



Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

JANUARY 7, 2024 + THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising and have
come to do him homage." – Matthew 2:2*



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



PARISH NEWS

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

Beginning this weekend, we will resume distribution of the Precious Blood to the faithful at weekend Masses. Please remember that it is not necessary to receive Holy Communion under both forms, as the Church has always taught that we receive both the Body and Blood of the Lord even if we receive only the host. For those who would like to receive under both forms, we ask that you have patience with us as we adjust to the amount that we need to consecrate as it is very important not to consecrate too much Precious Blood at Mass. We will start with two chalices stationed at the front corners of the altar. The process will remain the same for every section of the church except the pews near the ambo on the left side of the church. For those seated in that section, the process will essentially reverse. We will have hospitality ministers present to direct traffic in that section, so please listen to instructions during Communion. Please remember to handle the chalice with care so as not to spill the Precious Blood and also that it is not permitted to take the host and dip it in the Precious Blood. They must be consumed separately. Please contact us with any questions.

LITURGY SCHEDULE (JANUARY 8-14, 2024)

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

- 9:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Margaret L. Murphy
- Is 42:1-4, 6-7
- Mk 1:7-11

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Nancy Dunkerley
- 1 Sm 1:9-20
- Mk 1:21-28

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ Jarod Mader
- 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20
- Mk 1:29-39

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Robert Abernathy
- 1 Sm 4:1-11
- Mk 1:40-45

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ George McGugin
- 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a
- Mk 2:1-12

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✙ For the People of Saint Matthew
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ David Reese
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ John Voltaggio
- 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19
- 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20
- Jn 1:35-42

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

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 24 -	
PARISH, VISITORS, ACH WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$32,469
SECOND COLLECTION: CHRISTMAS	\$300

- FOR CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25 -	
PARISH, VISITORS, ACH WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$13,753

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 31 -	
PARISH, VISITORS, ACH WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$38,237
SECOND COLLECTION: YOUTH MINISTRY	\$292

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Capital Needs

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Parish Charity

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY ON OUR
ONLINE GIVING PAGE:

www.stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



PARISH NEWS

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 this Wednesday, January 10. Four healthcare professionals will join us to share tips and answer questions about nutrition, personal training, and mental health: Dr. Derek Leist, chiropractor, and Katie Leist, certified trainer, owners of Prevail Rehab & Fitness in Franklin; Kara Miller, registered dietician nutritionist at the Kroger in Westhaven Village; and Dr. Anabella Wilson, staff psychologist at Vanderbilt University Counseling Center. The meeting will take place in the Cohan-Hansom Building from 7:30-9 p.m. This event is free and open to all women of the parish and school community. All are invited to join us for Mass beforehand at 7 p.m. in the church. Registration is not required but is appreciated. Visit bit.ly/smcwhealthfair to register.

KofC YOUTH FREE THROW COMPETITION

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition is back! All children from the Saint Matthew community ages 9-14 are invited to participate in this annual competition, sponsored by Council #12012. 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/smkcfeethrow24 to download the registration form. Copies of the registration form are also available at both the school and church front offices. If you have any questions, please contact kofc12012@gmail.com.

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 or Rhea Forte at (615) 828-5950. Thank you!

"I LOVE NEW YORK" MOTHER & SON NIGHT



All mothers and sons (ages three and up) are invited to Saint Matthew Mother & Son Night, hosted by our St. Gianna Circle Mothers Ministry! The event will take place on Saturday, January 27 from 6-9 p.m. in the school gymnasium. We encourage all mothers and sons to attend the 5 p.m. Mass before the event. The night of fun will include DJ Louie, dinner, cotton candy, games, crafts, photo booth, and more. The theme is "I Love New York!" Feel free to dress up or wear whatever is comfortable. Tickets are \$35 per family. Visit bit.ly/sgcmothersonnight to learn more and sign up. We hope to see you there!

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. Please know that our staff members would never solicit money or request personal information directly through email or text message. If you receive a suspicious message from a Saint Matthew employee, please contact the church office at (615) 646-0378. We apologize for any confusion.

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.

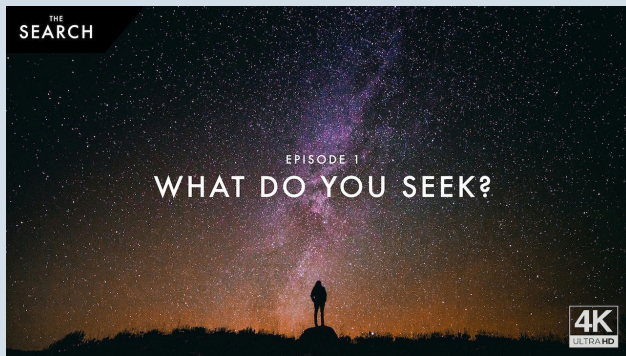
 SaintMatthewCatholicChurch
 @stmatthewtn
 c/SaintMatthewCatholicChurch

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 - JANUARY 7



THE SEARCH | EP. 1 - WHAT DO YOU SEEK?

What is that deep longing in our hearts all about? We're all living for something, and we all strive for that something out there that is ultimately going to make us happy. But what is it? Watch Episode 1 of The Search to begin to answer this question.

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. To complete an application, go to www.stmatthewtn.org/school/admissions and scroll down to "Apply Now." If you have any questions, please contact Lori Bellante, Director of Advancement, at lbellante@stmatthewtn.org.

SMS COMMUNITY NIGHT

On Thursday, January 25, our 5th-6th grade basketball teams will play The Covenant School at Belmont's Curb Event Center. This will be a special evening of basketball and our chance to show our support of The Covenant School, their students and families. As part of the evening's festivities, we will sell special T-shirts to commemorate the event. The shirt will be available for pre-order through the Saint Matthew Spirit Store after Christmas break. We would love to have a big turnout from Lion Nation at this event. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us at Belmont for the games.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MAKE HASTE: A MORNING REFLECTION FOR WOMEN

Women of all ages are welcome to join us for a beautiful morning of reflection at the Cathedral of the Incarnation with the amazing music and testimony from *His Own*, a Nashville-born group of women creating music and ministry for the feminine heart. The event will begin with Mass at 8 a.m. on Saturday, January 20 and end at 11:30 a.m. There will be opportunities for confession and refreshments during the day. This event is sponsored by Regnum Christi Nashville and Cathedral of the Incarnation. Tickets can be purchased at renashvilletn.org. Email regnumchristinashville@gmail.com with questions.

NASHVILLE DCCW MEETING

All Catholic women are invited to attend the Nashville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women winter meeting on Saturday, January 27 at St. Henry Catholic Church. Mass is at 8 a.m. with a light breakfast to follow. Kim Derrick, RN, founder of the Heart of Mary House, will be our guest speaker. Lunch is \$15 per person. RSVP to Laura Nota (lnota615@gmail.com) or call (615) 319-3606 by January 20.

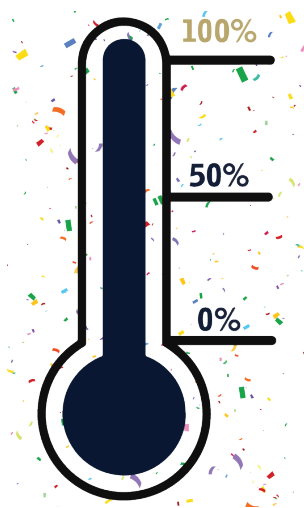
FATHER RYAN LEGACY GALA

Join us on January 27 at the Music City Center as we honor David (FRHS 1966 alumnus) and Linda Bohan for their work and service to Father Ryan and the entire Nashville community. The cocktail reception will begin at 5 p.m., followed by the silent auction at 6 p.m. and the dinner at 7 p.m. Sponsorship opportunities are now available by visiting www.fatherryan.org/gala. Tickets are available on the website.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY MASS & RECEPTION

All married couples are invited to celebrate your wedding anniversary in a special way this year at the World Marriage Day Mass with Bishop Spalding at the Cathedral of the Incarnation on Sunday, February 4 at 2:30 p.m. Anniversaries of any year are encouraged to attend (special recognition for milestone anniversaries of 25, 50, 60+ years). A reception will follow the Holy Mass. If you would like to attend, please RSVP with how many in your party will be attending to the Office of Marriage and Family Life online at www.nashvillefaithformation.com/mfl-events or call (615) 540-1235.

THE 2023 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES: WE REACHED OUR GOAL!



Saint Matthew is pleased to report that we reached our goal in the 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries! In total, we raised \$129,170, surpassing our goal of \$118,390.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the appeal for your donations and prayers. The money raised will go a long way in serving the Catholic community in Middle Tennessee.

Your gifts will provide faith formation for youth and adults; support workforce development and financial counseling to prevent homelessness; promote vocations to priestly and religious life; and form our diocesan seminarians. Your commitment to Catholic ministries is inspiring and truly helps provide the light of Christ for those in need in Middle Tennessee.

TONY'S REFLECTION

THE ADVENT WREATH

Today, we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, where an enthralling light illuminated from above and drew wise men in from afar. Yet, in this story, an evil king stands to eliminate this divine message. This storyline had a prequel as centuries before, a corrupt king seeking to destroy the Israelites had summoned Balaam, who came from the East with two servants. But Balaam refused to curse Israel and instead prophesied that a star would arise out of Israel and be exalted above all the nations.

Church fathers Augustine and Origen pointed out that the star in Bethlehem had to be a supernatural object since natural stars do not move or stand still, nor can they mark a terrestrial location as small as Bethlehem. Personally, I believe the star was a supernatural appearance to these Magi. God communicated to them using a language they understood: the dialect of the stars. The star glimmered in the sky ever so brightly to show that Jesus would drive away the darkness of the world.

It helps to understand who these mysterious Magi "from the east" were. Smith's Bible Dictionary states, "The Magi took their places among the astrologers, stargazers, and monthly prognosticators." The Magi studied the stars and revered the cosmos as their god. They were classic pagans in the sense that they worshiped creation rather than the creator. In his book *Joy to the World*, Scott Hahn notes that the Magi "were foreigners and idolaters who were ignorant and contemptuous of Israel's ways and Israel's God." Yet, God chose these Gentile astrologers to receive this revelation from heaven. The influence of the star was so overwhelming for the Magi that they went on a treacherous journey to witness the new king and bring Him gifts.

The gifts the Magi delivered to Jesus remain covertly significant. Our modern eyes tend to view this gift-giving scene as similar to a baby shower experience. However, in the ancient world, if you did come before someone you acknowledged as your king, you would bring them a payment of tribute. The tribute you would present to a king would consist of something precious to your vocation – and signify that your very livelihood belonged to the king.

As Scott Hahn commented, "Myrrh was commonly used by Magi in performing their magic. They used myrrh to make a special ink in writing their incantations sheets when performing spells." Magi also used gold and frankincense to give their formula sheets a mysterious glow and glitter. Therefore, these gifts of the Magi represent the tools of the trade for these ancient sorcerers. By giving Jesus the instruments of their work, it reveals that the Magi were dramatically surrendering their entire mission to worshiping and serving Jesus.

Let us have that "epiphany moment" where the Epiphany invigorates us to adore Christ as the Magi adored Him in the manger. While we may not have gold, frankincense, or myrrh, we can give him our whole livelihood, our intentions, and talents as we approach the altar.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

We are looking forward to our Confirmation Retreat on January 27 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Camp Marymount in Fairview, TN. At the retreat, students will encounter an inspirational message that will awake their souls as they prepare for Confirmation. We will be sending out detailed information about the retreat as we get closer. To register your child for the retreat, visit bit.ly/smcconfirmationretreat24.

VOLUNTEER AT THE CONFIRMATION RETREAT

We are looking for high-school, college-age, or adult volunteers to help with a variety of tasks at the retreat. Giving of the self in service to our kids is a great way to put the faith into action. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit bit.ly/smcconfirmationretreatvol24.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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, "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.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

NO RISE NIGHT TONIGHT

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas season and have had a great start to the new year! With varying back-to-school dates and off days, our regular Rise Nights will not start back up until January 21. Be sure to check the calendar below for a full look at our upcoming calendar for the spring. Looking forward to seeing y'all at all our upcoming events!

SPRING 2024 CALENDAR

JAN

6 Christmas Party
21 | 28 Rise Nights

FEB

4 | 25 Rise Nights

GUYS & GIRLS RETREATS 2/10 - 11

MAR

3 Saint Matthew's Confirmation
17 | 24 Rise Nights

APR

7 Parents come to Rise
14 | 28 Rise Nights

MAY

5 Rise Night

21 Eighth Graders come to Rise

Rise Nights are from 5:30 - 7:30 pm in the Cohan - Hansom at Saint Matthew unless otherwise communicated. All high school students are welcome to join us at any point in the year!



RISE
SAINT MATTHEW YOUTH GROUP

Email | youthestmatthewtn.org

Text | (615) 208-6954

ROSARY WALK FOR LIFE

Since the overturning of Roe V. Wade, the States have been encouraged to continue the fight and pray for their local governments to continue to support life. On Saturday, January 20, the Diocese of Nashville will be hosting a rosary walk through downtown Nashville to pray for all aspects of life. All high schoolers are invited to join. Antoinette will be present as a chaperone. If you have any questions please contact her. To learn more and register, visit www.soundscatholic.com/rosary-walk.

SPRING RETREAT REGISTRATION OPEN

We're doing not one but two spring retreats this year! But here's the catch...they're happening the same weekend! Both will be held at NaCoMe Camp & Retreat Center in Centerville, Tennessee; however, the experiences will be completely different for the guys and girls, appealing to the respective masculine and feminine heart. Registration is now open. There's an early bird cost for the first 20 students, so don't hesitate! Visit bit.ly/risespringretreat to learn more and register. If you have any questions, please contact Antoinette.

ARE YOU READY FOR A CHALLENGE?

GUYS RETREAT

FEBRUARY 10 - 11TH | 9-12TH GRADE

IT'S TIME FOR A...
Girls Retreat



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

PASTORAL STAFF



Father Justin Raines
Pastor
fraines@stmatthewtn.org



Father Tien Tran
Associate Pastor
ftran@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