



Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

APRIL 7, 2024 + SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)



Divine Mercy Sunday

**“FOR THE SAKE OF
HIS SORROWFUL
PASSION, HAVE
MERCY ON US AND
ON THE WHOLE
WORLD.”**

Jesus, I Trust in You!

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
📱 @stmatthewtn

PASTOR:

Father Justin Raines

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

DEACONS:

Lachlan Cameron & Bill Forte



PARISH NEWS

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Jesus, I trust in you! All are invited to join us this afternoon for our Divine Mercy Sunday prayer service, led by Fr. Tran. We will start with Adoration and Liturgy of the Word. Then, we will pray the Divine Mercy chaplet together before benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The prayer service will begin at 3 p.m. in the church. We hope to see you there!

LITURGY SCHEDULE (APRIL 8-14, 2024)

MONDAY, APRIL 8

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ Mikayla Yopp Honeycutt
 - Is 7:10-14; 8:10
 - Heb 10:4-10
 - Lk 1:26-38

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ Raymond Denault and Family
 - Acts 4:32-37
 - Jn 3:7b-15

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

- 7:00 p.m. Mass
- ✠ Claire Danielle Ata
 - Acts 5:17-26
 - Jn 3:16-21

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ Souls in Purgatory
 - Acts 5:27-33
 - Jn 3:31-36

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- ✠ Deceased members of the Nguyen Family
 - Acts 5:34-42
 - Jn 6:1-15

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
- ✠ Bruce Dawson
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✠ Bill Huffaker
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
- ✠ For the People of Saint Matthew
 - Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
 - 1 Jn 2:1-5a
 - Lk 24:35-48

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

LUNCH BUNCH - TUESDAY, APRIL 9



Happy Easter from the Saint Matthew Lunch Bunch! All senior members of the community are invited to join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and bingo at our April event, which will be Easter themed. Come sporting your favorite spring colors to celebrate the season! Participation in the theme is encouraged but not required. The event will take place on Tuesday, April 9 from noon-2 p.m. in the narthex. The cost for entry is \$10 and a prize valued around \$10. Have some old items collecting dust in your home? Bring it to bingo! To learn more and register, visit bit.ly/smclunchbunchapril24. For questions, contact Martin Strobel at mstrobel@stmatthewtn.org.

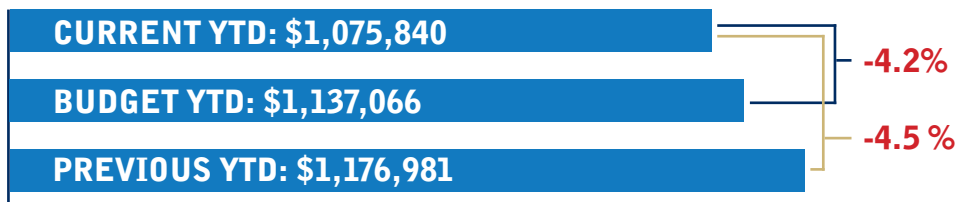
STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 31 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$47,055
2ND COLLECTION: EASTER (UNRESTRICTED)	\$4,542

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

CURRENT YTD	\$1,145,677
BUDGET YTD	\$1,195,468
PREVIOUS YTD	\$1,199,612



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



PARISH NEWS

WOMEN'S CLUB MOVIE NIGHT

The Women's Club would like to invite all women of the parish to their final event of the season! Join us this Wednesday, April 10 for a popcorn and movie night. In honor of Divine Mercy Sunday, we will watch *The Face of Mercy*, a documentary produced by the Knights of Columbus and the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Narrated by Jim Caviezel, this film explores the history and relevance of Divine Mercy in our turbulent times. Enjoy a night of fellowship with the parish community as we gather to deepen our faith through film. The event will take place in the parish conference center following the 7 p.m. Mass. Visit bit.ly/smcwcmovienight to register.

HAITI SPRING OF HOPE APPEAL

On the weekend of April 20 and 21, our Haiti Ministry will host the inaugural *Spring of Hope* appeal to benefit our sister parish, Our Lady of Miracles, in Gobert, Haiti. Throughout the weekend, members of our Haiti Ministry will be available before and after the Masses to share how we are continuing to minister to the community of Gobert and collect funds to support our ongoing efforts. In addition, we invite all parishioners to join us in the parish conference center between the Masses on Sunday, April 21 for a special presentation from Barney Schulte, the president of our Haiti Ministry. Now more than ever, our Haitian brothers and sisters need your support. Visit bit.ly/smcspringofhope to learn more and make your gift today. Please prayerfully consider joining our Haiti Ministry by participating in this campaign. Thank you.

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.

FAITH IN FILM WITH FATHER RAINES

Let's all go to the movies! Join us for our inaugural *Faith in Film* movie series. Embark on a cinematic journey like no other and immerse yourself in exploration of faith and morality through the lens of the 1966 classic, *A Man For All Seasons*. This four-week film study will take place every Tuesday beginning April 16 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the parish conference center. Each session, we will view 30 minutes of the film, followed by an enriching discussion on that section of the movie led by Father Raines. Don't miss this unique opportunity to dissect an iconic film while deepening our understanding of the faith. Visit bit.ly/smcfaithinfilm to learn more and register.

Saint Matthew Catholic Church

FAITH IN FILM
with Father Raines

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

A four-week film study
on Tuesdays starting
April 16 from 6:30-8 p.m.


PARISH NEWS

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.

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

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK - APRIL 7



THE ROSARY: A SPECIAL WAY TO PRAY

Join Brother Francis in this entertaining and guidance-filled presentation that will inspire children to deepen their faith by praying the Rosary!

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 TRIVIA NIGHT



Trivia Night is the Athletic Booster Club's annual fundraiser that benefits the SMS athletic programs. Teams of eight compete for bragging rights and a grand prize by answering fun and challenging trivia questions from a variety of categories. At the end of the night, the team with the highest score wins! Winners for Best Team Theme/Costumes and Best Decorated Table are also awarded. The event will be on Saturday, April 20 starting at 6 p.m. in the gym. To register, please text [ABC TRIVIA 2024](https://text.abc trivia2024) to 76278.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN

Join us for another summer at Saint Matthew Summer Camp. Our doors will be open for another five weeks this summer. Visit bit.ly/smscamp24 to learn more and register. 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!

COMMUNITY NEWS

FATHER RYAN SPRING MUSICAL

Join the Purple Masque Players as they perform the musical, *The Addams Family*. This unique family comes to life in this original musical about love, family, honesty, and growing up. The performances will start at 7 p.m. on April 11-13 in the Center for the Arts at Father Ryan. Tickets are available at the door.

CAMP MARYMOUNT HIRING SUMMER STAFF

Camp Marymount is currently hiring for the 2024 summer sessions. Camp Marymount is the Catholic summer camp of the Diocese of Nashville. We have provided summer programs since 1939. As we move into our 85th summer, we are looking for support staff to work in our first-aid center, kitchen, and at the lake as well as cabin counselors for the boys' session. For more information, visit www.campmarymount.com or email Margaret at summerdirector@campmarymount.com.

CATHOLIC BUSINESS LEAGUE

John Gromos, Senior Vice President Mid-South for Turner Construction, will be the featured speaker for the Catholic Business League monthly breakfast meeting on Thursday, April 11. Gromos will be speaking about the new Nissan Stadium. The CBL meeting begins in the Fleming Center at Cathedral at 7:45 a.m. More information is available at catholicbusinessleague.org.

THE NASHVILLE MARIAN CONFERENCE

Join us as we unite our hearts with Mary's Immaculate Heart and pray for our world, our nation, our homes, and each of our hearts to lead us more closely to the Sacred Heart of her Son. The event will take place at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Hendersonville on April 26 and 27. Tickets and more information are available at www.nashvillemarianconference.com.

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

If someone announced, "I have good news and bad news," we generally would insist on hearing the bad news first, followed by the good news. After all, the dire news is better absorbed when we know it's followed by more pleasant news. In our faith, there exists both persistent bad news with the state of human sin, the existence of evil, and the collective yawn of indifference to God from society. However, the bad news is followed by the incredible good news of Jesus' work and the graces that flow from Him and His Church that usher us into eternal life with the Holy Trinity. The faith oscillates between two poles of which man must keenly be aware. During Lent, we experienced the more unpleasant news of sacrifice, suffering, and the sadness of knowing that our sins violently crucified Christ. Now, in the Easter season, we have transitioned to the more invigorating news. The tomb is empty. Our sins are forgiven, and we are redeemed. This Sunday, the good news keeps rolling – we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday.

Pope John Paul II established this feast day in 2000 when he canonized Sister Faustina Kowalska. St. Faustina Kowalska was a nun who, in the 1930s, received a series of private revelations from Jesus, who communicated that His mercy is His greatest attribute. She recorded those experiences in her diary.

In the case of the Feast of Divine Mercy, our Lord promises that "On this day, the very depths of my tender mercy are open. I pour a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. The soul that will go to confession, and receive Holy Communion, shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. ... Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins be as scarlet" (Diary, # 699). Here, Jesus announces that His mercy is available to all who ask for it. The one caveat for us is that we must actively ask for His mercy.

To ask for God's mercy, one needs to be in the state of repentance. The divine formula of repentance followed by mercy is articulated throughout the Gospels, "that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name" (Luke 24:47). Therefore, God forgives sins only if we repent of them. Obviously, we need to grasp the state of our wretchedness; otherwise, what's the point of asking for mercy if we don't think we need it? Ironically, witnessing our misery acts as a conveyor belt to receiving Christ's abundant mercy. The father of the prodigal son allowed his son to wallow with the pigs so that he could recognize his sins – which ultimately led him back into his father's arms. To thwart God's mercy, the devil tempts us with pride. Such is the line of pride: "I don't need to ask for mercy. God's the one who needs to apologize to me." Whereas pride impedes requesting forgiveness, humility acts as an instrument in which we seek forgiveness with all our strength.

Here lies the good news - Jesus wants to pardon us and renew us completely. The pressing question we need to ask: Will we allow Him to do this?

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

PARENTS NIGHT

Back by popular demand! Join us tonight for Parents Night. We'll play volleyball (parents vs. teens of course) and eat a pizza dinner. The topic for the night is a fun one: *The Good, Bad and Ugly of Social Media*. We will...

- Define what social media is (spoiler alert: it's not just Instagram & Facebook)
- Create more of an awareness of the good, bad and ugly involved
- Give y'all an opportunity to have good conversations on this topic at home!

Rather than one person giving a talk, we'll do an interactive activity that will involve everyone and give opportunities to share thoughts. The event will take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Reminder: High schoolers, even if your parents aren't able to make it, please come!

SAINT MATTHEW MISSION TRIP

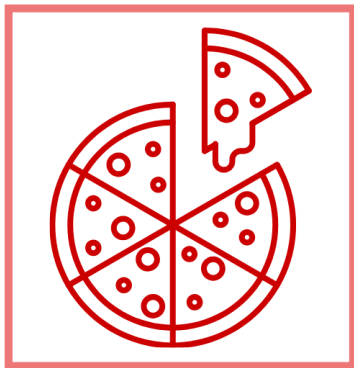
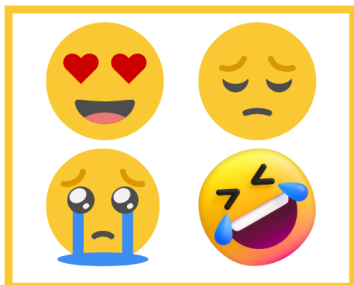
June 11 - 16th 2024

Current 7-12th graders



Register your student
here before May!

RISE X **ALIVE IN YOU**
SAINT MATTHEW YOUTH GROUP catholic conference and service camp



EIGHTH GRADE RISE NIGHT SPRING 2024

APRIL 21ST
5:30-7:30PM
IN THE COHAN
HANSOM



PLEASE
REGISTER
HERE

AHANNING@STMATTHEW.TN.ORG



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

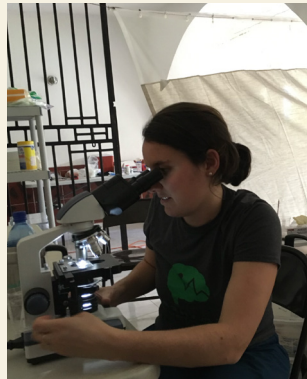
SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

Did you know...

From 2004 to 2019, a team of medical team of doctors, nurses, dentists, and others went to Our Lady of Miracles (OLOM) annually. Due to violence, gangs, and political instability, we have been unable to travel to Gobert since January 2019. In these previous medical missions, the team saw an average of 2,500 patients per week to treat a variety of medical issues.

In 2010, OLOM hired Dr. Previlus Librice, the staff physician, to run its medical clinic. Dr. Librice is an invaluable asset to the OLOM community because access to medical treatment in the area is limited. Dr. Librice sees patients to treat tropical diseases such as malaria, intestinal parasites and typhoid, and manage chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes. He also dispenses medications and vaccines for the children and educates the community about clean water and sanitation.

Through the funds raised from *Well Played: A Songwriters Night* and generous donations from the Saint Matthew community, we can continue to provide medications and pay Dr. Librice's salary each year. We cannot wait to return to Haiti one day for on-site medical missions. For now, we will continue to support Dr. Librice and all his endeavors from afar.



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.

