



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MARCH 24, 2024 + PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Palm Sunday

"BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD."



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

LITURGY SCHEDULE (MARCH 25-31, 2023)

MONDAY, MARCH 25

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ David Reese
 - Is 42:1-7
 - Jn 12:1-11

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ For Cesar Pedraza
 - Is 49:1-6
 - Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✠ Michael Mariano
 - Is 50:4-9a
 - Mt 26:14-25

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✠ For the People of Saint Matthew
 - Ex 12:1-8, 11-14
 - 1 Cor 11:23-26
 - Jn 13:1-15

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

- 7:00 p.m. - Passion of the Lord
- Is 52:13—53:12
- Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- Jn 18:1—19:42

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30

- 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass
- ✠ For those being baptized and received into the Church
 - Gn 1:1—2:2
 - Ex 14:15—15:1
 - Is 55:1-11
 - Rom 6:3-11
 - Mark 16:1-7

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

- 7:30 a.m. Mass
- ✠ For the People of Saint Matthew
- 9:30 a.m. Mass
- ✠ For the People of Our Lady of Miracles, our sister Parish in Haiti
- 11:30 a.m. Mass
- ✠ For those remembered in the Easter flower memorials
 - Acts 10:34a, 37-43
 - Col 3:1-4
 - Jn 20:1-9

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

All are invited to join our Passion of Christ prayer group to pray the Way of the Cross, the Divine Mercy chaplet and learn more about the Passion of Christ. Our mission is to pray for our fellow Catholic brothers and sisters who have left the church, or any intentions that you may have, while reflecting on our Lord's Passion. Our next meeting will take place this afternoon, March 24 at 3 p.m. in the chapel. We hope to see you there. If you are interested in learning more about the prayer group, visit bit.ly/smcwayofthecross to complete the interest form.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR THE UNBORN - TUESDAY, MARCH 26

Our Respect for Life Ministry will pray a special Stations of the Cross for victims of abortion this Tuesday, March 26. In this prayer service, we will walk Jesus' road to Calvary while remembering all of the victims of and praying for an end to abortion. The service will begin following the 8 a.m. Mass in the grotto (weather permitting). In the event of inclement weather, the service will take place in the chapel. All are invited to attend. For questions, please contact Mary Starr at maryestarr25@gmail.com.

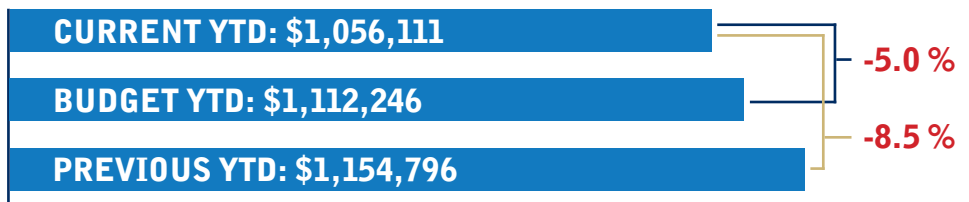
STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 17 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$21,022
2ND COLLECTION: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	\$401

- FISCAL YEAR TO DATE (BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023)

CURRENT YTD	\$1,056,111
BUDGET YTD	\$1,112,246
PREVIOUS YTD	\$1,154,796



MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!
TO LEARN MORE, VISIT
www.stmatthewtn.org/giving



PARISH NEWS

HOLY THURSDAY ADORATION & COMPLINE

Following the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, March 28, we will move the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose in the gym, where we will pray Compline and host Adoration until midnight. We invite everyone to participate in these special prayer services after the Mass. Similar to our First Friday Adoration, we have created a sign-up sheet for the evening. If you are interested in spending time in prayer with the Blessed Sacrament, please feel free to sign up for a time slot. Time slots are available in 30-minute increments. To register, please visit bit.ly/smccompline.

GOOD FRIDAY REMINDER

This Friday, we celebrate Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, commemorating Christ's crucifixion and death on the cross. We will host morning prayer at 8 a.m. in the chapel, Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m. in the church led by Fr. Tran, and the Passion of the Lord at 7 p.m. in the church. Please remember that Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat.



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

www.stmatthewtn.org

HOLY SATURDAY

This Saturday is Holy Saturday. We will host morning prayer at 8 a.m. in the chapel, Confession from 4-5 p.m. in the chapel, and the Easter Vigil Mass at 8 p.m. in the church.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Get ready for some fun this Easter Sunday! The Saint Matthew Men's Club will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Saint Matthew athletics field following the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday, March 31. In the event of inclement weather, the hunt will be held in the gym. All children of the parish are invited to attend!

Saint Matthew Men's Club
All children of the parish are invited!

EASTER EGG HUNT

**MARCH 31, 2024
FOLLOWING THE
11:30 A.M. MASS**



JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK!

<p>PALM SUNDAY — March 23 & 24 — Saturday Vigil 5 p.m. Sunday Mass 8:30 & 11 a.m.</p>	<p>HOLY THURSDAY — March 28 — The Lord's Supper 7 p.m. Procession & Compline to follow Adoration available until midnight</p>	<p>GOOD FRIDAY — March 29 — Morning Prayer 8 a.m. Stations of the Cross 3 p.m. Passion of the Lord 7 p.m.</p>	<p>EASTER VIGIL — March 30 — Morning Prayer 8 a.m. Easter Vigil 8 p.m.</p>	<p>EASTER SUNDAY — March 31 — Mass 7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. *Easter Egg Hunt following 11:30 a.m. Mass</p>
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PARISH NEWS

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Jesus, I trust in you! On Sunday, April 7, we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. In honor of this special feast day, we invite all parishioners to join us on a special prayer journey. We will start the Divine Mercy novena on Good Friday, March 29. All of the prayers for the novena, which will end on Saturday, April 6, will be emailed to the parish community daily. You can also find them on our website at bit.ly/smcdivinemercy24. On Divine Mercy Sunday following the completion of the novena, we will gather for a special prayer service at 3 p.m. in the church. Please prayerfully consider participating in this special opportunity.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Are you looking for a simple way to get involved at the parish? Do you like using your talents to serve others? Do you like to knit or crochet? We are looking to revive our prayer shawl ministry. If you are interested in joining, please contact Mary Starr at maryestarr25@gmail.com.

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.

BECOME AN EMHC

Now that we have begun distributing the Precious Blood at our weekend Masses, we are in need of more Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Whether you have served as an EMHC in the past or are feeling called to this ministry for the first time, this is your opportunity to serve a special role in our liturgies. The simple training session can take place at your convenience and will only last about a half hour. To learn more and schedule your training session, contact Kelly Ott at kott@stmatthewtn.org.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK - MARCH 24



TRIDUUM: A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage, cinematically walks through the locations of the Holy Week story, representing the most important days of human history. Immersed in the real and sacred places of the Holy Land, the pilgrim faithful is brought tangibly nearer to the story, the landscape, and the reality of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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

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!

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!

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!

Join our diocese at the National Eucharistic Congress

Indianapolis | July 17 - 21, 2024

For more information,
please scan the QR
code at the right.



[Learn More](#)

TONY'S REFLECTION LOVE IN SUFFERING

Holy Week is not for the faint of heart. Today's events in the Gospel oblige us to see the treachery of sin up close. Jesus took on Himself all the gruesome effects of sin in the Passion even though He had no sin. It's one thing to hear the phrase "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), but it's another thing to have the horrid effects of sin put before your eyes to see. If you've watched the movie, "The Passion of Christ," you've seen the dramatic impact of our sins portrayed in graphic scenes of Christ's severe torture.

Other images come to mind. You've probably heard of the Shroud of Turin – a linen with an image of a crucified man believed to be the burial cloth of Jesus. To be sure, the debate around the Shroud of Turin still rages - and will most likely continue to go on despite the mountain of evidence favoring its claim as the burial cloth of Jesus. Pope John Paul II called the shroud the greatest relic in Christendom. Within the shroud, we get a glimpse of Jesus's suffering for us. Scientists have determined that the man in the shroud received one hundred twenty heavy lacerations in his body with fifteen puncture wounds on his skull (likely from the crown of thorns). While being crucified, a large nail went through the bottom of both the man's hands, severing his median nerve, which, in turn, sent intense bolts of pain down his arms.

What perhaps speaks to us directly in this image is the serenity of the man's face on the shroud. Obviously, forensic analysis tells us that this man has been gravely tortured. He was scourged with piercing metal, had sharp thorns penetrate his head, was severely beaten on the face, and nails through the bottom of the hands and feet. While this man endured agonizing punishment, his face displays peacefulness and serenity. This calm disposition is radically different from other images in history where someone died a violent death.

While witnessing these images is emotionally draining, they help us understand how damaging our sins all the while prominently showcasing Christ's love for us. That fact that He knowingly and willingly went through this torturous experience all to win us back gives us insight into the strength of His love.

I have to face the harsh reality that my sins helped nail Jesus to the cross. All of our guilty stains are what led Jesus to that blood-stained cross, where He openly absorbed all of our sins. The taunts and torments we hear in these readings punctuate the Gospel as Jesus is beaten and mocked, as His hands and feet are pierced, as enemies gamble for His clothes, and as three times they dare Him to prove His divinity by saving Himself from suffering.

Yet, despite all the gloom and doom we witness in Christ's suffering, we also witness His immense love for us. For every physical and mental wound He received, He is telling us it is all worth it to save us.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REGISTER FOR SCUBA VBS

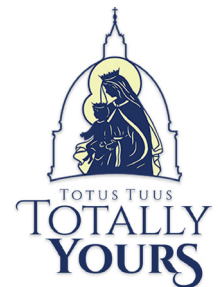
Take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God at Scuba VBS! Kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living



water is really all about. Scuba VBS will take place from July 22-26 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and is open to all rising preschool (four years old by August 1) and kindergarten students. Visit bit.ly/smcvbs24 to register.

REGISTER FOR TOTUS TUUS

Latin for Totally Yours, Totus Tuus is a fun and energetic program designed to spread the Good News of Jesus and create joy in the faith. Totus Tuus is led by a team of college-aged missionaries and seminarians. The youthfulness, energy, and ability to witness to the faith



make the missionaries effective with children and teens. Totus Tuus will take place from July 22-26 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and is open to all rising 1st-6th graders. To register, visit bit.ly/smtotustuus24.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

This summer, there will be a historic National Eucharistic Pilgrimage accompanying Jesus from city to city across the four corners of the country.



This historic procession of the Eucharist will come through Nashville from June 26-30. Visit www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/st-juan-diego-route for more information about this event, and stay tuned for more on our parish's participation in this pilgrimage.

YOUTH MINISTRY

RISE NIGHT TONIGHT

Tonight's going to be a fun one, y'all. Not only are we having PIZZA, but we have not one...not two...not even three...but EIGHT special guests coming to visit our Rise Night, including a few Dominican nuns, several married couples, Fr. Raines, and Fr. Tran. Can you spot the similarity? These guests are all living out their vocations! They'll be sharing what an average day looks like, advice they have for high schoolers, etc. Join us from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building, as usual. If the weather is nice, we will be playing a game outside so dress accordingly. We'll see you there!

CELEBRATING THE TRIDUUM 101

Here are a few ideas anyone (specifically teens) can do to intentionally enter into this Holy Week. Be intentional with which one(s) you choose to do, and let the Holy Spirit inspire you!

- Deep clean your room before Holy Thursday
- Spend five minutes in silence every day
- Go to Confession
- Attend the Triduum liturgies at Saint Matthew
- Read through the different Gospel stories of the Last Supper
- Go on a local pilgrimage to different Catholic churches in Nashville
- Spend time in Adoration at the altar of repose
- Keep watch with Jesus on Thursday night by giving up music or TV
- Pray the Stations of the Cross
- Wear black to the Passion of the Lord
- Remain silent and somber from noon til 3 p.m. on Good Friday
- Pray morning prayer or read the Bible on Holy Saturday
- Spend time reflecting on your Lenten Season

TOTUS TUUS FOR TEENS

Totus Tuus is not just for the younger kids! In fact, the missionaries put on a whole night program specifically for rising 7-12th graders. The topics, games, conversations are all intended for teens! Regardless of where you are in your faith journey, this is a great experience and opportunity to grow closer to Jesus. This group will meet from 6-8 p.m. from Sunday, July 21 through Thursday, July 25. Register online at bit.ly/smctotustuusnight24.

SPRING 2024 CALENDAR

JAN

~~4~~ 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!



Email | youthestmatthewtn.org

Text | (615) 208-6954



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

Did you know...

Saint Matthew School students and their families raise \$12,600 per year to help pay for the salaries of the principal and teachers at Our Lady of Miracles (OLOM) School in Gobert, Haiti?

Every year, Saint Matthew School conducts a Penny Drive during Catholic Schools Week to help cover these costs. This year's drive collected a record \$5,500! Our 7th grade class chose this campaign as their annual service project. Each student developed a slide with information on our sister parish and school, ranging from information for the Penny Drive to Haiti facts to raise awareness for this great cause. These slides were displayed on all of the hallway monitors as well as presented to the whole school on Demonstration Day. We are so grateful to all of the students and their families for their amazing generosity and support of OLOM School.

This year, our school's Haiti committee plans to bring back the Haiti Summer Challenge. In this effort, students will conduct their own various projects over the summer and donate all of the profits to the Saint Matthew Haiti Ministry. This helps the students directly connect to this cause by supporting OLOM school with their hard work.



Spring of HOPE

SAINT MATTHEW HAITI MINISTRY 2024 APPEAL

For more than 25 years, the Saint Matthew Haiti Committee has ministered to our sister parish, Our Lady of Miracles, and the surrounding community in Gobert, Haiti. Now more than ever, our Haitian brothers and sisters need your support. Scan the QR code to make a one-time donation to our Haiti Ministry, or join us on the weekend of April 20 & 21 to participate in the appeal.

