

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW

*Welcoming All, Growing in God, Serving our Neighbor*



**The Episcopal Church of St.  
Matthew**

**9071 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, Arizona 85731  
520-298-9782**

**Parish Profile  
September 2025**

## Contents

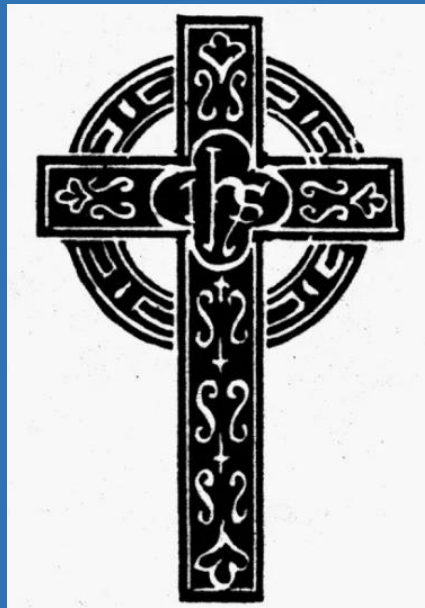
1. History of our Congregation .....	4
2. Worship .....	9
3. Ministries.....	11
4. Outreach .....	14
5. Finances .....	17
6. New Rector Profile .....	18

### Recognition of Indigenous People of the Land

St. Matthew's acknowledges the People of the Land who have dwelt here since time immemorial and continue to live in this place today: the Tohono O'odham, Subaipuri O'ohdam, Pascua Yaqui and other Native Americans. We give thanks for the original stewards of this land, our ancestors, our elders and all Indigenous People. Let us always remember the People of the Land in our prayers.



Saguaros welcoming all to St. Matthew's



**Welcome**  
TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
ST. MATTHEW IN TUCSON,  
ARIZONA

Our church is within the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, led by the Sixth Bishop of Arizona, Bishop Jennifer A. Reddall. St. Matthew's embraces the mission:

*Welcoming All, Growing in God, Serving our Neighbor*

Our congregation is excited to call a Rector who will guide the spiritual growth of our church community, provide pastoral care, nurture the growth of our ministry teams, and manage the administrative aspects of our parish.

We invite you to learn more about St. Matthew's through this summary of our history and current practice, our ministries and outreach, our worship, and what we seek in a new rector.



**Church  
Entrance**



Please e-mail all inquiries and correspondence to the  
Reverend Canon Anita Braden, Canon to the Ordinary:  
[anita@azdiocese.org](mailto:anita@azdiocese.org)



# 1. History of our Congregation

## Brief Chronological History

St. Matthew's became a mission church within the Diocese of Arizona on June 18, 1964. It began its services within a retail building at the intersection of Old Spanish Trail and Broadway in Tucson. Within a year, St. Matthew's purchased seven acres of land for a new church building in an area that was growing with middle income neighborhoods. The initial building housed the Sanctuary and a parish hall. Shortly after St. Matthew's established itself as a local church, Gale Elementary School opened in 1969 to serve the growing community. St. Matthew's began its outreach to the community by collecting monetary donations for the food-insecure at the new school, an outreach that continues to this day. As the surrounding community expanded, St. Matthew's grew into a stable congregation and added offices and Sunday School. In the mid 1980s, St. Matthew's built a new Sanctuary where the congregation continues to worship.



*St. Matthew's Entrance Signage*

## Our Surrounding Community

St. Matthew's location in Southeast Tucson has a large growing area from which to bring new members. Our Parish grounds abut next to Gale Elementary School to the north and single family and apartment residential neighborhoods to the east, west, and south. As the southern and eastern-most Episcopal Church in Tucson, St. Matthew's has a unique opportunity to reach out to the community, as well as provide Southeast Tucson with worship, fellowship, and educational opportunities in the Episcopal tradition.



*St. Matthew's Grounds (taken from the north)*



## St. Matthew's Church Grounds

St. Matthew's grounds host a stand-alone sanctuary, the Parish Hall where Coffee Hour is celebrated every Sunday, and a separate large meeting room, Matt's Place, for special events and adult education. There is also a stand-alone building that hosts the Rector's office, a library, and a Sunday school room. The three buildings form a U amid a well-kept children's playground and a picnic pavilion. The grounds near the buildings also include a memorial garden and a labyrinth that is used by parishioners for individual and group meditation walks. Most of St. Matthew's property is left in a natural state, providing a peaceful landscape around the campus.

*Manicured grounds near church offices*



*Children's playground used during parish get togethers and vacation Bible school*



*Armada for shaded outdoor fellowship and parish picnics*



*Memorial garden entrance*

**Please explore the Community with information below:**

[Pima County](#)

[City of Tucson](#)

[Tucson Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Southern Arizona Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Southern Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#)

[University of Arizona](#)

[Pima Community College](#)

[Visit Arizona](#)

[Visit Tucson](#)

[Davis Monthan Air Force Base](#)



*Our View*

## Parishioner Demographics

The St. Matthew's congregation reflects the general trends in the Episcopal Church. It is representative of the general Tucson population with respect to general demographics including age, race, wealth, political persuasion, and sexual orientation. Although there are a few parishioners who are long term Tucson residents, most of the members have moved to Tucson in the last 10-15 years and have only experienced the parish life under the guidance of our much-loved former rector, whose passion for the congregation was to welcome all. Current regular attendance varies from a low of 60 to 100. In general, the split between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services is 40-60 percent.



*Parish potluck*

## Core Values

Parishioners embrace the St. Matthew's mission statement to *Welcome All, Grow in God and Serve our Neighbor*. Welcoming all with love is paramount to the culture at St. Matthew's. Ensuring everyone feels accepted and valued is practiced with intention. Parishioner wealth or lack thereof is indiscernible during worship services and in participation in church functions, ministries, and outreach. Newcomers are greeted warmly, and parishioners reach out to help visitors feel welcome and invited to participate as much as they are comfortable. The congregation focuses on Growing in God by taking advantage of educational opportunities and fellowshiping with one another with meditation and prayer. A large portion of the congregation has participated in Education For Ministry (EFM) sponsored by the School of Theology of the University of the South, as well as in Rector-led classes and book clubs, and parishioner-sponsored educational opportunities. Parishioners demonstrate a great deal of love for one another and seek opportunities to reach out to the community in the form of donations to local charitable organizations and participation in local events for specific causes.





*Making Christmas baskets for shut-ins*  
process of moving forward as a congregation in the diocesan-sponsored Day of Discovery.

Since the Day of Discovery, congregants have restarted the Children's Sunday School. It is very small, but the joy of serving the younger families in the congregation is evident in the enthusiasm of the volunteers. Members have renewed their enthusiasm for providing refreshment for the coffee hours that follow each of the Sunday services.

The parish has continued to work together to reach out to the community in the gathering of donations for local charitable organizations. The congregation has embraced the new interim rector with excitement as well as understanding that this is our transition to the future. St. Matthew's has a strong desire to grow in a sustainable manner by welcoming and serving new parishioners.



*Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall*

## 2. Worship

At St. Matthew's, we incorporate the aspect of our mission to grow in God and welcome all by gathering to worship and pray together regularly.



*Sunday morning worship and Eucharist celebration*

## **Sunday Morning**

St. Matthew's celebrates the Eucharist every Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The 8:00 a.m. service focuses on the liturgy and the spoken word. This service is usually about an hour long.

The 10:30 a.m. service includes hymns and liturgical music led by a cantor with an organist providing accompaniment. During the pandemic, the congregation began livestreaming the 10:30 service to provide safe distancing practice. As many churches have learned, live streaming provides an opportunity to include our parishioners who are unable to meet with us in person due to short- or long-term illness or travel.

Coffee hour fellowship follows both services and includes light refreshments provided by parish volunteers. Several 10:30 a.m. parishioners attend both coffee hours to avail themselves of the opportunity to fellowship with members attending the early service.

## **Weekday Services**

St. Matthew's parishioners hold one another, the Church, the community, and the world up in prayer during the week with several prayer services during the week.

- In-person Morning Prayer with Eucharist on Wednesday mornings

- Praying of the Anglican Rosary via Zoom Wednesday evenings
- Morning Prayer via Zoom Thursday mornings.

St. Matthew's emails links to the zoom prayer services to each parishioner every week so that everyone is welcome to join in the prayers.

## Monthly Services

Historically, St. Matthew's celebrated Eucharist with a Celtic liturgy two Saturdays per month.

This was a passion of the former rector as a way to celebrate and incorporate different heritages into the spiritual life of the congregation. During our Day of Discovery several parishioners expressed a strong desire to continue with special services that provoke our mindfulness during prayer and worship.



## 3. Ministries

St. Matthew's parishioners practice Welcoming All via several ministries focused on supporting one another in parish life and service to the church's operation.

### Daughters of the King

St. Matthew's women form an incredibly active Daughters of the King Chapter with ten members holding St. Matthew's Church up in prayer, and the entire congregation supporting their ministries and outreach. Chrism Chapter of St. Matthew's Church meets on the first Sunday of every month at 12:15. The regular meetings consist of discussing Bible readings and meditations, conducting prayer circles, updating the current monthly prayer list, and planning for upcoming events. In addition to the spiritual growth and prayers, the St. Matthew's Daughters of the King champion several ministry and outreach programs, which are funded in part by their Annual Jam Festival where the women offer delicious jams for donations. The congregation anticipates this every year and responds generously.

**ST. MATTHEW'S DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

Welcome You to:

**THE ANNUAL FALL JAM FESTIVAL**

**Donations Only!**

**SUPPORT OUR OUTREACH TO:**

- Sister Jose's Center for Homeless Women
- Sunshine and Shoebox Ministries
- Camp Genesis
- NAMI Walk
- Parish Pastoral Ministries

*Annual Jam Festival for funding DOK Outreach*



The DOK's ministry to the parish includes hosting Celebration of Life Receptions for funerals, Caring Casseroles for parishioners going through short-term hardship, preparation of pastoral baskets for the parish's shut-ins during the holidays, sponsoring coffee hour once per month, and providing the parish youth Halloween bags. St. Matthew's DOK extends the love of God to the Tucson community through the Sunshine Ministry and Sister Jose' Women's Center, which are described under Parish Outreach below.

### **Education for Ministry (EFM)**

St. Matthew's parishioners maintained a continuous group of EFM participants from 2012 through 2023, with over 30 participants during that time frame, of whom over 90% completed the four-year program. As many of the parishioners have already completed the course, the program within St. Mathew's is on pause this year as the congregation assesses the viability of starting a new group.

### **Children's Ministry**

Our children and youth ministry is supported by dedicated volunteers from our parish who provide educational programs during the academic school year at the Sunday 10:30 service. This summer we are reorganizing with a focus to welcome our youth to St. Matthew's. Tables with coloring books are available in the Sanctuary for young children who attend the regular church service. Parishioners are always blessed when families and their children worship with us.



*Jam closet ready for parish donations in support of DOK Outreach*



*Children's table for services when there is no Sunday school or equivalent*

## Sacred Journey Gathering

The goal of the Sacred Journey Gathering is to educate participants on important social justice and climate issues facing our community, nation and the world. The group meets each Thursday evening via Zoom to learn and discuss opportunities to address issues. There is a steady core group to maintain continuous thread from week to week, and the meeting Zoom links are sent to the parishioner email list so everyone is welcome to attend.

## Altar Guild

Our Altar Guild is made up of lay people who are called to serve God by preparing and tending the place where we worship, enabling the liturgy. The altar guild has a special role as the priest's liturgical partner by making the worship life of the parish run smoothly. Though it is a behind-the-scenes ministry, its members help create a sense of sacred space, as they set the table and care for the items used in community worship, whether that be Sunday services, or the sacramental rites of baptisms, confirmations, and celebrations of life, fostering the reverence and even awe that attends the liturgies for both clergy and congregation members.



*Sacraments ready for the Eucharist as prepared by the Altar Guild*



*Sanctuary prepared for Lent*

A sense of what the Altar Guild is and brings to the life of St. Matthew's Church can be conveyed in prayer— Most gracious Father, who has called me, your child, to serve in the preparation of your altar, so that it may be a suitable place for the offering of your Body and Blood; sanctify my life and consecrate my hands so that I may worthily handle those Sacred Gifts which are being offered to you. As I handle holy things, grant that my whole life may be illuminated and blessed by you, in whose honor I prepare them, and grant that the people who shall be blessed by their use may find their lives drawn closer to him, whose Body and Blood is our hope and our strength, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

### **Ushering Team**

As in many congregations, St. Matthew's parishioners self-organize the ushering for the Sunday morning services. Volunteers from the congregation help greet

attendees and pass out church bulletins for each service. During the service, ushers assist the clergy or the congregation in any capacity, including carrying the elements for the Eucharist, guiding the congregation as they step forward for the Holy Eucharist, and identifying parishioners who need the Eucharist brought to them.

## **4. Outreach**

St. Matthew's missions to *Welcome All* and *Grow in God* are the focus of our worship and ministries to each other within the church. The third tenet of our mission statement to *Serve our Neighbor* propels us to use our talents to spread God's love beyond our walls and the members of our parish. The words of the parishioner who organizes the Shoebox ministry, "a church without outreach is not a church", aptly describes St. Matthew's commitment to reaching out to the immediate and Tucson-wide community.

### **Food Store Gift cards for Gale Elementary**

Each month of the school year, St. Matthew's delivers four gift cards worth \$25 each to the administration at the Gale Elementary School, our immediate neighbor to the north. These are then distributed to families experiencing food insecurity.



*Shoebox ministry preparations*



## **Sewing and Quilting**

The Quilting group's major service project is making lap quilts to give to Emerge, Center for Domestic Violence Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse. The quilters stopped meeting as a group due to pandemic precautions, but have continued to produce quilts for the women and children who come to the center in crisis. The team generally donates between 30 and 50 quilts each year.

## **Prison Ministry Outreach**

St. Matthew's has a history of reaching out to incarcerated persons to remind them they are not forgotten and that we can see Christ in them. For over five years, the congregation has been sending birthday and Christmas cards to incarcerated women at the Perryville Women's Prison in Goodyear, Arizona. With the help of our Deacon Kim Crecca, the Director of Camp Genesis and formerly the Convener for the Diocesan Prison Ministry, parishioners support children of incarcerated persons by providing scholarships to Camp Genesis, praying for individual children, and by providing gift cards to these children at Christmas time.

## **Sister Jose Women's Center**

St. Matthew's Daughter's of the King spearheads the church's outreach to Sister Jose's Women's Center, a nonprofit organization that exists to aid and transform the lives of women who are unhoused. St. Matthew's maintains food and personal item collections that the DOK delivers to the center each month. In addition, the DOK prepares a group meal at the Center each month that feeds 60-80 people.

## **NAMI**

The spring NAMI Walk raises funds to support NAMI Southern Arizona, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation and an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, with a mission of providing mental health advocacy, education and support to people in our community with mental illness and their loved ones. St. Matthew's parishioners support the event by joining in the walk as a team, collecting sponsors, and providing sponsorship.



## **POZ Café**

Poz Café is a monthly luncheon put on by TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) and made possible through monetary contributions and volunteers on the day of the luncheon from different Tucson faith organizations, including the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew's. The monthly lunch is an opportunity for people living with HIV/AIDS and their care partners to enjoy a meal in comfort and safety and is made possible through monetary contributions towards the food and care package items. St. Matthew's has participated for the last ten years by helping fund the lunch and by volunteering on the day of the event to meet the care partners and provide a safe and comfortable experience for them.

## Shoebox

The Shoebox ministry team is a small and dedicated ministry focused on providing Christmas shoeboxes to students at Imago Dei, an Episcopal School for low-income students in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The group knits and crochets hats and scarves for the students, and parishioners provide funds and small personal care items and school supplies that are used to fill the shoe boxes. This last year, the group provided Shoeboxes to 88 students at Imago Dei.



*Packing Shoeboxes*

## Jesse Owens Park Clean Up

Since 2019, several St. Matthew's parishioners have taken on clean-up care for Jesse Owens Park, which is located about a mile from the church. These St. Matthew Creation Care Apostles meet at the park monthly to police the grounds, bagging and disposing of litter. The group was originally organized by the previous rector; church members now organize the team and Apostle numbers vary with availability to a high of 10 participants each month.

## Little Library

As a service to the community, St. Matthew's offers a small collection of books for lending to parishioners and to the neighborhood around the church. The Little Library is a decorative large "mailbox" structure that is stocked by parishioners and even by community users.



*Creation care apostles*



*St. Matthew's Little Library*

## 5. Finances

St. Matthew's parishioner's pledges and general donations make up the majority of church revenues, which are augmented by grants, rental of our facilities, and other donations. The church has maintained budget surplus from 2019 through 2024 enabling us to build up an operating reserve. For the past 5 calendar years, cumulative operating surplus' enabled us to build up our operating reserves. This was accomplished while expenses increased during that same time period, while the number of actual pledgers decreased by 21 individuals. This change in pledgers consisted of 38 decreases due

in large part to parishioners passing or moving out of the area, offset by 17 new Pledgers since 2020.

	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
Pledges and General Donations	193,455	207,515	207,973	212,803	207,456	201,842
Grant Income	22,000	20,000	18,000	20,000	21,000	21,000
Facility Use	1,525	1,172	6,020	9,999	9,522	5,143
Donations in Memory of Loved Ones	1,000	450	4,423	16,535	18,153	2,875
All Other Revenue	4,090	1,047	2,186	2,733	2,992	2,765
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<u>222,070</u>	<u>230,184</u>	<u>238,602</u>	<u>262,070</u>	<u>259,123</u>	<u>233,625</u>

	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
Worship Compensation	87,877	93,450	100,730	108,037	117,674	120,769
Administrative Compensation	22,747	22,974	25,733	25,795	26,613	30,370
Utilities	22,986	24,721	27,509	28,962	31,816	33,564
Property Maintenance and Insurance	15,398	13,349	11,742	17,844	22,709	27,032
Diocesan Mission Share	37,619	39,114	39,930	43,182	42,755	39,472
All Other Expenses	15,149	13,625	20,084	14,958	18,139	18,660

<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<u>201,776</u>	<u>207,233</u>	<u>225,728</u>	<u>238,778</u>	<u>259,706</u>	<u>269,866</u>
---------------------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

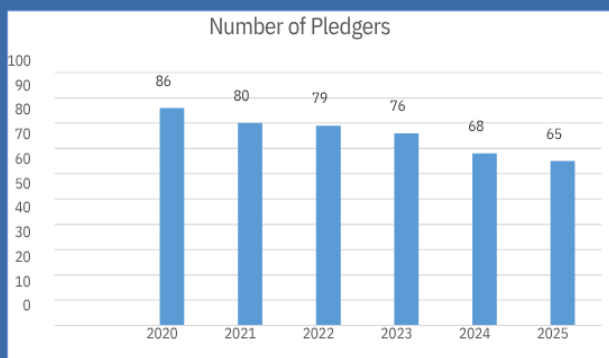
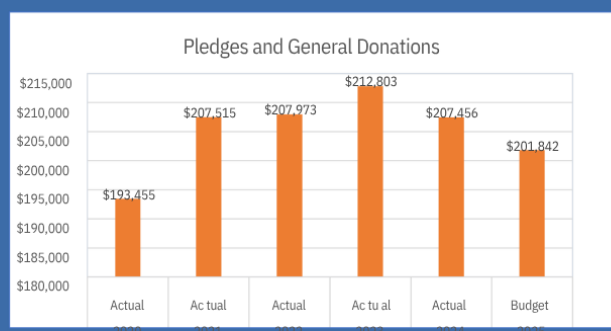
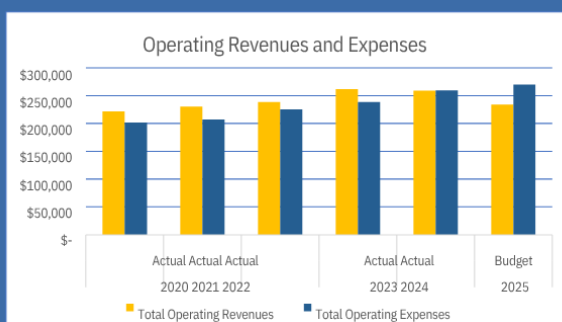
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<u>20,294</u>	<u>22,951</u>	<u>12,874</u>	<u>23,292</u>	<u>(584)</u>	<u>(36,241)</u>
------------------------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	--------------	-----------------

While the number of Pledgers has declined, the average pledge per individual has increased by 22%. We are projecting an operating deficit for 2025 in the amount of \$36,241. We have had projected budgeted deficits in prior years. The extreme generosity of our parish members turned those projected deficits into actual surpluses by the end of the year. We have not included this optimism in our 2025 budget. We do, however, have approximately \$127,000 in available reserves.



Since 2020, we have sponsored 3 individuals for the priesthood and diaconate and have hosted an internship for one priest candidate and one deacon candidate. Our church family continues to reach out to the local community. Some of the groups we support include; Imago Dei Middle School (through the Shoebox Ministry), Gale Elementary School, Sister Jose Center for Women, Interfaith Community Services, Community Food Bank, POZ Café (Tucson Interfaith HIV / AIDS Network), the Rincon Optimist Club, an active Daughters of the King Chapter, the Diocesan Camp Ground & Retreat Center and a prison ministry which includes Camp Genesis and a prison birthday club.

## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Financial Trends 2020 through 2025



## 6. New Rector Profile

### What we seek in our new rector:

We desire a Rector who is inspiring, prayerful, and theologically well-versed in contemporary church debates. We seek someone who will demonstrate respect and compassion towards all.

## **Day of Discovery Takeaways**

- **Spiritual Guidance:** We would like our rector to make our spiritual growth foundational to all we do within the parish and in the world. We are looking for someone who has the following skills and characteristics:
- Biblical knowledge; scholarly and relatable
- Homilist
- Teacher
- Deep spiritual life
- **Administrative Skills:** We need our rector to be well organized to accommodate the many needs and goals of the parish. We would like to work with our new rector who will need to empower the laity to maintain the mission and vibrancy of our parish. Specific skills we are looking for include:
- Organized
- Ability to Delegate
- Finance & Human Resources fluency
- Skillful in Technology

## **Personal Qualities:**

We are preparing ourselves to work together with our new rector to build a robust congregation. The personal attributes we believe will be helpful to that end are:

- Listening and hearing skills
- Energetic and young at heart
- Happy and joyful with a sense of humor
- Ability to communicate to the congregation as a whole as well as to individuals
- Ability to communicate to a diverse congregation
- Trustworthy
- Welcoming,
- Kind and caring
- Ability to inspire and build confidence in others
- Accountable

## **Experience:**

To help us grow into a vibrant parish, we need a rector with the following experience:

- Growing/developing a congregation
- Leading a parish as a family
- Developing and encouraging programs and outreach
- Attracting families
- Providing pastoral care

## Hopes and Dreams:

Look with us toward a compelling future.

Help us discern outreach opportunities and develop programs that benefit the vulnerable in the local community

Recharge Christian Education program for parish: Children and Adults

Help revive fellowship opportunities for the men in the parish

Unlock the potential of our 7-acre campus



*Labyrinth within St. Matthew's grounds used by parishioner in individual and group meditations and prayer as we  
Welcome All, Grow in God and Serve our Neighbor*