



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

JULY 27, 2025 + 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ASK
AND YOU WILL RECEIVE
SEEK
AND YOU WILL FIND
KNOCK
AND THE DOOR WILL
BE OPENED TO YOU

Luke 11:9



MASS SCHEDULE

MASS

Mon., Tue., Thu., and 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:

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📱 @stmatthewtn

PASTOR:

Father Justin Raines

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

DEACON:

Bill Forte



LITURGY SCHEDULE

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ For Bishop Mark Beckman

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For Father Raines on his Ordination Anniversary

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of Saint Matthew

- Genesis 18:20-32
- Colossians 2:12-14
- Luke 11:1-13

MONDAY, JULY 28

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Lucy Armour

- Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34
- Matthew 13:31-35

TUESDAY, JULY 29

Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Philip Mullen

- Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28
- John 11:19-27

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ Harriet "Teena" Rodgers

- Exodus 34:29-35
- Matthew 13:44-46

THURSDAY, JULY 31

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Eric and Mary Elizabeth Koehn & Family

- Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38
- Matthew 13:47-53

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Saint Alphonsus Liguori

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Nguyen Grandparents

- Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37
- Matthew 13:54-58

✦ **Special Intention**

✦ *May they rest in peace*

REFLECTION FROM SEMINARIAN JAMES GROSSHEIM

I've received three emails this week from different professors at my seminary, each one informing me which textbooks I'll need for the coming semester. Summer really has flown by and is now rapidly drawing to a close. In addition to textbooks, many of you are also purchasing school supplies and uniforms for your kids. But as we wrap up the summer, we might feel a bit of disappointment. Where did all the time go? Why didn't I do the things I wanted to this summer?

We ask similar questions of ourselves every Monday morning: where did the weekend go? I stressed last week that the Sabbath is a day of rest from our usual work. That's true—but Sunday is also a chance to engage in those other activities that leave us feeling refreshed, rejuvenated, and renewed.

Sunday should be a day of recreation. Just as God created the world on the first day of the week, so too, on the first day of the week—since we aren't engaged in our normal work—we can be re-created through activities that restore us. Hobbies and time spent with family and friends are excellent ways to spend the Lord's Day. Indeed, the greatest of all leisure activities is the one thing we are explicitly obliged to do on Sundays: worship. Going to Mass is the highest act of worship, and worship is the highest form of leisure. In our work, then, we imitate God's own creative work. In our rest, we enter into God's rest. Finally, in our leisure, we allow ourselves to be re-created by God through doing the activities we love, simply because we love them.

Some activities leave us drained, while others fill us up. Some activities suck the life out of us, while others give us life and energy. Which activities give us life, restore us, and make us feel spiritually re-created—and which drain us?

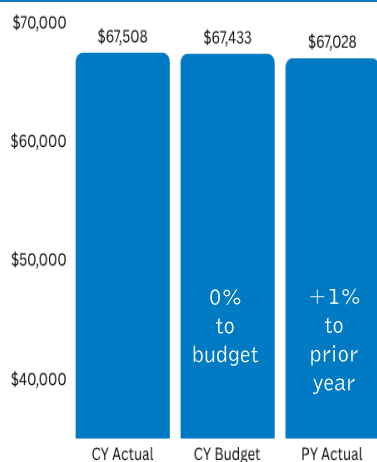
The disappointment we feel at the end of the summer, or on Mondays, often comes from not prioritizing the rest and recreation we periodically need. We didn't take that vacation because we didn't put in for vacation days in time. We didn't go to Mass or spend as much time doing the things we love because we spent our Sundays in front of a screen. Plan to let God re-create you this Sunday by receiving Him in the Holy Eucharist and by prioritizing the activities that spiritually restore you and give you life.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK ENDED JULY 20 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$24,313
SECOND COLLECTION: HAITI MISSION	\$1,873

YTD Summary



Second Collections

This Week:

Family Service Ministry

Next Week:

Building Maint. & Facility Improvement

Scan to make a gift now, or visit
stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



Registered Parish Families: 1231



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

First Friday Adoration begins on Friday, August 1, after 8 a.m. Mass and concludes with benediction at 8 a.m. on Saturday, August 2. Spend some time in prayer with Jesus. Sign up for a time slot at bit.ly/smcffaaug25.



ECHOES OF HEAVEN

As our church goes through a beautification project we are called to see what role beauty plays in our faith. We are confronted with such questions as: What is art? How does art reveal beauty? Is beauty in the eye of the beholder?

Join Tony Jesse and Seminarian James Grossheim for a special presentation on the role of art and beauty in our faith, titled *Echoes of Heaven: Discovering God in Beauty*. This inspiring talk explores what art reveals and why beauty matters in both life and our relationship with God. It also looks at how the current renovations and recent additions to our church are fulfilling this purpose. The event is next Sunday, August 3, in the Parish Conference Center at 9:40 a.m. RSVPs are appreciated.



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

St. Vincent de Paul Society



Summer Break is here and the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Matthew Church is ready to assist our neighbors in need.

In May 2025, the St. Matthew Conference helped 7 families with assistance totaling \$3,000.

Assistance included:

- Rent
- Utilities
- Prescription drugs
- Food Box / Gift Cards
- Insurance Premiums

All neighbor assistance is handled with confidentiality.

Matthew 25:35, *"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, stranger and you welcomed me."*

WAYS TO HELP:

1. JOIN OUR MINISTRY call 979-236-9025
2. DONATE TO SVDP on the Saint Matthew website, in parish envelopes, or at the SVdP Poor Box in the Chapel
3. PRAY FOR US

SVdP help line: 615-550-5130 available 24/7

SAVE THE DATE - SVDP FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK/RUN

The 7th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk Run is Saturday, September 20. This family-friendly event is sponsored by the Saint Mathew chapter of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. All proceeds benefit our neighbors in need as you can see from the graphic above. The walk/run starts at 9 a.m. with registration at 8 a.m. The starting location is on the Saint Cecilia track. Sponsorships are available. Learn more about the event and sponsorship opportunities by visiting bit.ly/smcsvdpwalkrun25.



The *Principal's Pen* returns after a summer hiatus, and I'm excited to share that we have been hard at work preparing for the 2025–2026 school year. As we near the end of our preparations, I ask that you keep all of our faculty, staff, and students in your prayers. The beginning of the school year is always such a special time, filled with joy, hope, and boundless possibilities.

I ask for a special prayer this year, because this is the 25th year of Saint Matthew School. Many of you in the parish have seen the school blossom from an idea, and transform into this amazing place of learning and spiritual growth over the last 25 years.

Even if you don't currently have a child enrolled, I invite all parishioners to participate in our special *Adoration Novena for School Teachers*. Thank you again for your continued support of our school, and your prayers are always greatly appreciated.

JUBILEE JAMBOREE

On September 13, 2025, SMS will celebrate our Jubilee Jamboree! In lieu of the Mane Event this year, SMS is planning a day full of fun for our community! Join our **family-friendly daytime activities** (games, food, bingo) or our special **adults-only nighttime events** (music, auction, split-the-pot, cornhole tournament, biergarten and of course TVs for college football coverage!). We invite all our parishioners, past and current families, alumni, and community to join us this special celebration!

We are currently seeking sponsors. Scan the QR code below to be directed to our site with details of each level of sponsorships!



SCHOOL NEWS



all Saint Matthew Parish Families
are invited to a special Novena
for the upcoming school year
In the Saint Matthew Chapel

Child-friendly. . . All are Welcome!
Come pray for the hour or join us for just
a few minutes with Jesus

Supplies will be provided to help your
children pray and even write a message
to their grade level teachers!

See schedule below
(come any day you'd like or join your
classmates on your assigned day)

Saturday, July 26th	PreK & K @ 2pm
Sunday, July 27th	1 st Grade @ 2pm
Monday, July 28th	2 nd Grade @ 3pm
Tuesday, July 29th	3 rd Grade @ 3pm
Wednesday, July 30th	4 th Grade @ 3pm
Thursday, July 31st	5 th Grade @ 3pm
Friday, August 1st	6 th Grade @ 3pm
Saturday, August 2nd	7 th Grade @ 2pm
Sunday, August 3rd	8 th Grade @ 2pm

USED UNIFORM SALE

The annual HSA sponsored Used Uniform Sale is this Friday, August 1, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. Please register for your time slot to shop at bit.ly/smsuniform25. See the school newsletter for more information.

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

Join the Passion of Christ Prayer Group today, Sunday, July 27, 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. Their mission is to pray for our fellow Catholic brothers and sisters who have left the Church. 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."

SAVE THE DATE- SONGWRITERS' NIGHT

Save the date on September 27, 2025, for our 15th annual *Well Played: A Songwriters' Night!* Our very own Saint Matthew Choir will open the night singing contemporary Christian music to set the tone for a memorable evening under the stars. We have an exciting line up to follow featuring country music songwriters Bobby Tomberlin, Lance Miller and Mark Narmore. They collectively have written songs for some of the biggest names in country music including Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Luke Bryan, Cody Johnson, Thomas Rhett, Reba McEntire, Rodney Atkins and more!

IGNITE AND RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION

Our faith formation ministry is designed to help children know and live their faith throughout their lives. Registration is now open for the 25-26 school year for R.E. (PreK-6th grade) and Ignite (7th-8th grade). Learn more about these sessions and register at bit.ly/smcreligioused.

CATECHISTS NEEDED

You can have a positive effect on our youth by serving as a catechist and teaching our children about the faith. In this role, you serve a valuable ministry that forms children to Christ. You don't need to be an expert, we provide you with the materials. If you are interested in volunteering as a catechist, please fill out a brief form by visiting bit.ly/smccatechist25.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Are you, or do you know anyone, interested in becoming Catholic? Our OCIA ministry can help. OCIA is a process of conversion and apprenticeship to welcome those who desire to learn more about the Catholic faith. There is a casual meet and greet planned on Tuesday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. To begin the journey of exploring Catholicism, visit bit.ly/smcocia.

JOIN THE HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Do you love Saint Matthew, have a warm smile, and a welcoming spirit? Then we need your help! We are looking for friendly adults and teens to serve in our Hospitality Ministry ensuring everyone in our parish feels at home.

Hospitality Ministers help by:

- Greeting parishioners as they arrive
- Handing out bulletins after Mass
- Serving as ushers, passing collection baskets, and guiding Communion lines

Whether you serve at just one Mass or more regularly, your gift of hospitality makes a meaningful impact. Let's make every person who walks through our doors feel at home!



INTERESTED?

Contact Kelly Ott at kott@stmatthewtn.org to learn more.

TONY'S REFLECTION

WHAT IS PRAYER

The human experience is rooted and cultivated in conversation. In conversation, we express thoughts, explore ideas, and get to know others. As we ascend from the human experience to a divine encounter, we come across the mystery of prayer. St. Thomas Aquinas defines prayer as "the elevation of the mind to God." In short, prayer is an intimate conversation with God. And the necessity of prayer cannot be overstated; for what breathing does for the body, prayer does for the soul. Cardinal Robert Sarah expressed the vital use of prayer as he wrote, "Without prayer, we will be clanging cymbals, and every attempt to strengthen the Church and the faith will be in vain. Prayer must be our innermost respiration."

What's also intriguing is that the importance of prayer has been scientifically tested and verified. A recent study concluded that praying the rosary boosts mental health and reduces anxiety and depression. Neuroscientist Andrew Newberg wrote a book called "How God Changes Your Brain." In the book, he articulated how people who pray consistently tend to be statistically healthier and live longer than those who do not. Based on new data from brain scans, scientists found that consistent prayer reduces stress, helps overcome past traumas, and increases your cognitive awareness. Besides sharpening your mental focus, prayer puts you in touch with the divine and enlightens your spiritual senses. As St. Augustine declared, "Prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for Him."

In today's Gospel Jesus outlines the structure of prayer—first, adore and honor God as our Father, and then petition Him with our spiritual and material needs while aligning our will with His. The first person plural (our, us, we) is prominent in the Our Father—making this a prayer for the Church. "Father" is translated into Aramaic as "Abba," which is similar to an affectionate title that a child would address his father—much like saying "daddy." Here, we see that prayer is not meant to merely use God as a divine bellboy where we demand He make our lives as comfortable as possible. Rather, prayer is a time when we approach God with reverence, ask for His fatherly help and guidance, and seek the spiritual strength to do His will in our life.

We see that prayer is nothing overly complicated, but an honest, reverent petition of needs to God accessible to all. It is the prayer of a mother who lights a candle in front of a crucifix for her children's wellbeing. It is the prayer of a hermit in his solitude for the salvation of the world. It is the prayer of a drug addict who longs to get out of the vicious cycle he is trapped in. As Fr. Garrigou-Lagrange once wrote, "The most miserable of men, from the bottom of the abyss into which he has fallen, can raise a cry for mercy, and this cry is prayer."

As with any workout, the more we do it, the more we'll see the gains. The faith beckons us to have a private exchange with God in prayer. Pressed with lives that are hectic and full of the commotion of the outside world, prayer offers us an escape from the bombardment of noise in our culture. In prayer, we take our human complexity and ground it to a central being of contemplation, to the very being that created us. Let's take Jesus's example and have that intimate conversation with God.

COMMUNITY NEWS

HEART OF MARY HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Has Jesus been nudging your heart to serve His people more directly? There is a powerful opportunity to do just that—right here in Nashville. The Heart of Mary House, situated in the Nations neighborhood, is a volunteer-run Catholic hospice that lovingly cares for people who are dying and have nowhere else to go. Founded by Saint Matthew parishioner Kim Derrick, the house is preparing to welcome up to six residents at a time—but they need your help.



HEART of MARY
HOUSE

Volunteers are needed to cook, clean, assist with meals, offer companionship, and pray with residents. No clinical experience is necessary—just a heart open to Christ and a willingness to be present. Learn more at heartofmaryhouse.org. To speak to a volunteer about their experience, contact Charlene Kimmel at Faithsharing@StPhilipMinisteries.com.

TOGETHER IN HOLINESS RETREAT

Together in Holiness is a marriage conference series for dioceses which inspires spouses to grow together in holiness and empowers parents to form their children in the Catholic faith. The program helps spouses discover God's plan for their family. The retreat is Saturday, September 13, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. **Early bird registration** pricing ends tomorrow, Monday, July 28. Tickets are \$54 for a couple or \$35 for an individual. Child care is available for \$5 per child.

TOGETHER IN HOLINESS™
CONFERENCE SERIES

**A CATHOLIC MARRIAGE
ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE**

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER | NASHVILLE, TN

PRESENTED BY

St. JOHN PAUL II
FOUNDATION



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

JOIN RISE CORE TEAM FOR 2025-2026



RISE is looking for adults wanting to give their time, heart, and knowledge of the Lord to our high schoolers. Volunteering includes teaching, planning, coordinating games, dinner preparation, and clean up. If you feel called, you will be able to lead small groups and have the opportunity to present on topics in the Catholic faith of your choosing.



RISE SCHEDULE	
27 JULY	Servio Deo Mission Lunch Reunion at 12 p.m. in the PCC
29 JULY	Lectio Divina & Donuts at 6:30 p.m. in the Nursery
5, 12, 19 AUG	Lectio Divina & Donuts at 6:30 p.m. in the Nursery
24 AUG	RISE Kickoff Party 12 p.m. on the Field



TONY JESSE
Director of Religious Education
tjesse@stmatthewtn.org

Want to learn about the faith? Visit
bit.ly/SMCFaithFormationInterestForm



FRANKIE McCAULEY
Director of Youth Ministry
ftripodi@stmatthewtn.org

Let's connect, Text:
615-314-1377



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

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE NEWS AND
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www.stmatthewtn.org

