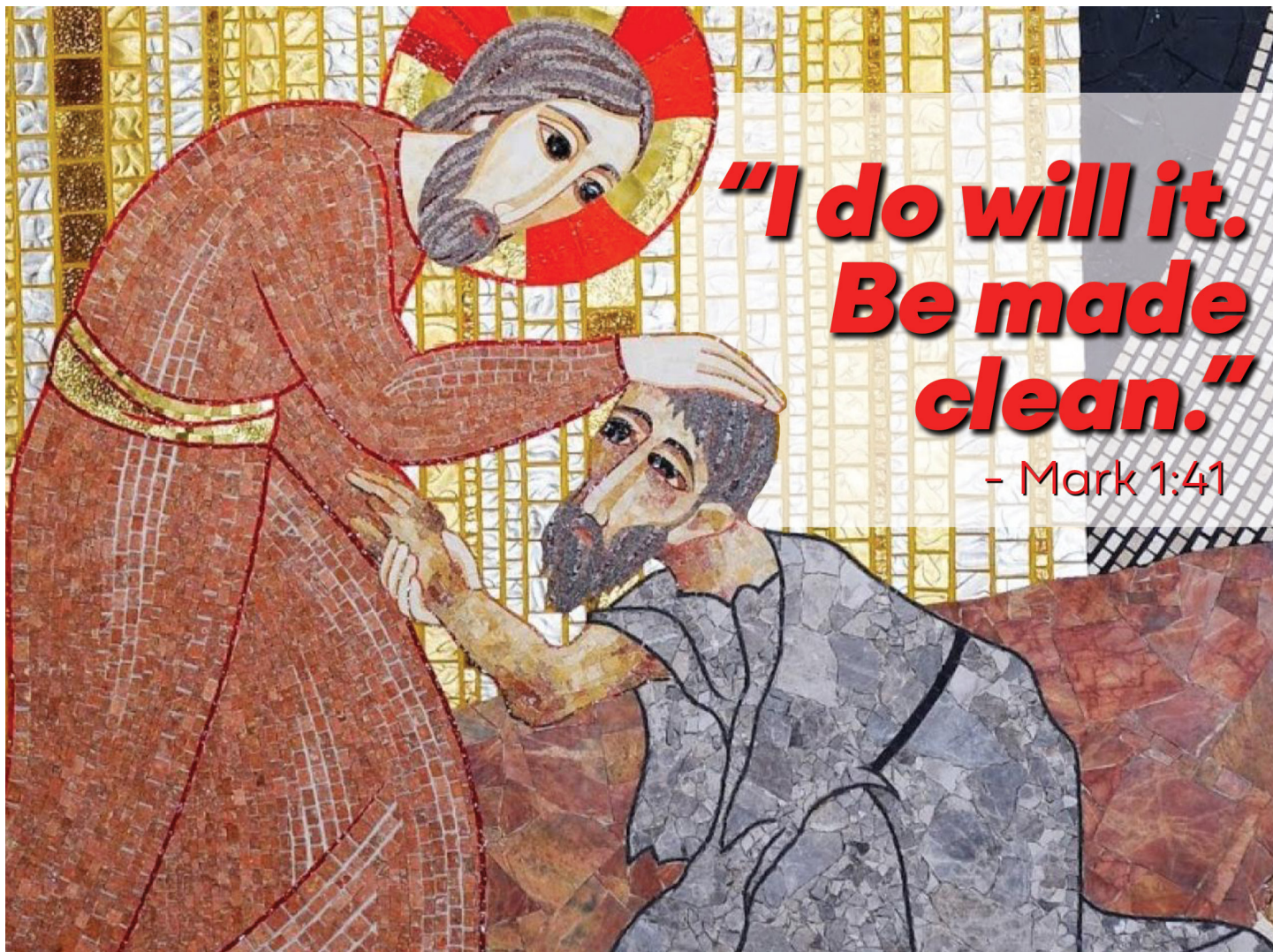




Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 11, 2024 + SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



***"I do will it.
Be made
clean."***

- Mark 1:41

MASS SCHEDULE

MASS

Monday - Friday | 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

WOMEN'S CLUB FEBRUARY MEETING

LITURGY SCHEDULE (FEBRUARY 12-18, 2024)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Susan Halter
- Jas 1:1-11
- Mk 8:11-13

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Roger Hamann
- Jas 1:12-18
- Mk 8:14-21

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Butch Garland
- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✙ For the People of Saint Matthew
- Jl 2:12-18
- 2 Cor 5:20—6:2
- Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For Robert Gallagher
- Dt 30:15-20
- Lk 9:22-25

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For Joan Holmes
- Is 58:1-9a
- Mt 9:14-15

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✙ For the People of Saint Matthew
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ For Donna Allen
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ Richard Arnold Mester
- Gn 9:8-15
- 1 Pt 3:18-22
- Mk 1:12-15

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



Prepare for the Lenten season with the Saint Matthew Women's Club at their February meeting. Join us for an insightful talk by Saint Matthew parishioner Franchelle Jaeger titled *Approaching Lent with a Woman's Heart*. Franchelle is a national speaker, writer, Catholic creative, catechist, and ardent evangelist for Jesus. Her heart is for sharing the love of Jesus and the beauty of the Catholic faith through the art of story. The

meeting will take place this Monday, February 12 from 7:30-9 p.m. in the church. There will be a brief reception following the talk with refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres in the narthex. To register, visit bit.ly/smcwcfbruary24. If you are not able to attend, you can watch a livestream of the talk at bit.ly/smcwcfblive.

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 14

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, marking the start of the Lenten season. We will celebrate Mass at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., and we will have Liturgy of the Word and the distribution of ashes at noon. Please make plans to attend one of these services. In addition, Lent is a season of penitence, preparation and sacrifice. Please remember that both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence from meat, and every Friday during Lent is a day of abstinence from meat.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 4 -	
PARISH, VISITORS, ACH WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$26,526
SECOND COLLECTION: CAPITAL NEEDS	\$801

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Altar Society

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Debt Reduction

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY ON OUR
ONLINE GIVING PAGE:

www.stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



PARISH NEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Saint Matthew will host Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent. Each week will be hosted by a different member of the community. Our first Stations of the Cross will take place


this Friday, February 16 at 6 p.m. in the church and will be led by our pastor, Fr. Justin Raines. We hope to see you there!

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE


Lent is a 40-day journey of prayer, reflection and repentance. What better way to achieve this than by receiving the graces from the Sacrament of Confession? Our Lenten Penance service will be held on Tuesday, February 20 beginning at 7 p.m. Please save the date for this wonderful sacramental opportunity.

MEN'S CLUB FISH FRY

Join the Saint Matthew Men's Club on Friday, February 16 for their first Fish Fry of the Lenten season! Meals are available for \$10/each and will include two pieces of fried catfish, hush puppies, fries, and coleslaw. Spaghetti will be available for those who do not like catfish. Dinner will be served from 6-8 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Visit bit.ly/smcfishfryfeb24 to place your order!



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16
FROM 6-8 P.M.
COHAN-HANSOM
\$10/MEAL
ORDER ONLINE AT
www.bit.ly/smcfishfryfeb24



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The Saint Matthew Respect for Life ministry invites all parishioners to take part in the 40 Days for Life spring campaign from February 14-March 24. 40 Days for Life is an internationally-coordinated campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. All are invited to participate. To learn more, please see the bulletin insert on the next page and visit www.40daysforlife.com/en/nashville for a full schedule of events.

SOUPS & STATIONS - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Join us at Saint Matthew Catholic Church for Soups & Stations on Friday, February 23! Experience the solemnity of Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m., followed by a heartwarming soup dinner. This free, family-friendly event invites parishioners to deepen their Lenten journey together. Come for spiritual reflection, and stay for delicious community fellowship. Let's gather in faith and friendship as we walk the path of Christ. All are welcome! If you are planning to attend, visit bit.ly/smcsoupsandstations so we can have an accurate headcount.



**FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 23
AT 6 P.M.**



**SOUPS &
STATIONS**

**REGISTER
HERE**



PARISH NEWS

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.

BECOME A GIFT BEARER




We are looking for volunteers to be offertory gift bearers at each of our weekend Masses. All parishioners—individuals and families small and large—are invited to sign up. To register, visit bit.ly/smcgiftbearer. Please consider participating in this important ministry.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CONFERENCE AT SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a Catholic charity helping the poor through prayer, food, and financial intervention. We exist to sanctify our members and to assist those experiencing hunger or financial distress. If you know someone in need of help, contact our help line at (615) 550-5130.

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.

SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL NEWS

SMS CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration for SMS Camp 2024 is now open! Come join us for another summer at Saint Matthew summer camp. Our doors will be open for another five weeks this summer. To register for SMS Camp, view the camp brochure, or sign up to be a Counselor in Training (CIT), visit bit.ly/smscamp24. If you have any questions regarding camp, please email Camp Director, Josh Edmondson, at jedmondson@stmatthewtn.org. Go Lions!

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!

LUNCHROOM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lunch volunteers are needed for our school lunches! This is a great way to see the children for a short time and fulfill that new year resolution to volunteer more. Come every day, once a week, once a month - whenever you can! If you are interested in learning more or would like to volunteer, contact Grace Wright at gwright@stmatthewtn.org. When you volunteer in the lunchroom, your child (or you!) will receive lunch free that day!

COMMUNITY NEWS

APPLY TO FATHER RYAN HIGH SCHOOL

Application for Father Ryan High School is open for the 2024-2025 school year. With large numbers applying for this current school year, we encourage prospective families to apply as early as possible. Visit www.fatherryan.org/admissions/apply to learn more and apply today!

NASHVILLE CATHOLIC FOOTBALL CLINIC

Nashville Catholic Football will host a football clinic for students currently in grades 4-8 on Saturday, March 2 from 9-10:30 a.m. This mini clinic will be on Father Ryan's campus with the Father Ryan coaches. Students should bring cleats, water, and a great attitude. Visit bit.ly/ncfclinic24 to pre-register for the clinic. For questions or concerns, email nashvillecatholicfb@gmail.com.

MARRIAGE: A REFLECTION OF GOD'S LOVE

Join us for a half-day marriage retreat on February 17 at St Ann Catholic Church in Nashville. Included are the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, confessions, reflections/talks, lunch and a marriage blessing. Bring a picture from your wedding day! We will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 2 p.m. There is no charge for this event. Sponsored by Regnum Christi Nashville. Email regnumchristinashville@gmail.com with questions or check out our website at www.rcnashvilletn.org for more information.

NCBWL FEBRUARY MEETING

All women are invited to attend the Nashville Catholic Business Women's League's next monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 21. This month's meeting will be held at Father Ryan High School. We will get to visit with scholars and leaders benefitting from our donations. We will also hear from our Spiritual Chair Jennie Guinn, who will help us "Magnify Christ" ahead of Lent. The meeting will begin with a social hour starting at 5 p.m., followed by dinner and the meeting at 6 p.m. Please let us know if you are coming so we'll have enough dinner. The reservation deadline is Sunday, February 18 at 11:50 p.m. Visit ncbwl.org/events to register.

SAINT THOMAS HOSPITAL NEEDS EMHCs

Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital is seeking volunteers to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion for patient visitation at both the West and Midtown campuses. Eucharistic Ministers must be practicing Catholics and apply first to become hospital volunteers. A letter of good standing from the pastor must also be provided. Those interested should contact Susan Fussell at (615) 222-6602 for additional information.

NCR NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Nashville Catholic Radio needs volunteers. Help is needed on air, in production, promotion, financial, and many new areas to come. Contact either Jim Crowe (jim.crowe@dioceseofnashville.com) or Ron Fleitz (rfleitz31@gmail.com) and share your talents and thoughts. We thank you and wish you a very prosperous 2024.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK - FEBRUARY 4



MARCAM: RUNNING THE GOOD RACE | FILMED AT SAINT MATTHEW!

In this episode filmed at Saint Matthew Catholic Church and School, Marcam meets Fr. Raines and Dr. Simpson and learns all about the joy of athletics and sports. Put on your imaginary running shoes and run the good race with Marcam!

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

TONY'S REFLECTION AM I A LEPER?

Leprosy was a skin disease that defiled its victims, causing them to be unfit to participate in worshiping God (Lev. 13: 1-8). People stayed away from lepers in the ancient world, much like people halted from interacting with COVID patients in 2020. Ritual uncleanness was considered highly contagious in the O.T., infecting everyone who came in contact with it. Consequently, lepers were isolated from society to keep those who were clean separated from those who were unclean (Lev. 13: 45-46).

While reading the law in Leviticus might be challenging, it helps to grasp that the entire book of Leviticus is ordered to correct the problem that arose in Exodus. Exodus was about getting God's people out of sinful, desolate Egypt to worship God at Mt. Sinai. However, when Israel worshiped the Egyptian idol, Leviticus served as a rule book of remedy to get Egypt out of Israel's heart. But, getting Egypt out of Israel served as a messy ordeal, full of examining the diseases that flowed from Israel's idolatry.

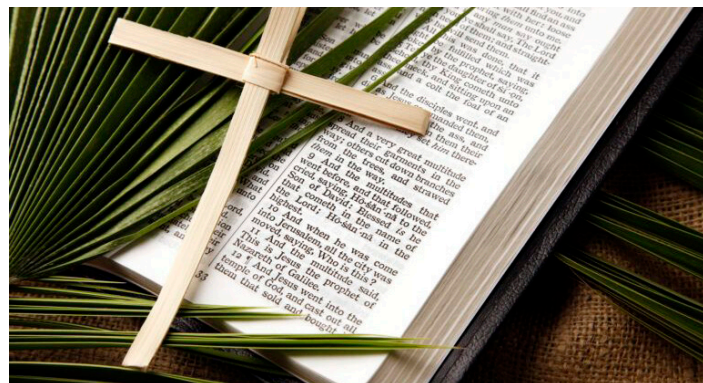
In Catholic theology, the spiritual and physical worlds have a corresponding interplay between them in which the rupture in the spiritual world has bleed-over effects into the physical world. As Father Hezekias sums up, "There is a connection between sin of the soul and sickness of the body." While this doesn't mean there is a direct personal correlation (e.g., I'm sick, therefore, I must have just committed a mortal sin), it rather shows that, with the advent of original sin, the human creation now finds itself living in a fallen world of disease and death. Here, sickness of the body, in general, acts as a byproduct of sin. When Jesus rebuked the Pharisees (Matthew 23:25-26), He noted how they failed to make the connection that cleansing the inside (soul) affects the cleanliness of the outside (body). Because cleanliness in the soul is manifested poetically as purity in the body (Psalm 24:4), when Jesus heals the physical disease of leprosy, the deeper meaning is that the leper's soul is pure and ready to now participate in the holy worship of God.

While having a person shout he's "unclean" is contrary to our modern ears, it is crucial to realize the O.T. covers the physical effects of sin, while the N.T. displays the spiritual components of sin. Therefore, when the penitent waits in the confessional line outside the sanctuary, he would be analogous to the person in the O.T. communicating he's "unclean." The same situation in Leviticus happens when we show ourselves to the priest in the Sacrament of Penance. On our knees like the leper, we confess our sins to the Lord, and through the outstretched arm and divine word spoken by His priest, the Lord takes away the guilt of our sin.

Jesus wasn't frightened by touching the leper, just as He isn't deterred by our sins in the confessional – as both can't negatively affect His purity. So, we don't need to be in a grumpy demeanor being in the state of a "leper." Here, we can display the humility and courage of the leper to go to Christ in the confessional and be made clean.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



Tony will be hosting a Lenten Bible study on Thursdays at 1 p.m. beginning February 15 in the parish conference center. We will dive into specific passages primarily from the New Testament that will help you embrace acts of self-denial and help identify ways to carry your cross during the Lenten season. If you are interested in joining this study, please fill out the brief interest form at bit.ly/smcclentbiblestudy.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



This summer Saint Matthew will send a delegation to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis from July 18-21. At the 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. We want you to be a part of this experience with our group! If you are interested in joining our delegation, please fill out the interest form at bit.ly/smcnecinterest.

SAINT MATTHEW MISSION TRIP 2024

June 11 - 16th

MOBILE, ALABAMA

CURRENT 7 - 12TH GRADERS



**Student
Registration**



**Chaperone
Registration**

RISE
SAINT MATTHEW YOUTH GROUP



ALIVE IN YOU
catholic conference and service camp



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

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

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