



**ST. MARK &
ST. MATTHEW**
PARISH FAMILY

Who Are We Synopsis from May 2026 Listening Sessions

Both St Mark & St Matthew describe their parish as a community. St. Mark is a community focused on love of God as shown in liturgical worship and St. Matthew is a community focused on love of God as shown by their love of neighbor. Both parishes serve a diverse population, have a strong Knights of Columbus ministry, and offer opportunities to serve the poor of their parishes through St. Vincent de Paul. St. Mark and St. Matthew have a number of parishioners with long, multi-generational connections that speak to their continuity and legacy.

The parishioners of St Matthew speak consistently to the witness of a welcoming community, accepting of those from many backgrounds, and encouraging lay participation in liturgical, faith formation, and parish life leadership roles. Worship is described as having a humble and simple reverence witnessed through the simplicity of the church building and the choir that leads the congregation in song. Many remark on their faith formation and the value of the school to the parish and also lament the aging of the parish and decline of the youth and young adult participation. The parish has had many pastors, and continuity in the parish has been supplied by heroic lay leadership.

Only a few founding members are living, but a number of St Matthew parishioners have spent their lives in the parish, and a number walk to church. Parishioners generally use the word “family” to describe their parish. They like to be together, and parish social life has been and remains vibrant with events like Dinner Dance and Crab Dinner, despite smaller numbers and the graying of the parish. Parishioners are proud of the organic diversity of the community. Most can readily cite the parish motto “many cultures, one faith,” and parish life refreshingly lives this motto out. Parishioners have opportunities to enrich their faith with bible study, faith formation programs and weekly rosary making. The Filipino community in particular has been a prime mover, in an inclusive fashion, especially with the Liturgical celebrations of Simbang Gabi and Santo Niño. African and other Asian members also find a home here.



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The parishioners of St Mark speak consistently of a strong Catholic Community and the paramount nature of the sacraments for their community. In particular the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is seen as reverent creating an environment that parishioners remark brings them closer to God. They seek frequent access to the sacraments especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Parishioners commented on the insightful homilies. The students of the classical school frequently mentioned the importance of the school Masses in development of their personal relationship with Christ. There are many opportunities to serve in the liturgy through various ministries. The beauty of the church is also believed to create a reverent environment worthy of our Lord. Adoration is widely valued as an important liturgical practice. Many parishioners appreciate the traditional organ music.

St Mark as a community offers many opportunities for social gathering and for volunteering for all ages. It has a year-round active OCIA program and faith formation allows for growth in the Catholic community as witnessed in increasing parishioner registrations.

Parishioners, students and parents emphasized the role the school plays in providing an academically strong and unapologetic Catholic education. Salmon Dinners, men's group, guilds, Knights of Columbus, scouting & American Heritage Girls and bible study allow people to plug into areas of interest and service.

A St. Mark student: "Our parish does a good job of being reverent and respectful. I like that being a parishioner allows me to take part in faith activities like altar serving or helping out with events. Something to be proud of is all the new Catholics that come to the parish each year!"

A St. Mark Parishioner: "I now crave the reverence of the liturgy that I experience at St Mark."

St. Matthew parishioners: "St. Matt was the epicenter of complete life, not just faith"

"God's family room"

St. Matthew student: "My experiences with St. Matthew parish that have brought me closer to God have been such a great experience for me ever since I attended the school at a young age. I really think that St. Matthew help me build and grow a really strong relationship with God."