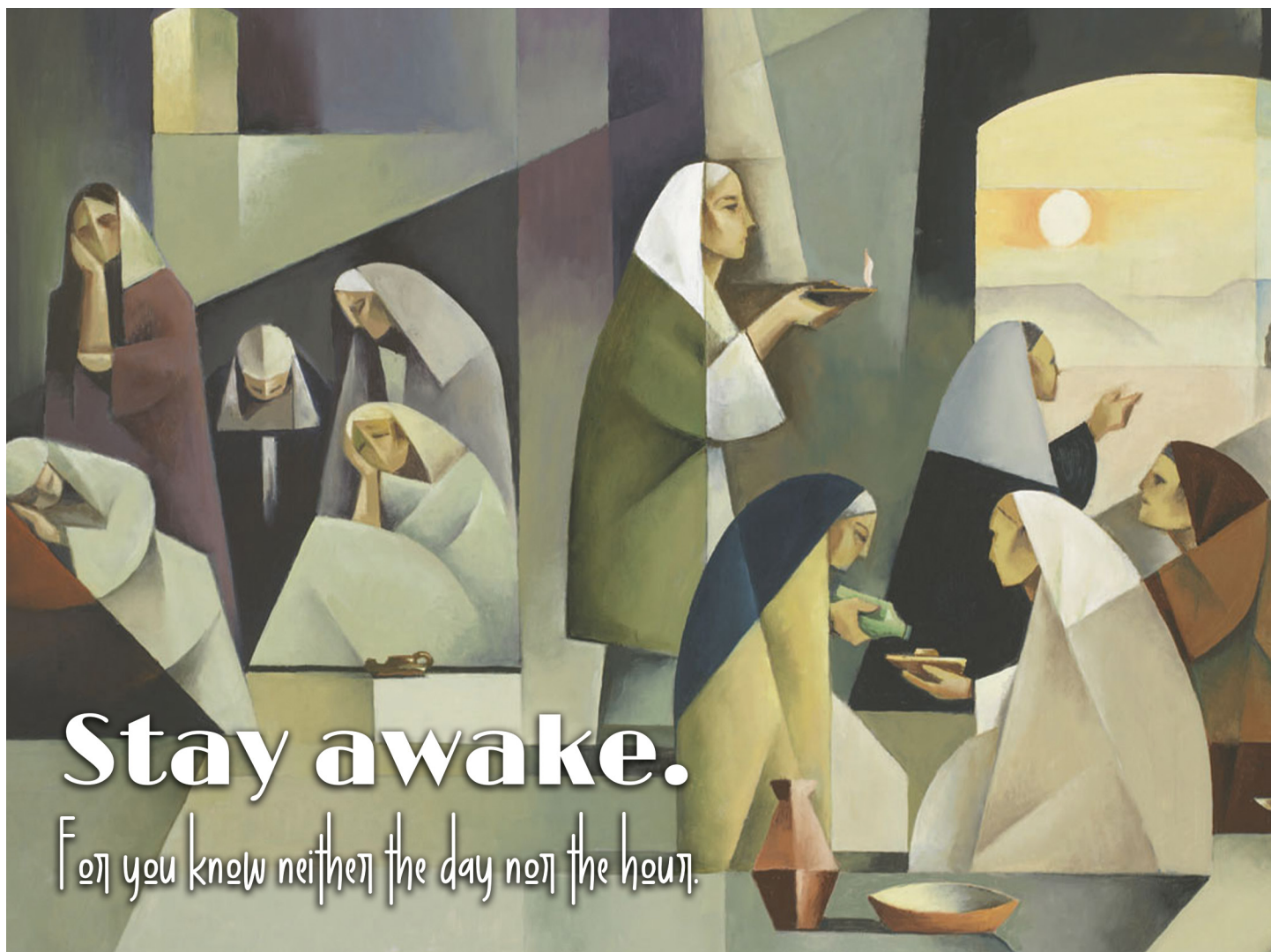




# *Saint Matthew* CATHOLIC CHURCH

**DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER**

NOVEMBER 12, 2023 + THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## **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



## PARISH NEWS

### NATIVITY PAGEANT - FIRST SCRIPT READING THIS MONDAY



The first script reading for the Children's Nativity Pageant will take place this Monday, November 13 at 4 p.m. Roles will be assigned at the first reading, and all children interested in a speaking role are required to attend. The pageant, which will take place on Saturday, December 16 following the 5 p.m. Mass, is a retelling of the Christmas story made up of a cast entirely of children from our parish and

school community. Visit [bit.ly/smcnativity](http://bit.ly/smcnativity) to learn more and register your child for the pageant. Questions? Contact Summer Farrell ([farrell.summer@gmail.com](mailto:farrell.summer@gmail.com)) or Elizabeth Abaray ([elizabeth.abaray@live.com](mailto:elizabeth.abaray@live.com)).

### LITURGY SCHEDULE (NOVEMBER 13-19, 2023)

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ Deceased Members of the Monte Family
- Wis 1:1-7
- Lk 17:1-6

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ Eric Larkin
- Wis 2:23-3:9
- Lk 17:7-10

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✠ All Departed Brothers and Sisters
- Wis 6:1-11
- Lk 17:11-19

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ Delia Grace Abaray
- Wis 7:22b-8:1
- Lk 17:20-25

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ Souls in Purgatory
- Wis 13:1-9
- Lk 17:26-37

### THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✠ For the People of Saint Matthew
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✠ Souls in Purgatory
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✠ Raymond Denault
- Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
- 1 Thes 5:1-6
- Mt 25:14-30

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

### FAMILY ADVENT WREATH MAKING EVENT



Our St. Gianna Circle Mothers Ministry invites you to our third annual Saint Matthew Family Advent Wreath Making Event. The event will take place on Sunday, November 19 from noon-2 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Each family will make its own Advent wreath to use during the upcoming Advent season. Kids can make ornaments for our elderly friends at NHC Place at the Trace, courtesy of our Family

Service Ministry. In addition, other Advent activities, desserts, appetizers and drinks will be available. A recommended donation of \$25 per family is appreciated to cover the cost of the wreath kits and food. To register, visit [bit.ly/smcsgcwreaths23](http://bit.ly/smcsgcwreaths23). For questions, contact Elizabeth Abaray at [elizabeth.abaray@live.com](mailto:elizabeth.abaray@live.com).

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

### - FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 5, 2023 -

PARISH, VISITORS, ACH WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$27,417
SECOND COLLECTION: CAPITAL NEEDS	\$759

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Parish Charity

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Human Development

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY ON OUR  
ONLINE GIVING PAGE:

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





## PARISH NEWS

### THE MANGER



Saint Matthew is excited to once again participate in The Manger program, hosted by GraceWorks Ministries in

Franklin. The Manger program provides toys and sporting equipment to local families in need this Christmas. Eligible participants will be able to “shop” for their gifts in a store-like setting. The drive will take place from November 18-December 3. All are welcome to place NEW, UNWRAPPED gifts in the large boxes located in the narthex and the school lobby. You are welcome to select your own gift or purchase something from the Amazon Wish List at [www.amzn.to/3SIDRIL](http://www.amzn.to/3SIDRIL) (case sensitive). Click the button below to learn more about the program and find a list of shopping suggestions for the drive. If you have any questions about the program, contact Elizabeth Abaray at [elizabeth.abaray@live.com](mailto:elizabeth.abaray@live.com) or Kelly Jensen at [kellyannejensen1@gmail.com](mailto:kellyannejensen1@gmail.com).

### BECOME A GIFT BEARER

During Mass, there is a little moment that can often go unnoticed. A meaningful part of the Mass occurs after the Prayers of the Faithful, while the collection baskets are passed. Members of our parish carry the gifts of bread and wine to the priest. The gift bearers represent the faithful of the Church returning the many gifts God has given us back to Him. This is a wonderful way to express thanks and joy to God by bearing these gifts to the priest. We are in need of gift bearers for all of our upcoming Masses. At least two people are needed for each Mass, but entire families are welcome to bear gifts. If you are interested in serving as a gift bearer at one of our upcoming Masses, visit [bit.ly/smcgiftbearer](http://bit.ly/smcgiftbearer) or scan the QR code below. And stay tuned to learn more about the importance of gift bearers!



*Become a  
gift bearer!*

### WOMEN'S CLUB GIFT DASH

The Saint Matthew Women's Club is excited to present Gift Dash, our inaugural fundraiser and dinner! All members of the parish are invited to join us for a gift exchange unlike any other. The event will take place on Friday, December 1, in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., followed by the Gift Dash at 7 p.m. Tickets are available for \$35 per person and include dinner. Festive holiday attire is encouraged (think Christmas jammies, ugly Christmas sweaters - the sky's the limit!). We expect this event to sell out quickly, so act fast! Visit [bit.ly/smcwcgiftdash](http://bit.ly/smcwcgiftdash) to learn more and register.



### 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/smcfsmcaroling](http://bit.ly/smcfsmcaroling) to sign up. All ages are welcome!






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

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

## PARISH NEWS

### 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

### 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](http://www.publix.com) and [www.kroger.com](http://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!



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

### 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](http://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.

## FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK - NOVEMBER 12



### PAUL THE APOSTLE | THE BIBLE COLLECTION

The church's greatest enemy became Christ's most prolific messenger. Beautifully shot in the Moroccan desert, Paul the Apostle is a sweeping saga of the man who brought the Gospel to the Western world.

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### BECOME A FATHER RYAN STUDENT

Applications are now being accepted for the 2024-2025 school year at Father Ryan High School. With large numbers applying for this current school year, we encourage prospective families to apply as early as possible. For more information and to apply, visit [www.fatherryan.org/admissions/apply](http://www.fatherryan.org/admissions/apply).

### OH, COME LET US ADORE HIM

In honor of the Year of Parish Renewal in the National Eucharistic Revival, St. Ann Catholic Church is hosting 40 continuous hours of Adoration from December 15-17. The opening Mass will take place at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 15, and the closing Mass at 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 17. For more information and to register, visit their website at [www.saintannparish.com/faithformation](http://www.saintannparish.com/faithformation).



SAINT HENRY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

### ASL INTERPRETER

**Did you know we have an ASL interpreter available at our 7:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday mornings?**

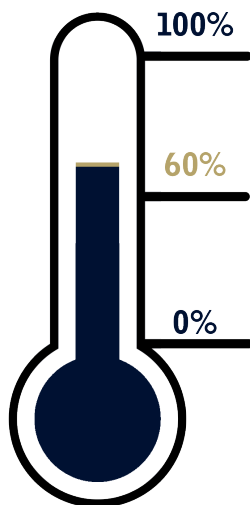
Our mission is to make everyone feel welcome and included in our community, and this is just one of the steps we are taking to achieve that goal. We want you to know that you are valued and respected here. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or feedback.

### HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE

We do have hearing devices available in the church. Ask an Usher if you would like to borrow a hearing device to improve your Mass experience.

**WE HOPE THAT THESE SERVICES WILL MAKE ATTENDING MASS MORE ACCESSIBLE AND ENJOYABLE FOR EVERYONE.**

## THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES: *MORE THAN \$70,000 RAISED!*



Thanks to your generous support, Saint Matthew has raised more than \$70,000 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 60% of that goal with a total of \$71,524 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. Please prayerfully consider making a gift.

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

**SCAN HERE  
TO MAKE  
A GIFT**





## **TONY'S REFLECTION**

### **TO BE WISE OR FOOLISH VIRGINS**

A common theme that reoccurs throughout the Bible is the need for watchfulness. Today, Jesus presents a parable in which He calls Christians to be spiritually prepared to meet Him face to face.

The storyline centers on a Jewish marital custom – following the betrothal period, the groom would lead a procession to bring his new wife to the home he had prepared for her. In breaking down the imagery of this parable, it is evident that the bridegroom is Jesus, as John identified Jesus as the “bridegroom” in John 3. The “virgins” are all brides of the bridegroom because they represent the Church, Christian believers, all of whom are individually the spiritual brides of Jesus and corporately the one Bride of Christ.

The five wise and five foolish maidens do not represent Christians versus those who reject Christ, but rather Christians who persevere and those who do not. “Virginity” here is a symbol of the general temperance and self-control that characterizes saintly virtue. As St. Augustine noted, “They are virgins by reason of abstinence from unlawful indulgence of the senses.” The “virgins” resist the allure of merely walking through life for sensual pleasure-seeking moments.

What about the oil and the lamps? St. Augustine articulated that the lamps represent the Christian life while the oil represents the core commandments – love God and love neighbor. Others have pondered that the oil signifies the Holy Spirit because oil is associated throughout Scripture with the Holy Spirit. In fact, the ritual of anointing with oil was supposed to symbolize being endowed with the Spirit of God (see 1 Sam 16:13; Isa 61:1-2).

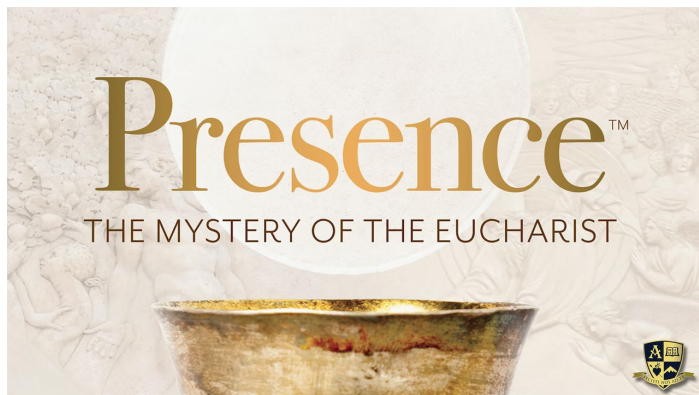
In this sense, the foolish virgins are those who do not “take along enough of the Spirit” to endure till the coming of Christ. Only those virgins endure who have learned to rely on the oil of the Holy Spirit to keep their lamps of good works working with the strength of God and not in their own strength. And how do we fill up with reserves of the oil of the Spirit? Scripture highlights through prayer (Luke 11:13), faith (Gal 3:2,5,14), and the sacraments (John 3:5; Acts 2:38).

The larger point of the parable seems to be that the wise disciple of the Lord not only practices temperance and good works, which are needed for any true disciple, but is also prepared to keep up this lifestyle of vigilance for as long as it takes to meet the Lord. The foolish virgins do not plan for the long haul; they do not expect to have to wait and endure.

Therefore, this Gospel calls us to be the “wise virgins” prepared for Christ. This includes the life of temperance—being “chaste” not only in sexuality but with respect to all physical pleasures—with lamps lit with good works, but burning not our own fuel but powered by the Holy Spirit, the “fuel” of God flowing through us that we receive continually through prayer, faith, and the sacraments.

## **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 Monday nights from 7-8 p.m. in the parish conference center. If you are interested in attending, please visit [bit.ly/smcpresence23](http://bit.ly/smcpresence23) to register.

### **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](http://bit.ly/smcwayofthecross) to complete the interest form. For questions, please contact Pam Fleckenstein at [spflecken@comcast.net](mailto:spflecken@comcast.net).

### **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](http://bit.ly/smcsevensisters) to complete the interest form. For questions, contact Susan Ruigh at [susanruigh@protonmail.com](mailto:susanruigh@protonmail.com) or (402) 499-6724.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### 8TH GRADE NIGHT

Tonight, it's the 8th graders' turn. For one night they'll get a chance to see firsthand what they're getting into next year as freshmen. We have some amazing teens who have been working hard to plan everything. There will be food, games and, of course, Jesus! Specifically, we'll be talking about how we live out our Christian Identity. Join us from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. See you there!

It's time for...

**8th grade night**



register here

NOVEMBER  
12 5:30 - 7:30pm

**RISE HIGHSCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**

### WANTED: CANDY

Have any leftover Halloween candy drilling holes in your teeth? We'll take it! Chocolate, gummies, hard candy, doesn't matter. The teens aren't picky. If you'd like to donate any leftover candy, please contact Antoinette.

### DAY OF SERVICE RECAP

Around 30 students, Boy Scouts, parishioners and teens came together last Sunday to serve the Saint Matthew community! They helped with the blood drive, gave the school bus a deep clean, stained the pavilion and organized some storage. All together they gave over 50 hours of their time to complete these projects. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported!

A PILGRIMAGE FOR  
TEENAGERS TO THE **Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament**

*"It is my hope and the hope of all my Sisters that you will be led to a deeper love for the child Jesus and the Holy Eucharist, that your soul will be refreshed, and that your spiritual life will be renewed."* -Mother Angelica

**December 2nd, 2023 from 8:30 am - 8:30 pm**  
All 8th - 12th graders are invited to join  
Fr. Raines & Antoinette on a day pilgrimage!  
Younger siblings are also welcome to come with a Parent present

**\$25 A PERSON includes lunch**  
**REGISTER HERE**



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

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



**ANTOINETTE HANNING**  
Director of Youth Ministry  
[ahanning@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:ahanning@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  
fraines@stmatthewtn.org



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



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



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



**Rebecca Harding**  
Dir. of Music Ministry  
rharding@stmatthewtn.org



**Antoinette Hanning**  
Dir. of Youth Ministry  
ahanning@stmatthewtn.org



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



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

## BUSINESS STAFF



**Leslie Holt**  
Dir. of Operations  
lholt@stmatthewtn.org



**Dr. Anthony Simpson**  
SMS Principal  
asimpson@stmatthewtn.org



**Lori Bellante**  
SMS Advancement Director  
lbellante@stmatthewtn.org



**Bill Stewart**  
Dir. of Finance  
bstewart@stmatthewtn.org



**Martin Strobel**  
Dir. Comm./Stewardship  
mstrobel@stmatthewtn.org



**Cynthia Myers**  
Facility Coordinator  
cmyers@stmatthewtn.org



**Margaret Cook**  
Reception  
mcook@stmatthewtn.org



**Lisa Newman**  
Accounts Payable Clerk  
lnewman@stmatthewtn.org