



Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

DECEMBER 3, 2023 + FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the
time will come.

- Mark 13:33



MASS SCHEDULE

MASS

Mon., Tues., Thurs. | 8 a.m.
Wed. | 7 p.m.
Fri. | 8 a.m., noon, 7 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



LITURGY SCHEDULE (DECEMBER 4-10, 2023)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Adolph Anthony Indovina
- Is 2:1-5
- Mt 8:5-11

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Anne Varner
- Is 11:1-10
- Lk 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ Peter Coyne
- Is 25:6-10a
- Mt 15:29-37

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Thomas William Edmondson
- Is 26:1-6
- Mt 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Vince Phillips
- 12:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ Robert & Jessie Butler
- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ For the People of Saint Matthew
- Gn 3:9-15, 20
- Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
- Lk 1:26-38

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✙ For the People of Saint Matthew
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ Dan Reese
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ Charles James Kincaid II
- Is 40:1-5, 9-11
- 2 Pt 3:8-14
- Mk 1:1-8

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

PARISH NEWS

THE MANGER ENDS TODAY!



This is the final weekend to participate in The Manger! Hosted by GraceWorks Ministries in Franklin, The Manger is a shopping experience designed to help low-income families in Williamson County provide Christmas gifts for their children. Eligible families will have the opportunity to “shop” for gifts in a store-like environment. All donations of NEW and UNWRAPPED toys and sporting equipment for children ages 0-18 must be dropped off by the end of the weekend in the collection bins, located in the church narthex and school lobby. Visit bit.ly/smcmanger23 or scan the QR code above to learn more. Thanks to all who have participated!

ADVENT PENCE SERVICE - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Advent Penance Service will take place this Tuesday, December 5 at 7 p.m. in the church. Fr. Raines, Fr. Tran, and other priests from around the diocese will be available to hear confession. All are invited to attend.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 26, 2023 -	
PARISH, VISITORS, ACH WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$ 14,552
SECOND COLLECTION: DEBT REDUCTION	\$550

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Capital Needs

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Religious Retirement

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY ON OUR
ONLINE GIVING PAGE:

www.stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



PARISH NEWS

FAMILY SERVICE MINISTRY CAROLING

Join our Family Service Ministry for Christmas caroling at NHC Place at the Trace on Thursday, December 7 at 3:30 p.m. The residents love to hear the children sing! Festive garb is suggested, but not required. Visit bit.ly/smcfsmcaroling23 to sign up. All ages are welcome!

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - DECEMBER 8

This Friday, December 8, marks the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a holy day of obligation in the Church. In honor of this holy day, we will celebrate Mass at 8 a.m. (all school Mass), noon, and 7 p.m. We hope to see you at one of our liturgies.

MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Santa Claus is coming to Saint Matthew! Join us in the Cohan-Hansom Building on Saturday, December 9 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. for Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the Men's Club. All children in attendance will have the opportunity to meet Santa, get their picture taken with him, and enjoy breakfast with the parish community. The event is free and open to children of all ages. Registration is not required but will help us plan for breakfast. Visit bit.ly/smcbreakfastwithsanta23 to register.



ROOM IN THE INN NEEDS MORE WARM COATS

Thanks to your generous donations in our warm clothes drive in October, coats have flown off the shelves at our first two Room In The Inn events of the season. Our supply of heavy warm coats has dwindled, and with the cold weather setting in, we are in need of additional ones to offer our guests at our upcoming events. New and gently used items in good condition will be accepted. If you would like to purchase coats, you can shop on your own or purchase items from our Amazon Wishlist at amzn.to/46HuXyr (case sensitive). All donations can be dropped off in the bin under the table across from the sacristy. Warm hats and gloves will also be accepted. Thank you for your generosity!

BECOME A GIFT BEARER

As we reflect on the upcoming holiday season, we remember all of the gifts that God has given us in our lives. At each Mass, the gift bearers represent the faithful of the Church expressing their gratitude and thanks for God's blessings and returning those gifts back to Him. Families and individuals alike are welcome to participate in this special part of the liturgy. We are specifically in need of gift bearers for the 5 p.m. Masses on Saturday. If you are interested in participating in the Mass, scan the QR code above or visit bit.ly/smcgiftbearer to sign up for one of our upcoming liturgies.



Altar Flowers



This weekend's Altar Flowers were donated by parishioner Madeleine Harvey in honor of her mother, Donna Allen, who is celebrating her birthday. Happy Birthday, Donna!

PARISH NEWS

NATIVITY PAGEANT - DECEMBER 16



The Children's Nativity Pageant, hosted by our St. Gianna Circle Mothers Ministry, will take place on Saturday, December 16 following the 5 p.m. Mass. The pageant is a retelling of the Christmas



story made up entirely of a cast of children from our parish and school community. All parishioners are invited to attend. We hope to see you there!

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.

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



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

www.stmatthewtn.org

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

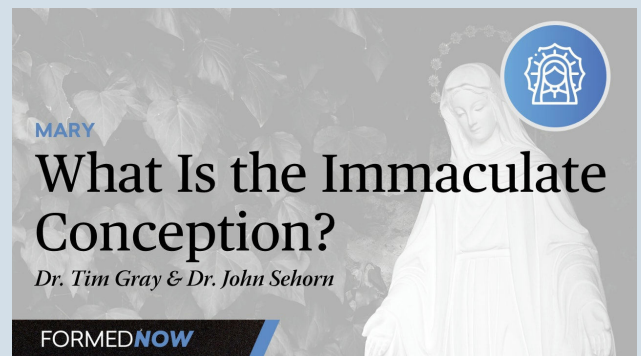
Please join us on the last Sunday of the month at 3 p.m. in the chapel to pray the Way of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and learn more about our Lord's Passion. Our mission is to pray for our fellow Catholic brothers and sisters who have left the church, or any intentions that you may have. As St. Mother Teresa once said, "To make sure that we do not forget, Jesus gave us the Eucharist as a memorial of his love... When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then; when you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now." Visit bit.ly/smcwayofthecross to complete the form.

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 - DECEMBER 3



WHAT IS THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION?

Join Drs. Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary's Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.

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

SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL NEWS

FREE MONEY!

Let's take advantage of free money to raise funds for our sister parish, Our Lady of Miracles, in Gobert, Haiti! Simply register your Kroger and Publix shoppers cards and select Saint Matthew Church to receive the funds. Then, buy groceries as you normally would! These stores will send quarterly checks to the church and school based on our total spending. To register your cards for these benefits, visit www.publix.com and www.kroger.com. Thank you for your support!

GOT SPARE CHANGE?

There are clear boxes on the table outside the training chapel where you can share your spare change to benefit our sister parish in Haiti. Don't have any change in your pocket or purse? Use the included QR code on the box to donate a dollar or two (or more!). Thank you in advance for sharing your spare change!

APPLICATIONS ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED FOR SAINT MATTHEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

There is still time to complete an application for Saint Matthew School for the 2024-2025 school year! Students in all grades are welcome to apply. Saint Matthew School prepares children to think critically, lead with integrity, discover their purpose, and fulfill their calling to become a saint. Choosing the best place for your child's education is one of the most important decisions you will make. Come and experience the Saint Matthew difference. To complete an application, go to www.stmatthewtn.org/school/admissions and scroll down to "Apply Now." Want to learn more? Join us for a virtual Coffee with the Principal event next Wednesday, December 6 at 6:15 p.m. Register on the admissions page link above. Zoom code will be sent on Tuesday, December 5. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Bellante, Director of Advancement, at lbellante@stmatthewtn.org.



RAISE DOUGH
SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL



SPIRIT DAY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

Pizza with a purpose!

dining in? MENTION STMATT WHEN YOU ORDER.
ordering online? ENTER CODE STMATT AT CHECKOUT.

15% of all proceeds donated to SMS*

187 FRONT ST. SUITE 103
LOCATED IN THE WESTHAVEN TOWNCENTER

WWW.COALTOWNPIZZA.COM

***BENEFITTING THE SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL HAITI FUND**

TONY'S REFLECTION

THE SEASON OF PREPARATION

Welcome to Advent! The word Advent originates from a Latin word "Adventus" which means "coming" or "arrival," and invokes the English word "adventure." Indeed, we can view preparing for Christ's arrival as an adventure itself. In this adventure, several pressing questions stir in the minds of the faithful. Is He coming? When's He coming? Am I prepared? The U.S. Coast Guard's motto is "semper paratus" which means "always prepared." It behooves us to realize that if the Coast Guard is not prepared, then lives are in jeopardy. As we enter Advent, a similar scenario plays out.

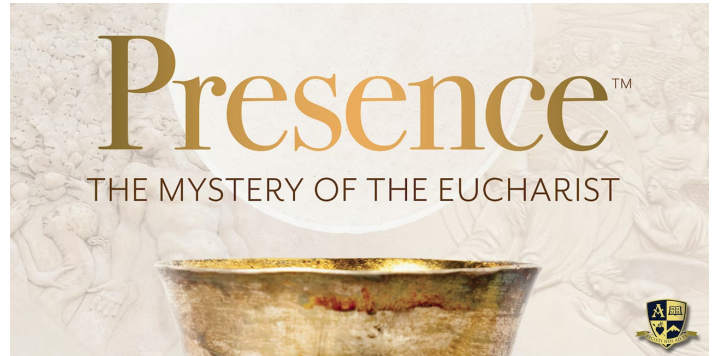
Today, Jesus provides us with a crucial announcement on the importance of being vigilant. As with other parables, each character represents a corresponding reality we can witness in the spiritual life. The "gatekeeper" placed on watch refers to the clergy, especially the successor of St. Peter himself. The clergy are to be on watch, warning and encouraging the rest of the "servants" about the return of the master. When the gatekeepers get distracted with temporal causes rather than the Gospel, then the servants will likely become complacent. Similarly, we servants also need to be filled with a holy sense of urgency for Christ's arrival. Being consumed in the hubbub in our secular society, it's easy to become distracted by countless trivial matters that have nothing to do with Christ's imminent return. Therefore, a large part of our life needs to be fixated on the spiritual life drenched with prayer and the sacramental life. The man who has his spiritual affairs in order shows no reason to panic when Christ enters the scene.

As Dr. John Bergsma illustrates, the sequence "evening, midnight, cockcrow, morning" can be understood spiritually for different moments in the life of the Church: "evening" are those ages when the Church's influence in society is waning and corruption within is growing; "midnight," when the Church is eclipsed and suffers persecution; "cockcrow," when there are hopeful signs and the beginnings of reform; "morning," when the Church experiences growth. We don't know in which kind of age Christ will return, so it's incumbent on us to be constantly vigilant.

As we wait for the Lord, it is best to be busy with the work that God has left in our charge: doing our professional work with excellence; fulfilling our duties to family with care and love; speaking of Christ to any who will listen; living a lifestyle of prayer, modesty, and acts of self-denial. If we are busy about these things, we can anticipate the coming of Christ with joy.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

REAL PRESENCE SERIES



As we continue to celebrate the Year of the Eucharistic Revival, all are invited to learn more about the Real Presence of the Eucharist as we watch and discuss the Presence series, presented by the Augustine Institute. Join us on Mondays from 7-8 p.m. in the parish conference center. If you are interested in attending, please visit bit.ly/smcpresence23 to register.

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.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FRIDAY?

This Friday, December 8, is the day we celebrate Mary's Immaculate Conception! It's a very misunderstood feast day, as people often confuse it with Jesus' conception in the womb of our Blessed Mother; that feast, called the Annunciation, is celebrated on March 25. On Friday, we honor the conception of our Blessed Mother without sin. It is of such high importance to us that the Church has named it a holy day of obligation, which means that, as Catholics, we are asked to attend Mass. Invite your friends and family to come honor our Blessed Mother and praise God for His goodness. Saint Matthew will be offering three Masses throughout the day: 8 a.m., noon & 7 p.m. Additionally, it's the patronal feast day of the United States, so say a special prayer for our country!

JESUS IS COMING!

What better way to help prepare our hearts than the sacrament of confession? To kick off the Advent season, Saint Matthew will have a penance service this Tuesday, December 5. While a Lenten penance service is definitely more common, it's still important at this time of year! Which is why priests from around the diocese will be coming to Saint Matthew to hear confessions. Join our parish family in the church anytime between 7-8 p.m. this Tuesday.

REGISTER FOR RISE

Life is busy, and other things can take priority for a time. That is why registration for Rise is available year round! We regularly welcome new teens to our group and encourage them to bring friends. It's never too late to join us! Visit bit.ly/smcrise2324 to register.

RISE EMAIL LIST

Would you like to receive updates, reminders and the occasional reflection from Rise? Join our email list! This is one of the many ways we keep in touch with our teens and their families throughout the week. Whether you're a teen, know a teen or just want to know what's happening with Rise, we'd love to add you! Email Antoinette to be added to the list.



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



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

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

Holiday Mass Schedule

DEC 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

5 p.m. Mass - Church

DEC 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Mass - Church

11 a.m. Mass - Church

DEC 24 Christmas Eve

4 p.m. Mass - Church

Formal choir program starting at 3:15 p.m. (full choir & instrumental)

4:10 p.m. Mass - Gym

6:30 p.m. Mass - Church

Liturgy Choir performing

10 p.m. Mass - Church

Special prelude music 15 minutes before Mass

DEC 25 Christmas

10 a.m. Mass - Church

Special prelude music 15 minutes before Mass

JAN 01 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9 a.m. Mass - Church

Did you know...

This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve. Since we have obligations to attend Mass for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas, we want to help you select which Masses you will attend to satisfy each obligation. Use the infographic below to help you choose your Mass schedule for December 23, 24 and 25.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Choose from the options below:

12/23 @ 5pm

12/24 @ 8:30am

12/24 @ 11am

Christmas

Choose from the options below:

12/24 @ 4pm

12/24 @ 4:10pm

12/24 @ 6:30pm

12/24 @ 10pm

12/25 @ 10am