



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MAY 21, 2023 + THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Ascension of the Lord

**“And behold, I am with you always,
until the end of the age.”**

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

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.

REGISTER FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - FRIDAY, JUNE 2

Registration is now open for our next First Friday Adoration on June 2. There will be a funeral in the church that morning, so please enter silently and with reverence. Time slots are available in 30-minute increments. We need two people present with the Blessed Sacrament at all times. To register, visit bit.ly/smcfirstfridayadorationjune23. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

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 and register, visit bit.ly/smcyouthsoccerclinic. Registration closes next Sunday, May 28.

LITURGY SCHEDULE (MAY 22-28, 2023)

MONDAY, MAY 22

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Souls in Purgatory
- Acts 19:1-8
- Jn 16:29-33

TUESDAY, MAY 23

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ John Cicon
- Acts 20:17-27
- Jn 17:1-11a

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ For Norah Nixon
- Acts 20:28-38
- Jn 17:11b-19

THURSDAY, MAY 25

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Paul Gomez
- Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
- Jn 17:20-26

FRIDAY, MAY 26

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Dianne Frstick Pera
- Acts 25:13b-21
- Jn 21:15-19

PENTECOST SUNDAY

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✙ For Alex Pedraza
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ Cathy Bogan
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ For the People of Saint Matthew
- Acts 2:1-11
- 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13
- Jn 20:19-23

✙ 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	\$26,135.50
SECOND COLLECTION: DEBT REDUCTION	\$560

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Parish Charity

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Holy Father (Peter's Pence)

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

www.stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



PARISH NEWS

FAMILY SERVICE MINISTRY BLESSING BAGS

Join our Family Service Ministry on Sunday, June 4 to collect items for and assemble blessing bags. A blessing bag is a bag stuffed with items a person in need might find helpful. Families are welcome to take a few bags to hand out on their own (these are great to keep on hand in the car!). The remainder will go to Catholic Charities to distribute. We will meet at the church following the 11 a.m. Mass. All ages are welcome to attend. To learn more and sign up, visit bit.ly/smcfsmblessingbags. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Chau at theresa.a.chau@gmail.com.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CATHOLIC BUILD



Saint Matthew will be joining other churches in the Diocese of Nashville for the annual Habitat for Humanity Catholic Build on June 24-25. We will be building a home for Wanda Howard (view her profile at bit.ly/hfhcatholicbuildhomeowner) in the Village by the Creek development in North Nashville. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to work with other Catholics in the diocese to help Wanda and her family take steps toward a better life through the purchase of her own home. If you would like to volunteer at the build, visit bit.ly/smchabitatvol23. To make a monetary donation to offset our costs for the build, please visit bit.ly/smconlinegivinghub. Thank you for your support.

JOIN THE A/V MINISTRY

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. To join, please contact Kirk Jordan at kirkjordan@comcast.net.

SAINT MATTHEW SPEAKER SERIES RETURNS

Save the date for the second installment of the Saint Matthew Speaker Series, sponsored by the Saint Matthew Women's Club, 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. The Women's Club will host a reception and meet-and-greet in the narthex immediately following the event. 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/tmrtalksofgrace.

SPEAKER SERIES

FEATURING
GINA MILLER & CHRISTOPHER DENNIS

“TALKS OF GRACE”

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

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT
bit.ly/stmspeakerseries

SPONSORED BY
Saint Matthew Women's Club

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 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. 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 Ruppaner at tsg@stmatthewtn.org.

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

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.

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.



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

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK - MAY 21



ST. PHILIP NERI: I PREFER HEAVEN

This captivating film highlights St. Philip Neri's great love for youth, his warm sense of humor, contagious joy, deep mystical spirituality, and his amazing gift for miracles. Watch this film to learn more about the famous Apostle of Rome.

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?

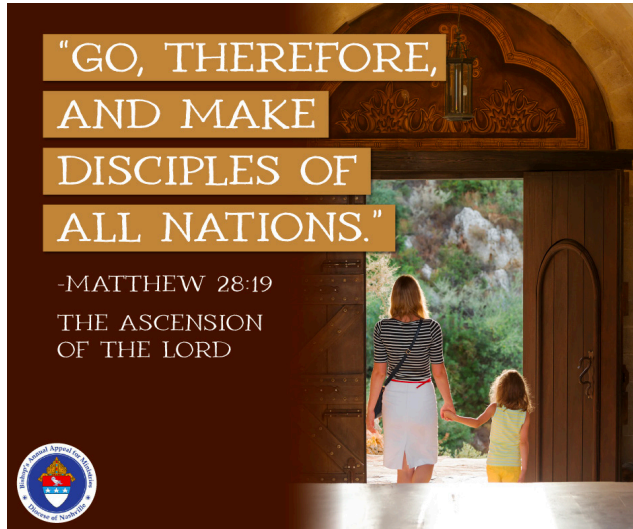
Around the Diocese: Monday, May 22 at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and repeats Saturday, May 27 at 8 a.m. and Sunday, May 28 at 2 p.m. - Sister Cecilia Anne Warren and Mandy Broderick talk all about Siena Hall, a great new venue on the campus of Aquinas College. Listen in at WBOU 100.5FM (in downtown and southwest Nashville), streaming at www.NashvilleCR.com, or our free Nashville Catholic Radio app.



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



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES

Today, Jesus ascends in glory to His Father, promising to send His Holy Spirit to strengthen His followers with the grace needed to fulfill His great commission.

We, too, need help to complete our mission. Please support our *Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries*, a small yet worthy attempt to "make disciples" in our local community (Matthew 28:19). With your help, we can impact many souls and your generosity will have eternal results!

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 RESPONDING TO DOUBT

On the feast of The Ascension, Jesus presents us with a profound message, "Go and make disciples of all nations." But before the disciples went out on this great mission, we are told, "And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted." Even after Jesus's miracles and resurrection, some of his most committed followers harbored doubt. Shouldn't we feel comforted by this?

Doubt offers two sides of the coin. Doubt can be a healthy exercise in which we learn to put aside our tribal prejudices and think critically, or it can be a soul-shattering crisis that radically destroys our faith (CCC 2088). The key to which direction doubt takes us hinges on how we respond to it.

The Church has never had a problem with doubt, provided it is rightly ordered doubt. The Gospel, after all, is forged in a crucible of doubt. John the Baptist doubted both Jesus and himself, asking, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" (Mt 11:3). And it will be noted that Jesus did not, in the slightest, rebuke the honest doubts. After all, He offered evidence to Doubting Thomas (John 20:24-29).

Honest doubt is really a quest for faith. The person who is sincerely doubting is humbly questioning. Here, one is willing to face his doubts and go beyond the self to seek out the truth. Doubt becomes destructive when we don't seek answers to our doubts. In the faith, we cannot stay in doubt indefinitely for where we go with our doubt shows who we trust. When doubt becomes perverted, the person shows trust only in himself – and he doubts all things outside of him. Here, he is not skeptical about his skepticism. In this stage, the person in doubt always "questions" in order to refuse light rather than seek it; as Paul refers to such, they are "ever learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim 3:7). Doubt in our faith creeps in when our trust in God falters. When doubt runs amok rather than trust God, we trust our dubious, fallen wisdom.

At some point in our Christian life, the overwhelming majority of us experience doubt. It may be doubt about God, His existence or goodness. It may be doubt about Jesus, the Church, the Bible, or some aspect of the teaching. It may be doubt about one's self, or some person that has constituted a sure anchor for your soul. It may seep into your soul with the accumulation of thoughts and feelings that perpetuates desolation. It may be pounded in with a nail through your heart by the short, sharp shock of a tragedy or betrayal. But however it comes, it must be faced. And for Christians, it is meant to be faced with the help of Jesus Christ through His body the Church.

Before we can go out to do God's mission, we have to let God address our doubts with depth and precision. Then, we can go out and make disciples of all nations.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2023-2024 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/IGNITE SESSIONS

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 is now open. Visit bit.ly/smcreled to learn more and register.

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.

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. 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

FINAL DAY TO REGISTER FOR SERVIO DEO!



Registration for Servio Deo closes TONIGHT, May 21! 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 by midnight at bit.ly/smcserviideo23. We are also seeking chaperones (bit.ly/smcserviideochap) and college work crew members (bit.ly/smcserviideocollege). Register before time runs out!

NO LIFE NIGHT TONIGHT

Good luck on your exams, and congrats to all of our graduates! We will not have Life Teen this week to give everyone time to study and celebrate. We'll meet again next Sunday for our End of School Year party!

Upcoming Life Teen Dates

- 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

REGISTER FOR TOTUS TUUS



All rising 7th-12th grade students are invited to attend the Totus Tuus middle and high school program this summer! 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. Visit bit.ly/smctotustuusvbs23 to learn more and register.

INTRODUCING OUR NEXT YOUTH DIRECTOR ANTOINETTE HANNING



Saint Matthew is happy to introduce our next Youth Director, Antoinette Hanning! A cradle Catholic, Antoinette grew up in Arizona before moving to one of the coldest states, North Dakota. She attended the University of Mary and received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing. Although she had plans to enter the business field after graduation, God ultimately had another idea. The summer before senior year, Antoinette served as a Totus Tuus missionary for the Diocese of Nashville. A desire for good youth ministry became very evident in her heart, and she went on to do a second year of missionary work with another diocese in the South. While on mission, she discovered a new opportunity to grow with the Diocesan Missionary Team in Charleston, South Carolina. For the past year, Antoinette has worked closely with youth ministers from three different parishes and gained invaluable experience supporting their programs as a core member. Additionally, with the rest of the team, she has led retreats throughout South Carolina for kids ages 7-18. She is very passionate about working with the youth and is incredibly excited to remain in the South. Antoinette will join us at the beginning of June.



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

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

PASTORAL STAFF



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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