



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

APRIL 16 + DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



Divine Mercy Sunday

**“FOR THE SAKE OF
HIS SORROWFUL
PASSION, HAVE
MERCY ON US AND
ON THE WHOLE
WORLD.”**

Jesus, I Trust in You!

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:

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✉ 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

THANK YOU, CAROLE AND MARCEL!

Over the past few months, we have been blessed to have Carole Frey and Marcel Hernandez serve as our interim accompanists while we continued our search for our next Music Director. With our permanent accompanist starting next week, we would like to thank Carole and Marcel for their service to our community over the last few months, specifically for their work during Holy Week. We appreciate them sharing their time and talents with our parish and supporting our liturgies each week. Carole and Marcel, we thank you and we are praying for you!

MANDATORY LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING

We will host a training session for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs), Sacristans, and Ministers of Ceremony (MC). This is for all current members of each ministry as well as anyone who wants to become part of one of these ministries. The training session is MANDATORY for all current members of these ministries. The sessions will be held this Monday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 22 at 2:30 p.m. If you cannot make one of the two training dates, please contact Kelly Ott at kott@stmatthewtn.org to schedule a make-up session.

RESPECT FOR LIFE CANDLE CEREMONY

Our Respect for Life ministry is hosting a candle ceremony commemorating the unborn lives lost from 1973 to today. We are looking for parishioners to participate in the ceremony by processing up the aisle with one of 50 lighted candles, representing each year that Roe v. Wade was an active law in the United States. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to sign up. The ceremony will take place on Wednesday, April 19 following the 7 p.m. Mass. To register, visit bit.ly/smcrespectforlifecandles. For questions, please contact Mary Starr at maryestarr25@gmail.com.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

(APRIL 17-23, 2023)

MONDAY, APRIL 17

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Buzz Donlon
- Acts 4:23-31
- Jn 3:1-8

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For the Gignoux Family
- Acts 4:32-37
- Jn 3:7b-15

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ Ida Francken
- Acts 5:17-26
- Jn 3:16-21

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For Carole Reisinger
- Acts 5:27-33
- Jn 3:31-36

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Paul Vy Tran
- Acts 5:34-42
- Jn 6:1-15

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✙ Robert Charles Czyz
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ For the People of Saint Matthew
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ Martin J. Holmes
- Acts 2:14, 22-33
- 1 Pt 1:17-21
- Lk 24:13-35

✙ **Special Intention**

✙ *May they rest in peace*

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 2023 -

PARISH, VISITORS, AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$30,630.50
SECOND COLLECTION: PALM SUNDAY	<i>Included in count above</i>

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Capital Needs

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Catholic Home Mission

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SAINT MATTHEW!
MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY ON OUR GIVING PAGE:

www.stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



PARISH NEWS

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - MAY 5

Registration is now open for our next First Friday Adoration on Friday, May 5. Time slots are available in 30-minute increments. We need two people present with the Blessed Sacrament at all times. If the time slot you would like to choose already has two slots filled, you are still welcome to sign up for that time. Visit bit.ly/smcfirstfridayadorationmay23 to register for a time slot. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

WOMEN'S CLUB TEA PARTY

All women of the parish are invited to a Tea Party celebrating the return of the Saint Matthew Women's Club! Join us for the inaugural event of the 2023-2024 season. Enjoy fellowship, refreshments, and learn more about all of the exciting events planned throughout the year. High tea attire and hats are encouraged, and bring your own tea cup. The event will take place on Sunday, May 7 at noon. To register, scan the QR code in the image below or visit bit.ly/smcwcteaparty by Sunday, April 30.



REGISTER FOR OUR MAY LUNCH BUNCH



We can't wait to welcome everyone back for our final Lunch Bunch of the season! Lunch Bunch is our parish's monthly social gathering for members of the community ages 55+. We will gather in the narthex on the second

Tuesday of every month for lunch, fun, fellowship, and bingo. Our next event is on Tuesday, May 9 from noon – 2 p.m. The cost of entry will be \$10 (collected at the door). We also ask that you bring an unwrapped gift for the prize table (gift cards, baked goods, new or gently-used items in good condition valued between \$10-20). Registrations can be made online at www.bit.ly/smclunchbunchmay. If you have any questions, please contact Martin Strobel at mstrobel@stmatthewtn.org or (615) 550-5101.

SAINT MATTHEW SOCCER CLINIC

Join us this summer for the inaugural Saint Matthew Soccer Clinic! The clinic will be hosted by Saint Matthew parent Stefan Caufield, a former NCAA Division I soccer player and coach who was a member of the U20 Canadian National Team and a member of Ottawa Fury FC in the Premier Development League. This camp is designed for up-and-coming soccer players to further develop their skills. The clinic will take place on June 2 & 3 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The cost is \$80/player. More information will be made available soon. To register, visit bit.ly/smcsooccerclinic.



PARISH NEWS

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.

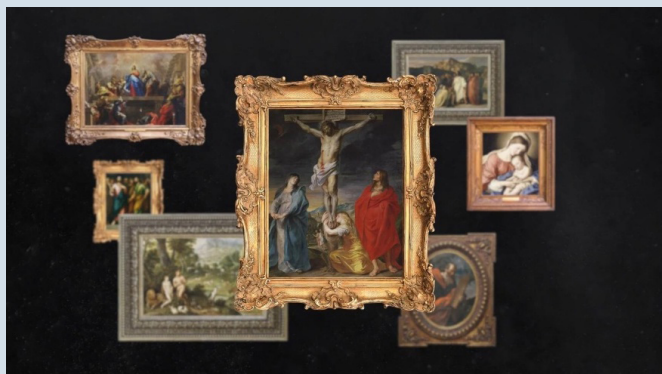
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Follow Saint Matthew to deepen your Catholic faith on your favorite social media platform! Find us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube to keep up with everything happening here on Sneed Road.

 SaintMatthewCatholicChurch
 @stmatthewtn
 c/SaintMatthewCatholicChurch

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK - APRIL 16



GOD'S SCHOOL OF TRUST | DIVINE MERCY EPISODE 1

The sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, has distorted the way we see God. But God hasn't given up on us. In fact, He has tirelessly worked to heal our distorted image of Him through his "School of Trust," beginning with his Chosen People in the Old Testament.

To watch this title and many more like it, visit FORMED.org and sign up using our parish zip code (37069).

SAINT MATTHEW IS HIRING

Are you looking for a new career opportunity in the church? Saint Matthew Church and School is looking for motivated candidates to fill open positions in our offices. At the parish, we are seeking a new Accounts Payable Clerk. At the school, we are seeking a new Receptionist. If you are qualified for one of these positions and interested in joining our team, please visit www.stmatthewtn.org/church and click the "Current Job Openings" item under the Parish News section. For more information, please contact the church office.

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 small and large—are invited to sign up. To register, visit bit.ly/smcgiftbearer. Please consider participating in this important ministry.

SMS GRANDPARENTS DAY

Saint Matthew School will celebrate Grandparents Day on Friday, April 28! All grandparents of Saint Matthew School students are invited to attend. Our students have working hard to prepare for this year's show titled "That 70s Grandparents Show." If you are the grandparent of a Saint Matthew student and would like more information, please contact the school office.

SMS SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

SMS Camp Registration is now open! Join us this summer at Saint Matthew School for four sessions of summer camp fun. If your child is interested in flag football, dodgeball, basketball, soccer, art, or cheerleading, SMS is the place to be! Visit bit.ly/smscamp23 to register. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Edmondson at jedmondson@stmatthewtn.org.



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

www.stmatthewtn.org

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. This event will take place from 9:15-10:45 a.m. Register at fatherryan.org/admissions/visit/non-applicant-visit.

NASHVILLE MARIAN CONFERENCE

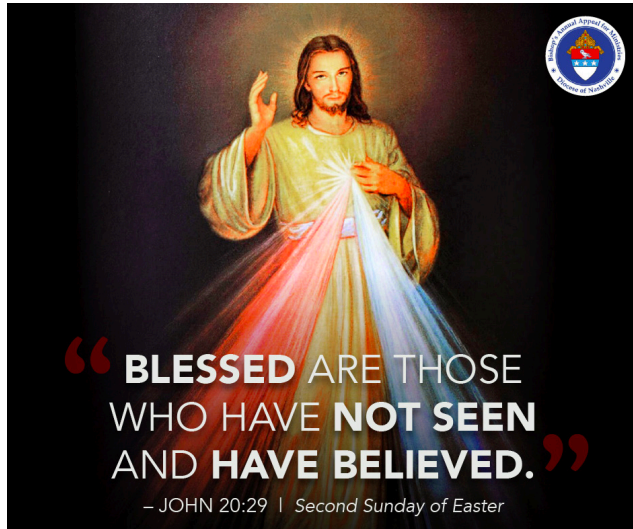
Now more than ever, we need the intercession of Mary. Join us at the Nashville Marian Conference as we unite our hearts with Mary's Immaculate Heart and pray for our world, our nation, our homes, and each of our hearts to lead us more closely to the Sacred Heart of her Son, Jesus Christ. The conference will take place on April 28-29 at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Hendersonville. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.nashvillemarianconference.com.

WHAT'S ON NASHVILLE CATHOLIC RADIO?

Around the Diocese - Monday, April 24 at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. - Serra Club Williamson County members Gene Gillespie, Bob Rudman, Lloyd Crockett, and Tripp Guthrie present us with the history of Serra Club of Williamson County and tell us all about what they do to support our religious orders throughout the Diocese of Nashville. This program repeats Saturday at 8 a.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. You'll find it on WBOU 100.5FM, streaming at www.NashvilleCR.com, or our free app.

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

Lift your gifts for our Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries to God this Easter season as a sacrifice of joy. Today, we rejoice with all those "who have not seen and have believed" (John 20:29). That's us! We need your help to get this joy out to our local community. Our parish has the greatest treasure in the world: the Risen Christ in the Eucharist. Build us up through your donations, prayers, and fasting. We cannot do it without you. Please help us help the world know He's truly here. Alleluia to that!

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

If someone announced, "I have good news and bad news," we generally would insist on hearing the bad news first, followed by the good news. After all, the dire news is better absorbed when we know it's followed by more pleasant news. In our faith, there exists both persistent bad news with the state of human sin, the existence of evil, and the collective yawn of indifference to God from society; however, the bad news is followed by the incredible good news of Jesus' work and the graces that flow from Him and His Church that usher us into eternal life with the Holy Trinity. The faith oscillates between two poles, of which man must keenly be aware and know which direction he is heading toward. During Lent, we experienced the more unpleasant news of sacrifice, suffering, and the sadness of knowing our sins violently crucified Christ. Now, in the Easter season, we have transitioned to the more invigorating news. The tomb is empty. Our sins are forgiven and redeemed. This Sunday, the good news keeps rolling – we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday.

Pope John Paul II established this feast day in 2000 when he canonized Sister Faustina Kowalska. St. Faustina Kowalska was a nun who, in the 1930s, received a series of private revelations from Jesus, who communicated that His mercy is His greatest attribute. She recorded those experiences in her diary.

In the case of the Feast of Divine Mercy, our Lord promises that, "On this day, the very depths of my tender mercy are open. I pour a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. The soul that will go to confession, and receive Holy Communion, shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. ... Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins be as scarlet" (Diary, # 699). Here, Jesus announces that His mercy is available for all who ask for it. The one caveat for us is to actively request His mercy.

It should be noted that to receive God's mercy, you need to grasp your state of wretchedness; otherwise, what's the point of asking for mercy if you don't think you need it? Ironically, witnessing your misery acts as a conveyor belt to receiving Christ's abundant mercy. The father of the prodigal son allowed his son to wallow with the pigs so that he could recognize his sins – which ultimately led him back into his father's arms. To thwart God's mercy, the devil tempts us with pride. Such is the line of pride: "I don't need to ask for mercy. I've done nothing wrong. If anything, God needs to apologize to me." Whereas pride impedes requesting forgiveness, humility acts as an instrument in which one pursues forgiveness with all his strength.

Here lies the good news - Jesus wants to pardon us and renew us completely. The pressing question to ask – we will allow Him to do this?

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

NEW MEMBERS IN THE CHURCH

Congratulations to our newest members of the Church who were fully initiated at the Easter Vigil. This year, we had seventeen people enter into the Church. We are excited to have you as members and know that you will have a positive impact on the Church's mission to help save souls. Please know of our continued prayers for you!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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**

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. Their youthfulness, energy, and faithfulness make them 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

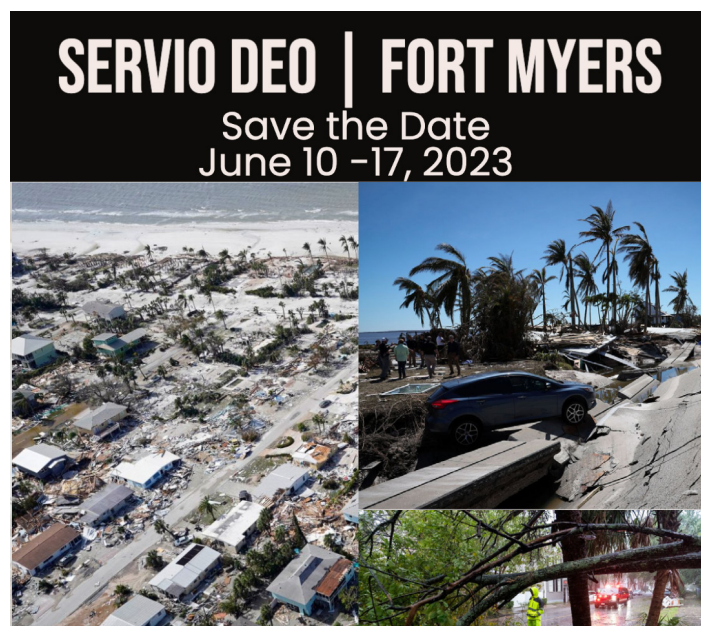
LIFE NIGHT TONIGHT!

We can't wait to see everyone at our next Life Night tonight! This week, we will discuss how to deal with scandal in the Church and what to do when you disagree with how a church leader is leading. Our Life Night will take place from 5-7 p.m. in the parish conference center. Bring a friend; they're always welcome! We hope to see you there.

Upcoming Life Teen Dates

- 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/smcserviodeo23. To view the promo video for Servio Deo, visit bit.ly/smcserviodeopromo.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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

SEARCH RETREATS

FINAL RETREAT: April 28-30

This is your last opportunity to take part in the diocesan SEARCH retreat this season! To learn more and register, visit soundscatholic.com.

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.

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