

## Our History

The origin of the current St. Matthew parish library ministry dates back to late 2005, when Claire Cole, a long-time parishioner, and our first library ministry leader, responded to a bulletin request, asking for a volunteer to develop a plan for a parish-wide lending library.

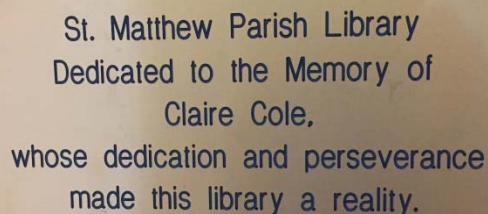
Claire stepped forward to lead the initial committee and several other parishioners joined the team, some of whom remain active members today. Soon after Claire's passing in 2007, the parish library was dedicated to her memory, with a special ceremony and a commemorative plaque placed on the library door. Our library committee, and the entire St. Matthew parish, continues to reap the benefits of Claire's generous and dedicated "labor of love."

The library "officially" opened in January of 2006, in Room 102 of the New Life Center, with a small collection of books, consisting of the "Bowling Collection", (a personal library of an original St. Matthew parishioner, donated by his wife after he passed away), parishioner contributions, as well as books generously provided by the Sisters of Mercy.

Under Monsignor McSweeney's direction, the library was created as, and remains today, an all-volunteer ministry, with an honor system checkout process. The collection is available to parishioners during the same hours that the New Life Center is open - 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Since its humble beginnings, the library's collection has grown to over 6,000 volumes, including books, CDs and DVDs. Subjects include theology, saints, family life, Church history, Scripture, Catholic fiction and much more. It also boasts a collection of books, DVDs and CDs for children (our most popular collection!), as well as a wide variety of books for pre-teens and teens.

Critical to our success and tenure is the dedication and hard work of a core group of volunteers who love books, love their Catholic faith, and love working together to "have fun and get things done". As a faith-filled group, we are dedicated to fulfilling the library's mission statement to "...aid each member of the parish in striving to live the mission of Jesus Christ to spread the good news of the Gospel."



St. Matthew Parish Library  
Dedicated to the Memory of  
Claire Cole,  
whose dedication and perseverance  
made this library a reality.