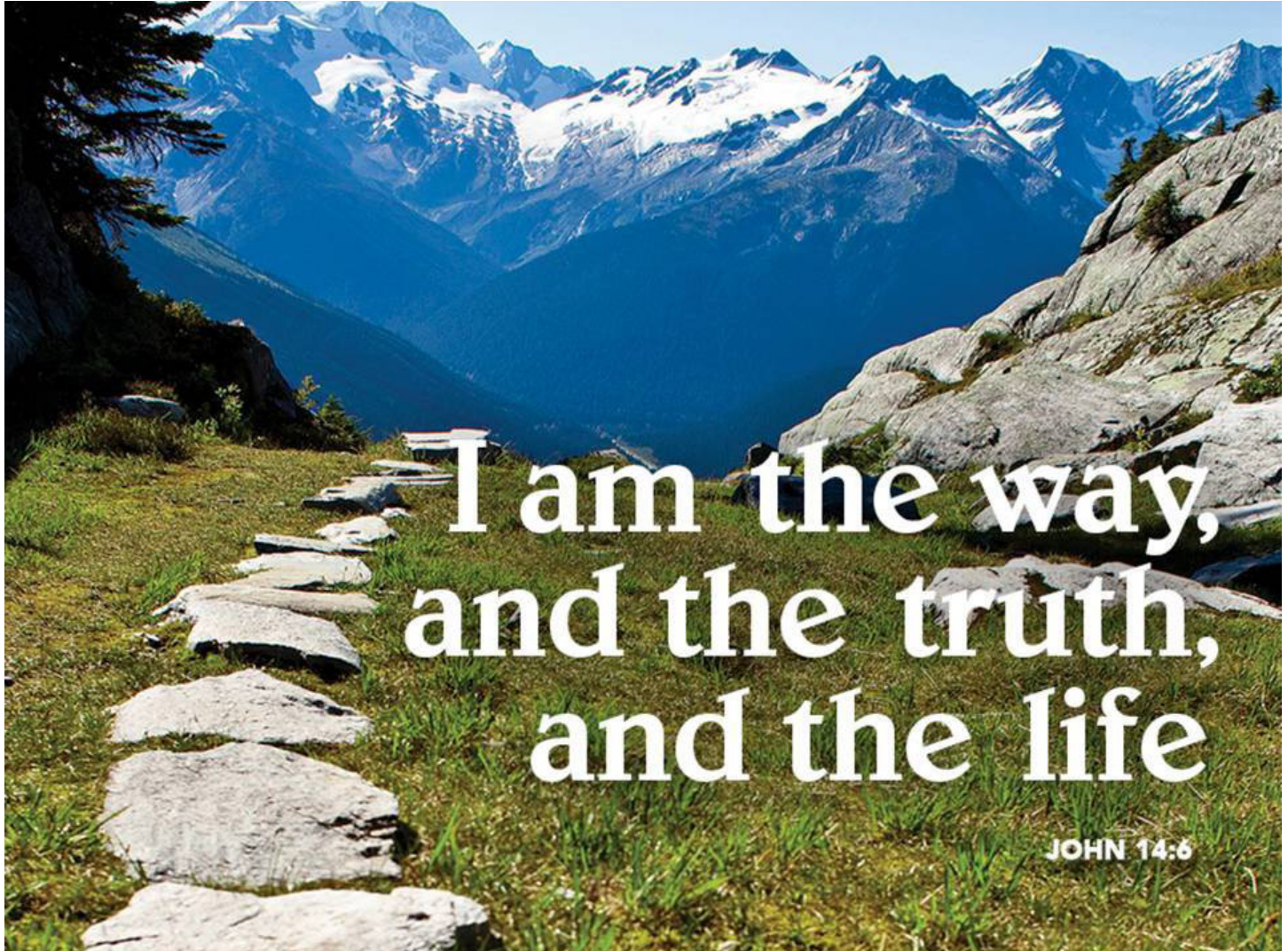




# *Saint Matthew* CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MAY 7, 2023 + FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## 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](mailto:info@stmatthewtn.org)  
☎ (615) 646-0378  
🌐 [www.stmatthewtn.org](http://www.stmatthewtn.org)  
📱 @SaintMatthewCatholicChurch

### PASTOR:

Father Justin Raines

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

### DEACONS:

Lachlan Cameron & Bill Forte





## LITURGY SCHEDULE (MAY 1-7, 2023)

### MONDAY, MAY 8

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Angela Anderson
- Acts 14:5-18
- Jn 14:21-26

### TUESDAY, MAY 9

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Francis VanGennip
- Acts 14:19-28
- Jn 14:27-31a

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ For Lynn Jesse
- Acts 15:1-6
- Jn 15:1-8

### THURSDAY, MAY 11

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ John and Emma Cicon
- Acts 15:7-21
- Jn 15:9-11

### FRIDAY, MAY 12

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Karen Gallagher
- Acts 15:22-31
- Jn 15:12-17

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✙ For Jim and Becky Hicks
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ For the People of Saint Matthew
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ For the deceased mothers of Saint Matthew Families
- Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
- 1 Pt 3:15-18
- Jn 14:15-21

### ✙ Special Intention

- ✙ *May they rest in peace*

# First Holy Communion



Congratulations to our First Communicants who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 30! Please pray for all of these students as they continue to deepen their Catholic faith.

Nolen Andolina, Bowen Baker, Lily Barretto, Anne "Annie" Bateman, Benjamin Bates, Sofia Beata, Matthew Berberian, Kate Berg, Catherine Bowler, Quinn Brooks, Jace Campbell, Liam Campbell, Margaret Caulfield, Alistair Chau, Reagan Chau, Carter Conway, Blaise Coronado, Will Corrigan, Parker Costello, Matthew Cramer, John Cunningham, Hadley Davis, Cate Degros, John Derrick, Jonah Emmanuel, Elijah Escartin, Penelope Escott, Caerwen Evans, Emily Flores, Avery Geraghty, Emmie Gonzalez, George Henry Griffith, Sophia Hansen-Elovitz, Parker Holifield, Ainsley Honeycutt, Hailey Honeycutt, Samuel Jaeger, Maxwell Jarreau, Sean Kennedy, Julia Lawson, Jack Lillie, Jay Ludvik, Lena Massey, Annabelle Mayberry, Blair McCoy, Arabelle Mercado, Gabriel Monte, Grant Mruczkowski, Samantha Neblett, Eli Negranti, James Osinski, Eve Marie Palmer, Catherine "Aria" Renouf, Grace Renouf, Emma Riesinger, Olivia Rogers, Tate Ryan, Henrik Schaedle, Harrison Schwartz, Sydney Smithwick, Amelia Sullivan, Calvin Francis Tan, Henry Tran, Elle Tully, Graceson Vegors, Elijah Wilkins

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

### - FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 30, 2023 -

PARISH, VISITORS, AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$27,069
SECOND COLLECTION: PARISH CHARITY	\$944

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

[www.stmatthewtn.org/church/giving](http://www.stmatthewtn.org/church/giving)



## PARISH NEWS

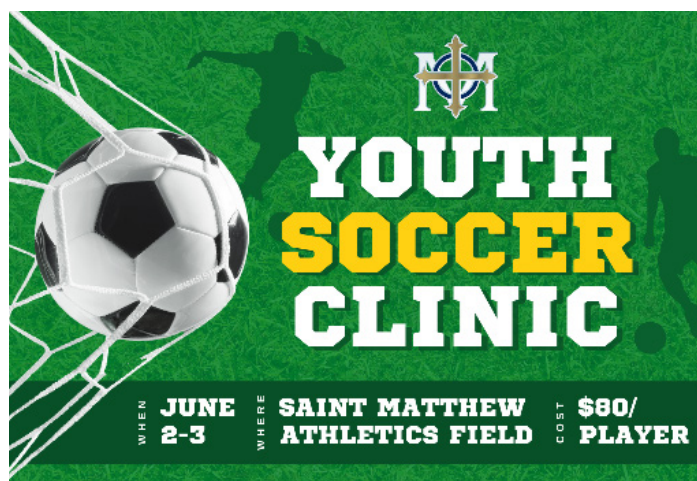
### INTRODUCING THE TROOPS OF ST. GEORGE



Saint Matthew is proud to announce our newest ministry, the Troops of St. George. Founded in 2013, the Troops of St. 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 St. George, please fill out the interest form at [bit.ly/smctsginterest](http://bit.ly/smctsginterest). For questions or to learn more, please email Eric Ruppner at [tsg@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:tsg@stmatthewtn.org).

### 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 Caulfield, 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. To learn more about the clinic and to register, visit [bit.ly/smcyouthsoccerclinic](http://bit.ly/smcyouthsoccerclinic).



## 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. More information will be made available soon. 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](https://bit.ly/tnrtalksofgrace). The talk will also be given at St. Henry tonight, May 7 at 5 p.m.



— FEATURING —

**GINA MILLER &  
CHRISTOPHER DENNIS**

**"TALKS OF GRACE"**

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

### 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](mailto:kirkjordan@comcast.net).

### EASTER LILIES AVAILABLE

We have a number of Easter lilies in the church kitchen that need new homes! If you would like to take one of these flowers, please feel free to pick them up from the church kitchen after the Masses this weekend.

### 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](https://bit.ly/smcemailsignup) and fill out the form.



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

[www.stmatthewtn.org](https://www.stmatthewtn.org)



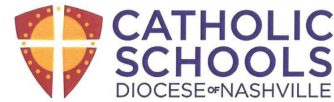
## COMMUNITY NEWS

### 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](https://bit.ly/stphilipplayitforward).

### WHAT'S ON NASHVILLE CATHOLIC RADIO?

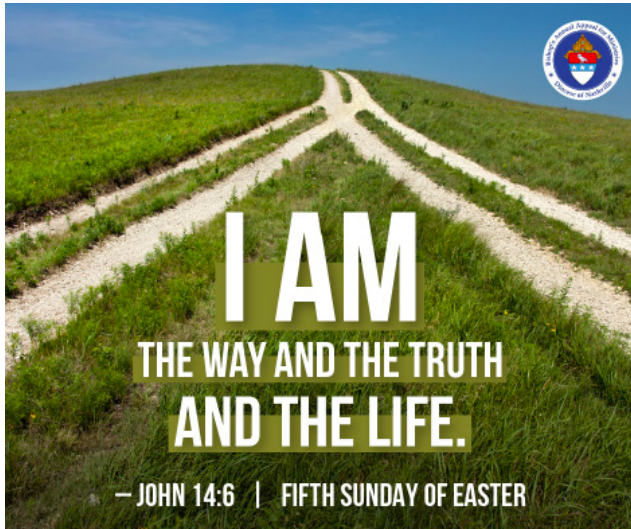
Every Tuesday, we air two local broadcasts. First, **Classic We Believe** airs at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and repeats Sunday at 4:30 p.m. Second, one of our newer programs, **Catholic Moms In The Middle** with host Jennie Guinn, airs at 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and repeats Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Listen in at WBOU 100.5FM (in downtown and southwest Nashville), streaming at [www.NashvilleCR.com](http://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 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries needs your support so we can walk Jesus' way. Today, Jesus said in the Gospel, "I am the way" (John 14:6). He tasked us with the mission to baptize, reconcile, and give the Eucharist to our neighbors. Help us accomplish His mission by giving with a generous heart. Help our Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries be a success!

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](https://dioceseofnashville.com/appeal) or text "BISHOP" to 615-552-1101. Thank you!

SCAN HERE  
TO MAKE  
A GIFT



## **TONY'S REFLECTION**

### **A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL**

A recent report from Pew Research divulged that while nine in ten Americans believe in a higher power, only a slim majority believe in God as described in the Bible. The report highlighted that most people view God as an impersonal higher power who binds all things together that but has no face, no intimacy as the God in Scripture. Think of the popular image of "the Force" in Star Wars. The force is a kind of deity – holding all of existence together and giving power and life to all things. But it is certainly not a person; you use the force but you cannot love the force.

This vague notion of God eradicates the physical, tangible nature of God that Jesus describes today. Jesus bluntly tells His disciples that when they see Him, they see God the Father. Here, God is not an obscure deity; rather, He comes squarely situated to us in the flesh. Not only that, the Bible describes that God wants to intimately unite Himself to us using wedding imagery. All of salvation history is described as a love story in which God weds Himself to His people. More specifically, Jesus and His Church. As the Catechism states, "The entire Christian life bears the mark of the spousal love of Christ and the Church" (CCC 1617).

The nuptial imagery of Christ and His Church seems hidden, but today's readings give us a sliver of this marriage motif. Jesus tells the disciples He will leave them. The reason He is going to depart is because He is going to His Father's house to prepare a place for them, so that He can, at some point, return and take them to be with Him. At first blush, these words may seem like a poetic way of Christ saying, "Don't worry. I'll be back." However, when Christ tells His disciples that He goes to "prepare a place" for them, these words take on a new meaning when viewed in ancient Jewish marriage customs.

In Jewish tradition, it was the preeminent duty of the bridegroom to prepare a home for his bride so that, when the wedding events finally ended, he could take her from her own family and bring her into his house. In fact, the wedding ceremony was essentially the groom's introduction of the bride into his house (see Proverbs 24:27). This custom may explain how it was that Joseph and Mary were "betrothed" for some time before they came to dwell together as husband and wife.

In Jesus' parable about the "Sons of the Bridechamber," theologians view the enactment of Christ's wedding ceremony to His followers as taking place at the cross. What follows after the cross is that now Christ must temporarily leave His followers to "prepare a place" for them. Of course, this "place" alludes to the heavenly temple (cf. John 2:16-21) where a person joyfully encounters God in heaven. When placed in the light of wedding imagery, we can become magnetically drawn to God's marriage proposal and, in turn, go all in on our Catholic faith.

## **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 on May 15. All are welcome.

### **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. Visit [bit.ly/smctotustuusvbs23](https://bit.ly/smctotustuusvbs23) for more information and to register.

### **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](https://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

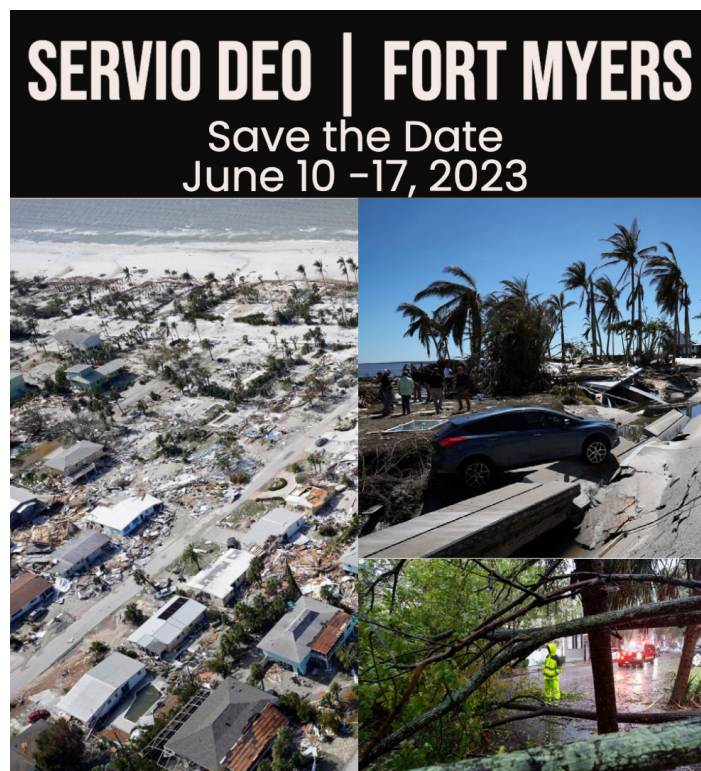
### LIFE NIGHT TONIGHT

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next Life Night tonight, May 7, from 5-7 p.m. in the PCC. This week, we will dive into spiritual warfare and discuss if angels and demons are real. Remember: friends are always welcome!

#### Upcoming Life Teen Dates

- 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](http://bit.ly/smcserviideo23). We are also seeking chaperones (learn more and register at [bit.ly/smcserviideochap](http://bit.ly/smcserviideochap)) and college work crew members ([bit.ly/smcserviideocollege](http://bit.ly/smcserviideocollege)). 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/smctotustuusvbs23](http://bit.ly/smctotustuusvbs23).

### 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/smctotustuushost](http://bit.ly/smctotustuushost).



**TONY JESSE**  
Director of Religious Education  
[tjesse@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:tjesse@stmatthewtn.org)

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



**LISA VEGORS**  
Interim Youth Director  
[lvegors@stmatthewtn.org](mailto: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**  
Pastor  
frraines@stmatthewtn.org



**Father Tien Tran**  
Associate Pastor  
frtran@stmatthewtn.org



**Bill Forte**  
Deacon  
bforte@stmatthewtn.org



**Lachlan Cameron**  
Deacon  
lcameron@stmatthewtn.org



**Tony Jesse**  
Dir. of Religious Ed.  
tjesse@stmatthewtn.org



**Kelly Ott**  
Pastoral Associate  
kott@stmatthewtn.org



**Lisa Vegors**  
Interim Youth Director  
lvegors@stmatthewtn.org

*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](https://bit.ly/smsfarewelltim)

*Adults only please*