DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

St. Matthew Catholic Church is participating in One Church, Many Disciples, along with every parish in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. This first ever major campaign will build a Shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, support faith formation ministries, and strengthen local parishes, including ours. We join with faithful from across the archdiocese who are also helping to ensure our local Church is strong and vibrant for generations to come.

As an archdiocese, we form a faith community of 200,000 Catholics in central and western Oklahoma; we truly are One Church, Many Disciples! With the Beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother, each of us has the opportunity to share in his legacy. What an occasion to live Jesus’ call to missionary discipleship!

Please take a moment to review the impact One Church, Many Disciples will have on our parish. This campaign has my full support as your pastor, and I hope you will embrace this opportunity at St. Matthew.

Reverend Philip Louis, Pastor

OUR PARISH ROOTS

Farmers and ranchers have occupied this part of Western Oklahoma since the Cheyenne-Arapaho Run in 1892. The Catholics in the area were initially served by priests that would travel from El Reno to administer the sacraments. Fr. Zenon Steber was the first priest assigned to the area in 1896, and tended to the unincorporated community 30 miles west of Corn called Scheidel. By 1900, a church was built in Scheidel and dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi.

In 1906, St. Joseph Catholic Church was dedicated in Elk City, soon becoming a separate parish. Fr. Alphonse Geeraart served as pastor till his death in 1944, having founded the the missions at Sayre and Cheyenne. By 1926, the town of Canute had grown larger than Scheidel, and yet another parish was dedicated, this time to the Holy Family.

In December of 1970, Bishop Victor Reed amalgamated the parishes of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Joseph and Holy Family into a single new parish on the outskirts of Elk City. This was the site of St. Matthew’s school, built in 1967.

The new parish began worshipping in temporary quarters at St. Joseph’s School until a permanent structure could be built. In 1998, a permanent church was dedicated to St. Matthew, and is worshipped in to this day.
PARISH LIFE TODAY

Today, St. Matthew is very active, with multiple clubs and ministry groups that benefit the faith community in Elk City and the surrounding communities. We are a parish ready to face the future with faith, hope and love for our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. We are building upon the rich heritage of the past and committed to our charge by God for the future.

OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

St. Matthew Catholic Church welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City’s campaign, One Church, Many Disciples. This campaign will enable the building of a shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, and will fund shared ministerial needs. Through participating in this campaign, St. Matthew will raise significant funds toward the needs of our beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve the parish campaign goal of $530,000. St. Matthew will receive 20% of all funds we raise up to the goal, totaling $106,000. Plus, 50% of every dollar raised above the goal will be returned to St. Matthew.

OUR SHARE OF THE FUNDS

Through the One Church, Many Disciples campaign, we will not only play a significant role in this historic moment in the Church’s history, but we will also be able to support exciting new projects at St. Matthew.

With St. Matthew’s share of the funds raised in this campaign effort, we will expand the kitchen in our parish hall. In addition, we plan to repair and remark the parking lot.

- Parish Hall
- Kitchen Expansion
- Parking Lot
- Repair and Remarking