Saint Matthew Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Date/Time: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 | 7:00–8:30 p.m.
Location: 239

☒	**Fr. Pat Cahill, President**	☒	Tanya Eaton, St. Matthew School Principal
☐	Jim Kelley, Chairperson (excused)	☐	Diane Kiradjieff, Director of Faith Formation
☒	Vernon Roberts Vice Chairperson (by computer)	☒	Antoinette Usher, Chief Operating Officer
☒	David Scibor, Secretary	☒	Peggy Peterson, Finance Council Liaison
☒	Sharon Doerer	☐	- Open - Youth Representative
☒	David Piho	☐	
☒	David Turner	☒	Geraldine Abinader, Youth Minister
☒	Scott Kennedy	☐	
☒	Anne Ibekwe	☐	
☒	Michael Martin	☐	
☒	Liliana Salas		<u>Guests:</u>
☐	Alexa Warner (excused)	☒	Kevin Micus (alternate)
☒	Edwin Francis	☒	Fr Nicholas Kramer, Parochial Vicar
☒	Joe Linus	☐	
☒	MacKenzie Keebler	☐	
☒	Tom Barry	☐	

1. Opening

- Opening prayer led by Sharon Doerer

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Dave Piho moved to approve the previous meeting minutes.
- MacKenzie Keebler seconded the motion.
- The motion carried.

3. Selection Process for 2026-2027 Parish Council Officers

Father Cahill announced officer nominations as follows:

- Chair: David Scibor accepted, seconded by Scott Kennedy
- Vice Chair: MacKenzie Keebler accepted, seconded by Dave Piho
- Secretary: Joe Linus accepted, seconded by MacKenzie Keebler

4. Welcome to New Parish Council Members

Existing and new council members and guests introduced themselves sharing 1) one thing they appreciate about St Matthew parish, 2) a person of influence in their faith journey, and 3) what they expect to receive or contribute through serving on the Council.

New members serving 3-year terms

- Tom Barry
- Michael Martin
- Edwin Francis
- Kevin Mikus (alternate)

5. Finance Council Update

- Offertory remains strong: For the first two months of the fiscal year, offertory is 10% over budget and 80% over prior year while hitting highest donations for World Hunger Drive at $430k
- Other ministry expense was 47% greater than prior year for the two months ending August. This is primarily due to the increased number of priests (5 v 3) as well as World Hunger Drive expenses (shipping costs to Puerto Rico, Venezuela support, school support in Haiti)
- Capital Expenditures for the period represent 3rd payment for Columbarium expansion

6. Pastoral Plan Approved by Bishop Martin

- Summary of the 6-year plan posted in September 20th Parish Bulletin (see Addendum)
- Fr Cahill discussed next steps of implementing the spiritual, service, and social dimensions, and making sure we provide those opportunities to everyone
- Council expects to review progress against the Plan at least quarterly
- Evangelical Catholic contract begins 10/1 which may facilitate indicators by which we will measure against the plan

7. Recap of 40th Anniversary Celebration Events

- Bishop Martin celebrated 10:45 mass. Homily noted that we do not 'volunteer' in the parish…we 'serve'
- The afternoon activities on the campus included food trucks, games, and a dunk tank. Weather was hot but enjoyable.
- The day was a great success and the Council expressed thanks to the team that made that possible

8. Takeaways from the Eucharistic Congress

- Several Council members were able to attend the Eucharistic Congress on September 11th and 12th. Council members shared feedback including thanks for the ~13,000 diocesan Catholics who attended
- Discussion included commentary that many much smaller parishes are well-represented in the Eucharistic Procession on Saturday morning. Council encouraged greater participation/presence by St Matthew parish at future events.

9. Parish Updates

- Geraldine Abinader recently hired as the new Youth and Young Adult minister
- Originally from Dominican Republic and moved to Charlotte in 2006
- Confirmed at St Matthew and participated in Edge as a teen
- Graduate of Marvin Ridge HS and UNCC (Math major)
- Vision is for youth and YA to be feel seen, known, and loved; offer opportunities to encounter God in the Word and the Eucharist; opportunities for works of mercy and fellowship

10. Additional Items/Open Discussion

None

11. Closing

- Closing prayer by David Piho

Addendum

CONNECTED IN CHRIST

2026-2032 St. Matthew Pastoral Plan Summary

Knowing that the Eucharist, the real presence of Jesus Christ, is at the heart of our Catholic identity, and that we are called to live and celebrate in community, our parish vision/mission is to welcome and invite all individuals to Christ. Guided by a commitment to those who are poor in body and spirit, we can achieve this vision/mission by:

- Provide opportunities for parishioners, parish ministry leaders and parish staff to become familiar and comfortable with missionary discipleship and evangelization (a probable resource is *Evangelical Catholic)*. Provide opportunities for each parishioner to carry out corporal and/or spiritual works of mercy each day, with a focus on being missionary disciples. Ultimately, achieve a goal of an average weekend Mass attendance of 12,000+.
- With an expanded reach as a result of evangelization and missionary discipleship, position the parish to form auxiliary locations within the existing boundaries (i.e.: St. Matthew West and/or St. Matthew East).
- Initiate and complete new construction at our main campus to support an increase in parishioner participation and the need to support preschool-age children, youth, young adult, and senior citizen programming with frequent opportunities for intergenerational encounters.
- Expand the current columbarium and prayer garden to accommodate the needs of parishioners for the next ten years. Integrate the design to complement the existing site.
- Upgrade existing facilities and technology as required to support changing parish needs and aging facilities.
- Provide opportunities for parish families to gather outside the Sunday Mass for faith community building.
- Transition the Waxhaw campus to become a standalone parish. Assure the facilities are in good operating condition; provide transition team with detailed information on the operation of the campus. Support all diocesan efforts to assure a seamless turnover and provide a fair and equitable transfer of assets.

Data collected and analyzed from a recent parishioner input survey and the Catholic Leadership Institute Disciple Maker Index survey, coupled with Bishop Martin's Vision for the Diocese of Charlotte, were merged to generate a comprehensive six-year pastoral plan for St. Matthew Catholic Church (2026-2032). The combined 3,000 responses constitute just over 30% of the average weekend Mass attendance and yields results that are statistically significant. Opportunities for survey participation were communicated orally from both the pulpit and utilizing all communication platforms currently available to parishioners.

Although lofty, the aforementioned goals are attainable within the six-year period through the dedicated and unified efforts of parishioners, ministry leaders, clergy and staff.