



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 + TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and

FOLLOW ME.



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

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JUSTIN RAINES



LITURGY SCHEDULE (AUG 28-SEPT 3, 2023)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ Robert Thomson
- 1 Thes 4:13-18
- Lk 4:16-30

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ For Donald Wayne Render
- 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11
- Lk 4:31-37

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✠ For Marie Louise Norcius
- Col 1:1-8
- Lk 4:38-44

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ For Sam & Selina Gaines
- Col 1:9-14
- Lk 5:1-11

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ For Alan & Beth Robinson
- Mi 5:1-4a
- Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✠ For Tram Tran
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✠ For Polly O'Neill
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✠ For the People of Saint Matthew
- Ez 33:7-9
- Rom 13:8-10
- Mt 18:15-20

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

My Dear Friends in Christ,

At the end of June, I completed my first year of service here at Saint Matthew. It has been a good occasion for me to reflect on how blessed I am to be your pastor. I am grateful because God has blessed us with a great parish and school community. Saint Matthew is in a position to do great things for Christ in our community. My vision is that we are a parish strong in our Catholic faith, living the Gospel, and being nourished by the Lord in the Eucharist, so that we can be a beacon of evangelization, hope, and blessing in our community.

One way that we can share with others in Middle Tennessee is through the Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries (BAAM). The BAAM is the primary way many ministries are funded in the Diocese of Nashville. This fundraising effort does not cover administrative expenses of the diocesan offices, but rather supports vital ministries that benefit the Church throughout the diocese. These ministries include seminarian education, so that we can have priests to celebrate the sacraments in the future, Catholic Charities, so that we can take care of our neighbors in need, and Catholic schools and youth ministry, so that we can form our young people in Christ to one day evangelize our society.

I would like to ask you, a parishioner of Saint Matthew, to prayerfully consider making a gift to the BAAM. Our goal in this year's appeal is \$118,390. To date, we have raised \$53,590 and are 45% to our goal. While we have had a great start to the campaign, there is still work to be done.

If you have already made a gift, thank you for your support! If you are not able to make a gift, please support the work of the Church with your prayers. If you haven't made a gift yet and think you might be able to, please prayerfully consider supporting the BAAM this year. Your gift helps Saint Matthew share our blessings with others.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Justin Raines

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 27, 2023 -

PARISH, VISITORS, ACH WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$18,980
SECOND COLLECTION: HAITI MINISTRY	\$3,777

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Capital Needs

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Catholic University

PARISH NEWS

ST. GIANNA CIRCLE MIX & MEET

Attention all moms! You're invited to the St. Gianna Circle Mix & Meet on Tuesday, September 5 from 7-9 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. St. Gianna Circle Mothers Ministry is designed to support and affirm women in the many roles we have as mothers, wives, daughters, sisters and friends. Join us for wine, desserts, appetizers and prizes! To register, visit bit.ly/sgcmixmeet23. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Abaray at elizabeth.abaray@live.com. As always, babies are welcome at St. Gianna Circle!

WOMEN'S CLUB SEPTEMBER MEETING

Join us for the official return of the Saint Matthew Women's Club. Our first meeting will take place in the PCC following the 7 p.m. Mass on Wednesday, September 13. We invite everyone to join us at Mass before the meeting, as Fr. Raines will deliver a special blessing for the Women's Club during Mass. We will then meet to enjoy refreshments, review the agenda for the upcoming year, explore service opportunities, and distribute the book for our October meeting. Visit bit.ly/smcwcseptmeeting to register and purchase your copy of the book for our October meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Vargas at cvargasnp@gmail.com or Cynthia Myers at cmyers@stmatthewtn.org.

13TH ANNUAL SONGWRITERS NIGHT



We're two weeks away from our 13th Annual Songwriters Night! This year's event will be held on Saturday, September 16 at 6 p.m. in the courtyard. All proceeds will go to our Haiti Ministry as they continue to support our sister parish, Our Lady of Miracles, in Gobert, Haiti. Join us for a night of fun, music and fellowship. Tickets are on sale now online at bit.ly/smcsongwritersnight23. We'll see you there!

SAINT MATTHEW MINISTRY FAIR



Saint Matthew will host its annual Ministry Fair on September 9 & 10 following all of the weekend Masses in the Cohan-Hansom Building. All are invited to attend and learn more about the 30+ ministry offerings here at our parish. If you are looking for a place to get involved at the parish, this is your opportunity. We hope to see you there!

LUNCH BUNCH RETURNS!



Lunch Bunch is back! All senior members of the community (ages 55+) are invited to join us for lunch, fellowship, fun and bingo. Our first event of the new season

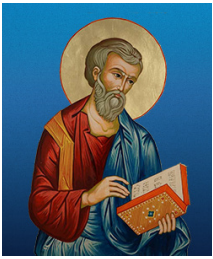
will take place on Tuesday, September 12 from noon-2 p.m. in the narthex. The cost is \$10 (cash or check, paid at the door). Please bring a gift for the prize table. This can be a trinket, toy, game, statue, book, baked goods, etc. valued around \$10. Have some old items collecting dust in your home? Bring it to bingo! All used items must be in good, working condition. Visit www.bit.ly/smclunchbunchsept23 to register. For questions, contact Martin Strobel at mstrobel@stmatthewtn.org or (615) 550-5101.

SPONSOR OUR SONGWRITERS NIGHT

Sponsorship opportunities are available for our 13th Annual Well Played: A Songwriters Night! If you or your business is interested in sponsoring this event, please visit bit.ly/smcsongwritersnightsponsor23 and complete the sponsorship form. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Dorough at jimandmarylee@comcast.net, Janet Dittus at janetdittusmd@comcast.net, or Barney Schulte at ben87ce@yahoo.com.

PARISH NEWS

SAINT MATTHEW FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



Join us for the Saint Matthew Feast Day Celebration & Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, September 21! In honor of our patron's feast day, we will celebrate Mass at 6 p.m., followed by a spaghetti dinner in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Meals will cost \$10/plate and \$40/family. All members of the Saint Matthew community are invited to attend and spend time in fellowship together. Visit bit.ly/smcfeastdaydinner to place your meal order today.

SAINT MATTHEW SPEAKER SERIES FEATURING DR. JAMES PAULEY




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/smcsspaulley to register and learn more about Dr. Pauley and his talks. We hope to see you there!

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 THE A/V MINISTRY

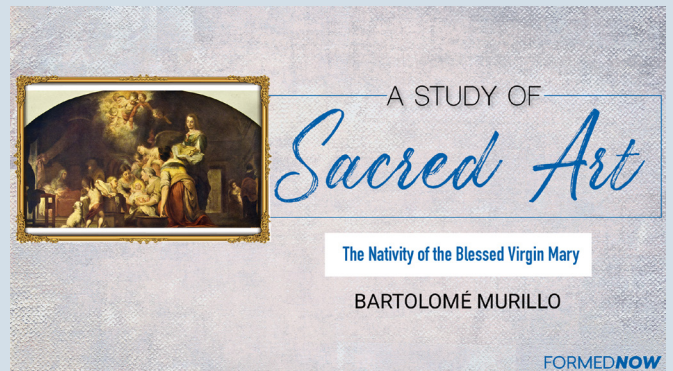
Our A/V Ministry is seeking volunteers to assist with running the livestreams at our daily and weekend Masses. Our daily Mass livestreams are viewed not only by local and homebound parishioners, but also by viewers around the country. This ministry helps us expand our reach and help those across the country deepen their Catholic faith. To join, please contact Kirk Jordan at kirkjordan@comcast.net.

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.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK - SEPTEMBER 3



SACRED ART: THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

By studying Sacred Art, we fuel our prayer and contemplation. In this episode, Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Taylor Kemp to examine the theological nuances contained in Bartolome Murillo's depiction of the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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

PARISH NEWS

THE TROOPS OF SAINT GEORGE

Register for our newest ministry, the Troops of Saint George.

Founded in 2013, TSG is a national fraternal

Catholic apostolate for young men looking for a life of adventure coupled with virtue. All Catholic fathers and sons are invited to join. Our meetings will include fun physical activities. Monthly excursions will include hiking, camping and other outdoor adventures. If you and your son(s) are interested, please visit bit.ly/smctsgregistration. For questions, please email Eric Ruppenner at tsg@stmatthewtn.org.



TROOPS OF SAINT GEORGE
VIRTUS. HONOR. FRATERNITAS.

BECOME A CUB SCOUT

Saint Matthew Cub Scouts are POPPING! Pack 287 had a blast playing games and getting to know the other scouts at our Popcorn Party, and we want your child to join in on the fun. If your son (ages 5-11) is interested, visit bit.ly/pack287 to register. Questions? Email Doug Kennedy at pack287@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.

EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL PORTAL IS LIVE!

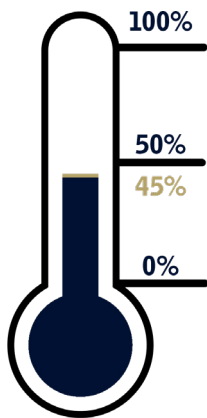
We are excited to announce that the Eucharistic Revival portal is now live on the Saint Matthew website! Visit bit.ly/smceucharist to learn more about the Year of Eucharistic Revival and to refocus your hearts on this fundamental truth of our faith.



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

www.stmatthewtn.org

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES: MORE THAN \$53,000 RAISED!



Thanks to your generous support, Saint Matthew has already raised more than \$53,000 in this year's *Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries*! Our goal for this year's appeal is \$118,390. We are currently at 42% of that goal with a total of \$53,590.

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

GLORY FROM SUFFERING

Human nature abhors suffering. We go out of our way to avoid even the slightest distress. Today, cars come equipped with heated seats and heated steering wheels so we can avoid those brief moments of chills on a winter day. Our culture abounds with products and services that are designed to eliminate suffering and increase comfort. Therefore, when we hear blunt messages from Christ about denying ourselves and taking up our cross, it catches us off guard. In fact, Jesus' words of His own suffering caught Peter off guard.

Last week, Peter's confession of Jesus as the Son of God was inspired by the Father. In this exchange, Peter's natural instincts object to a suffering Messiah. On his own, Peter cannot see the spiritual necessity of Jesus' passion for sinners. When Peter denies Jesus' mission, Jesus' response is striking: "Get behind me, Satan!" This conversation portrays that becoming a hindrance to God's will implies a demonic source attempting to overthrow God's plan.

To follow Jesus is to take up a cross, to deny yourself—your priorities, preferences, and comforts. It is to be willing to give it all up, even life itself, for the sake of His Gospel. Yet, while the cross is a stumbling block for us, the whole point of denying ourselves, accepting our cross, and giving up our life is that God's suffering eventually leads to glory.

Because Peter is so alarmed to hear the first part of Jesus' plan to suffer, he missed the second part of Jesus' sentence, "and on the third day be raised." Oftentimes the emotional shock of turmoil blinds us to see that God will use it for good in the end.

Jesus did not say His hour is near for him to die, but to be glorified. He grouped Calvary and his triumph together as He would do after His resurrection when speaking to His disciples on the road to Emmaus: "Was not it to be expected that the Christ should undergo these sufferings and enter into His glory?" (Luke 24:26)

A key hinge in the spiritual life is to fixate more on the upcoming glory than the current suffering. In our faith, we don't just suffer for the sake of suffering. Much like the agony in a workout leads to a good effect – a healthy body – so too the temporary distress in the soul can lead to its sanctification. While Jesus indicates that suffering and self-denial are essential to the Christian life (Rom 8:17, Col 1:24) it is vital for us to see that the suffering has a point to it. When we fixate on God and unite our suffering to Him, He will point us to the glory that awaits us.

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.

HOLY CHILD SYMPOSIUM



One of our main tasks as parents is to safeguard our children in a fallen world. Led by parishioner Fran Jaeger, we will hold a symposium to discuss safe environment strategies for parents. This symposium is open to all parents and child caregivers on Sunday, September 24 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the parish conference center.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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.

VOLUNTEER TO BECOME A CATECHIST

You can have a positive impact on our youth by becoming a catechist and teaching our kids about the faith. We are in need of catechists for our 4th grade Religious Education classes. If you are interested, please visit bit.ly/smccatechist23 and fill out the brief form. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about becoming a catechist, please contact Tony Jesse, Director of Religious Education, at tjesse@stmatthewtn.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

FALL

RETREAT 2023

KALEIDOSCOPE

- Sept. 29th - Oct. 1st
- Gasper River Retreat Center, KY
- Open to Students 8 - 12th Grade

Join us for a weekend of rappelling, zip lining (among other adventure activities), bonfires, good food, talks, small groups, and Jesus!

**REGISTER HERE**

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



REGISTER FOR RISE 2023-2024

Take the jump and register for RISE Youth Group! Open to all high school students as an opportunity to come together for fellowship, fun and exploration of our Catholic faith. Throughout the school year, we'll meet most Sundays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Join us to deepen your Catholic faith in fellowship with the youth of the parish. To learn more and register, visit bit.ly/smcrise2324.

WANTED: BOARD GAMES

Do you like playing board games? Hey, so do we! And we're looking to grow our collection! If you have any old games collecting dust, we will happily take them. Or if there's a game you think we absolutely have to have, we'd gladly take new ones. Please make sure they are appropriate and have all of the pieces. These games will primarily be used by high school students, but we're not above turning a little kid's matching game into an epic relay race. If you'd like to donate please contact Antoinette Hanning at ahanning@stmatthewtn.org.

YOUTH GROUP ON INSTAGRAM



FOLLOW US ON
 *Instagram*
@STMATTHEWYOUTH

Guess what? We're back on Instagram! Follow us for Youth Group updates, Catholic resources for teens, and much more! Give us a follow [@stmatthewyouth](https://www.instagram.com/stmatthewyouth).



TONY JESSE
Director of Religious Education
tjesse@stmatthewtn.org

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



ANTOINETTE HANNING
Director of Youth Ministry
ahanning@stmatthewtn.org



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