

TOGETHER WE WORSHIP

S T . M A T T H E W T H E A P O S T L E P A R I S H

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10021 Jefferson Hwy
River Ridge, LA 70123
www.stmatthewtheapostle.net
church@stmatthew.nocoxmail.com
737-4537
School: 737-4604

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

May the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit be with you and your family in this new year. We give glory to our loving and gracious God, for He has bestowed upon each of us His abundant blessings this past year. God is always faithful to us, present in every moment of our spiritual journey, and we dedicate this new year to Him and pray for His blessing.

I never cease to give thanks to God for all families and every parishioner in our parish. Thank you for your devotion and commitment to our church and the many ministries that serve God and His people. I can say with the most heartfelt joy and love that I could not be prouder of the St. Matthew family. I am humbled to have the opportunity to serve and to witness your dedication to serving others. All of our ministries do inspiring work year-round; and I would like to particularly recognize the work of the parish Fair Committee and volunteers and our St. Vincent de Paul Society this past quarter. From providing community-building opportunities for our people

and financial support for our school, to securing holiday meals and other needed assistance to friends in our parish community, the fair and SVdP volunteers were prime examples of faith in action. God will surely remember what they and all of you have done for Him through serving others. You are an inspiration for me as we seek to deepen

and grow our faith together.

I pray that the peace of God will reign in your family and in your heart, both in good days and during challenging times. To those families that lost loved ones this past year, may the Lord bring you consolation and the hope of eternal life

in our loving and merciful God. To those families who have children being baptized, we are rejoicing with you for the new life God has given to us.

We continue to work hard on our church renovation, and I look forward to the completion of our beloved home in the coming months. In the meantime, your continued participation and support, vital to both our short and long-term prosperity, are humbly appreciated. I look forward to seeing you at Mass and parish events and wish you all a blessed New Year!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Joseph

(Pastor, Fr. Joseph M. Tran)





St. Matthew the Apostle School

Founded in 1960

*Not Just A Great School...
A Great Community!*

(1-year-old through 7th grade)

OPEN HOUSE

Join us January 16—5:30-7:00 PM



10021 Jefferson Hwy | www.smaschool.net | Enroll today! 737-4604
Contact Principal Bonura with any questions at bonurat@smaschool.net

St. Matthew the Apostle School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies.

SCHOOL UPDATE

Parishioners,

It is hard to believe that I just finished my fourth month as Principal here at St. Matthew the Apostle. Having spent the last fifteen years in New Orleans Secondary Catholic Education as an administrator, I was keenly aware of the St. Matthew tradition of preparing students for success in high school, and especially to be leaders in those schools. The parents at St. Matthew have always had high expectations for themselves, their children and the school. These expectations are not limited to academic performance; they also extend to the emotional and spiritual intelligences of their children. The combination of these three may be attained through a Catholic education, especially in the way that is unique to St. Matthew the Apostle School and Parish. Evidence of this is found in the success of our students. St. Matthew students consistently score above the Archdiocesan average on standardized tests. Over the past three years, greater than 99% of St. Matthew students were accepted into their first choice for an archdiocesan high school, two graduates were named Valedictorian of their high schools, and two others were named Salutatorian.

In the past two school years, three St. Matthew educated students were named National Merit Semi Finalists.

Like our parents and students, St. Matthew faculty and administration have the same high expectations. We began this year with a renewed commitment to resisting the status quo. The challenge we acknowledge is the changing needs of 21st century learners. While the content we teach in most respects is timeless, the skills students will need to be successful are very timely. Our students will be entering a world as adults that require them to be more creative and collaborative than ever. This will require them to think critically as they solve the problems of their generation and effectively communicate the solutions. In many ways, these skills for success are vastly different from the needs of learners just a generation ago. The commitment of St. Matthew faculty to be impactful in bringing these 21st century skills to our students has been inspiring. Here are some of the initiatives that we have undertaken this school year:



*"we
are just
scratching
the surface
of where
we are
headed."*

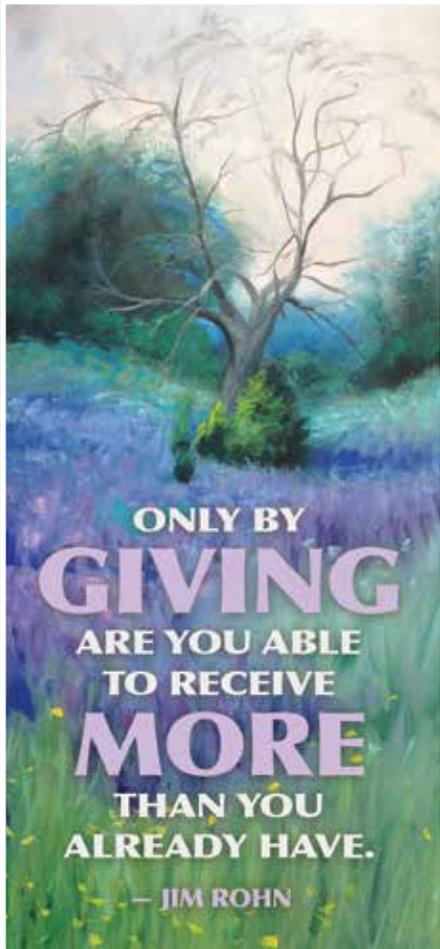
- SMA faculty are on pace to participate in more than \$26,000 in professional development this school year.
- SMA made a \$25,000 investment for the most advanced wireless internet system for our campus.
- SMA adopted the Frog Street learning curriculum for our Pre-K1, Pre-K2 and Pre-K3 programs. We are one of the few schools currently using a state-approved curriculum for these grade levels.
- SMA adopted the STEM Scopes science curriculum for our Middle School, a complete digital-based approach to learning science.
- SMA adopted the Wonders Reading program from McGraw-Hill. This program is one of the highest rated reading curriculum series and provides many digital resources for both teachers and parents.
- SMA conducted its first parent-teacher in-service to learn more about the Wonders reading program and to strengthen the partnership between parents and teachers to ensure student success.
- SMA brought Catapult Learning to its campus. Catapult is a federally funded program that provides personnel and resources so that students with different learning styles may experience success at every level.
- SMA instituted a Virtue of the Month program. This program was created by faculty members to move our religious education program beyond the confines of the classroom. It involves the whole school community in making a commitment to the virtues of our faith in a way that is fun and creative. If you have not seen the Clarion Herald article on our school funeral service for the word Can't and our welcoming of Perseverance, I encourage you to go to clarionherald.org and search St. Matthew.

As you can see, we have been very busy over the first quarter of the school year, but we are just scratching the surface of where we are headed. Our Open House is on January 16, 2019, from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Whether you are a prospective family, parishioner or an alum, we invite you to attend the Open House. Come see the great things happening at your parish school and join us in spreading the word in our community about the great things happening at St. Matthew.

Tony Bonura, *Principal*

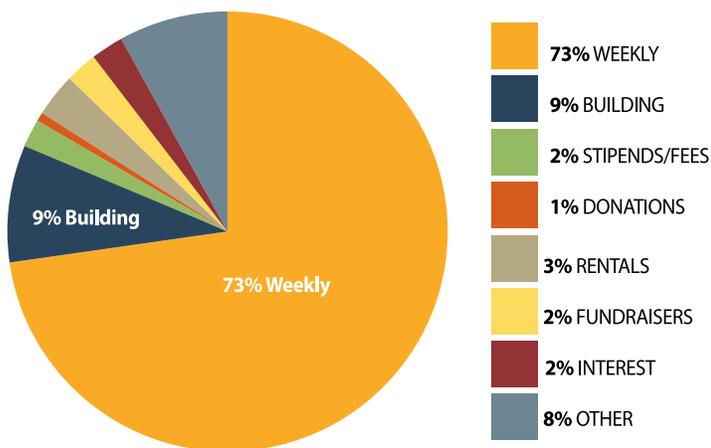


FINANCIALS

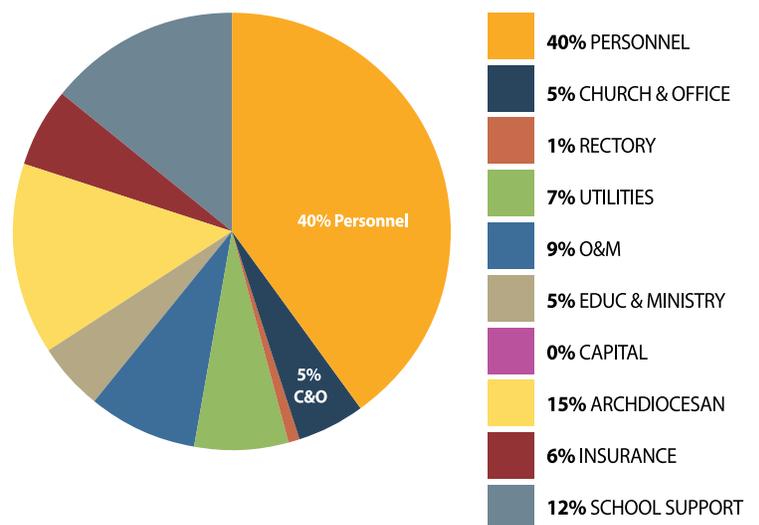


	Actuals Year Ending June 30, 2017	Actuals Year Ending June 30, 2018
Income		
Ordinary Income	784,709.01	885,886.00
Extraordinary Income	730,541.77	247,566.03
Extradiocesan Collections	<u>52,095.29</u>	<u>54,047.77</u>
Total Church Income	<u>1,567,346.07</u>	<u>1,187,499.80</u>
Expenses		
Personnel	415,866.48	412,020.45
Other Parish Expenses	306,811.90	326,708.91
School Financial Support	137,701.29	120,927.84
Archdiocesan Assessments	140,713.86	158,365.68
Extradiocesan Collection Payments	<u>52,095.29</u>	<u>54,047.77</u>
Total Church Expenses	<u>1,053,188.82</u>	<u>1,072,070.65</u>
Surplus (Deficit) in Church Operations	514,157.25	115,429.15
Other Sources of Cash		
Withdrawal from Savings	76,700.00	65,494.00
Insurance Proceeds		
Property Insurance Reimbursement	86,808.00	85,643.00
Total Other Sources of Cash	<u>163,508.00</u>	<u>151,137.00</u>
Other Uses of Cash		
Transfers to Funds on Deposit w/ Archdiocese	504,341.96	121,630.67
Capital Expenditures	<u>147,891.00</u>	<u>107,685.50</u>
Total Other Uses of Cash	<u>652,232.96</u>	<u>229,316.17</u>
Total Increase (Decrease) in Cash	25,432.29	37,249.98

2017-2018 INCOME

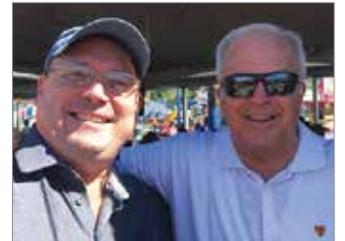


2017-2018 EXPENSES



Capital projects funded w/ campaign donations collected in previous fiscal years are not represented here. A full Campaign report will be provided at conclusion of the church project.

MINISTRY FUN



Cub Scout Pack 266: Celebrating a 55 Year Legacy of Fun and Adventure at St. Matthew!



SCOUT OATH:

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW:

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

What is Cub Scouts? Although the uniforms and insignias are the same, there are two separate groups of Scouts at St Matthew. Cub Scouts (Kindergarten through 5th Grade), and Scouts BSA (6th Grade through age 18). We share the same Scout Oath and the Scout Law, but we have different leadership. The Cub Scouts are called a PACK, and are learning the values and principles of Scouting for the first time. Older Scouts, known as a TROOP, already know these principles and operate as peers, planning and running their own activities. At the Cub Scout level, parents and volunteer leaders teach these core values while building experience and character that will serve them for life. More importantly to the kids, we do this by providing lots of opportunities for fun & adventure. Plus, almost everything we do can include Mom, Dad, siblings, grandparents... the whole family!

All Scout Leaders are volunteers! We go through multiple levels of training both in the parish and through the Boy Scouts of America to ensure the safety of our youth. Leadership through service is the standard, and they do so with no expectation of praise or fanfare. All of them give freely to support the pack and the parish, and lend their hearts and hands when needed. As leaders we "Do Our Best" to instill in children the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. As a Catholic Scout Leader, I find that these principles add something simple and tangible in our daily lives that refocuses our hearts and minds on Christ-like virtues. As Catholics we are called to evangelization, and Scouting as a Ministry provides a deeper connection through its membership and the bonds they build with each other and the broader community. Those who see our Scouts and their families in public instinctively know something about who we are as a parish, and it calls others to be a part of who and what we are. We even have the honor of having the Catholic Committee on Scouting representative, Mrs. Sue

Guidry, as a teacher here at St Matthew. The Scout law says, "A Scout is Reverent" ... In this we teach all of them to respect their own faith and the faiths of others, and to act with the proper dignity when called upon to do so. You might be surprised to know that we have scouts and leaders in our parish who are not Catholic... we have a sprinkling of Protestant, Lutheran, Baptist and more, many of whom contribute immensely to what we do. All of them consciously choose to be a part of the St Matthew Scout Community and the nurturing environment we create. Our goal for our children is one that is shared. We strive to build men and women of strong character; spiritually, mentally and physically...which our Cub Scout Pack has proven it can do.



In 2019 Pack 266 will celebrate 55 years of Cub Scouts at St Matthew, and the Troop has been here even longer!

Being a part of the scouting program, has been one of the most rewarding

and enriching experiences of my life. It allows me to do the things I love along with my two boys, and we have made some amazing friends along the way! Every time I put my uniform on and go out, someone stops me to talk...Former leaders, parents or even former scouts with amazing stories to tell about what they did during their days in the Pack. I am continually impressed and humbled by the legacy of Scouting in our community, and with your support it's a legacy we hope to continue for the next 55 years!

Do you have a kid-friendly community service project? Please let us know about it!

Our scouts love opportunities to serve, and have participated in everything from cleaning up trash around the school and neighborhood, to planting trees in City Park!

— Ray Taix

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus (KC) was founded in 1882 by a young parish priest, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, who is now on the path to sainthood. Today there are over 1.9 million brother knights all over the world. Our Saint Matthew the Apostle KC Council #13425 has over 100 members that

stand with the Church. We have been in the top 20 councils out of 350 statewide for several years. We work hard to support our Church, School and community with our projects. KCs support several other ministries such as CYO, Vocations, and Right to Life. If you are a male 18 years old and a practicing

Catholic we would love to have you join us. Our Grand Knight's name and telephone is in the bulletin, or call 737-4537.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Louisiana March for Life

January 19, 2019

St. Matthew parishioners are meeting at 8am in church parking lot to ride bus to Baton Rouge for the Louisiana March for Life. Call 737-4537 for details.

Family Day at SMA

March 31, 2019

10:00 AM Mass with Picnic

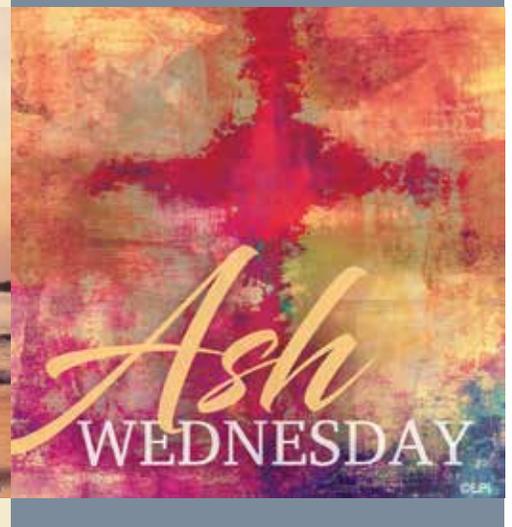
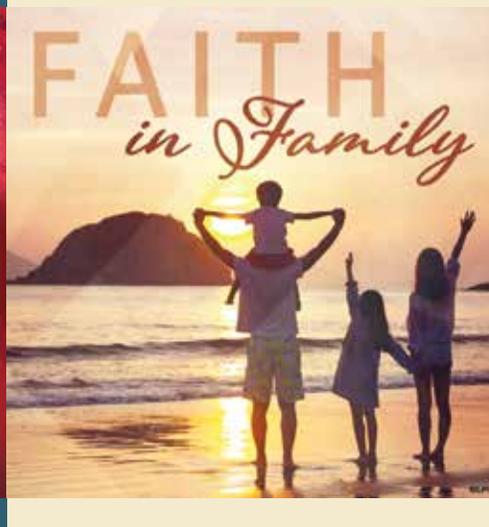
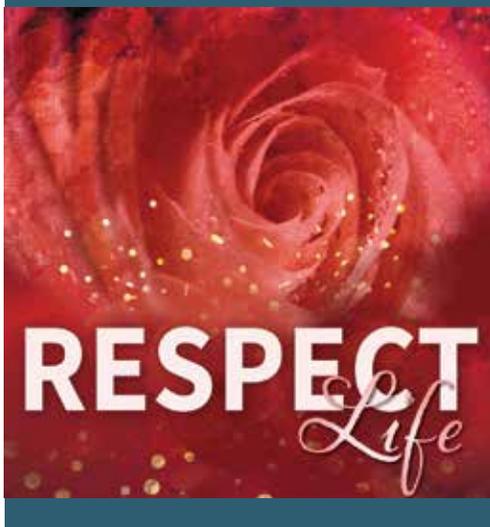


Ash Wednesday

March 6, 2019

Ashes 6:00 AM, 9:15 AM, 6:00 PM

Stations of the Cross Every Friday in Lent





St. Matthew the Apostle Parish
10021 Jefferson Highway
River Ridge, LA 70123

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I look forward to seeing you at Mass and parish events and wish you all a blessed New Year!
—Fr. Joseph Tran



May the graces and blessings of God the Father be with you into the New Year.
—Deacon Nathan Simoneaux



May the graces of Our Lord and the beauty of this holy day season come upon your life and bring blessings and growth in the love of Christ Jesus!
—Fr. Sidney Speaks



Wishing you all peace, good health, and happy homecomings! Wishing that the world accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and live by His word!
—Linda King



May the peace that only God can give be with you during this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.
—Deacon Jerry Clark



Thank you for making St. Matthew a true blessing for so many. Wishing you abundant joy and a New Year filled with His love!
—Dianne Varisco



May the Lord bless you and your family for the New Year, and we ask the Lord for the graces to share our gifts with those who are in need.
—Deacon Wayne Lobell



Wishing you a year full of love and happiness!
—Dawn Fitzsimmons