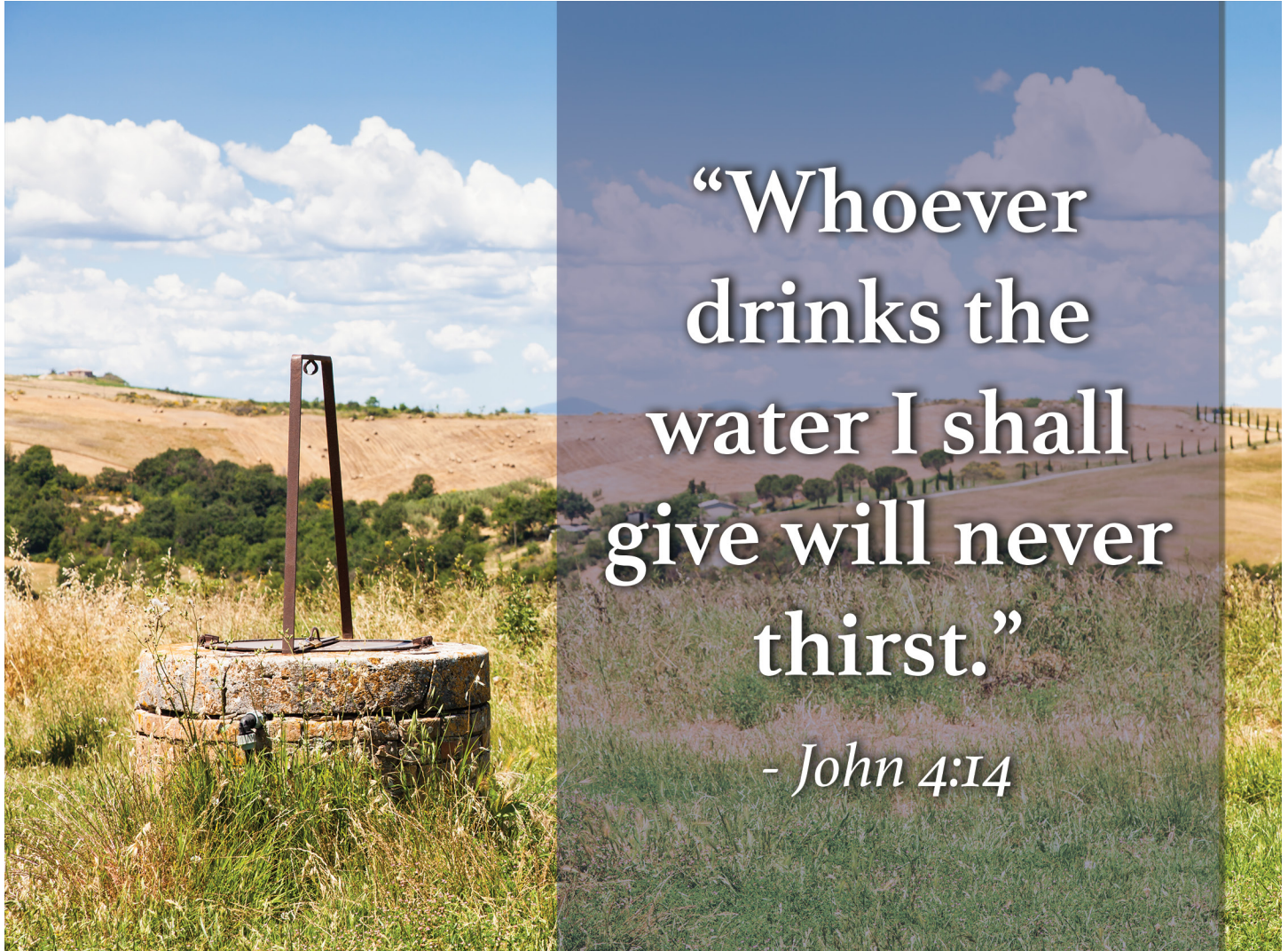




Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MARCH 12 + THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



“Whoever
drinks the
water I shall
give will never
thirst.”

- John 4:14

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 Justin Raines

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

DEACONS:

Lachlan Cameron & Bill Forte

PARISH NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023

Confirmandi



LITURGY SCHEDULE (MARCH 13-19, 2023)

MONDAY, MARCH 13

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✦ For Jim and Judy Watson
- 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab
- Lk 4:24-30

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✦ Ruby Nell Morris
- Dn 3:25, 34-43
- Mt 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✦ For Polly Thomson
- Dt 4:1, 5-9
- Mt 5:17-19

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✦ For Diane Ralph
- Jer 7:23-28
- Lk 11:14-23

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✦ For Carol Mascolo
- Hos 14:2-10
- Mk 12:28-34

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✦ For the People
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✦ John and Francis Pensabene
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✦ Marshall Aaron Woodard
- 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
- Eph 5:8-14
- Jn 9:1-41

✦ Special Intention

✦ *May they rest in peace*



Congratulations to the 67 students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, March 9. As Bishop Spalding emphatically said in his homily, "We love you!" Please pray for these students as they embark on the next chapter of their faith journey and continue to deepen their Catholic faith.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 5, 2023 -

PARISH, VISITORS, AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$26,904.50
SECOND COLLECTION: CAPITAL NEEDS	\$809

- MONTHLY/YEAR TO DATE UPDATE -

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
FEBRUARY 2023	\$111,853	\$118,271
FISCAL YTD (JULY '22 - FEBRUARY '23)	\$1,088,541	\$1,057,097
YTD: 2.9% (\$31,444) BETTER THAN BUDGET ANNUAL BUDGET: \$1,572,725		

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SAINT MATTHEW!
MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY ON OUR GIVING PAGE:
www.stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



PARISH NEWS

RESPECT FOR LIFE DRIVE FOR MULIER CARE COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

Our Respect for Life Ministry's baby shower drive kicks off this weekend. The drive will benefit Mulier Care, a Nashville-based non-profit supporting women facing a crisis or unplanned pregnancy, and its Community Baby Shower on March 29. The drive begins this weekend and will last through Sunday, March 26. We are seeking donations of diapers (all sizes), wipes, and pull-ups (all sizes). If you would like to participate, please drop your donations off in the box located under the table across from the sacristy. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Starr at maryestarr25@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting our Respect for Life Ministry and Mulier Care!

PATH OF REMEMBRANCE PAVERS

Memorialize your loved one with a custom engraved paver placed along the Path of Remembrance in the Grotto at Saint Matthew. Pavers can also be engraved for special occasions such as Christmas, First Communion, Confirmation, and Mother's & Father's Day. Order yours before March 31 to be installed in late April or early May. Visit bit.ly/smcpavers to place your order today.



Saint Matthew Catholic Church
SPEAKER SERIES

FEATURING DR. RYAN HANNING

DAY 1
WHAT IS HAPPINESS?
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
7:30 P.M. | CHURCH

DAY 2
GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FAMILY
THURSDAY, MARCH 23
7:30 P.M. | CHURCH

LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT
www.bit.ly/stmspeakerseries



SMS CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK

Saint Matthew School will be closed from March 13-17 for Spring Break. Our church offices will remain open. We hope all of our school families enjoy a restful and relaxing break!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us every Friday during Lent for Stations of the Cross. This week, we will be led by Dan Ott. Stations will begin at 6 p.m. here in the church. We hope to see you there.

FAMILY SERVICE MINISTRY GARDENING DAY

Our Family Service Ministry will host its annual Gardening Day at Sensory Garden for the Blind on Sunday, March 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. Come for any duration between those hours or stay the whole time. This is a beautiful volunteer opportunity for the entire family, no matter the age, and an awesome way to care for God's gift of nature. To learn more and register, visit bit.ly/smcfsmgardeningday. Please indicate the ages of children attending. This helps the Lions Club plan age-appropriate tasks. We hope to see you there!



ST. GIANNA CIRCLE MOTHERS MINISTRY presents.
MOTHER & SON NIGHT OF FUN!

MARCH 25, 2023
6:00-9:00 P.M.
\$30/FAMILY

DJ, DINNER, GAMES, CRAFTS, PHOTO BOOTH + MORE!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER



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

www.stmatthewtn.org

PARISH NEWS

MEN'S CLUB APRIL MEETING DATE CHANGE

The Saint Matthew Men's Club has adjusted its meeting date for April to accommodate Holy Week. They will now meet on Thursday, April 13. All men of the parish over 18 years old are invited to attend. Please email mensclub@stmatthewtn.org if you have any questions.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Stay up-to-date with the latest news and information from Saint Matthew Catholic Church! Join our email list today to receive our regular newsletters, updates on upcoming events, and more. To join our list, visit bit.ly/smcemailsignup and fill out the form.

MEN'S CLUB FISH FRY - SAVE THE DATE

Join the Saint Matthew Men's Club on Friday, March 31 for their last Fish Fry of the Lenten season! We are returning to our original, pre-COVID format. All orders can be picked up in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Service will begin at 6:30 p.m. after Stations of the Cross and end at 8 p.m. Each meal includes two pieces of fried catfish, hush puppies, fries, and coleslaw. The order form will open next week.



RESPECT FOR LIFE ROSARY

The Saint Matthew Respect for Life Ministry will meet every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. to pray the rosary outside of the Planned Parenthood in downtown Nashville. Anyone who would like to join in prayer with the ministry members is welcome to sign up and attend. Visit bit.ly/smcrlfrosary and complete the form to register for your spot. If you are unable to attend on Mondays, that's okay! You are welcome to pray there any time that works with your schedule. If you would like someone to attend with you, please contact Mary Starr at maryestarr25@gmail.com.

BECOME A GIFT BEARER

We are looking for volunteers to be offertory gift bearers at each of our weekend Masses. All parishioners—individuals and families—are invited to sign up. To register, visit bit.ly/smcgiftbearer.



COMMUNITY NEWS

FATHER RYAN ACADEMIC BLEND - APRIL 18

Parents of current 5th-7th graders are invited to join us on campus as we present an early, in-depth look into Father Ryan's curriculum as you begin to plan for your student's 9th-12th grade high school experience. You will have the opportunity to tour our academic building, observe classes in-session, and meet members of our senior staff. This event will take place from 9:15-10:45 a.m. Register at fatherryan.org/admissions/visit/non-applicant-visit.

BELLES VOIX AND VOX GRATA CONCERT

The Belles Voix choir from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana, will be joining with the Vox Grata Women's Choir, conducted by St. Cecilia Academy's music director, Jeanette MacCallum, for a one-night concert. The concert will be held at the Second Presbyterian Church (3511 Belmont Blvd) on Monday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. All are invited.

WHAT'S ON NASHVILLE CATHOLIC RADIO?

Our Home is a School of Prayer, a program for busy parents - Monday, March 6 at 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Nashville Catholic Radio 100.5FM. Our children first meet God in our homes and learn to relate to him through prayer. Find out how parents in Middle Tennessee teach their children to pray. If you miss the show, listen to the podcast at www.NashvilleCR.com.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Williamson County Rescue Squad Station 22 (1493 Sneed Road) is seeking citizens to serve as volunteer firefighters. All applicants must be 18 years or older to join. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please visit their website at www.wcfire.com.



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES

In today's Gospel story, the woman at the well meets Jesus. Jesus moves her so much that she goes into the village, no longer abashed by her bad reputation, and tells everyone that she found the Messiah. Please support our Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries so we can help people access the water of life. Jesus wants to satisfy every human's thirst, and through your generosity, our parish can be a channel for His water to reach thirsty hearts.

The 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries is underway! Scan the QR code below to make your gift. Thank you for your generous support!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported last year's Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries and helped deliver essential ministries throughout Middle Tennessee, including Faith Formation, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Seminarian Education, Catholic Charities, and so much more! To make your 2023 gift, visit dioceseofnashville.com/appeal or text "BISHOP" to 615-552-1101. Thank you!

SCAN HERE
TO MAKE
A GIFT



TONY'S REFLECTION WAITING AT THE WELL

Those who have become embarrassed about their troubled past typically try to avoid the local crowds, lest people gossip and continue to smear their reputation. But, what if instead of finding the chattering crowd, they find an outsider who interestingly knows every detail of their past?

Our Gospel reading presents us with such a scenario. Two cultural taboos from that time initially stick out in this exchange: a man speaking with a woman, and a Jew conversing with a Samaritan. The enmity between the Jews and Samaritans was deep. It went back centuries when the Assyrians destroyed the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. The people were forcibly deported, and foreign tribes were brought in to settle the land. The Israelites that remained in the north were known as Samaritans. They assimilated with these pagan people, engaged in intermarriage, and adoption of pagan gods, while the Jews in the Southern Kingdom remained somewhat loyal to God's covenants. The north and the south kingdoms became competing camps in which one group thought the other had defiled the covenant. Consequently, the Jews and Samaritans avoided any contact with each other.

The context of a man speaking to a woman reveals that the intimacy of this conversation goes beyond mere chitchat. This woman's multiple marital struggles parallel the historical experience of the Samaritan people, as the five foreign tribes who intermarried with the Samaritans introduced five male deities into their religion. Through her, Jesus is speaking to the entire nation of Samaria and showing the Samaritan people that their long-awaited God has come to marry them back. The five false gods to which the Samaritans built shrines were also known as "Baals." While Baal was a name of a particular deity, it was also used to refer to a "husband." Therefore, in worshiping five Baals, Samaria engaged in actions analogous to adultery to the Lord's covenant. Yet, despite Samaria's unfaithfulness and infidelity, God remained faithful to them.

And here He is – God in human form waiting for them by the well of Jacob. The image of the well harkens back to the marital arrangements described in the OT. Here, the wives of Isaac, Jacob, and Moses were first encountered at a well. Given this marriage backdrop, Jesus is the Divine bridegroom searching for the lost Samaritans to be His covenant bride.

Continuing the nuptial theme, we see what Jesus asks for – water. While Jesus is physically thirsty for water, He longs for something else. When was another time Jesus said he was thirsty? On the cross, He bellowed out, "I thirst." As Bishop Sheen was fond of saying when Christ says, "I thirst," He is referring to His thirst for souls. He is signifying His yearning for us. Let us meet Him as He stands waiting for us wherever our "well" should be.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TEACHING THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

Saint Matthew strives to grow our inclusive program to those with special needs. St. Philip Church in Franklin is offering a workshop for catechists on teaching to those with disabilities on March 25. Visit bit.ly/stphilipcatechesisanddisabilities to learn more and register.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR TOTUS TUUS & VBS



Join Saint Matthew from June 25-30 for a week of faith-filled fun at Totus Tuus and Vacation Bible School! Learn more about each program below. To register, visit bit.ly/smctotustuusvbs23.

STELLAR VBS: JUNE 26-30 | RISING PRE-K & K

Launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun.

TOTUS TUUS JUNE 26-30 | RISING 1st - 6th GRADERS

Latin for "totally yours," Totus Tuus is a fun and energetic program designed to create joy in the faith. Totus Tuus is led by a team of college-aged missionaries and seminarians. The youthfulness, energy, and ability to witness to the faith make the missionaries effective with children.

TOTUS TUUS: MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL JUNE 25-29 | RISING 7th - 12th GRADERS

Our middle and high schools students will have their own Totus Tuus program that week, led by the Totus Tuus missionaries. The middle school and high school sessions will be held separately, and they will all meet each evening for night prayer.

YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE NIGHT RESUMES TONIGHT!

We're off this weekend and next weekend for Spring Break. Our regular Life Nights will resume on Sunday, March 26, where we will discuss why we fast during Lent. We hope you all have a safe and relaxing break!

Upcoming Life Teen Dates

- No Life Teen March 12 & 19 (Spring Break)
- March 26: Life Teen as usual, 5-7 p.m., PCC
- April 2: Life Teen as usual, 5-7 p.m., PCC
- April 9: Happy Easter! No Life Teen this day
- April 16: Life Teen as usual, 5-7 p.m., PCC
- No Life Teen April 23
- No Life Teen April 30 (First Communion at Saint Matthew)
- May 7: Life Teen as usual, 5-7 p.m., PCC
- May 14: Happy Mother's Day! No Life Teen
- May 21: Time for Exams and Graduation!
- May 28: End-of-School-Year Party
- Summer 2023: June 10-17 - Fort Myers Servio Deo Mission Trip

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR SERVIO DEO



Registration is now open for Servio Deo! This year, we will be traveling to Fort Myers, Florida, to assist the communities affected by Hurricane Ian. The trip will take place from June 10-17 and is open to all 7th-12th graders in the Saint Matthew community. Register online at bit.ly/smcserviideo23. To view the promo video for Servio Deo, visit bit.ly/smcserviideopromo.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Take a look at these upcoming youth events taking place around our diocese.

SEARCH RETREATS

Various dates in 2022-23

Registration for the 2022-2023 SEARCH season is now open at soundscatholic.com! Save the dates: SEARCH 376: Mar 24-26 | SEARCH 377: Apr 28-30

WORLD YOUTH DAY

July 28-August 8, 2023

The Diocese of Nashville is going to World Youth Day in 2023! All youth of the diocese ages 16 and up are invited to attend. For more information on WYD, visit soundscatholic.com/world-youth-day.

REGISTER FOR LIFE TEEN

We have loved seeing all the new faces at Life Teen and look forward to seeing many more to come. If your student has been attending or is planning to start attending Life Teen, please take a moment and register your high school student for Life Teen at bit.ly/smclifeteen22-23.

WATCH THE SERVIO DEO
PROMO VIDEO!



TONY JESSE
Director of Religious Education
tjesse@stmatthewtn.org

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



LISA VEGORS
Interim Youth Director
lvegors@stmatthewtn.org



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

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

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