



# **Profile of St. Matthias Anglican Church**

***The Diocese of Mid-America***

***December 2025***

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## 1. Our Vision

St. Matthias, being blessed and touched by God, seeks to provide a place to Embrace Tradition, Experience a Family, and Enjoy a Home. We are driven to help those around us develop a deeper connection with Christ by holding ourselves accountable to a life of demonstrated faith, prayer, worship, and involvement in the lives of others.

### **Our Mission:**

- Prioritizing our lives such that we seek God's Kingdom and His righteousness first in all aspects of life
- Making sacrifices of time, treasure, and talents as an essential part of our relationship with God
- Devoting ourselves to prayer with and for ourselves, our parish families, and all those who ask
- Valuing and seeking our continual growth in the education of the Scriptures and Tradition of the Church.
- Establishing deep relationships within the parish family
- Cultivating an atmosphere that welcomes visitors and encourages them to make St. Matthias their Church home.
- Sharing the Faith and our personal relationship with God confidently and comfortably with others
- Seeking opportunities to meet the needs of members and the community around us
- Communicating clearly the roles, responsibilities, and expectations for the members and ministries of the parish

## 2. The Call

We seek a faithful, experienced priest to serve as our next Rector—someone who will lead us in reverent worship, preach and teach God's Word, and shepherd our congregation with humility and love. The ideal candidate will have a heart for discipleship, evangelism, and community engagement, and will support our bilingual ministry.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Lead traditional Anglican worship and administer the sacraments weekly.
- Preach and teach Scripture with clarity and conviction.
- Provide pastoral care and spiritual leadership.
- Equip the congregation for mission and outreach.
- Foster unity and growth within a diverse parish.

### **Qualifications:**

- Ordained in the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC) or a jurisdiction in communion with REC/ACNA.
- Committed to the doctrines and discipline of the Reformed Episcopal Church.
- Experience in parish leadership and pastoral care.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.



This is an exciting opportunity to lead a parish that treasures its Anglican heritage while embracing the mission of Christ in a growing community. If you feel called to serve with us, please send your resume, cover letter, and references to [searchcommittee@stmkaty.org](mailto:searchcommittee@stmkaty.org). We look forward to discerning God's will together.

### 3. Priorities for a New Rector

As St. Matthias prepares for a pastoral transition with the forthcoming move of our current rector, The Rt. Rev. Jason Grote, as Bishop of the Diocese of the Central States in 2026, the congregation has expressed a strong desire for a rector who will faithfully shepherd the parish into its next chapter. The Parish Survey reflects a unified hope for a pastor who is spiritually grounded, biblically faithful, liturgically traditional, and personally approachable. Our next rector will inherit a parish with deep roots, strong convictions, and a desire to grow in discipleship, mission, and community life.

**The following priorities emerged as the most important qualities for the next rector of St. Matthias:**

- **A Faithful Preacher and Teacher**

A rector who teaches the Bible as the inspired Word of God, preaches with clarity and conviction, and instructs the parish in the historic doctrines of the Christian faith. He should be able to apply Scripture to life in a way that is meaningful, pastoral, and rooted in orthodox Anglican theology.

- **A Pastor of Prayer and Devotion**

The congregation desires a rector with a deep personal devotional life, whose ministry is shaped by Scripture, prayer, humility, and dependence upon the Lord.

- **Loving and Present in Pastoral Care**

Someone who knows his people, visits the sick and homebound, counsels with gentleness and truth, and is actively present in the lives of parish families.

- **Committed to Traditional Anglican Worship**

A rector who will maintain and cherish our identity as a traditional Anglican parish, using the Reformed Episcopal Church Prayer Book in the classical 1928 tradition and continuing the musical heritage reflected in the Book of Common Praise.

- **Encourages and Equips Lay Leadership**

A leader who develops, mentors, and supports lay ministry, helping parishioners identify and use their spiritual gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ.

- **Approachable, Personable, and Engaged**

The parish hopes for a rector who is warm, relational, and easy to talk to; someone who can connect with parishioners of every age and background.

- **Clear Moral and Biblical Convictions**



St. Matthias desires a rector who can speak with pastoral wisdom and biblical clarity on the moral and cultural issues facing the Church, guiding the parish with conviction, charity, and courage.

## 4. Parish Survey Results

A parish-wide survey was completed in 2025 to assist the Search Committee in understanding the priorities, convictions, and hopes of the congregation as St. Matthias prepares to call its next rector. The results reflect a congregation with deep roots, strong commitment to traditional Anglican worship, and a desire for continued growth in teaching, discipleship, and pastoral care.

### ***Who We Are***

- **Most respondents are long-time members.** A significant portion have been part of St. Matthias for more than six years, with many having attended for over a decade.
- While some parishioners live nearby, many travel from across the greater Houston area to attend the parish
- The congregation represents a range of ages, with a balanced presence of families, singles, and seniors.

### ***What We Value***

The survey makes clear that the congregation places the highest importance on the **Sunday worship service**, especially **traditional liturgical worship**, **biblically grounded preaching**, and **congregational singing**. These were consistently rated as essential elements of parish life.

There is also strong appreciation for:

- **Bible study and Christian formation**
- **Pastoral counseling and visitation**
- **Shared parish life (meals, community events, fellowship)**

While many ministries are present, there is a **desire to strengthen and expand education and discipleship** opportunities for **children, youth, men, women, and adults**.

Areas Identified for Growth

Respondents expressed interest in:

- A more **consistent Sunday School program** for children and adults
- Renewed **youth ministry** development
- **Midweek opportunities** for prayer, study, and fellowship
- Continued development of **mission and outreach** both locally and beyond the parish community

These are viewed not as shortcomings, but as opportunities for the parish to grow under new pastoral leadership.



## 5. Our Strengths

Our parish is a warm and welcoming community marked by genuine love and care. As a multi-generational church, we are blessed to see families start their faith journey with us, grow here, and remain here to raise their own children, bridging the generations.. This shared history gives our community a unique depth and richness. Hospitality is part of our identity. We ensure that every person, from first-time visitors to long-time members, feels known, valued, and embraced. Our congregation consists of committed, mature, and thoughtful believers who are sincere in their desire to grow in Christ. Our parish also has a wonderfully artistic and creative spirit, expressed through music, liturgy, craftsmanship, hospitality, and teaching. With the recent arrival of young families, our parish continues to flourish. After a period of older children, we are restarting our children's programs, which have served past generations, to offer this newest generation meaningful and hands-on ways to grow in faith. Adults also have many opportunities to deepen their faith through study, conversation, and fellowship, supported by dedicated lay leadership and a variety of active ministries. Fellowship is a true joy here. Groups like the Laus Deo Group and the Men's Fellowship and Pipe Club deepen friendships and create spaces for people to encourage one another. Our Latino Ministry further enriches our community by welcoming Spanish-speaking members into worship, study, and fellowship. Music is a treasured part of our identity. Our small choir brings warmth, reverence, and beauty to our worship, particularly on feast days and during special celebrations when they sing with special instrument accompaniment. Ultimately, our parish is a place of hospitality, spiritual depth, creativity, and joyful community. It is a church where generations overlap, faith is nurtured with both heart and mind, and we continue to grow together as one family in Christ.





## 6. Our Challenges

St. Matthias is a growing church, but like many churches, has some challenges.

- 1. Geographically Dispersed and Limited-Time Congregation**  
The congregation is relatively small and made up of members who live across the greater Houston area. Because many people travel long distances to attend, they often have limited time available for ministry involvement outside of Sunday services. This makes it challenging to build consistent participation in weekly programs, volunteer activities, and community-building efforts.
- 2. Need for Stronger Support for the Music Ministry**  
The music program requires additional support in terms of personnel, resources, and long-term planning. Strengthening this ministry is important for enhancing worship services, attracting new members, and engaging the current congregation more deeply.
- 3. Lack of Youth Programs**  
The church currently does not have an active youth program. This gap limits the church's ability to serve middle-school and high-school students, to nurture the next generation of leaders, and to attract families seeking a church home that supports their children's spiritual development.
- 4. Children's Ministry Needs Additional Support**  
While a children's ministry exists, it needs greater support to function effectively. This includes more volunteers, improved curriculum planning, and potentially expanded space or resources. Strengthening this ministry would help meet the needs of young families and create a more welcoming environment for children.
- 5. Limited Midweek Opportunities for Prayer, Study, and Fellowship**  
There are currently few structured opportunities during the week for members to gather for prayer, Bible study, fellowship, or spiritual formation. Developing midweek offerings would help foster deeper community connections, increase discipleship engagement, and provide alternative participation options for those who are unable to attend weekend activities.
- 6. Need for Continued Development of Mission and Outreach**  
The church would benefit from expanding and strengthening its mission and outreach efforts both within the local community and beyond the parish boundaries. Broader outreach initiatives would help increase the church's impact, build relationships with the surrounding community, and provide meaningful service opportunities for members.

## 7. Five Year Goals

As St. Matthias enters a new season of transition and growth, the congregation desires to build upon its strong foundations while expanding ministries that will nurture discipleship, deepen community life, and extend the parish's witness in Katy and beyond. Guided by the priorities expressed in the Parish Survey and by the mission of the Reformed Episcopal Church, the following five-year goals reflect the hopes of our parish family as we prepare to welcome a new rector.



## **1. Strengthen Christian Education and Formation**

- Develop a consistent Sunday School program for children, youth, and adults.
- Establish regular catechesis that prepares new believers and new members for mature Christian life.
- Expand Bible study opportunities throughout the week for various age groups and interests.

## **2. Renew and Grow Youth and Family Ministry**

- Build a sustainable ministry that supports children, teens, and parents.
- Identify and equip lay leadership to partner with clergy in discipleship.
- Offer periodic events, retreats, and service opportunities for young families.

## **3. Deepen the Parish's Life of Prayer and Worship**

- Maintain and enrich the parish's identity as a community of classical Anglican liturgy, rooted in the REC Prayer Book and the Book of Common Praise.
- Expand midweek opportunities for corporate prayer, Evening Prayer, and seasonal devotional practices.
- Encourage greater participation in the sacramental and devotional life of the Church.

## **4. Expand Mission and Outreach**

- Strengthen the parish's presence in the local community through service, mercy ministries, and evangelism.
- Continue developing opportunities for Spanish-language ministry under Fr. Sigfrido's leadership.
- Build relationships with neighboring ministries, REC/ACNA parishes, and mission partners.

## **5. Cultivate Lay Leadership and Parish Involvement**

- Create clear structures for training, equipping, and supporting lay leaders.
- Encourage parishioners to use their gifts for worship, teaching, prayer, service, and outreach.
- Strengthen fellowship and community life through meals, events, and seasonal gatherings.

## **6. Prepare for Long-Term Stability and Growth**

- Support a smooth transition as our current rector, The Rt. Rev. Jason Grote, prepares to assume his duties as Bishop in 2026.
- Evaluate and plan for the parish's long-term facility needs.
- Maintain strong financial stewardship, ensuring stability for the next season of ministry.

## **8. Worship Services**

St. Matthias Anglican Church is a parish rooted in the historic liturgy and worship of the



Anglican tradition, following the **1928 Book of Common Prayer**. Our worship is reverent, ordered, and fully participatory, engaging the whole person—mind, body, and soul—in the adoration of Almighty God. Each service invites the congregation to listen and respond, to stand, sit, and kneel (as able), to sing, and to receive Holy Communion. In this rhythm of word and sacrament, our hearts are lifted beyond ourselves to behold the glory of God and the saving work of Jesus Christ.

We gather for **Sunday Worship (English) at 10:30 a.m.** and **Sunday Worship (Español) at 2:00 p.m.** Additionally we have a said Holy Communion service every Thursday at 10:30 am with bible study following. Each follows the ancient and orderly liturgy of the Prayer Book, with confession, Scripture, sermon, prayer, and Holy Communion being celebrated every Sunday, as we receive the Body and Blood of our Lord as a means of grace and thanksgiving.



## 9. Lay Ministries

Our lay ministry programs are thriving, through the altar guild, a growing number of Lay Readers, Chalice Bearers, Lectors, Acolytes, Ushers, Streamers for services, Choir, and Vestry.

The Laus Deo Group is an active and dedicated group which regularly provides hospitality for our time of fellowship after our Sunday Service. Members are also encouraged to volunteer and/or participate in the hospitality program. Our group of Laus Deo ladies also meets for worship every Thursday morning, with fellowship and bible study following.

It is important that, for special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries, each member of our congregation be acknowledged. To accomplish this, our Laus Deo group designs, makes and mails out handmade cards to each member.

Our Adult Study Group meets before service on Sunday Mornings. The group reads from various Christian theologians and discusses their writings in an open, conversational setting. It's an opportunity to ask questions, exchange insights, and grow in faith through the wisdom of the Church and the fellowship of believers.

Our Men's Fellowship and Pipe Club meets monthly and provides a relaxed and welcoming environment for men to connect, encourage one another, and grow in faith. As part of this ministry, the Pipe Club offers a special time for men to enjoy fellowship over pipes and cigars, sharing conversation, stories, and insights in a friendly, laid-back setting. Together, we build camaraderie, strengthen relationships, and support one another in living out a Christ-centered life.



Our Latino Ministry welcomes Spanish-speaking members of the community to worship, grow in faith, and serve together. Led by Fr. Sigfrido Morales, the ministry offers a weekly Spanish Communion service, fostering a space for prayer, Scripture study, and fellowship. Their service is held every Sunday afternoon.

- We have a small choir that leads music for special feast day celebrations, which enhances worship with hymns, anthems, and sacred music. This ministry is open to all who love to sing, the choir provides a meaningful way to participate in worship, celebrate the Church calendar, and enrich the spiritual life of the parish. Choir practice is held before our Sunday morning service.



## 10. Education Programs

St. Matthias's education programs include:

- **Sunday Morning Adult Study Group**  
A weekly opportunity for adults to engage in study, discussion, and spiritual formation.
- **Monthly Catechesis (Last Sunday of the Month)**  
Instruction in the fundamentals of the Christian faith, offered monthly to deepen understanding and prepare individuals for sacramental life.
- **Kids' Chapel (Every Other Sunday)**  
A biweekly program designed to provide children with age-appropriate teaching, prayer, and worship during service time.
- **Laus Deo (Thursdays at 10:30 AM)**  
A midweek study and fellowship group focused on scripture, prayer, and spiritual enrichment.
- **Seminary Classes via Cranmer House (Distance Learning in Our Zoom Room)**  
Ongoing theological education offered through remote seminary courses,





enabling deeper study for those pursuing advanced learning or ministry preparation.

## 11. Outreach Programs

For the past few years, our outreach has included annual support for the Adira Clinic (formerly The Pregnancy Help Center) where baby items and supplies are donated at Christmas, and “The Baby Bottle Blessing” donations take place by Father’s Day each year. Our donations for Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias help to support The Brookwood Community for adults with disabilities. Some of our Christmas projects in years past have been Christmas for children in foster care, Christmas Dinner at Hope Impacts and Christmas Neck Pillows for the residents of Sterling Oaks Nursing Home. We are also active in supporting the REC’s Give 100 Program and other REC missions.

## 12. Facilities

St. Matthias Church is blessed with two permanent buildings that serve the spiritual, educational, and fellowship needs of our congregation and community. Every part reflects the mission of St. Matthias: to be a place of worship, fellowship, learning, and service. From our historic sanctuary to our welcoming parish hall, our facilities serve as a home where faith is nurtured and the love of Christ is shared with all who enter.

### Parish Hall (Johnson Hall)

Our parish hall is the center of fellowship, education, and community life at St. Matthias. It includes:

- A fully equipped kitchen
- Three restrooms (one ADA-accessible)
- A spacious fellowship area
- A large meeting room
- A dedicated conference room with Zoom capabilities
- A children’s room
- A library, donated by our Rector Emeritus, Fr. Jacob Feldhacker
- Three administrative offices
- The capability of serving as overflow space during larger services (via live stream)
- Central Air Conditioning and Heating

The main parking lot accommodates approximately 50 vehicles, including two handicap-accessible spaces.

### The Sanctuary

Our sanctuary, built in 2006, comfortably seats **about 160 worshippers**. The space reflects both reverence and history, incorporating several antique and handcrafted furnishings that connect us to the wider Anglican and Reformed Episcopal Church heritage.

### Notable Features:

- **Historic Furnishings:**
  - A rare, original Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass window commissioned in 1885 and completed in 1887. Originally, it was installed in



Christ Cathedral Church, Chicago, where Bishop Edward Cheney—second bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church—served.

- Original Bishop and altar chairs from Christ Cathedral Church
- A restored marble font from the 1860s
- Six traditional Cathedral lights from the 1940s
- Handcrafted traditional wood furnishings made by skilled parishioners over the years

These elements create a worship environment that honors our Anglican heritage while inviting prayerful reflection and reverence.

- **Media and Outreach**

St. Matthias uses technology as a means of outreach and connection. We live stream our services weekly on Facebook and YouTube, using multiple cameras and professional audio equipment. We have found this to be a vital tool in reaching new visitors and maintaining connections with members unable to attend in person.

## 13. Parish Staff

At St. Matthias, we are blessed with a dedicated and gifted team of clergy and lay leaders who serve faithfully to support the spiritual life, worship, and fellowship of our parish family.

- **Clergy and Parish Leadership**

Fr. Victor Odinye – Assisting Priest  
Fr. Sigfrido Morales – Priest of Latino Ministries  
Deacon Greg Hoyt – Deacon  
Deaconess Annette Johnson– Deaconess  
Donna Taylor– Music Director  
Jon Mueller – Senior Warden  
Jacob Grote – Junior Warden  
Erika Lyles – Treasurer

## 14. History

From its earliest days, St. Matthias Anglican Church has sought to remain faithful to the historic Christian faith and to serve the communities God has placed in its care. What began as a small mission parish has grown—through God’s provision—into a thriving congregation with ministries in Katy, Bellville, and beyond.

- **A New Parish – 1982**

In response to doctrinal changes in the Episcopal Church during the 1970s, a group of believers founded St. Matthias to “contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3). The first service was held on Pentecost 1982 in Baytown, TX. Soon after, several founding members continued the parish’s ministry in Katy under Fr. Jacob Feldhacker and later clergy after his passing in 1993.

In 1995, the parish joined the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC), later a founding jurisdiction of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).

Early services were held in homes and rented spaces until the parish purchased and renovated a vacant daycare building in 1993, which served as a chapel and hosted a daycare ministry until 2000. In 1998, the adjacent vacant lot was purchased with hopes of building a future sanctuary.

- **A New Priest – 2000**



In 2000, newly ordained Fr. Jason Grote became Vicar. The daycare closed, and the building was further renovated for parish use. A steeple was added in 2002, and in 2004 St. Matthias was designated the Cathedral Parish of the Diocese of Mid-America when Bishop Royal Grote moved his offices to Katy.

- **A New Sanctuary – 2005/06**  
Growing attendance led to a building project in 2005. The long-anticipated new Sanctuary was dedicated on Pentecost 2006. The parish hall was also named Johnson Hall in honor of founding members Harry K. Johnson III and Deaconess Annette Johnson.
- **St. Barnabas – Bellville – 2005**  
With several members commuting from Bellville, the parish planted a mission there. The first service of what became St. Barnabas Anglican Church was held on Pentecost 2005.
- **Latino Ministry – 2017**  
In 2017, St. Matthias launched its Spanish-language ministry under Fr. Sigfrido Morales, who had arrived from Venezuela the previous year. The first Spanish Communion service was held on May 21, 2017, and continues each Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
- **A Bishop Co-adjutor – 2024**  
In 2024, our rector, The Very Rev. Jason Grote, was elected Bishop Co-adjutor for the Diocese of the Central States. After 25 years of service, he will conclude his tenure in June 2026 as he assumes his episcopal duties, and the parish is now prayerfully seeking a new rector to lead the next season of ministry.

## 15. Location

Katy is a thriving suburb just west of Houston, known for its family-friendly atmosphere, excellent schools, and strong community spirit. It offers the perfect blend of small-town charm and metropolitan convenience.

### Why Katy is a great place to live and minister:

- **Top-rated schools** in Katy ISD and access to quality private education
- Safe neighborhoods and a welcoming community
- Parks and recreation, including trails, sports facilities, and family events
- Cultural diversity and a growing population
- Proximity to Houston, with access to world-class healthcare, universities, museums, and professional sports

### Local Schools

Katy is served by the highly acclaimed Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD), known for academic excellence, strong extracurricular programs, and community involvement. Families also have access to a variety of private schools, including:

- Faith West Academy
- British International School of Houston

These schools offer diverse educational approaches, including classical, college-prep, and faith-based curricula.

### Cost of Living

Katy offers a moderate cost of living compared to national averages, making it an attractive location for families and professionals.



- Housing: Median home price is approximately \$375,000–\$420,000; rent for a 2-bedroom apartment averages \$1,800/month
- Utilities: Typically, \$250–\$400/month
- Groceries: Slightly below national average; a family of four spends about \$900/month
- Transportation: Affordable gas prices and manageable commute times to Houston (30–50 minutes)
- Taxes: No state income tax; property tax rates range from 2.1%–3.4%

## 16. Budget

God has truly blessed St. Matthias over the past 24 years. We have seen average annual giving increase steadily by over 14% and have a current budget of \$182,000. This blessing has allowed us the opportunity to invest and designate funds for specific purposes. We also have been blessed with a combined weekly average attendance in 2025 of around 80 people split between our English and Spanish services.

