

Song, dance, speech: St. Matthew prays for victims of massacre in Kenya

By Catholic Review Staff

In solidarity with the victims of the April 2 attack on Garissa University College in Kenya that left at least 147 dead, parishioners of St. Matthew in Northwood gathered for a special Mass April 10.

"They more they attack, the more we pray and pray and pray," said parishioner and Mercy High School student Malaika Wanjihia, "and, most importantly, keep faith and hope."

Wanjihia spoke after Father Joseph Muth's homily in a Mass that included performances in Swahili and Kikuyu by Wasafiri Voices, a group that celebrates Christian and Kenyan identity through song and dance.

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St. Matthew, which counts parishioners from 45 nations, includes an active Kenyan community. Father Muth, the pastor, said that his parishioners were devastated by news of the al-Shabab attack, which specifically targeted Christian students.

"The worst thing we can do is let people face these tragedies alone," Father Muth said, "so we share the struggle with them."

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