



# *Saint Matthew*

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

DECEMBER 25, 2023 + THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

# *Rejoice!*

“FOR TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID, A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU WHO IS CHRIST AND LORD.”



### MASS SCHEDULE

#### MASS

Mon. | 10 a.m.  
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:

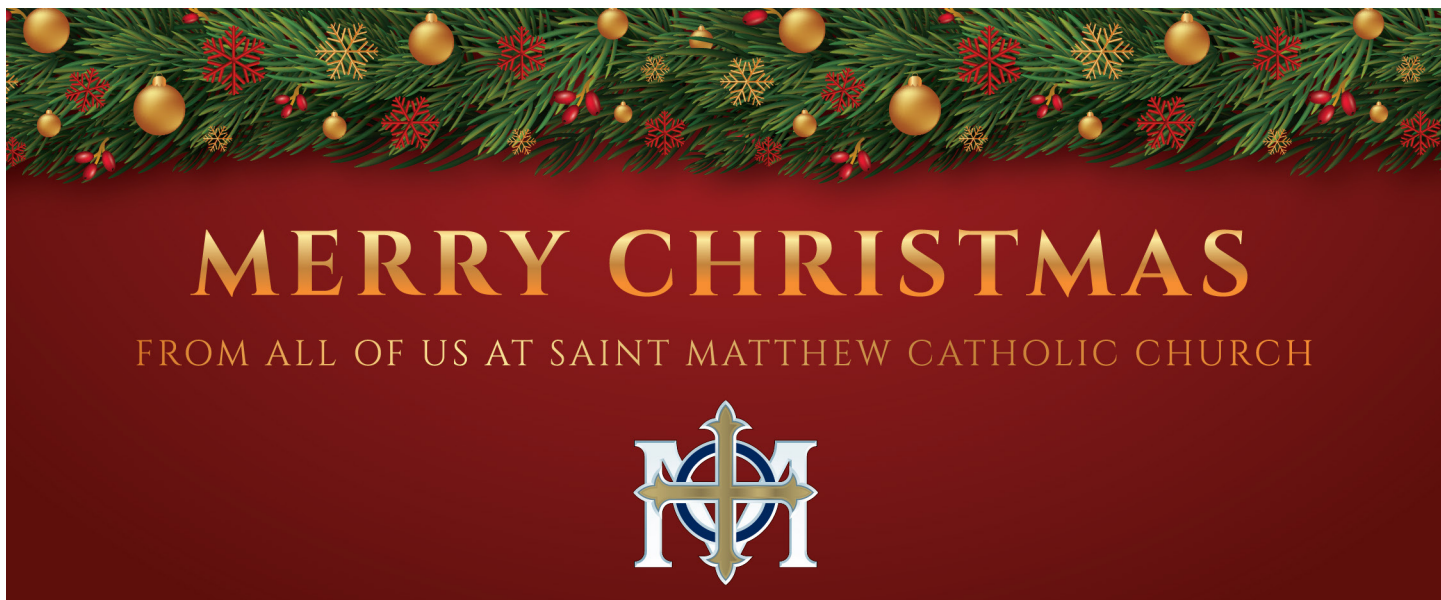
Father Justin Raines

#### ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

#### DEACONS:

Lachlan Cameron & Bill Forte



## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JUSTIN RAINES

Dear People of Saint Matthew Parish,

In the first reading for Christmas Mass “during the night,” we hear from the Prophet Isaiah, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone [ . . . ] For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.” I think that this beautifully captures the tone of our Christmas celebration. While Easter is our great holy day, our day of triumph and victory, the day we celebrate the accomplishment of our redemption, Christmas is our great feast of hope. Our fallen world had lain in darkness for an untold number of centuries, with only the people of Israel holding on to God’s promise of a messiah, a redeemer. Then a child was born, who was God-made-man, and who was destined to save the world. A light began to shine in the darkness, a light that the darkness can never overcome. God fulfilled his promise.

Christmas is the last of our holy days that still enjoys wide popular celebration by society around us. Christmas is celebrated even by those who are not actively practicing their Christian faith. Although popular celebrations may take a different emphasis than ours, I think the fact that Christmas is so widely celebrated, that even today there are Christmas trees and lights around our neighborhoods and public spaces, tells us that people are longing for hope, hope that only Jesus Christ can bring.

Wherever you are in life, remember that God always fulfills his promises, and that there is always hope with the Lord Jesus. Let the light of Christ penetrate into the darkness, and know that there is no darkness that can ever overcome it. Let the Lord fill you with hope.

May each and every one of you have a Merry Christmas, full of joy at the birth of the Lord Jesus and enlightened with his hope.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Justin Raines  
*Pastor*



## A YEAR IN REVIEW

### ***“AND BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS.” - MATTHEW 28:20***

This is the promise of Christ as told in the Gospel of our patron, Saint Matthew. It is also the promise of our parish. As our mission states, “We invite, welcome, love, and support all of God’s people.” This principle guides all of us at the parish, including our ministry leaders and volunteers. Take a look below to see some of the ways our ministries invited, welcomed, loved, and supported God’s people in 2023.

- The **MEN’S CLUB** served more than 450 meals at our fish fries, 140 guests at Breakfast with Santa, and countless community members at their other events throughout the year.
- The **WOMEN’S CLUB** returned this year to serve the women of the parish, welcoming more than 60 women at their relaunch event in May. Since their return, the Women’s Club has hosted numerous, well-attended events, including a blind book exchange, a paint-along party, and their inaugural Gift Dash dinner and fundraiser.
- Our **ST. GIANNA CIRCLE MOTHERS MINISTRY**, now in its third year at Saint Matthew, continued to grow and provide a place of belonging for the mothers in our parish and the surrounding community. They hosted many events to serve the community, including the Praying As A Family workshop to kick off the year; the Stages of Motherhood panel, featuring a panel of mothers with 45 children between them; the inaugural Mother-Son Night of Fun, which welcomed nearly 300 guests; the Family Advent Wreath-Making Event; and The Manger, our parish’s Christmas-giving effort.
- The **SAINT MATTHEW HAITI MINISTRY** continued to provide financial support for our sister parish, Our Lady of Miracles, in Gobert, Haiti. They hosted their 13th annual Well Played: A Songwriters Night, which raised more than \$30,000 for our sister parish and aided in the construction of six new classrooms for the parish school.
- The **TROOPS OF ST. GEORGE** welcomed 64 members in its first year at Saint Matthew.
- Our **RESPECT FOR LIFE MINISTRY** raised \$7,697 in its annual Baby Bottle Drive, benefitting women experiencing crisis and unplanned pregnancies at Mulier Care.
- The **FAMILY SERVICE MINISTRY** continued to bring families together to serve the community at large. Throughout the year, members of the ministry stuffed and distributed 106 blessing bags to the homeless population in Nashville; collected 108 Boxes of Joy to donate to Cross Catholic Outreach; cooked dinner for 35 residents at The Ronald McDonald House in April; and continued to serve and bring joy to the residents at NHC Place at the Trace at various events.
- Our **LITURGICAL MINISTRIES** helped to support our priests at all of our Masses throughout the year. This year, we trained two new Ministers of Ceremony, 50 new altar servers, and numerous lectors, hospitality ministers, and EMHC’s. Most notably, our Liturgical Ministries are seeing an influx of volunteers coming from the youth of the parish, who are eager to learn the ropes and prepare to lead the parish in the future.
- Our **SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL** volunteers made 29 home visits to neighbors requesting assistance for rent, utilities, gasoline, car repairs, etc. Our Conference paid \$21,308 in back rent to landlords to prevent evictions, dispensed more than \$4,000 in food and clothing to neighbors from its pantry, and rescued two families with children living in their cars and partnered with social agencies to get them into subsidized housing. They also hosted their fifth annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run, raising a record \$15,000 in sponsorships and donations.
- Our **ROOM IN THE INN MINISTRY** served more than 120 guests in 2023 and expanded their offerings for the guests to include showers and haircuts at certain events.

These are just a few of the ways our ministries helped to advance the mission of our parish throughout the year. We are so grateful to our ministry leaders and volunteers for being such exemplary ambassadors for Saint Matthew. If you are interested in getting involved, please feel free to reach out to one of our ministry leaders.

- **A/V MINISTRY / FEED THE PRIEST**  
Kelly Ott - kott@stmatthewtn.org
- **ADULT FAITH FORMATION / RCIA / RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / VBS / ST. JOSEPH’S MEN**  
Tony Jesse - tjesse@stmatthewtn.org
- **ARTS & ENVIRONMENT**  
Leslie Van Kerkhove - lvankerkhove@yahoo.com
- **BOY SCOUTS**  
Nick Ragsdale - nick.ragsdale@belmont.edu
- **COLLEGE OUTREACH / RESPECT FOR LIFE**  
Mary Starr - maryestarr25@gmail.com
- **CUB SCOUTS**  
Doug Kennedy - pack287@stmatthewtn.org
- **FAMILY SERVICE MINISTRY**  
Theresa Chau - theresa.a.chau@gmail.com
- **GIRL SCOUTS**  
Kelly Jensen - kellyannejensen1@gmail.com  
Colleen Tran - mcolleen.tran@gmail.com

- **HAITI MINISTRY**  
Barney Schulte - ben87ce@yahoo.com
- **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY**  
Mary Peters - mary\_peters@comcast.net
- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #12012**  
Josh Jackson - jackson1868@gmail.com
- **LECTORS**  
Patricia Smith - pms56@comcast.net
- **LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**  
Dan Ott - daniel.r.ott@vumc.org
- **LOAVES & FISHES**  
Bill Thomson - bthomson7504@gmail.com
- **LUNCH BUNCH**  
Veronica Fischer - vjff@themarianofamily.com
- **MEN’S CLUB**  
Tom Bogan - kmatombogan@gmail.com
- **MUSIC MINISTRY**  
Rebecca Harding - rharding@stmatthewtn.org

- **RISE YOUTH GROUP**  
Antoinette Hanning - ahanning@stmatthewtn.org
- **ROOM IN THE INN**  
Rhea Forte - (615) 828-5950
- **ST. GIANNA CIRCLE**  
Elizabeth Abaray - elizabeth.abaray@live.com
- **SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL**  
Kirk Jordan - kirkjordan@comcast.net
- **TROOPS OF ST. GEORGE**  
Eric Ruppaner - tsg@stmatthewtn.org
- **WOMEN’S CLUB**  
Connie Vargas - cvargasnp@gmail.com  
Cynthia Myers - cynthia.myers@icloud.com



***Saint Matthew  
Catholic Church***





- ◆ Gary & Tomi O'Reilly
- ◆ In memory of Arthur Jankowski, Janice Jankowski, Billy J. Outlaw, Josephine C. Outlaw, and Shirley L. Novak by George & Jennifer Law
- ◆ In memory of the deceased members of the Buresh and Robertson families by Robert & Judith Robertson
- ◆ In memory of Gilbert Fuentes, John Voltaggio, and Nicholas Florence Caime by Victoria Fuentes
- ◆ In memory of William T. White, Sr., by Gina White
- ◆ In memory of Loftus A. Morrissey III and Frank Hopkins by Lisa Morrissey
- ◆ In honor of Gina & Brad Miller by Lisa Morrissey
- ◆ Charles & Sharon Kennedy
- ◆ Sam & Janet Siekpe
- ◆ Albert & Linda Valiquette
- ◆ Marilyn Hartz
- ◆ Elizabeth Crow
- ◆ In memory of Albert and Genevieve Camplese, Edward Rayden Clarke, Jr., and Robert Rose, by Dennis & Laura Camplese
- ◆ Glenn & Carol Ann Butkerait
- ◆ In memory of John W. Cochran, Jan E. Cochran, and Virginia A. Cochran by Linda Cochran
- ◆ In honor of William R. Bernhardt by John & Diane Comer
- ◆ Mark & Meredith Oxborough
- ◆ In memory of Ann and Frank Thigpen, and Joan and Hummer Watson by Brad & Pattie Watson
- ◆ In memory of Bob Bradford, and Vernel and Bob Schulte by Jane Bradford
- ◆ Mark & Niki Antonini
- ◆ In memory of the Czyz and Wlodarski families by Margaret Czyz
- ◆ In memory of Janice and Warren LeJeune, Arnold Marsden, Bertha and Carl Parker, Lucille and Walter LeJeune, and Elaine Ducote by Mark & Regina Marsden
- ◆ Aaron & Becky Scherz
- ◆ In memory of Ronald B. Deal, Sr., by Suzanne Deal
- ◆ In memory of the Crowley family, the Lillis family, Jeff Dudley, Arielle Morris, and Pat Harrison by James & Joan Crowley
- ◆ Paul & Bobette Smith
- ◆ In memory of Frank R. Wittmer, Judith S. Cox, and Philip D. Cox by Kevin & Susan Cox
- ◆ Brian & Celeste Grider
- ◆ In memory of Chas and Mary Adams by Albert & Marie Tarolli





# AS MEMORIAL

- ◆ Stan & Shannon Kasakevics
- ◆ Bill & Paula Antonini
- ◆ In memory of Arthur L. Guepe, Viola S. Guepe, Arthur A. Guepe, and William (Bill) Harris by Ann Harris
- ◆ Clay & Kimberly Teter
- ◆ Nan Rentschler
- ◆ James & Paula Mondelli
- ◆ Jim & Angelia Brunner
- ◆ Fred & Brenda Anderson
- ◆ In memory of Anne Rice by Matthew & Anne Margaret Weishaar
- ◆ In memory of Harry and Anna Namesnik , and the Lucia family by Frank & Dianna Lucia
- ◆ In memory of the Aponte family, the Melcher family, the Mann family, and Patsy Smith by Paul & Rose Marie Aponte
- ◆ Jim & Carol Kennedy
- ◆ In memory of Jim and Sara Little, and Philip and Josephine Lang by Paul & Mary Lang
- ◆ In memory of Paul Dienert by Chelsea Dinert
- ◆ In memory of Arlen Authement and Patsy Brown by Meghan Williams
- ◆ In memory of Anna Grace Miller by Brad and Gina Miller
- ◆ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Loftus A. Morrissey, Jr., by Brad & Gina Miller
- ◆ In memory of Caroline and Horace Knoch by Vince & LeeAnn Knoch
- ◆ In memory of Parker and Ramsey Costello by Matt Costello
- ◆ In memory of Dennis Rolfsen by the Denney family.
- ◆ In memory of Barbara Marsh by the Denney family.
- ◆ In memory of the deceased members of the Baldinger and Butler families by Kimber Baldinger
- ◆ In memory of Craig Hausman, Jim and Donna Hausman, Jim and Julia Starr, Suzanne Creasman, and Karen Goldberg by Cory & Mary Starr
- ◆ Gene & Cindy Flathmann
- ◆ In memory of the deceased family and friends of Lachlan & Dolores Cameron.
- ◆ In memory of Cynthia Chin, Lourdes Remedios, and Deborah Tripodi by Claudia Chin & Alex Pedraza

## LITURGY SCHEDULE (DECEMBER 24-31, 2023)

### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD VIGIL MASS

- 4:00 p.m. Mass
- 4:10 p.m. Mass
- 6:30 p.m. Mass
- ✦ For the People of Saint Matthew
  - Is 62:1-5
  - Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
  - Mt 1:1-25

### MASS DURING THE NIGHT

- 10:00 p.m. Mass
- ✦ For the People of Saint Matthew
  - Is 9:1-6
  - Ti 2:11-14
  - Lk 2:1-14

### MASS DURING THE DAY

- 10:00 a.m. Mass
- ✦ For all those remembered in the Christmas Memorials
  - Is 52:7-10
  - Heb 1:1-6
  - Jn 1:1-18

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✦ Martin J. Holmes
  - Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
  - Mt 10:17-22

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✦ William and Jeanne Lawson
  - 1 Jn 1:1-4
  - Jn 20:1a and 2-8

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✦ Anna Grace Miller
  - 1 Jn 1:5—2:2
  - Mt 2:13-18

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✦ Kaye Arkins
  - 1 Jn 2:3-11
  - Lk 2:22-35

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✦ Pauline Moyer
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✦ Janice Tabernik
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✦ For the People of Saint Matthew
  - Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
  - Col 3:12-21
  - Lk 2:22-40

## PARISH NEWS

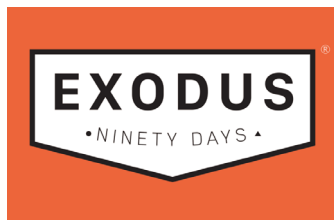
### CHRISTMAS BREAK OFFICE CLOSURES

Merry Christmas from Saint Matthew Catholic Church and School! Our church and school offices are closed for Christmas Break. The church offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Saint Matthew School will reopen on Thursday, January 4, 2023.

### YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAINT MATTHEW

With the end of the year fast approaching, please remember that all contributions must be postmarked by Saturday, December 31 to be credited toward your 2023 contributions. While the parish offices will be closed for the holidays, our business office will be available on Friday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 26 to process end-of-year accounting. Stock and IRA contributions take time to process, so if you are interested in making a stock or IRA gift before the year's end, please contact Bill Stewart in the business office at [bstewart@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:bstewart@stmatthewtn.org) or (615) 550-5107 to start the process. Gifts can also be made through our online giving platform, Our Sunday Visitor, at [bit.ly/smconlinegivinghub](http://bit.ly/smconlinegivinghub). Thank you for your support!

### EXODUS 90



Exodus 90 is a spiritual program designed for men that offers a 90-day journey of self-denial and prayer to obtain freedom from that which negatively controls men. The Exodus 90 program consists of prayer, asceticism, and fraternity. Exodus 90 starts on January 1 and ends on March 31. If you are interested in participating in Exodus 90, please fill out the interest form at [bit.ly/smcexodus90](http://bit.ly/smcexodus90).

### FIAT 90



Fiat 90 is a spiritual program uniquely designed for women. Fiat 90 is a 90-day journey that gives women an opportunity to grow closer to God, closer to each other, and closer to authentic femininity. The Fiat 90 program is built on prayer, practices of self-denial, self-reflection, and community. Fiat 90 starts on January 1 and ends on March 31. If you are interested in participating in Fiat 90, please fill out the form at [bit.ly/smcfiat90](http://bit.ly/smcfiat90).

### LOST AND FOUND BOX

Our lost and found box, located on the metal shelving unit in the church kitchen, will be cleaned out on Tuesday, January 2. All items that have been left behind will be sorted and either donated or thrown away. If you believe you left something in the church recently, please be sure to check the lost and found box before you leave Mass this weekend. Thank you!





## PARISH NEWS

### FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Registration is now open for our next First Friday Adoration on January 5. Time slots are available in 30-minute increments. We need at least two people present with the Blessed Sacrament at all times throughout the day. Visit [bit.ly/smcffajjanuary24](https://bit.ly/smcffajjanuary24) to register for a time slot.

### RISE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Jesus, His chicken, holiday games and more await at the Rise Christmas Party on Saturday, January 6! All high schoolers are invited to join us in the PCC after Mass. Bring yourself and your best summer-themed white elephant gift (limit is \$10).

### JANUARY LUNCH BUNCH



Lunch Bunch returns on Tuesday, January 9! This month, our theme will celebrate the new year! Come wearing your favorite festive apparel to ring in 2024.

Participation in the theme is encouraged, but not required. The event will take place from noon-2 p.m. in the narthex. The cost for entry is \$10 and a bingo prize valued around \$10 for the prize table. This can be a trinket, toy, game, statue, book, baked goods, etc. To register for the event, visit [bit.ly/smlunchbunchjan24](https://bit.ly/smlunchbunchjan24).

### WOMEN'S CLUB JANUARY MEETING

The Saint Matthew Women's Club wants to help you be your best self in the new year! All women of the parish are invited to the New Year, New You health fair on Wednesday, January 10. Healthcare professionals will be available to share tips and answer questions about nutrition, physical therapy, and mental health. The meeting will take place in the Cohan-Hansom Building from 7:30-9 p.m. More information will be made available soon. Save the date and make plans to attend!



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

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

### KofC YOUTH FREE THROW COMPETITION

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition is back! All children ages 9-14 from the Saint Matthew community are invited to participate in this annual competition. This year's event will take place at the St. Henry gym on Sunday, January 14 at 12:30 p.m. following the 11 a.m. Mass. All interested participants must fill out a registration form and bring it to the event. Visit [bit.ly/smckcfreethrow24](https://bit.ly/smckcfreethrow24) to download the registration form. If you have any questions, please contact [kofc12012@gmail.com](mailto:kofc12012@gmail.com).

### BEWARE OF SCAM EMAILS

Recently, we have heard from more and more parishioners and school parents receiving emails and text messages coming from scammers posing as Fr. Raines, Fr. Tran, and other church and school staff members. In these messages, the scammers are requesting meetings, asking for favors, and even soliciting money and gift cards from members of our community. If you receive a suspicious message from someone posing as a Saint Matthew employee, please do not respond to it or click any links in the message. Instead, please contact the church office, and we will help you verify whether the email is real or a scam. We are sorry for any confusion this may have caused. Please call the church office at (615) 646-0378 if you have any questions.

### ROOM IN THE INN

Our Room In The Inn ministry is seeking donations of NEW or GENTLY USED jeans to offer our guests at our upcoming events. The jeans can be any color and sized for larger men. All donations can be dropped off in the bins under the table in the sacristy. For more information, please contact Mary Peters at [mary\\_peters@comcast.net](mailto:mary_peters@comcast.net) or Rhea Forte at (615) 828-5950. Thank you!

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



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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**Lachlan Cameron**  
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