



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MAY 14, 2023 + SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**"IF YOU LOVE ME,
YOU WILL KEEP
MY COMMANDMENTS."**

JOHN 14:15

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

INTRODUCING THE TROOPS OF ST. GEORGE

Saint Matthew is proud to announce our newest ministry, the Troops of Saint George. Founded in 2013, the Troops



TROOPS OF SAINT GEORGE
VIRTUS. HONOR. FRATERNITAS.

of Saint George is a national fraternal Catholic apostolate for young men looking for a life of adventure coupled with virtue. The Troops of Saint George apostolate aims to use the outdoors as a canvas and the sacraments as a path to light the way for the formation of holy Catholic men and boys. Whether called to the vocation of the priesthood, the religious life, or that of holy fatherhood, fathers and sons will take a prayerful pilgrimage together to fulfill Christ's desire for them to grow in virtue and in their holy Catholic faith as they journey toward heaven. Our chapter of the Troops of St. George will launch in Fall 2023. If you and your son(s) are interested in registering for the Troops of Saint George, please fill out the interest form at bit.ly/smctsginterest. For questions or to learn more, please email Eric Ruppenner at tsg@stmatthewtn.org.

PRAY THE ROSARY AFTER 8 A.M. DAILY MASS

We invite you to pray the rosary with us after our 8 a.m. daily Masses. The group meets in the chapel following the 8 a.m. daily Mass every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. All are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Phillips.

LITURGY SCHEDULE (MAY 15-21, 2023)

MONDAY, MAY 15

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Anne Hamann
- Acts 16:11-15
- Jn 15:26—16:4a

TUESDAY, MAY 16

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For Kitty Gomez
- Acts 16:22-34
- Jn 16:5-11

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ Clara Lucia
- Acts 17:15, 22—18:1
- Jn 16:12-15

THURSDAY, MAY 18

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Tom Lecroy
- Acts 18:1-8
- Jn 16:16-20

FRIDAY, MAY 19

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For Kitty Gomez
- Acts 18:9-18
- Jn 16:20-23

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✙ For the People of Saint Matthew
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ Edith Baldinger
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ Richard Sappenfield
- Acts 1:1-11
- Eph 1:17-23
- Mt 28:16-20

✙ Special Intention

- ✙ *May they rest in peace*

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 7, 2023 -

PARISH, VISITORS, AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$26,214.83
SECOND COLLECTION: CAPITAL NEEDS	\$824

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Debt Reduction

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Parish Charity

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

www.stmatthewtn.org/church/giving

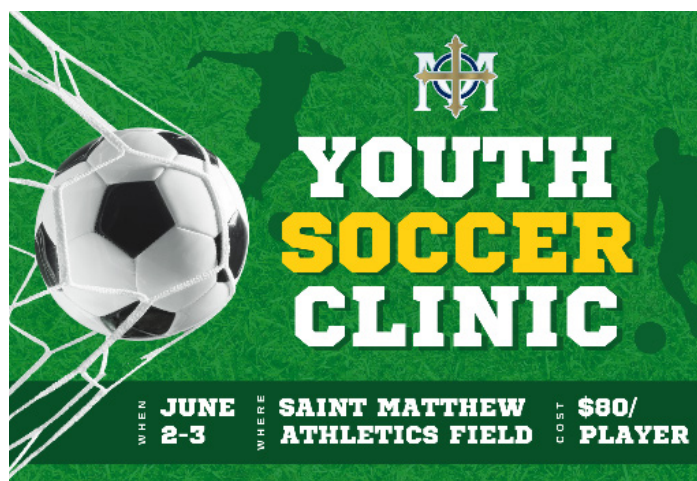


PARISH NEWS



SAINT MATTHEW SOCCER CLINIC

Join us on the pitch on June 2 & 3 for the inaugural Saint Matthew Soccer Clinic! The clinic will be hosted by Saint Matthew parent Stefan Caulfield, a former NCAA Division I soccer player and coach who was a member of the U20 Canadian National Team and the Ottawa Fury FC in the Premier Development League. This camp is designed for rising 2nd-8th grade soccer players with previous experience and familiarity with the game. To learn more about the clinic and to register, visit bit.ly/smcyouthsoccerclinic. Registration closes May 28th.





MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

SUNDAY, MAY 21
AFTER THE 11 A.M. MASS

MENU

Men's Club's Famous BBQ Chicken, Hot Dogs, Burgers, BBQ Baked Beans, Chips, Salads, Drinks, Freezer Pops

ACTIVITIES

Field Games (including three-legged race, water balloon toss, etc.), Face Painting, and more!

SEE YOU THERE!

PARISH NEWS

SAINT MATTHEW SPEAKER SERIES RETURNS

Save the date for the second installment of the Saint Matthew Speaker Series as we welcome parishioner Gina Miller and Christopher Dennis. Gina is the mother of Anna Grace Miller, who died in a tragic car accident on June 19, 2020. Christopher is the man who struck Anna Grace's car that night. All are invited to hear this moving story of God's providence, mercy, forgiveness, and grace. The event will take place in the church on Wednesday, June 7 following the 7 p.m. Mass. To learn more and register, please visit bit.ly/stmspeakerseries. Registration is not required, but is appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there. For a sneak preview of their story, check out the article featured in the Tennessee Register at bit.ly/tnrtalksofgrace.

JOIN THE A/V MINISTRY

Do you like computers? Photography and videography? Are you looking to get involved at the church? Our A/V Ministry is seeking volunteers to assist with running the livestreams at our daily and weekend Masses. Our daily Mass livestreams are viewed not only by local and homebound parishioners, but also by viewers around the country. This ministry helps us expand our reach and help those across the country deepen their Catholic faith. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Kirk Jordan at kirkjordan@comcast.net.



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

www.stmatthewtn.org



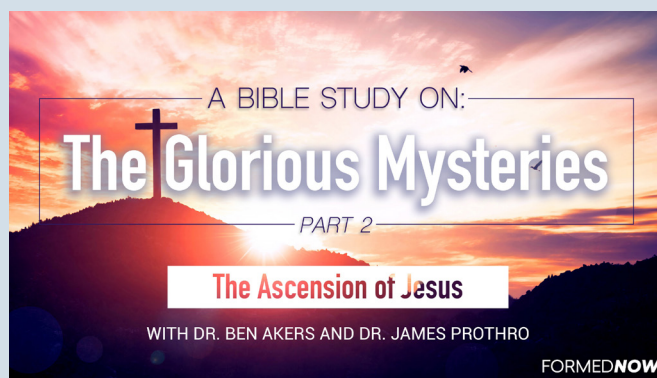
— FEATURING —
**GINA MILLER &
CHRISTOPHER DENNIS**

“TALKS OF GRACE”

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7
7:30 P.M. | CHURCH

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK - MAY 14



A BIBLE STUDY ON THE GLORIOUS
MYSTERIES - PART 2: THE ASCENSION

Join Dr. Ben Akers and professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School as they walk through the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary through the lens of Sacred Scripture.

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

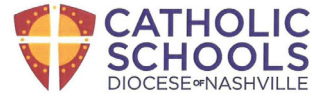
COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. PHILIP PLAY IT FORWARD MUSIC CAMP

St. Philip's Play It Forward music camp is open to all young musicians in 7th-12th grade during the week of June 19-25, 2023. This week-long mentorship program is designed to encourage our next generation of musicians toward a vocation of music ministry and worship. To learn more and register, visit bit.ly/stphilipplayitforward.

WHAT'S ON NASHVILLE CATHOLIC RADIO?

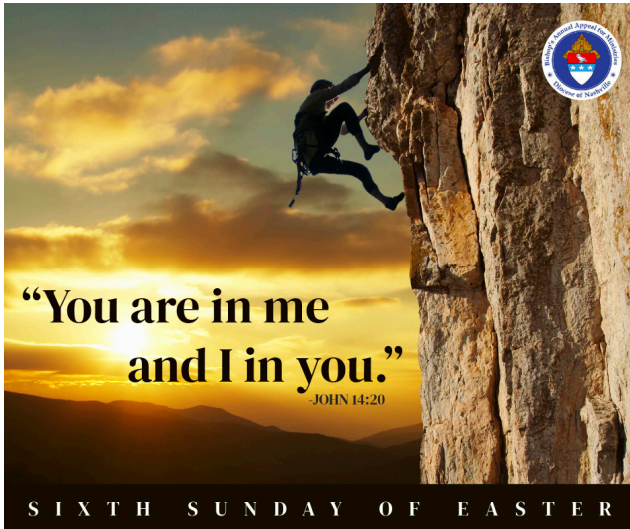
Around the Diocese: Monday, May 15 at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and repeats Saturday, May 20 at 8 a.m. and Sunday, May 21 at 2 p.m. - Father John Hammond, Vicar General and Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Nashville, will share what a diocese is and what the diocese does for the parishes. Listen in at WBOU 100.5FM (in downtown and southwest Nashville), streaming at www.NashvilleCR.com, or our free Nashville Catholic Radio app.



Complete your teacher employment application today.



Building kind hearts, strong minds and confident leaders in faith.



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES

Our parish offers oneness with Christ through the sacraments and each other. People are hungry for Him, and our parish is hungry to help people know him. Without you, our *Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries* can't succeed. With you, we can ensure the Good News reaches every corner of our community. Please help us help others find Him here. Give generously to your parish family, whatever "generous" means for you. God will reward you in the way "generous" means to Him.

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

BE PREPARED TO GIVE A REASON

Given that our culture focuses on individualism, materialism, and consumerism, many people seem to have a bored indifference to the Christian faith. As secular people approach you and your faith, St. Peter gives us wise counsel to anticipate this encounter when he says, "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope." Being technologically and empirically minded, modern man is looking for more than vague, emotional platitudes such as "trust in God." Rather than offer sugar-coated clichés, the Catholic faith houses some of the greatest thinkers of all time that have a way of attracting truth seekers. Take, for example, St. Thomas Aquinas.

Far from being drenched in a flurry of emotive responses, Aquinas' writings are logical and straight-to-the-point. Aquinas asserts that God is not the greatest good in the universe; rather, God is goodness itself. God is not one cause among many other causes. God is not simply the highest being, rather God is the sheer act to be itself. Aquinas' idea draws from God's announcement to Moses: "I am Who I am" (Exodus 3:14). Notice God is communicating that He is not a being within the structure of the universe, but that God is being itself when He identifies His essence as "I am." With the "I am" proclamation, God indicates that His existence is not dependent on other realities. Because there are contingent beings, there must be a non-contingent being, namely God. Aquinas' case for contingency goes as follows:

We are contingent beings. Why? Because we are breathing, eating, and drinking. In other words, our being is not self-explanatory. It comes from other causes. If this is the case, we have to look to an extrinsic cause that explains our existence. This outside cause would inevitably be our ancestors. Now suppose the extrinsic causes are themselves contingent - they too come from other causes. Then, we have to look further back as our ancestors were conditioned by things outside of themselves. This process of appealing to contingent causes cannot go on indefinitely. The buck needs to stop somewhere. Why? Because if it does not explain ultimate cause, I've explained nothing at all. I've simply infinitely postponed the explanation. This process must end in some reality that is not contingent - whose very nature is "to be." Here is Aquinas' point on God as "being itself."

God is the primary cause of all that exists, and His creation is full of secondary causes that are at work every day, like gravity. In fact, the laws embedded in nature provoke us to ask, "Why does the math in our minds express itself within the universe?" This question was not lost on Albert Einstein, who once remarked, "The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is the fact that it is comprehensible."

There are a plethora of reasons we can give to others to explain our faith. In these reasons, the seed of faith has room to grow and flourish in all lives.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REGISTRATION FOR REL ED OPENS SOON

Our Religious Education ministry is designed to help kids know their faith and live their faith throughout their lives. Registration for 2024 Religious Education (preK-6th grade) and Ignite (7-8th grade) sessions will open tomorrow, May 15.

REGISTER FOR TOTUS TUUS



Registration is open for Totus Tuus! Latin for "totally yours," Totus Tuus is a fun and energetic program designed to spread the Good News of Jesus and create joy in the faith. Totus Tuus is led by a team of college-aged missionaries and seminarians. The elementary school program (rising 1st-6th graders) will take place from June 26-30. To learn more and register for Totus Tuus, visit bit.ly/smctotustuusvbs23. For questions, contact Tony Jesse.

SIGN UP FOR STELLAR VBS

Rising preschool-kindergarten students are invited to attend Stellar VBS! 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. Stellar VBS will be held from June 26-30 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. each day. Visit bit.ly/smctotustuusvbs23 to register.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

RCIA MYSTAGOGY SESSION



Now that you're Catholic, we can get together and explore the last phase of RCIA called "mystagogy."

Mystagogy means to reflect on the mysteries that we have received. We will have a get-together of our RCIA group at the church courtyard on May 23 from 7-8 pm. We'll have a campfire, smores, and refreshments. Bring your own camping chair and beverages if you prefer. We hope to see you there!

YOUTH MINISTRY

NO LIFE NIGHT TONIGHT

Happy Mother's Day! We will not host Life Night tonight so you can spend time with your mothers, grandmothers, aunts, family friends, and all the special women who care for you. We'll meet again on May 28 for our End of School Year party!

Upcoming Life Teen Dates

- 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. We are also seeking chaperones (learn more and register at bit.ly/smcserviodeochap) and college work crew members (bit.ly/smcserviodeocollege). If you have any questions, contact Lisa Vegors.

REGISTER FOR TOTUS TUUS



All rising 7th-12th grade students are invited to attend the Totus Tuus middle and high school program this summer! Totus Tuus is a program staffed by college students and seminarians. It'll be packed with incredible theology to learn more about the faith, sacramental opportunities to grow in your faith, and loads of activities to keep a smile on everyone's face each evening. Totus Tuus will host the middle school program simultaneously with the high school program, ending each evening with all grades in prayer. If you haven't signed up yet, consider learning more and registering at bit.ly/smcotustuusvbs23.

BECOME A HOST FAMILY!

Totus Tuus will provide college-aged missionaries to our church for their summer youth program in June. While they are here, we are in need of host families to house the missionaries for the week of June 24-30. Being a host family is a great way to serve our community and open up your home to those serving Christ. Our host families must be located within a 20-mile radius of the church. While the missionaries will spend the majority of their time at the church, they do need a place to sleep and to eat breakfast in the morning. If you are interested, please visit bit.ly/smcotustuushost.



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

PASTORAL STAFF



Father Justin Raines
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Lisa Vegors
Interim Youth Director
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*Farewell
to
Forbes*



***Please join us for a
Wine and Cheese reception
to bid farewell and
good luck to
Mr. Forbes***

Wednesday, May 24 from 5-7 p.m.
Saint Matthew School Gym
RSVP by May 19
bit.ly/smsfarewelltim

Adults only please