

ST MATTHEW

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND NEWMAN CENTER



Parish Survey and Townhall Progress Report

The cool mornings and changing leaves remind us that a new season is arriving. As we enjoy the goodness of God's creation, we'd like to share with you the good things that are also happening in our parish and the foundations that are being laid for a growing and vibrant parish that will foster the Catholic Christian Community in Bulloch County for generations to come. In March, we provided a summary of the survey and town hall feedback. This newsletter offers an update on the progress made towards suggestions listed in the summary as well as identifying areas that we will continue to develop in the coming months and years. In order to communicate the full scope of our progress, we plan to prepare a more detailed report for EACH of the survey areas: Worship, Faith Formation, Fellowship, and Outreach over the course of the next year. These will be similar to the outreach newsletter provided in February 2022 and will be issued quarterly. This will allow us to share specifics, including financial, staff, and volunteer resources needed to meet our parish needs. Please continue to pray that God's will and vision for the people of St. Matthew remains our number ONE priority.

Color Key: **SUGGESTED** **COMPLETED/IN PROGRESS** **PLANNING UNDERWAY**

- **Lay ministers return to service at Mass**
Our Altar Servers trained and have resumed serving. Usher training completed. Normal collection and presentation of gifts resumed 10/9/22. Lector and Eucharistic Minister training on deck.
- **Reopen Nursery/Cry Room**
The Nursery and Cry Room are both open.
- **Bring back the Welcoming Team**
The Welcome Team ministry leaders have invited additional ministers to serve and plan to resume greeting newly registered families soon.
- **Resume Communion to Homebound**
The Communion Ministry to the Homebound leaders have contacted those in need. Training will be scheduled for the ministers who will serve in this ministry.
- **Create Worship Aid for Latin Mass parts**
Worship Aid developed and at the print shop. A copy is available on our website or by contacting the parish office.
- **Rearrange Choir Area/location**
Choir chairs have been added back to the appropriate area and repairs to choir chairs are underway.
- **Create a Prayerful Atmosphere at Mass and in the church.**
Physical changes to the sanctuary area will be addressed via capital campaign; a process that is underway with assessment of buildings/campus structures. A recalibration of the sound system is planned. Stay tuned for more information!



Worship and Prayer

Altar Server Training

SUGGESTED COMPLETED/IN PROGRESS PLANNING UNDERWAY

- Provide more opportunities for adult faith formation.
A Lenten Bible Study program was implemented in 2022. It was well attended. We do have some space constraints for hosting Sunday morning bible studies, but are engaged in creative planning to develop possibilities for weekly small group adult programs.
- Grow the Youth Program by offering a more dynamic experience.
Summer 2022: 9 teens attended the Steubenville Atlanta conference, the 1st time our parish has attended. A Youth Ministry Core Team has been formed to provide feedback and ideas for additional growth!
- Provide additional opportunities for children to practice their faith by participating at Mass and through acts of charity.
We will be inviting children to choose one Sunday this church year to study the readings for the day and create bulletin cover art for us!
- Develop an outreach to lapsed Catholics and evangelization program within Bulloch County.
Fr. Adams is taking every opportunity to meet new people in our area. A plan for outreach to lapsed Catholics and for biblical apologetics will be developed.
- Develop a Young Adult Ministry.
The Stewardship Team will help our clergy and staff devise a plan and/or program for ministering to the post-college age group.
- Provide opportunities for small group bible studies for adults.
Our parish clergy, staff, and Stewardship Team will work to develop creative solutions to space limitations for Sunday meetings while also working on organizing materials and communication for inviting parishioners to participate in small groups that work for their schedules, locations, and families.



Youth Ministry Core Team



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LIFETEEN Steubenville ATL



Catholic Eagles on GSU Campus



Community and Fellowship

SUGGESTED COMPLETED/IN PROGRESS PLANNING UNDERWAY

- Broader support of Hispanic Ministry.
In August, we began a monthly "Convivio" (potluck) after the Saturday Spanish Mass. Plans are underway for an advisory council of Hispanic parishioners to provide feedback for key pastoral priorities
- Additional opportunities for families with young children/youth to get to know one another.
The annual All Saints Festival is back at full speed this year! Discussions are also underway regarding a parish picnic and the planning of additional fellowship opportunities throughout the year.
- Develop a Senior Adult Ministry
The Stewardship Team will work on assisting Father Adams with the development of a Senior Adult ministry, including identifying potential leaders and activities. Stay tuned!
- Be more inclusive of one-member families (single, widowed, divorced).
The Stewardship Team will be working with Fr. Adams to ask follow-up questions that address specific areas in which we might foster ministry to and within one-member families.



"Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch ... What really matters in life is that we are loved by Christ and that we love Him in return. In comparison to the love of Jesus, everything else is secondary. And, without the love of Jesus, everything is useless."

-St. Pope John Paul II



COUNCILS AND ADMINISTRATION

Parish Council:

Parish Council elections were held in September and the group has begun the year with a review of their by-laws and will work on the development of new parish mission and vision statements. The team is working to set up committees and subcommittees who can help provide honest and thoughtful feedback to parish leaders by working as liaisons between parishioners, ministries, clergy, and staff. In early November, council members will attend a half day retreat to pray with Fr. Adams about priorities and how they can support him with parish planning.

Finance Council:

Our Finance Council met on Monday, September 26 to review the annual finance report. A summary report was published on October 2 and is available on the parish website. We just had our on-site audit visit and outgoing Finance Council chair Eric Pollak will assist us with addressing areas in which we need to tighten up internal controls. An expanded Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022, which included detailed information about our assets, 5 year financial plan, Catholic Eagles income and expenses, and the Annual Catholic Appeal was published on October 2, 2022. The report is also available on our website.



Buildings and Grounds:

The Buildings and Grounds committee is working with our Finance Team to assess our facilities and property for maintenance needs to help us prepare for capital improvements in the next few years. This summer we removed diseased and dying trees near the rectory and social building. A bid for an envelope assessment was accepted in preparation for a Capital Campaign to implement a master plan to renovate our aging facilities and update our grounds. This process will identify pre-existing issues, so we know what needs to be fixed before we begin renovations. Following approval from the diocese, we will begin accepting bids for repairs, resealing, and re-stripping of the parking lots. We are also working on bids to remove overgrown hedges along the side of the social hall.

MESSAGE FROM FR. ADAMS

Dear St. Matthew Parish Family,

Thank you to all who participated in the parish survey back in March and for those who compiled the information. Before I was assigned as your new parish priest, I had a chance to review and pray over the survey data. When I arrived, I spent my first month addressing some of the items that were brought up and took time to meet with the individuals who prepared this survey to make sure I correctly interpreted and understood the data as I acted on it. What you have just read shows that many of the items have either been addressed, are in active discussion, or will require more time and prayer to act upon. Know that much has been accomplished in seven months, even with a change in pastor in between! Thank you all for your prayers and patience as St. Matthew Church and Newman Center continues to soar forward, all while reminding everyone Christ is alive, no one walks alone, and all are welcome.



FR. JASON P. ADAMS

"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. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

SUGGESTED COMPLETED/IN PROGRESS PLANNING UNDERWAY

- **Resume Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound.**
Ministry leaders Becky and Jamie Woods have reached out to our Homebound parishioners to assess their needs. A training session for Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound is planned.
- **Offer more specifics on what individual ministries do and how parishioners can get involved.**
In February 2022 we published a four page newsletter that provided detailed information about each one of our outreach ministries, program costs, and ministry needs. A Stewardship Team is being put together to help assist Father Adams and staff in putting together a Ministry Guide and Ministry Fair to offer opportunities for parishioners to become more involved in ALL parish ministries, including those that support the poor and needy.



Elaina, Liam, and Lucas Ray serving at the Soup Kitchen



Fr. Adams visits with parishioner Bob Haranda



The Sewing Group



Fr. Adams met with Fr. Fred Angel at Holy Trinity in Swainsboro

Parish Administration

SUGGESTED COMPLETED/IN PROGRESS PLANNING UNDERWAY

- Publish a more detailed finance report and include information about Catholic Eagles funding sources and the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA).
On October 2, 2022, an expanded annual finance report was published, which included information about development of outside financial resources to support campus ministry as well as an update on our ACA goal and information about how the Appeal money is used. The report included information about our 5 Year Financial Plan and Financial Assets as well as information about the budgeting process.
- Develop a team and plan for oversight and improvement of grounds and facilities.
*The Buildings and Grounds Team resumed meeting in November of 2021 and has developed a priority list of repairs to the facilities and updates to our grounds. A contract for an evaluation of potential issues to facilities, parking, and grounds that should be addressed PRIOR to major capital repairs and improvements has been signed. **A capital campaign will need to be undertaken to address major changes needed to update the social building and church. The buildings and grounds team has recommended that a master plan be developed for updating and taking care of our grounds.***

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2022



Our Parish Home!



Tree Removal