



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

DECEMBER 5, 2021 + SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

- Luke 3:4-6



MASS SCHEDULE

MASS

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. | 8 a.m.
Wed. | 7 p.m. (Adoration at 6 p.m.)
Saturday Vigil | 5 p.m.
Sunday | 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

CONFESSION

Wednesday | 6 - 6:50 p.m.
Saturday | 4 - 4:45 p.m.

PARISH INFORMATION

CONTACT US:

📍 535 Sneed Road W, Franklin, TN 37069
✉ info@stmatthewtn.org
☎ (615) 646-0378
🌐 www.stmatthewtn.org
📱 @SaintMatthewCatholicChurch

PASTOR:

Father Mark Sappenfield

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

DEACONS:

Lachlan Cameron & Bill Forte

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

LITURGY SCHEDULE (DECEMBER 6-12, 2021)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Butch Garland
 - Is 35:1-10
 - Lk 5:17-26

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Frank Boron
 - Is 40:1-11
 - Mt 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8 - SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For The People
- 12:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ Heather Kathleen Bradley
- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ James G. Caire, Sr & James G. Caire, Jr.
 - Gn 3:9-15, 20
 - Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
 - Lk 1:26-38

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Mary Damico
 - Is 41:13-20
 - Mt 11:11-15

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Dan Reese
 - Is 48:17-19
 - Mt 11:16-19

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✙ Rebekah Hutto
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ For the People
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ Jack Charron
 - Zep 3:14-18a
 - Phil 4:4-7
 - Lk 3:10-18

- ✙ **Special Intention**
- ✙ *May they rest in peace*

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 28, 2021 -

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| PARISH, VISITORS, AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH | \$21,352 |
| SECOND COLLECTION: DEBT REDUCTION | \$1,197 |

- MONTHLY/YEAR TO DATE UPDATE -

| | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| NOVEMBER 2021 | \$132,535 | \$124,337 |
| NOVEMBER YTD | \$641,465 | \$668,513 |
| ANNUAL BUDGET: \$1,638,255 YTD: 4% BELOW BUDGET | | |

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Capital Needs

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Religious Retirement



O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH

As we go forth this weekend, we will sing *O Come, Divine Messiah*. The tune, VENEZ DIVIN MESSIE, is a French Carol from the 16th century. The original French text was written by Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, whose collections of carols were published in 1708 and 1711. This English translation is by Sr. Mary of St. Philip, SND, and was first published in 1877.

The melody is in ternary form or A-B-A' form. The verse section is a 2 phrase melody. The refrain begins with the B section of the

melody, new material that is not indicative of the A theme. The final half of the refrain returns to the A' theme with a surprising change of an octave jump on the words, "When hope," indicating the uplifting sentiment of the word "hope."

The melody is both lilting in 6/8 meter and particularly in the B section, almost breathless with expectation. May we find both the peace of preparation and the breathless joy of expectation this Advent season.

PARISH NEWS

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This Wednesday, December 8, marks the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a holy day of obligation in the Church. In honor of this holy day, we will celebrate Mass at 8 a.m., noon, and 7 p.m. We hope to see you there.

SCAM EMAILS FROM “FR. MARK”

It has come to our attention that some parishioners have received scam emails from someone posing as Fr. Mark. In these emails, the scammer is requesting meetings, asking for favors, and even soliciting money and gift cards, and is signing the email as “Fr. Mark Sappenfield.” We apologize for any confusion this might have caused. We would like to assure you that Fr. Mark would *never* personally solicit our parishioners in this manner. If you believe that you have received a scam email from someone claiming to be Fr. Mark, please practice caution and contact the church office.

ST. GIANNA CIRCLE HOLIDAY SCRAMBLE

The St. Gianna Circle Mother’s Group will be hosting a Holiday Scramble on Tuesday, December 7. There are only 40 spots available for this event. Visit bit.ly/sgcholidayscramble to register. For more information on this event and to learn more about the St. Gianna Circle, please contact Elizabeth Abaray at elizabeth.abaray@live.com.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Christmas at Saint Matthew has always been a special time of beauty because the flowers decorating our church have been a memorial to our loved ones. We are again offering the opportunity to participate in a special way by having our loved ones remembered at the 10 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day. To participate, please fill out the “Christmas Flowers” offering found in your December envelope packet. Please enclose your offering and place it in the collection by December 20. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM SAINT MATTHEW.

www.stmatthewtn.org/church

MEN’S CLUB TREAT BAGS

In honor of St. Nicholas’ feast day, the Men’s Club will be passing out treats to the children (0-18) of the parish after all of the Masses on December 11 and 12. The treats bags will include an ornament, candy cane and various pieces of chocolate. We will have a table set up in the Narthex and will be passing the treat bags out from there. Please stop by after the Masses to get your gift bag!

ANGEL TREE

Thank you to everyone who adopted an angel from our Angel Tree! Please remember that all gifts must be returned to the church, wrapped and tagged, by Wednesday, December 8. Gifts can be placed in the church kitchen. If you have any questions about your angel, please contact Elizabeth Abaray at elizabeth.abaray@live.com.

COLLECTION ENVELOPES FOR THE NEW YEAR

The new year is upon us, and we are reviewing our order of collection envelopes for 2022. If you have switched to online giving or no longer have a need for collection envelopes in the new year, please contact Margaret Cook to cancel your collection envelope subscription. mcook@stmatthewtn.org. (615) 646-0378.



The advertisement features a young child with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue polo shirt with the Saint Matthew School logo, sitting at a table and coloring. To the right of the child is the Saint Matthew School logo, which consists of the letters 'S M S' in a stylized blue font with a gold cross in the center. Below the logo is the text 'Saint Matthew School'. The background is a light blue gradient. The text of the advertisement is written in a casual, orange font on a white, torn-paper-like background at the bottom.

Applications for Pre-K and Kindergarten for the 2022-23 school year are due by December 6th, 2021.

Apply online

www.stmatthewtn.org/school/admissions/

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. CECILIA JUNIOR HIGH UPDATES

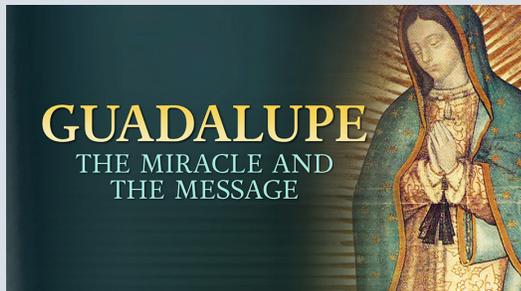
Do you know of a 7th or 8th grade girl who would be interested in attending SCA in the inaugural 2022-2023 classes? Encourage them to visit the SCA Junior High page for information and Q & A. We will provide updates here and on our admissions page with details of our new program. The application process will be open soon! Learn more at www.stcecilia.edu/junior-high.

WHAT'S ON NASHVILLE CATHOLIC RADIO

The programs aired Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon are produced locally from the studio of Nashville Catholic Radio located at the Catholic Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Nashville. The programs are about the Nashville Diocese, its programs, ministries, and its parishes and their parishioners. You can listen in on your radio at 100.5FM within the coverage area, stream it at NashvilleCR.com, or ask your smart speaker to "Play Nashville Catholic Radio."

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK - DECEMBER 5



As we celebrate the patroness of the Americas this week, enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego—an encounter that has converted millions.

If you have not signed up for FORMED, visit signup.formed.org, enter our parish zip code (37069), enter your name and email, log in through your email, and start watching!

APPLY TO FATHER RYAN HIGH SCHOOL!

It's always a great day to be Irish! The Father Ryan High School admissions application is now available online for the 2022-2023 school year! To start the application process, visit www.fatherryan.org/admissions.

FATHER RYAN INTRODUCES IRISH CONNECT

Father Ryan High School has launched Irish Connect, a free online networking site for alumni to promote their business, post job information, get career advice, and connect with other professionals. Visit fatherryan.org/irishconnect to join.

CATHOLIC BUSINESS LEAGUE MEETING

Join the Catholic Business League for its final meeting of 2021 on Thursday, December 9. The CBL will announce and honor the 2021 Catholic Professional of the Year. All are welcome. The meeting will begin at 7:45 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. Mass will be held prior at 7 a.m.

NCBWL CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Every year we ask our retired sisters what they would like for Christmas and we work to make their wishes come true. The Dominican Sisters are requesting a new blood pressure machine for the Infirmary that costs \$500. The Sisters of Mercy asked for: postage stamps; sets of blank note cards; thank you cards; gift cards to Michaels, Joann Fabric, or Hobby Lobby; towel sets; chocolates. To contribute, please bring your donations to the Christmas Party on December 15. You may also mail a check to help pay for the requested items: payable to NCBWL, specifying "Christmas Gifts" in the memo, and mail to PO Box 50994, Nashville TN 37205. For more information, contact Claudia Weber, claudiaweber1946@gmail.com.

NCBWL CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 15, 5-8 p.m. RSVP by Dec. 12 at www.ncbwl.org. Beverages will be provided. Please bring your favorite dish to share (appetizer, salad, sides, meats, sandwiches, or desserts). Also, remember to bring your gifts for the retired sisters.



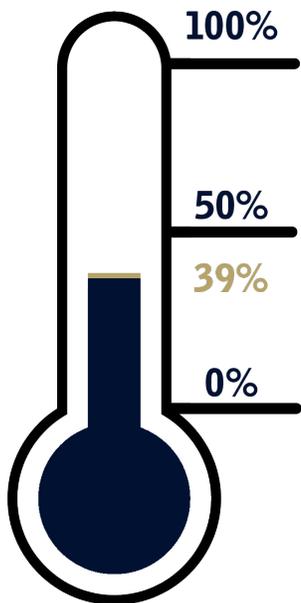
CAMPAIGN Update

Our parishes are the cornerstones and gathering places for our faith community. As part of this campaign, 25 percent of the funds raised by the parish are returned for specific parish needs. In our parish, campaign funds will specifically fund:

- Replacing the lighting in the church;
- Upgrading the audio-visual equipment in the church and gym;
- Renovating the church kitchen into a meeting space; and,
- Future facility upgrades

Bishop Spalding is calling on the entire parish to make a gift to the ***A Legacy of Faith, Hope and Love*** Campaign. Your support to this campaign will impact the future of the Diocese of Nashville and our parish for years to come.

Continue to say the campaign prayer for Saint Matthew's success and for your hard-working campaign volunteers who are giving of their time and hearts.



WE'RE OVER THE \$700,000 MARK!

Thanks to your generous support, we have crossed the \$700,000 in the ***Legacy*** campaign!

Saint Matthew's goal for the campaign is \$1,846,698. We are currently at 39% of that goal with a total of \$727,280.

The best way to see our thermometer continue to rise is by submitting your pledge decisions! If you have not already made your gift, please complete your pledge card and submit it to the Church Office.

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Matthew Catholic Church and the Diocese of Nashville!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

A NEW SERIES THIS YEAR



Revamp your New Year's resolutions towards the faith. This January we will start a new series in-between the Sunday Masses (during Religious Education classes).

Our series is called "The Search." The Search shows us that our most pressing human questions in life are best answered by the Catholic Church. If you are interested in joining this series, please fill out the form at bit.ly/smcthesearch.

NEW BIBLE STUDY ON THE PARABLES

The primary way Jesus taught his followers was through parables. Parables sketch out earthly scenarios that reveal heavenly mysteries. Yet for many, understanding the parables is perplexing. Join us in a new Bible study as we take a deeper look into the mysteries of the parables. Our Bible study will meet Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the church kitchen. If you are interested in joining, please sign up at bit.ly/smcparables.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR CONFIRMATION RETREAT



Parents, a great way to connect with your child and share their Confirmation experience is to be a part of their spiritual retreat. We are looking for adult volunteers to help in a variety of roles for the Confirmation Retreat on

January 8. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please visit bit.ly/smcconfirmationretreatvol to fill out the volunteer registration form.



TONY JESSE
Director of Religious Education
tjesse@stmatthewtn.org

Want to learn about the faith? Visit
<http://bit.ly/SMCFaithFormationInterestForm>

TONY'S REFLECTION

HE CAME AND IS COMING

We're all familiar with the opening credits of Star Wars reading... "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..." This popular phrase cues the audience to know that the saga they are about to engage in is a mythical story rooted in fiction. Rather than giving the audience a vague setting, the opening of Luke's account of God's entrance into the human sphere lists places and names much like an eye witness reporter. Luke tells us that Tiberius Caesar was the Roman emperor on the scene and Pontius Pilate was the local governor in Judea. These are brute facts that historians agree check out as legitimate.

In his opening, Luke is announcing to his audience that Christianity is embedded in actual history. That is, God arrived unequivocally into the human story that is measurable at a specific time and place. But, Luke isn't just leaving God's entrance into humanity as an event that is locked in history never to be applied to today. Rather, he is moving us to experience the reality that God is coming into our lives in a concrete way. Later in Luke's Gospel, he gives the account of two disciples who experienced "their hearts burning with fire" when they mysteriously consumed consecrated bread (i.e. the Eucharist).

Advent points us to the coming of Christ. These "comings" of Jesus breakdown into three: (1) His first coming as a baby in Bethlehem; (2) His coming into our soul in the Sacraments; and (3) His coming as the Great Judge at the end of the world. This season, let us ponder the historical coming of God in stage one to prepare us to receive Him into us today at stage two all the while grooming us for our eventual day before Him at stage three.

YOUTH MINISTRY

LAST CHANCE! WIN A CHICK-FIL-A GIFT CARD IN AN ESSAY CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizen Essay Contest's deadline is Wednesday, December 8. The 5 finalists will each receive a \$20 gift card. In 500-750 words: "describe everyday obstacles that you may have experienced or witnessed others experiencing while living a life of authentic faith. Explain how you have overcome these obstacles and how, by doing so, it has helped your faith to continue to grow." Complete and mail your essay to St. Henry Church (6401 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205 c/o Knights of Columbus). For any questions, email kofc12012@gmail.com.

LOOKING FOR SOME SIDE MONEY?

Harmony at Bellevue (8234 Hwy 100) is currently looking to hire some additional young people for part time positions for 4-8 p.m. on weekdays and/or 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on weekends at \$14/hour. If you are interested, call or text Kristie Gilmore. Cell: (615) 330-8233 Office: (615) 649-6543

LIFE TEEN THIS SUNDAY: TALKING TECH

SUNDAY 12/5 | 7-9 p.m. | PCC

It's hard to believe that it was only 2007 that the iPhone first was invented, but it seems even harder to believe that someone today wouldn't own a smartphone. Tech—which technically (see what I did there) includes shovels and glasses—does incredible things for our lives. Yet, could there be elements to technology—and especially our relationship to it—that aren't always good and healthy for our humanity? Come to Life Teen on Sunday for camaraderie, games, and a deep dive into how we can maintain a virtuous relationship with technology in our lives.

NEXT WEEK: WHITE CHRISTMAS PAJAMA PALOOZA

SUNDAY 12/12 | 5-7 p.m. | Gym + PCC



There will be blaring Christmas music in the gym, stiff competition over Boccer (if you already know what that game is), a White

Elephant gift party, and an epic feast involving slow-cooked smoked turkey and ham. Wear your best pajama pants (feel free to top it off with an ugly sweater), bring a \$5-10 gift for the gift party, and a dessert to share. To make sure we get the right amount of food, please RSVP at bit.ly/3pozHVP.

COME MARCH FOR THE UNBORN

Just this past Wednesday, the Supreme Court heard arguments on a very decisive case that could significantly help protect the lives of the unborn in our country. Join Tommy and other Saint Matthew High School students in this pilgrimage standing up for the sanctity of life and dignity of every human being. We will be marching with Father Ryan and Saint Cecilia at the rally and doing a full schedule of activities in our nation's capital with high school students throughout the Diocese. This will be an incredible opportunity to have fun, meet students your age, and grow in your faith. The deadline to register is December 17. bit.ly/dionashmarchforlife.

REMINDERS:

- Confession available at Saint Matthew every Wed 6-6:50 p.m. & Sat 3:45-4:45 p.m.
- Tommy will be at Father Ryan's 7:05 a.m. Mass on Mondays.
- Sunday, December 5: Life Teen as usual: Tech
- Sunday, December 12: Last Life Teen: Christmas Pajama Palooza
- Sunday, January 9: Life Teen resumes as usual

TOMMY KILLACKEY
Director of Youth Ministry
tkillackey@stmatthewtn.org





OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

PRE-K: 615-646-1361

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