



August 14, 2025

Dear St. Matthew's School and Parish Communities,

As we move through the summer months, we want to share the encouraging progress being made across all aspects of our journey back to campus. From completed cleanup efforts to exciting developments at our temporary homes, each day brings us closer to reuniting on the grounds that hold so many cherished memories. Thank you for your continued faith and patience as we work together toward our shared goal of returning home.

Milestone Achievement: Army Corps of Engineers Debris Removal Complete

We are pleased to announce that **the Army Corps of Engineers has successfully completed their comprehensive cleanup of our campus.** This significant milestone marks an important step forward in our journey home. We remain deeply grateful to FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers for their dedicated partnership and professional expertise throughout this process.



Campus Progress: Remediation, Testing, and Safety Protocols

Church Remediation: The remediation of our beloved Church has reached an encouraging milestone, passing the halfway point with completion anticipated this Fall. Our renowned musical instruments (especially our world class organ and pianos) require specialized and extensive cleaning and renovation from the smoke and ash deposited on and in them during the fire. Though this process will take several months, it will not hold us back from returning to the Church. Given the



current schedule for cleaning both the inside and outside of the Church, including the pews, walls, ceilings and sacraments, **we expect to return to limited services and some Parish events in the Church by early October.**

School Remediation: Simultaneously, remediation work in our existing classroom spaces and Sprague gymnasium is advancing on schedule. Every inch of space, from floor to ceiling, is being closely evaluated for thorough testing and remediation or disposal.



Existing classrooms will see immaculate upgrades including new carpeting, fixtures, and furniture as we remain on track for our Fall 2026 return.

Hygienic Testing: Our commitment to your safety remains paramount. As each building is remediated, our certified Industrial Hygienist team conducts comprehensive post-remediation testing to ensure the highest safety standards. We are implementing robust and rigorous protocols for ongoing monitoring and testing of air, water, soil, and surfaces across our entire campus. In addition, elevated continuous cleaning protocols including HEPA vacuums, upgraded air filtration systems, and deep cleaning practices, are now implemented in daily, weekly, and monthly facilities operations.

Lastly, the preliminary reports of our testing on the campus are extremely encouraging. This provides steady reassurance for our community – the testing and corresponding remediation protocols have been described as one of the highest levels seen within the Palisades thus far.

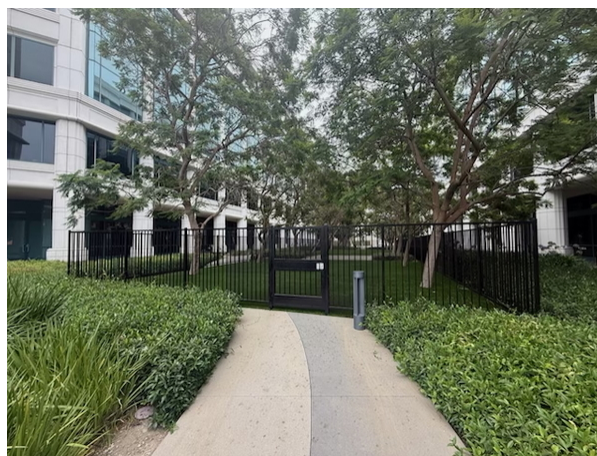
Strategic Partnership: Welcoming The McGregor Company

This June, we welcomed The McGregor Company as our Campus Development Partner, bringing their specialized expertise to every facet of our return to campus. Will McGregor ('02) and his father Bill (alum parent - '02, '04, '07) have a long history of consulting with the Church and School on major capital projects including Sprague, the Library and Lower School, Founders Hall, 1026 Bienvenida, and the columbarium. Will was also a camper and counselor at St. Matthew's Day Camp and a proud Scout from Troop 223! Their focused dedication and collaborative approach ensures we have experienced partners walking alongside us as we work toward reuniting with our cherished Bienvenida grounds.

Exciting Developments: Fall 2025 Water Garden Enhancements

Our temporary School home at Water Garden continues to evolve with impressive summer upgrades. The dedicated Lower School expansion is taking shape beautifully, with classroom walls completed, paint going on walls, and additional restrooms under construction. New furniture will create inspiring and welcoming learning environments.

We're particularly excited about Jacaranda Alley, our thoughtfully designed outdoor play space adjacent to the Lower School. This area has been professionally turfed and securely fenced, with new playground equipment arriving and scheduled for installation in the coming weeks. Jacaranda Alley, expanded use of the Colorado Center Park facilities, and strategically planned outdoor field trips will allow us to continue to spend more time outdoors in the 25-26 school year.



Looking Ahead: Fall 2026 Campus Return

Our joint Vestry/Board committee, Falcons Forward, is diligently working to finalize our comprehensive plan for the School's Fall 2026 return to campus. This carefully developed strategy will incorporate both our fully remediated buildings and thoughtfully selected temporary structures as needed. The complete plan will be shared with our community shortly after the new school year begins.

Strong Foundation: Financial Stewardship

St. Matthew's continues to maintain solid financial footing during this transitional period. Our partnership with Sill Public Adjusters ensures we maximize our insurance recovery for both School and Church operations. Additionally, we remain actively engaged in pursuing available FEMA funding opportunities. Traditional Annual Giving opportunities and fundraisers, such as the Auction Dinner and Christmas Faire, will continue as planned, alongside new giving opportunities currently in development.

Moving Forward Together

Your patience, support, and unwavering faith continue to be the foundation of our strength. Each milestone brings us closer to the joyful day when we can once again gather on our Bienveneda campus, renewed and ready for the next chapter of St. Matthew's remarkable story.

In Faith and Gratitude,

The Return to Bienveneda Task Force

- Bruce A. Freeman, Rector
- Alley Michaelson '02, Head of School
- Darren Seidel, Vestry Senior Warden, Alumni Parent
- Andrew Devkar, Chair of the Board of Trustees
- Terry Bird, Vestry Member, Alumni Parent, Current Student Grandparent (Chair of Return to Bienveneda Task Force)
- Mary Ellen Kanoff, Vestry Chancellor, Alumni Parent
- Lawry Meister, Former Vestry Senior Warden, Alumni Parent
- Ryan Harter '90, Board of Trustees Member, Chair of Facilities Committee
- Kevin O'Malley, Board of Trustees Member, Chair of Finance Committee
- Alexander Thain, Board of Trustees Member, Former Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees

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