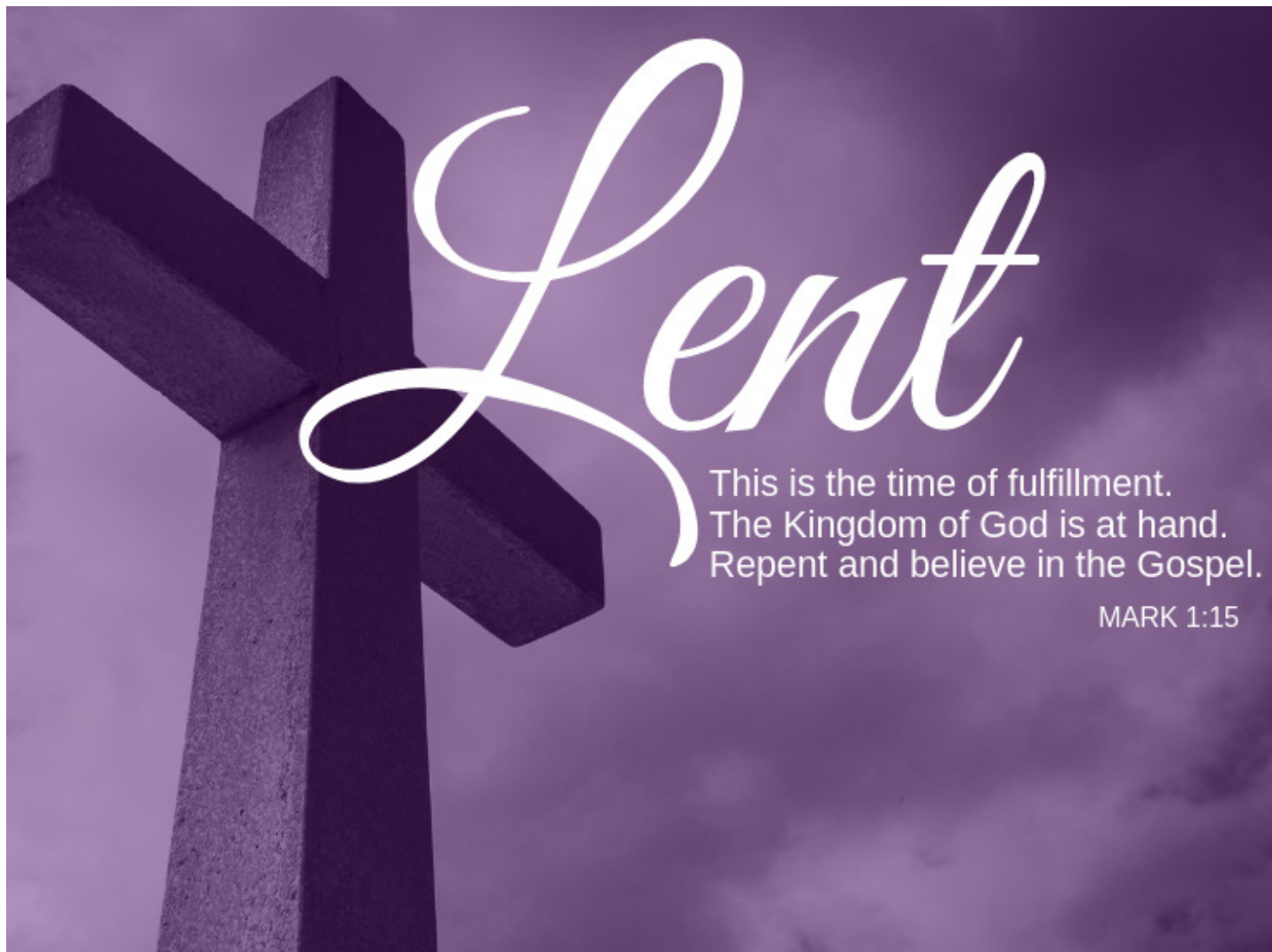




Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 + FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



This is the time of fulfillment.
The Kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent and believe in the Gospel.

MARK 1:15

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:

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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



PARISH NEWS

SOUPS & STATIONS - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

LITURGY SCHEDULE (FEBRUARY 19-25, 2024)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ John Ray DeSilva
- Lv 19:1-2, 11-18
- Mt 25:31-46

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For Jim & Becky Hicks
- Is 55:10-11
- Mt 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For Jeff & Kathy Matyas
- Jon 3:1-10
- Lk 11:29-32

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ For Linda Thompson
- 1 Pt 5:1-4
- Mt 16:13-19

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✙ Anthony Tran
- Ez 18:21-28
- Mt 5:20-26

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✙ For Elizabeth Vavoularis
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ For the People of Saint Matthew
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✙ For Noah Sherman
- Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
- Rom 8:31b-34
- Mk 9:2-10

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

All are invited to Soups & Stations this Friday, February 23! Experience the solemnity of Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m., led by members of our Passion of Christ Prayer Group. After Stations, join us in the Cohan-Hansom Building for a heartwarming soup dinner with the parish community. 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! Visit bit.ly/smcsoupsandstations to complete the registration form so we can have an accurate headcount.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 18 -

PARISH, VISITORS, ACH WITHDRAWALS, ONLINE GIVING, AND LOOSE CASH	\$18,957
SECOND COLLECTION: ALTAR SOCIETY	\$455

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Debt Reduction

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Haiti Ministry

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY ON OUR
ONLINE GIVING PAGE:

www.stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



PARISH NEWS

CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS DAY

Saint Matthew Church and School offices will be closed on Monday, February 19 for Presidents Day.

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 Reconciliation? Our Lenten penance service will be held this Tuesday, February 20 beginning at 7 p.m. Please save the date for this wonderful sacramental opportunity.

MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS - FEBRUARY 29

Our St. Gianna Circle Mothers Ministry is hosting Mary's Way of the Cross on Thursday, February 29 following the 8 a.m. Mass in the grotto. Mary's Way of the Cross is a series of meditations and prayers that follow Mary's thoughts and words from Jesus' passion to His death. Mary's suffering, internal conflict, and quiet acceptance are brought to light in this unique look at the Stations, which includes reflections about Jesus' full humanity and divinity. This empathetic version of the Stations of the Cross is intended to immerse those praying it into the passion and death of Our Lord so that we may better appreciate what He did for us all and model our lives accordingly. All are invited to attend.

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! 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. The spring campaign will end on March 24. All are invited to participate. Visit www.40daysforlife.com/en/nashville for a full schedule of events.



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. Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, February 25. Visit bit.ly/smcwayofthecross to complete the interest form.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - MARCH 1



Registration for our next First Friday Adoration is now open. Adoration will take place in the chapel immediately after the 8 a.m. Mass on Friday, March 1. We will repose the Blessed Sacrament at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 2.

Time slots are available in 30-minute increments throughout the day. If you would like to spend more time with the Blessed Sacrament, you are welcome to sign up for multiple time slots. We must have at least two people present at all times. For more information and to sign up, visit bit.ly/smcffamarch24.

PARENTING TEENS IN THE MODERN WORLD PANEL - TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Our St. Gianna Circle Mothers Ministry invites all mothers and fathers to attend an inspiring panel discussion titled *Parenting Teens in the Modern World*. Our thoughtful and experienced panelists will share tips on raising teens to become faithful, Catholic adults. Parenting should not be a "fly by the seat of your pants" endeavor, but rather an intentional living out of a specific vocation. Panelists will discuss ways to encounter God's love more fully in your home and change the world through the ministry of parenting. You do not need to be a member of our parish to attend. Guests are welcome to bring their babies. Appetizers, desserts, and drinks will be served. Visit bit.ly/sgcpanel2024 to register.

PARISH NEWS

JOIN THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Music is an important part of Saint Matthew Church! Our music ministry comprises many people who love God, love to make music and seek to give God glory and praise through contributing music to our parish Masses in a beautiful and liturgical way. If you feel you are being called to check us out, contact Rebecca Harding at rharding@stmatthewtn.org.

BECOME A GIFT BEARER

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. 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.






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.

KALEIDOSCOPE FESTIVAL

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Nashville in partnership with Catholic Charities USA, Interfaith America, YMCA, and Habitat for Humanity would like to invite you to take part in our upcoming Kaleidoscope Festival. The goal of this event is to celebrate cultural diversity, integrate the entire community, and have fun. The individuals participating in our festival will be staff members, volunteers, donors, interns, advocates, partners, Nashvillian families, and neighbors throughout Middle Tennessee. The festival will take place on Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. To learn more and register, visit bit.ly/cctennkaleidoscope.

FIAT INTEGRATIVE HEALTH

Therapy and counseling can be wonderful tools to utilize when we find ourselves needing extra support navigating the hardships of life. Fiat Integrative Health in Cool Springs welcomes you to connect, in person or online, with counselors who share your Catholic worldview. Their team, consisting of both male and female therapists, is committed to providing guidance rooted in the Catholic-Christian perspective. For more details, contact their office at (629) 252-7880 or visit www.fiathealth.org.

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 MONTH - FEBRUARY



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 INTO THE DESERT

As we enter the First Sunday of Lent, our readings give us two prominent themes worth exploring. Those themes are the desert and forty days.

Forty days for the Jewish people is the traditional number of days of discipline and preparation for renewal. It rained for forty days during the great flood. Moses stayed on the mountain of God for forty days. The Israelite spies went into the land of the giants for forty days to do a reconnaissance mission. Elijah traveled for forty days before he reached the cave, where he had a vision of God. Jonah went to Nineveh to preach for forty days. Jewish people viewed a forty-day period as a time of penance and self-examination, where you enter into a desert life to get closer to God. Forty days also hold a significant meaning regarding being situated as ten percent. While not an exact number, forty days is close to a tenth of the year. In this way, forty days represent a way to tithe a percentage of the year to God.

What is the significance of deserts? Deserts are places ill-suited for humans to live, given their extreme geographical features. Our deserts can be literal or metaphorical, but in the Bible, we learn they can be the very places where God finds us and calls us back to life in Him.

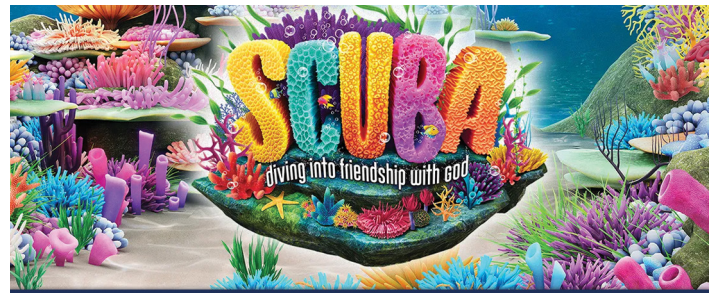
Deserts serve as a dualistic symbol of a place of warning and also as the locale of spiritual encounters. The desert can be a sign of punishment (Psalm 68:7). It can be a symbol of the result of neglectful leadership (Jeremiah 12:10-11) as well as a warning sign of divine judgment (Isaiah 32:11-16). Deserts can also invite deep reflection on spiritual realities. In Deuteronomy 32:10, God found his people in the desert and shielded them from the harsh elements. Centuries later, when the people of Judah are driven into exile in Babylon, God calls on them to return to their homeland, and the desert that separates them from Jerusalem is now to be understood as a pathway back to their God.

In the New Testament, the Judean desert becomes a place for a significant encounter between the people and the prophet John the Baptist. After Jesus' temptation in the desert, it became a place of renewal as angels came to minister to Him there.

The deserts of our lives are undoubtedly troubling places of temptation and doubt, but they can also be the occasion for profound spiritual renewal. Because what happens when life goes into the desert? The desert is a place where life dies. The meaning behind this for ardent sinners, as we are, is to allow those attachments that hold us back from God to die. When we go into "desert living" this Lent, we let die our need for comfort and pleasure. Desert life forges a climate of spiritual rebirth where our impediments to God are purged.

As the lushness of our comfortable world is stripped from our senses by the barrenness of a desert, our spiritual life will flourish as we turn our hearts toward God and discover what is truly important in our lives.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



TOTUS TUUS & VBS

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 22-26



TOTUS TUUS
TOTALLY
YOURS

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

NO RISE TONIGHT

We will not have Rise tonight, February 18 due to the long weekend. We'll be back next Sunday for our normal Rise night. See you then!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST UPDATE

The Rise Youth Group would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all those who came to eat some pancakes at our Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. We would especially like to thank our sponsors for making the event possible and for dreaming up some very creative pancakes. Thanks to your generous donations we raised more than \$4,000! Not only will we be able to provide student scholarships, but we will also be able to cover most of our chaperones' expenses on this summer's mission trip. We appreciate your generosity. Please continue to pray for our teens as they continue to prepare for the mission trip!

SAINT MATTHEW MISSION TRIP 2024

June 11 - 16th

MOBILE, ALABAMA

CURRENT 7 - 12TH GRADERS



Student
Registration



Chaperone
Registration



**SCHOOL VISITS
for the Spring
Semester 2024**

**dates subject to change*

**CHESTERTON
ACADEMY OF THE
INCARNATION**

Second Thursday
every month during
the lunch period

**JAMES LAWSON
HIGH SCHOOL**

First Wednesday
every month at
10am during PLT

**ST. CECILIA
ACADEMY**

**February 22nd,
March 19th &
April 22nd** during
both lunch periods
in the Cafeteria

**FATHER RYAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

Monday A days
during all lunch
periods in the
Campus Ministry
Office

*If your school isn't listed
and you're interested in
trying to get a visit
scheduled or have an
alternative idea please
contact Antoinette.*



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.

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