

St. Matthew Ecumenical Catholic Church
Development of a 2019 Community Dashboard

Report on Results

Presented by Brett Fallavollita to Parish Council - May 14, 2019

St. Matthew Church: 2019 Community Dashboard

Purpose

The purpose of the Community Dashboard project is to gather key information on St. Matthew Church—both basic descriptors and qualitative input from the community—to help enhance the church’s multi-year strategic planning. This effort was initiated by the St. Matthew Parish Council.

Project Methodology

In spring 2019, the project gathered basic descriptors of the church community and conducted listening sessions with a range of parishioners to identify information on their perceptions and desires. The information was summarized in a one-page “dashboard.” The church community was informed of the project, including the listening session opportunities, via Weekly Bulletins and announcements following Mass.

A total of four listening sessions were held: two with parishioners, one with Clergy, and one with the Parish Council. The two sessions for parishioners were open to any individual from the church who was interested in attending. During each of the four sessions, participants identified what they perceived were (a) St. Matthew’s top strengths, (b) qualities of St. Matthew Church drawing them in, and (c) top areas for St. Matthew Church to focus on in moving forward. During each session, the group came to a consensus for the top responses to each of these three areas. Sessions, which were conducted at the church, ran between 1 ½ to 2 ½ hours apiece. A total of 26 people participated. Sessions were held between March 26th through May 9th, 2019.

On Sunday, May 19th, 2019 (in between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses), the results of the Community Dashboard project were shared at an all-church meeting.

Brett Fallavollita, a Parish Council member, facilitated the Community Dashboard project, including the listening sessions.

Results

The results, which are attached, include:

- (1) St. Matthew Ecumenical Catholic Church Community Dashboard – 2019
- (2) St. Matthew Church: 2019 Listening Session Results
- (3) March 26, 2019 Listening Session Results: Parish Council
- (4) April 14, 2019 Listening Session Results: Parishioners – Group 1
- (5) April 24, 2019 Listening Session Results: Parishioners – Group 2
- (6) May 9, 2019 Listening Session Results: Clergy

**St. Matthew Ecumenical Catholic Church
Community Dashboard – 2019**

Mission Statement: We are a loving and inclusive faith community, following Jesus, honoring the dignity and equality of each person through the work of the Holy Spirit in our authentic Catholic tradition.

By the Numbers (2019)	
Year of Inception – 1985	Average Sunday Attendance – 75
Adult Members – 150	Approximate Monthly Revenue - \$20,700
Youth/Children – 12	Approximate Monthly Expenses - \$24,850
Number of Giving Units – 55	Sunday Masses: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. (English)
Ministries	
<p>St. Matthew Church maintains the following nine ministries:</p> <p><u>Bereavement</u>: support families at the death of their loved ones and assist, as appropriate, in the community’s response to their loss.</p> <p><u>Building and Property Maintenance</u>: ensure the proper maintenance, repair and protection of all the property of Saint Matthew; to provide both long and short-term plans for property maintenance, repair and improvement.</p> <p><u>Communication and Public Relations</u>: through a diversity of media, create an awareness of St. Matthew Church on local and national levels and to assure appropriate communication within our community.</p> <p><u>Community Life</u>: create and enhance social life in the community, providing venues for interaction; welcome visitors on Sundays; and create, as appropriate, ongoing group opportunities to raise funds for the benefit of the church.</p> <p><u>Education</u>: encourage and nurture the Christian education of all members, including adult education (Sunday morning classes and forums), Bible study; young adult education; confirmation classes and children’s religious classes.</p> <p><u>Finance</u>: create the annual church budget for Parish Council approval and monitor income and costs to assure the financial well-being of the church; advise Parish Council on the purchase, encumbrance and disposal of real property.</p> <p><u>Liturgy, Environments and Music</u>: assure that the liturgies and celebrations are supported by volunteers and appropriate environmental elements.</p> <p><u>Outreach and Social Justice</u>: create and support ministries that serve those in need, including, for example designated Outreach Ministries (Emmanuel House, OC Shelter Network, Phoenix Families) and social justice ministries.</p> <p><u>Stewardship</u>: encourage members of the community to grow as stewards of God’s resources, with a special concern for deepening financial support, time commitments, and use of God-given talents in the service of the community.</p>	
Who We Are as We Move Forward	
<p>The congregation believes the top strengths of St. Matthew Ecumenical Church are:</p> <p>St. Matthew Church welcomes and accepts all.</p> <p>St. Matthew Church honors the Catholic faith.</p> <p>The people of St. Matthew community are loving and diverse, and have come together to support Bishop Peter.</p> <p>The clergy of St. Matthew are diverse and have a sense of servant ministry.</p> <p>Children are part of the St. Matthew community.</p>	
<p>The qualities of St. Matthew Ecumenical Church drawing members in are:</p> <p>The liturgy and worship (including the music) are authentic and fulfilling.</p> <p>The St. Matthew community is like family.</p> <p>Bishop Peter’s love and teachings.</p>	
<p>The congregation believes the top areas for the church to focus on in moving forward are:</p> <p>Increase membership, paying extra attention to visitors, teenagers, and young adults. Relatedly, better outreach and marketing.</p> <p>Strengthen church leadership and preaching, including succession planning at various levels.</p> <p>Find more revenue.</p>	

St. Matthew Church: 2019 Listening Session Results

Question	Combined Results	Parishioners		Clergy	Parish Council
		Group 1	Group 2		
<p>What are the strengths of St. Matthew Ecumenical Church?</p>	<p>St. Matthew Church welcomes and accepts all.</p> <p>St. Matthew Church honors the Catholic faith.</p> <p>The people of St. Matthew community are loving and diverse, and have come together to support Bishop Peter.</p> <p>The clergy of St. Matthew are diverse and have a sense of servant ministry.</p> <p>Children are part of the St. Matthew community.</p>	<p>A All are welcome, accept you as you are.</p> <p>B. The Mass and ceremony (liturgy and sacraments – honors history of Catholic faith).</p> <p>C. All the St. Matthew’s clergy and parishioners working together following Bishop’s stroke (support, activities, attending).</p>	<p>A. All are welcome.</p> <p>B. Honors the Catholic tradition; best of Catholic and Protestant traditions.</p> <p>C. The adult and children within the community are involved.</p>	<p>A. Offers hospitality of God: All are welcome, accepting all denominations, open communion.</p> <p>B. Has a diverse clergy— acceptance of clergy who are married, women, and LGBT--with strong bond and sense of servant ministry.</p> <p>C. It’s a multicultural/ global community, making it feel like you are coming home.</p>	<p>A. Progressive Catholicism.</p> <p>B. The people/a loving place.</p> <p>C. Enormous potential of community.</p>
<p>What are the qualities of St. Matthew Ecumenical Church which draw</p>	<p>The liturgy and worship (including the music) are authentic and fulfilling.</p> <p>The St. Matthew</p>	<p>A. Receive sacraments and engage in liturgy (i.e., to be a Catholic again).</p> <p>B. Place to have a family/home/commu</p>	<p>A. The traditions are more fulfilling.</p> <p>B. The fellowship within the church – is like a family.</p> <p>C. Bishop Peter’s love – he is present</p>	<p>A. A spiritual refuge, feels like a spiritual home.</p> <p>B. The music is very powerful.</p>	<p>A. The mass experience – it is the real deal (authenticity)/Ince nse is a throwback, reflects a Catholic place.</p>

Question	Combined Results	Parishioners		Clergy	Parish Council
		Group 1	Group 2		
you to the church?	community is like family. Bishop Peter's love and teachings.	nity – be part of something to share. C. Bishop Peter – especially his spirited gift of providing the homily; availability to help you; has heart and quality of Jesus.	and connected to each individual; a great teaching.	C. A coherent and pretty traditional liturgy.	B. Brings me closer to the Holy Spirit. C. Relationships (it is like family).
What are the areas that St. Matthew Ecumenical Church could focus on in moving forward?	Increase membership, paying extra attention to visitors, teenagers, and young adults. Relatedly, better outreach and marketing. Strengthen church leadership and preaching, including succession planning at various levels. Find more revenue.	A. Need to grow the community – with an amazing community, why are seats not full (so, focus on community outreach). B. Need to find more revenue. C. Need committee/ ministry to work with new members and 1st time visitors.	A. Succession planning: Bishop Peter, Kathryn's retirement; training additional staff. B. Bring back or keep younger people (age 13-30); develop a plan to actively reach them and give them a reason they should come back/ stay; outreach and marketing. C. Need a strong business and financial leader.	A. Need more people. B. Need to maintain and strengthen our sense of Ecumenical Catholic identity. C. Livestream the entire liturgy.	A. Increasing membership. B. Better preaching. C. Stronger leadership.

Listening Session Results: Parish Council

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Attendees: 8 council members (BF, the 9th member, facilitated the session)

STRENGTHS

Progressive Catholicism ●●●●●

The people/a loving place ●●

Enormous potential of community ●●●●●

All are welcome

Bishop Peter

History of a continued faith (legacy)

Quality of the mass experience

Adult Education

Diversity of the People

Leadership from the Laity

Bishop Peter's preaching

Questions are welcome (don't check your brains at the door)

Lot of Outreach Programs

Sacramental Programs

Kids enjoy Sunday School, positive environment

Tolerance of children

Located in the middle of the OC region (easy to gravitate, geographically)

Ambiance of Chapel

Infancy/grassroots – can impact community

Have married priests

Welcome female priests

Easy access to freeways

QUALITIES DRAWING YOU

The mass experience – it is the real deal (authenticity) ●●●●● **+ Incense – throwback, reflects a Catholic place** ●●●●●

It brings me closer to the Holy Spirit ●●●●●

Relationships (it is like family) ●●●●●

The people
Comfort of my peer group
No other place to go
Adult education/Bible studies
Bishop Peter
Small town community feeling
Bishop acting with Mimi during Mass
Opportunities to serve
Parish Council
Artwork/Icons
Music
Lou's host
The touch: hugging/intimacy

MOVING FORWARD (H="one area most likely to help")

Increasing membership ●●● H H

Better preaching ●●● H H

Stronger leadership ●●●● H H

Engagement of people
Succession planning
Better advertisement
Need a PR campaign
Fix tension between Clergy and PC
Discipleship for people to grow spiritually
Compliance with Bi-Laws and Constitution **H**
Update administrative practices
Develop a Saint Matthew App
Examine who becomes clergy
Entertain growing closer to our partners and peer groups
Better community understanding of the ECC and Diocese
Relationship with San Mateo
San Mateo relationship with us
New floors
New signage
Improve office area

Plan to move out of our current space
Youth ministry (need youth!)
Better job welcoming people
Start having reconciliation
Relationships with community (people)
More effective outreach (service) to the community

Listening Session Results: Parishioners-First Group

Sunday April 14, 2019 (Following 8:00 a.m. Mass)

Attendees: 2 parishioners

STRENGTHS

All are welcome, accept you as you are ●●

The Mass and ceremony (liturgy & sacraments – honors history of Catholic faith) ●●

All the St. Matthew's clergy and parishioners working together following Bishop's stroke (support, activities, attending) ●

Dedication of Parish Council

Wonderful connecting website

Class between Masses very informative and good timing

Bishop Peter's Inquiry class – amazing education (history of faith)

Lots of activities and events for a small church

The faith and love felt here – people know each other

Varying backgrounds of the Clergy

Diversity of the community

Beautiful music of Mirella/choir

People are welcoming, caring, and loving

Meaningful and beautiful church setting (icons, cross in the middle)

Children participate in the Mass

Providing religious education for children (part of the Mass and classroom)

Semi-circle of chairs: all around altar

Friendliness of the community

Announce “all are welcome” to take communion

Devotion of people who attend

Love for one another

QUALITIES DRAWING YOU

Receive sacraments and engage in liturgy (i.e. to be a Catholic again) ●●

Place to have a family/home/community – be part of something to share ●●

Bishop Peter – especially his spirited gift of providing the homily ●● + Availability

of Bishop Peter to help you + **Bishop Peter: has heart and quality of Jesus**

Actively celebrate love of faith

Size of St. Matthew's: not lost in the crowd, you're part of a group
Education allows me to dig into the faith and history
Have priest say name during communion – being known within the community
Non-clergy homilists are amazing
Genuineness of community

MOVING FORWARD (H="one area most likely to help")

Need to grow the community – with an amazing community, why are seats not full (so, focus on community outreach) ● ● H

Need to find more revenue ● ●

Need committee/ministry to work with new members and 1st time visitors ● H

Increase member involvement

Improve timely communication from Parish Council to the parish (e.g., PC monthly meeting notes; notes are several months behind on the website; is there a synod summary?; have Bulletin sent via email on time)

Provide Parish Council email and phone numbers in the Bulletin

Need successor to Bishop Peter (strongly engaging person)

Provide long-term plan to the community (to help inform their decisions on how much to commit time and money to the church)

Need brochure (including use for community outreach)

Connect and engage with Hispanic community

Revise approach to "all-day" retreats (maybe hold after Mass)

How can we bring in more children?

How can we bring in younger adults, including those with growing families?

Better sharing of needs of members (sick), so we can help

Better reaching out to the Orange County community, to serve

Share with community on roles of the Clergy and staff at St. Matt's (and will they be evolving in short/long term?)

Have deacons take on more rolls than assisting with Mass (e.g., helping the sick)

In Bulletin, ask for donations to meet church's basic needs (such as toilet paper)

Listening Session Results: Parishioners-Second Group

Sunday April 24, 2019 (Following 10:30 am. Mass)

Attendees: 10 parishioners

STRENGTHS

All are welcome ●●●●●●

Honors Catholic tradition ●●● + **Best of Catholic & Protestant traditions** ●●●

The adult and children within the community are involved ●●●

Loving church: people show love and they love coming to church

The worship of the community: all love God!

Not hierarchy-based: clergy is accessible

Not Roman Catholic: no Pope; not following a (man-made) “law”

The way sacraments are celebrated (e.g., water/renewal)

Seating is circular

Music ministry is fabulous

Homily is strong – not preached at (connect readings to people)

Children participate: Sunday school and participate

Children feel loved by the congregation

The love that flows in the community

Bishop Peter and community welcome new members

People’s marriages and life events are recognized

Little children included Day One

Receives a homeless person

Clergy goes out to members when not able to come to church

Has a religious reminder

St. Matthew’s remembers and follows the cross

St. Matthew’s members care about others and care for each other

Errs on the side of being too liberal (i.e., no judgment)

QUALITIES DRAWING YOU

The traditions are more fulfilling ●●●●●●●●

The fellowship within the church – is like a family ●●●●●

Bishop Peter’s love – he is present and connected to each individual ●● + **Bishop**

Peter’s great teaching ●

The pre-communion invitation (sustaining vs. a reward)
 Unconditional acceptance
 Feel welcome to come alone
 Not a mega-church
 People ask if don't show up for awhile
 Lots of community events
 Being with people who worship and love Jesus
 Bereavement counseling

MOVING FORWARD (H="one area most likely to help")

Succession planning (including Bishop Peter) ●●● H H + Address Kathryn's retirement ●●●● H + Training additional staff ●

Bring back or keep younger people (age 13-30); develop a plan to actively reach them and give them reason they to come back/stay ●●● H H H + Outreach & marketing ●●●●

Need a strong business and financial leader ●●●●●●●● H H H

As a community, enter into prayer for the Spirit to show which way to go **H**

Moving from a charismatic church to a community church

Ensure follow-through with Dashboard Project to the community in a reasonable time

[Facilitator Note: One person stated and several agreed that he did not place a "dot" here because he assumed this would take place)

Present Dashboard results to community (orally and written, including posting on website)

Develop job descriptions and organizational chart

Sound/AV system improvement (and funded), including solutions for the hearing impaired)

Find and fund expertise to engage young adults

Hold retreats for younger adults

Better follow-through on visitors

Generate brochure/information to send to visitors

Expand the community: from welcome to acceptance to financial donations

Need another "rock," someone strong, a younger Peter

Let congregation know if church constitution being followed, where to find it, and if it is changing (and if so, when); where is the original constitution?

Listening Session Results: Clergy

Thursday May 9, 2019

Attendees: 6 Clergy

STRENGTHS

Offers hospitality of God: All are welcome, accepting all denominations, open communion ●●●●

Has a diverse clergy—acceptance of clergy who are married, women, and LGBT—with Strong bond and sense of servant ministry ●●●

It's a multicultural/global community, making it feel like you are coming home ●●

Family atmosphere

Bishop Peter is our strength

Clergy have a strong bond with one another and trying to serve community well

As a priest, there's a freedom to serve

A coalition of different groups representing fullness of Catholic Church

Children are given a participatory role in liturgy

Children like the classes

Mirella's music contributes to the Sunday experience

Mirella's preparation for the music ministry and professionalism, integrating into the scripture

Coherent liturgy

Formation of the Deacons

The congregational singing as part of the Mass

Attractive/aesthetic environment

Awesome homilies

A lovely community

QUALITIES DRAWING YOU

A spiritual refuge, feels like a spiritual home ●●

The music is very powerful ●●

A coherent and pretty traditional liturgy ●●

It's personal

Caring clergy and laity

Women priests

Another way of being Catholic

A diverse international clergy

Resiliency: ability to bounce back – all receive and all give – open to gifts of everyone

MOVING FORWARD

Need more people ●●

Need to maintain and strengthen our sense of Ecumenical Catholic identity ●●

Livestream the entire liturgy ●●●●

Each person gets involved in bringing in more people

Need more definitive lines of communication

Need to develop a strong sense of ECC identity

Ongoing formation for laity

Ongoing formation for clergy

More creative and new events

Consider doing something together with the two Masses (8:00am/10:30am)

More communication/connection after the 8am Mass

Allow others to embrace mystery in our faith

Train ushers/others to greet new people informally

Use social media to attract young people

Microphone/technology improvements

Figure out better advertisement for the church

Increase child participation in liturgy

Explore partnerships with Catholic-leaning Protestant churches

Fix the tiles

Become more involved in people's lives

Need more: Let church be filled with the gift of the Spirit

Get off your butts and do something!

Make sure all are invited back