discernment, and consultation, I am accepting the recommendation. This is tragic, but prudent. Accepting this will mean we begin drastically reducing costs as soon as possible. Accepting the recommendation also means we will move operations and regular Masses to the St. Mark campus, so that we can lease our property while keeping the church available as needed. It is my desire to allow as much time as possible, while working within the framework of the recommendation, for a graceful transition. My preference and my decision is for us to complete the transition by the end of May 2027 rather than in January.

Some changes must begin sooner so that we can reduce expenses and responsibly manage our remaining resources. We expect office and meeting functions will begin moving to St. Mark, and the weekend Mass schedule at St. Matthew will be reduced to one (1) Sunday Mass beginning in January 2027. Regular parish operations and worship will be fully transitioned to St. Mark by the end of May 2027.

The expected transition schedule is as follows:

- Office and meeting functions will begin transitioning to St. Mark in the coming months.
- After December 26, 2026, the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass and Saturday confessions will be consolidated at St. Mark.
- Beginning January 3, 2027, the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sunday Masses at St. Matthew will be combined into one Sunday Mass at a time to be announced.
- The Easter Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil - will be celebrated at St. Mark.
- Easter Sunday Mass will be celebrated at St. Matthew.
- The current daily Mass schedule at St. Matthew will continue through May 23, 2027.
- Beginning May 30th, Sunday Mass will be consolidated at St. Mark at times to be announced.

As the transition plan is finalized, we will provide more detailed information. We will also continue to work with the Finance Council to assist in reducing costs and providing the Parish Family Advisory Council with the input necessary to build a plan of sustainability for our one parish plan.

This is not a decision anyone wanted to make. I am deeply grateful to the Finance Council, the Parish Family Advisory Council, parish staff, volunteers, and all who offered feedback, prayer, and discernment. Please continue to pray for our parish family during this transition, that we may move forward with open minds, open hands, and open hearts.

St. Matthew, Pray for us.



+Fr. Ross

St. Matthew
Catholic Church

August 8, 2026

St. Matthew Parishioners,

Today, we - the St. Matthew Finance Council along with the Parish Family Advisory Council - urgently write you to provide an update regarding the ongoing financial crisis facing our parish and to share our recommendation for how to address this issue.

As we learned in our recent listening session, one of the core gifts that St. Matthew parish identifies with is "community". And while St. Matthew's community is always vibrant, in the last decade, Mass attendance, activities, and stewardship have been declining, and we have struggled to maintain both programs and staff. Historically, school families played a vital role in parish life and support. The decline in student enrollment, which ultimately led to the school's consolidation with St. Mark School, is further evidence of the parish's overall decline.

These factors have led the parish to realize operating losses, fueled by flat revenues and increasing costs, resulting in negative cash income. Over the years this trend has depleted our cash reserves.

Our deficit

As we began our new fiscal year in July 2026, the '26-'27 budget recommendations were prepared reflecting a $350,000 cash deficit, which greatly exceeds the original estimate. As we shared earlier this year, we anticipated a deficit for both the '25-'26 & '26-'27 budgets, which led to our need to secure a line of credit of up to $628,620. The line of credit was backed by the projected sale of the property across the street from the parish office.

Because we continue to operate using borrowed money, we are facing a worsening cash deficit. At the same time, given all the factors, we anticipate continued (or increased) losses in future fiscal years, which will likely exhaust the line of credit before the sale of the property. This reality raises serious concerns about the stewardship of St. Matthew's resources.

In addition, the Lisieux House (convent) has experienced an increase in security incidents. This has prompted the ministry to seek to move to another location in the archdiocese no later than June 30, 2027. This upcoming property vacancy worsens our finances, since the rent from Lisieux House offset the operating and mortgage costs of the building.

Discerning options

As mentioned in our earlier communication, parish staff, St. Matthew Finance Council and the Parish Family Advisory Council have been evaluating options to mitigate increasing costs and increase revenue to reduce the deficit. One of the most viable options is leasing the St. Matthew school and church to one or more appropriate tenant(s) to offset the fixed cost of the property. Professional and Chancery advisors suggest that the best leasing opportunities for the current market would be to lease the whole property at St. Matthew including the school, offices, Lisieux House, community center and the church.

Our recommendation

Given our tenuous cash position and the strong preference in the market for leasing the entire campus, St. Matthew Finance Council and the Parish Family Advisory Council recommend leasing the entire property at St. Matthew. Ideally, we would lease to Catholic organizations to further the mission of the Church, as aligned with the Archdiocesan Catholic Real Estate Initiative.

By leasing the property, we would be able to uphold our financial stewardship responsibilities. And, given the unique situation we are in through Partners in the Gospel, the St. Matthew community would not be lost. Instead, the community would bring its spiritual gifts and talents to the St. Mark campus. Through this, the St. Matthew community would remain a valued part of our parish family, continuing to contribute its unique history, traditions, and strengths to our shared mission and ministry.

Ultimately, this means that we are recommending discontinuing regular Sunday Mass at St. Matthew church starting in the first half of 2027. However, this recommendation and shift in Mass schedule does not mean that the church is closed. It will be used periodically for Mass and other liturgical celebrations at the discretion of the pastor and in partnership with any future tenants.

This is a tremendously difficult recommendation to make for us – and for you. We want to acknowledge the emotion and grief it will bring. Know that we grieve with you and yet at the same time, recognize that this recommendation reflects a responsible approach to stewarding St. Matthew parish resources as it provides time for a prayerful transition, while minimizing the dependence on the line of credit to support operating costs. This recommendation also retains ownership of our campus to further God's plan and grow access to Sacraments, Pastoral Care, and ministries. We anticipate Fr. Ross finalizing a decision over the next few months.

Timing

If Fr. Ross accepts the recommendation, the timing for moving all Masses to St. Mark will be coordinated with the Parish Family Advisory Council's work on the One Parish Plan. This process will continue to engage parishioners through community consultations, developing a shared vision for the future of our parish family, while building on our gifts and addressing our challenges. The plan will honor the legacy of both parishes, and in particular, the community aspect of St. Matthew. The One Parish Plan will also look ahead to the needs of our larger community and the next generation of Catholics, while discerning God's will for our parish family.

Although this transition may lead us to worship together in a different place, we hope it will also strengthen what has always made St. Matthew special: its people. Buildings provide shelter for worship, but it is the faithful who create a parish community. Together, we will continue to grow as one parish family. Please keep all St. Matthew parishioners, past and present, in your prayers. Please pray especially for Fr. Ross and Fr. Davis, along with the parish staff and parish family leadership, during these challenging times. If you have questions, you can email Sara Lane or Tom Martin.

St Matthew - Pray for us.

St. Matthew Finance Council
John Hickman
Diane Reeves
Carolyn Foster
George Daher
Pam Dressel

Parish Family Advisory Council
Sara Lane – Co-chair (sarapfac@stmps.org)
Tom Martin – Co-chair (tompfac@stmps.org)
Mariella Fletcher
Tom Grabowski
Leo Van Hollebeke
Hope Marozwa
David Reed