



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 + TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE
Last
WILL BE
First
AND THE FIRST WILL BE LAST

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



LITURGY SCHEDULE (SEPT 25-OCT 1, 2023)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Matthew Harostock
- Ezr 1:1-6
- Lk 8:16-18

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For Dee Davis
- Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20
- Lk 8:19-21

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ David Lawrenz
- Ezr 9:5-9
- Lk 9:1-6

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Edward Thomas
- Hg 1:1-8
- Lk 9:7-9

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For Janine Cable
- Dn 7:9-10, 13-14
- Jn 1:47-51

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✙ Robert Thomson
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ For the Cable Family
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ For the People of Saint Matthew
- Ez 18:25-28
- Phil 2:1-11
- Mt 21:28-32z

- ✙ **Special Intention**
- ✙ *May they rest in peace*

PARISH NEWS

THE TROOPS OF SAINT GEORGE RAFFLE

Tickets for the Troops of Saint George raffle are on sale now! All are invited to participate in this exciting opportunity to support the Troops and win big. The grand prize winner will receive half a cow's worth of meat and a brand new freezer to keep it fresh. The second-prize winner will receive a \$200 gift card to Sperry's Restaurant. Third will receive a \$75 gift card to Tailgate Brewery, and fourth will receive a Troops of Saint George rosary. Tickets are available for \$25 each. There are a limited number of tickets, so act fast! Your generous support will help the Troops provide memorable experiences for its members. Visit bit.ly/tsgraffle to purchase tickets. For questions, please email Eric Rupaner at tsg@stmatthewtn.org.

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE

The Seven Sisters Apostolate needs women who would commit to offering a weekly holy hour for our parish pastor. The commitment of each intercessor is to the day of the week versus a particular hour on a particular day. You would pray the hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration or in front of a tabernacle. This may be prayed at any parish. If you are interested in joining the apostolate, visit bit.ly/smcsevensisters to complete the interest form. For questions, contact Susan Ruigh at susanruigh@protonmail.com or (402) 499-6724.

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

The Passion of Christ prayer group is an opportunity to learn more about the experiences of our Lord's Passion through the Way of the Cross. We will dive deeper into those final days, and pray and learn about the people there. We will walk alongside the greatest love story of the living Christ. The group meets the last Sunday of the month at 3 p.m. in the grotto. For inclement weather, meet inside the church. Bring your rosary! If you are interested in participating, please visit bit.ly/smcwayofthecross to complete the interest form. For questions, please contact Pam Fleckenstein at spflecken@comcast.net.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 -

PARISH, VISITORS, ACH WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$20,634
SECOND COLLECTION: SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL	\$973

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY ON OUR
ONLINE GIVING PAGE:

www.stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



PARISH NEWS

KofC YOUTH SOCCER CHALLENGE

All boys and girls ages nine to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition on Sunday, October 1 for the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge. The local competition will be held at the Saint Mathew School soccer field at 12:30 p.m. The Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge is sponsored annually, with winners progressing through regional and state competitions. All boys and girls ages nine to 14 are eligible to participate and will compete in their respective age divisions. Entry forms are available at the school office. For additional information, please email kofc12012@gmail.com.

SAINT MATTHEW SPEAKER SERIES



Join us for the next installment of the Saint Matthew Speaker Series featuring Dr. James Pauley, professor of Theology and Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville. In

honor of the year of Eucharistic Revival, both of his talks will be centered on the Eucharist. His first talk on Wednesday, October 4 is titled "How does the Eucharist revive us?" The second talk on Thursday, October 5 is titled "How can we better encounter God at Mass?" Both talks will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Visit bit.ly/smcsspauley to register.

REGISTER FOR OUR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Time slots are available for our First Friday Adoration on October 6. This is a great opportunity to spend time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament during this year of Eucharistic Revival. If you are interested in attending, please visit bit.ly/smcffaOctober23 to register.



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

www.stmatthewtn.org

RESPECT FOR LIFE MINISTRY ROSARY

Our Respect for Life ministry would like to invite the Saint Matthew community to pray a rosary for the unborn. The group will gather in the grotto every Tuesday following the 8 a.m. Mass to pray the rosary. In the event of inclement weather, the group will gather in the church. All are invited to attend.



PARISH NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL PORTAL IS LIVE



We are excited to announce that the Eucharistic Revival portal is now live on the Saint Matthew website! Visit bit.ly/smceucharist to learn more about the Year of Eucharistic Revival, learn

more about upcoming Eucharistic Revival events at Saint Matthew, and to refocus your heart on this fundamental truth of our faith.

UPCOMING CURSILLO RETREATS

Cursillo is a movement in the Diocese of Nashville that is intended to help Catholics develop an understanding of what it means to lead a fully Christian life and focuses on building a deeper relationship with God and living out the call to Christian leadership. The weekend will include talks, group discussions, personal reflection time, and Sacraments, all designed to help you grow in your faith and discern your place in life and role in the Church. It is a spiritual resurrection, and you are invited to experience it for yourself! The men's retreat will take place on September 28-October 1, and the women's from October 5-8. To learn more and register, visit www.nashvillecursillo.com.

SCOTT & KIMBERLY HAHN

Study Scripture from the heart of the Church and dive deeper into the riches of the Catholic faith



DATE
Saturday, November 4
8:00 AM - 3:35 PM

LOCATION
Saint Matthew Catholic Church
535 Sneed Road W
Franklin, TN 37069

PRICE
\$40

REGISTER: stpaulcenter.com/nashville2023

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! Join our email list today to receive our newsletters, updates on upcoming events, and more. To sign up, visit bit.ly/smcemailsignup.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK - SEPTEMBER 24



WHO ARE THE ANGELS?

Dr. Tim Gray sits down with Dr. Mark Miravalle, Saint John Paul II Chair of Mariology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, to discuss the angels. What is an angel? What are the choirs of angels? How do we engage with our guardian angels?

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

JUNIOR IRISH NIGHT AT FATHER RYAN

All grade-school children are invited to Junior Irish Night this Friday, September 29 from 5-7 p.m. at Father Ryan. There will be swag bags, carnival and lawn games, a DJ, and more! Line up with the student body and the marching band to lead the team onto the field! All Junior Irish receive a free ticket to the football game that night, with kickoff at 7 p.m. Junior Irish Night Registration is required - go to www.fatherryan.org/admissions/junior-irish.

NASHVILLE CATHOLIC WRESTLING

Nashville Catholic Wrestling (NCW) is open to all boys K-8. Middle School parents will meet for info this Monday, September 25 at 5:30 p.m., with first practice Monday, October 16. All activities will be in the Coach Simpson Wrestling Facility at Father Ryan. No experience necessary, and all boys are encouraged to give it a try. Details and information can be found at www.nashvillecatholicwrestling.com.

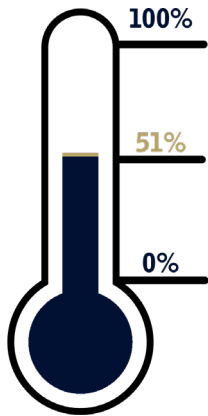
REGNUM CHRIST WOMEN'S RETREAT

Regnum Christi Nashville is hosting a half-day retreat for all women at St. Ann Catholic Church on Saturday, October 7. Childcare will be offered, but space is limited so please register soon. Come and enjoy a spiritual meditation by Kathleen Alman CRC, music by Colleen McKenna, a champagne brunch and more, all following the 8 a.m. Mass and an opportunity for confessions. To register please visit www.rcnashvilletn.org.

NCBWL PEARLS OF WISDOM 2023

Tickets are on sale now for the 2023 Pearls of Wisdom gala, hosted by the Nashville Catholic Business Women's League. Funds raised during this event support the Aurelia Varallo Mariani Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition assistance for one young woman at each of the three Catholic high schools. The event will take place on Friday, Oct. 6 at Richland Country Club. www.ncbwl.org.

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES: *WHOA, WE'RE HALFWAY THERE!*



Thanks to your generous support, Saint Matthew is more than halfway toward its goal in this year's *Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries*! Our goal for this year's appeal is \$118,390. We are currently at 51% of that goal with a total of \$61,490 raised to date.

Your generosity supports ministries and services that carry forth the Bishop's mission and vision, including adult and youth catechesis, support for clergy, sacramental marriage, life at all stages, robust Catholic schools and much more.

If you have already donated, we appreciate your contribution! If not, scan the QR code below to make your gift today.



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

THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING IN THE VINEYARD

In a bustling household of kids, inevitably, bickering emerges over fairness. For example, one kid cleans up his room, and the other does not, yet the one who didn't clean his room gets to watch the same amount of shows as the one who didn't. That all too common phrase then arises, "That's not fair!"

In the readings today, we are presented with a similar backdrop. But, before looking into whether the "payoff" is fair, we need to zoom in on how we view our work for God. There are two ways to view doing God's work – as a toil in which all you look forward to is your reward or view the important work for God as a joy itself and any prize that comes from it is pure gravy.

In the second reading, St. Paul describes his work in spreading God's word as a "fruitful labor." Paul is not looking forward to some material benefit or sensual pleasure in heaven as a payoff, a kind of eternal free ticket to the heavenly feast because he "put his time in the trenches." No, Paul just wants communion with Christ, and he knows that working in Christ's vineyard is a privilege that allows him to be in union with Christ.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus presents us with the parable of the workers in the vineyard. This parable comes immediately after Peter's request to know what the reward for the apostles will be; therefore, it can be interpreted as a warning against thinking of the kingdom of heaven in terms of personal compensation. "What's in it for me?"

The theme in the parable shows us a picture of those entering God's kingdom at different stages. As Scott Hahn observes, "The landowner is God. The vineyard is the kingdom, which, in turn, is the Church. The workers hired at dawn are the Israelites, to whom He first offered His covenant. Those hired later in the day are the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, who, until the coming of Christ, were strangers to the covenants of promise." In the Lord's great generosity, the same blessings promised to the first-called, the Israelites, will be given to those called last, the rest of the nations.

Church Father Origen suggested that the hours of the workday correspond to stages in life when people turn to God, some late in life while some earlier in life. While we would think most Catholics would rejoice when a non-Catholic converts to the faith later in life, Jesus is showing that if you view God only in terms of "what do I get out of it" you might view God's generosity to those who convert later in life and reap the rewards of working in the vineyard as unfair. Doesn't the complaint of those first laborers sound like that of the older brother in Jesus' prodigal son parable?

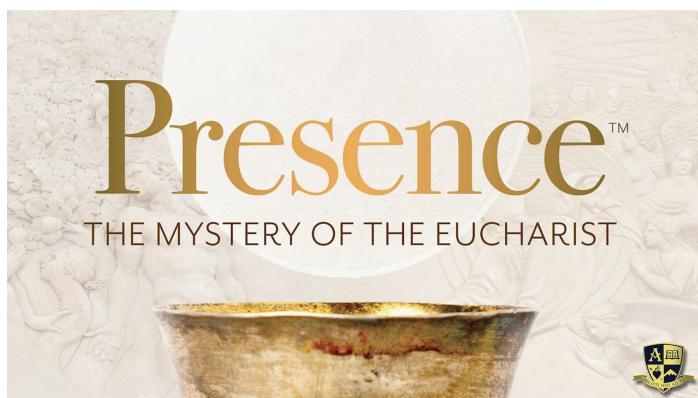
The question we should ask is, are we solely fixated on our reward, instead on the immense privilege of being a part of God's kingdom and playing a role in the salvation of souls?

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

MASS CLASS WITH FR. RAINES COMING SOON

Ever wonder why we do certain things at the Mass? To dive deeper into the Mass and have a greater appreciation for it Father Raines will be leading a Mass Class series this fall. The Mass Class will be a four-part series taking place from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the parish conference center on the following dates: October 15, 22, 29, and November 5. If you are interested in attending, visit bit.ly/smcmassclass to register.

REAL PRESENCE SERIES



As we continue to celebrate the Year of the Eucharistic Revival, we will begin a series of the Real Presence of the Eucharist on Monday nights starting October 16 in the parish conference center. This series will explore the truth of Christ's real presence, from its origins in the Bible to its profound role in the life of the Church. If you are interested in joining us, please visit bit.ly/smcpresence23 to fill out the interest form.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE

From July 17 to 21, 2024, the Church in America will gather as one family in Indianapolis to revive our love of the Eucharist. At the National Eucharistic Congress, a large number of Catholics gather to reaffirm the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith through worship and enlightening talks. Saint Matthew would like to send a delegation to this historical moment. If you are interested, please visit bit.ly/smcnecinterest to fill out our interest form.

FALL RETREAT 2023

KALEIDOSCOPE

- September 30th
- Cohan-Hansom at Saint Matthew
- Open to Students 8 - 12th Grade
- Completely free!

Although we've had to make a few changes
it's still going to be a fantastic day!



REGISTER HERE

*Whether you've been to Rise before or this will
be your first time with us, you are so welcome!*





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

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

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