



# *Saint Matthew* CATHOLIC CHURCH

**DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER**

**AUGUST 3, 2025 + 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

TAKE CARE TO

# GUARD AGAINST ALL GREED

FOR THOUGH ONE MAY BE RICH, ONE'S LIFE DOES NOT CONSIST OF POSSESSIONS.

- LUKE 12:15

## **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:**

📍 535 Sneed Road W, Franklin, TN 37069  
✉ [info@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:info@stmatthewtn.org)  
☎ (615) 646-0378  
🌐 [www.stmatthewtn.org](http://www.stmatthewtn.org)  
📱 @stmatthewtn

### **PASTOR:**

Father Justin Raines

### **ASSOCIATE PASTOR:**

Father Tien Tran

### **DEACON:**

Bill Forte



## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ For Sean & Rebecca Harding

#### 8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of Saint Matthew

#### 11:00 a.m. Mass

- ✦ Phillip & Judy Cox
- Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
  - Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
  - Luke 12:13-21

### MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Saint John Vianney

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass (gym)

- ✦ Jim, Scott & Keith Baldinger
- Numbers 11:4b-15
  - Matthew 14:13-21

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass (gym)

- ✦ Daniel Bruder
- Numbers 12:1-13
  - Matthew 14:22-36

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

The Transfiguration of the Lord

#### 7:00 p.m. Mass

- ✦ Beverly Ballentine
- Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
  - 2 Peter 1:16-19
  - Luke 9:28b-36

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass

- ✦ Lucy Bonvissuto
- Numbers 20:1-13
  - Matthew 16:13-23

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

Saint Dominic

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass

- ✦ For Dominic Tran
- Deuteronomy 4:32-40
  - Matthew 16:24-28

#### ✦ Special Intention

✦ *May they rest in peace*

## REFLECTION FROM SEMINARIAN JAMES GROSSHEIM

Perhaps one of the most shocking images depicted in the Old Testament is the Tower of Babel incident. Early humans had progressed to such a point that they could realistically organize themselves into some kind of society efficient enough to build a great tower or ziggurat. Why would they attempt such a construction project? Genesis is clear: to make a name for themselves. God's response? To disorganize and scatter humankind, disrupting their construction.

One of our most basic human instincts is the instinct to worship. Even those who claim to reject belief in God often worship something. They put one thing at the center of their lives or desire to be part of something bigger than themselves. The problem of our ancient ancestors at Babel was not that they refused to worship, but that they worshipped themselves. Instead of offering God a Hosanna, they tried to make a name for themselves among the gods. They wanted to earn their way into divine status.

Taught by the One True God himself, we seek to become like gods in a different way. By worshipping God, we become more like him. We worship God by offering sacrifice, especially by offering Jesus's sacrifice of his Body and Blood on the Cross, re-presented in the Holy Mass. But if we are to truly become like God, then we have to offer not only Jesus's Body and Blood, but also our own lives with the Eucharist on the altar. The Offertory, when the priest receives the bread and wine at the altar, is a perfect time to lay ourselves down in prayer upon the altar, upon the paten and in the chalice, offering ourselves to God so he can use us for the salvation of others.

The priest always has a specific intention for which he offers the Mass. We can also offer ourselves at Mass for specific intentions. A visionary named Luisa Piccarreta once saw, during Mass, crowds of guardian angels approaching the altar from the pews, many carrying great golden bowls filled with the offerings of the people they represented—people who came to Mass to worship in their hearts and pray for noble intentions. Other angels held nothing because those they represented before God neglected to come to Mass with an intention for which to pray. We were all made to worship. Each of us was made to offer our great Hosanna to God. What Hosanna will your heart bring to the next Mass? For whom will you offer it?

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

### - FOR WEEK ENDED JULY 27 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$20,471
SECOND COLLECTION: FAMILY SERVICE MINISTRY	\$107

## Second Collections

*This Week:*  
*Building Maint. & Facility Improvement*

*Next Week:*  
*Tuition Assistance*

Scan to make a gift now, or visit  
[stmatthewtn.org/church/giving](http://stmatthewtn.org/church/giving)



Saint Matthew 2025  
Donations: \$69,678 (41%)  
Goal: \$171,000

**Registered Parish Families: 1234**

## CHURCH RENOVATION UPDATE

We were recently informed of a delay in the fabrication of our permanent lighting fixtures for our church from the lighting manufacturer. We hope to receive and install them in September. All other aspects of the renovation remain on schedule and should be finished this week. However, we will not be able to reinstall the removed pews until the installation of the lighting is complete.

## MASS LOCATION UPDATES

On **Monday, August 4**, and **Tuesday, August 5**, Mass will be held in the gym at 8 a.m. to accommodate SMS teachers.

Beginning Tuesday, August 12, 8 a.m. **Masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays** will return to the church and SMS students will attend. Until construction is completed, parents and other parishioners are asked to sit in the Narthex.

Masses for the Assumption of Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation, on **Friday, August 15**, will be celebrated in the Church at 8 a.m., noon, and 7 p.m. The 8 a.m. Mass is an all-school Mass. If your schedule allows, please consider attending the noon or 7 p.m. Mass to help accommodate school families and students, as seating will be limited.

## CHILDREN'S CHOIRS FOR 2025-2026

Saint Matthew Children's Choirs are forming now for the 2025-2026 school year! The Little Light Choir is open to Saint Matthew students and parish members in grades K-2. The Liturgy Choir is open to Saint Matthew students and parish members in grades 3-8.

Contact Rebecca Harding at [rharding@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:rharding@stmatthewtn.org) (Little Light Choir) or Laura Holderman at [lholderman@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:lholderman@stmatthewtn.org) (Liturgy Choir) with any questions. To register and find additional details visit at [bit.ly/smcchildrenschoirs](https://bit.ly/smcchildrenschoirs).

## SEMINARIAN JAMES GROSSHEIM

Today is seminarian James Grossheim's final day at Saint Matthew this summer. He is returning to Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans to complete his studies. From his reflections, presentations, and willingness to get involved, we are so grateful for his presence and contributions to our parish. He is tentatively scheduled to rejoin us after being ordained as a transitional deacon in December.

## SAINT MATTHEW'S NEWEST SEMINARIAN

This Saturday, August 2, Griffin Gartner departed to begin his Propaedeutic Year—his first official year of seminary formation in the Diocese of Nashville. Throughout this year, he will be taking a few courses at Aquinas College, shadowing at another parish, and joining other men in this foundational year of discernment and formation.



Griffin shares, *"Saint Matthew has the most beautiful and wonderful community for the glory of God. Because of the love, care, and compassion I've received here, it has been easy to convert, get involved, and become a part of God's community in Tennessee. A sincere thank you to all who have been so supportive, helpful, and prayerful."*

Griffin has served Saint Matthew as a Master of Ceremonies and a Youth Catechist—roles he calls *"an absolute joy."* He would like to thank Father Raines, Father Tran, and Tony Jesse, as well as the Wednesday evening Mass community for their prayers and support. Please keep Griffin in your prayers as he begins his journey toward priesthood!

## Ministry Fair & Community Weekend

- Explore more than 40 parish ministries
- Live out your faith and embrace your parish family
- Social, Spiritual, and Liturgical opportunities
- Refreshments provided

**August 16 & 17 after all Masses  
Cohan-Hansom Building**



Interested in becoming Catholic?



**Meet & Greet Info Session**

Tuesday, Sept. 16 6:30 p.m.  
Parish Conference Center





The wonderful teachers at Saint Matthew School have been hard at work this week making sure their classrooms are prepared to welcome students in just over a week. Teachers have been hanging artwork, creating name tags, and arranging desks. When I walked the hallways this past week, it was so nice to see teachers back on campus and excited for the upcoming year. On Monday morning we welcome all of the faculty and staff back to Saint Matthew School for their teacher inservice week. This week helps prepare our staff spiritually and professionally to ensure our students have the best experience and grow as a whole person. It is hard to believe, but also very exciting that there is only one more week until we welcome students back on campus for the first day of the 2025-2026 school year!

### 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 for 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

### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school is quickly approaching on Monday, August, 11. Parents, you should have received communication regarding back-to-school meetings and events for this upcoming week. Contact the school office with any questions.

### CAMPUS SAFETY

With the return of students, please abide to the traffic patterns for drop off and pickup. Take extra precaution as our campus will be filled with children in the parking lot throughout the day. Please adhere to directional signs in the parking lot, avoid cell phone use, and drive slowly whenever students are on campus. The safety of our students is paramount and your cooperation helps protect everybody.

Saint Matthew School Masses start back on August 12. All Mass attendees are asked to follow directions given by school staff and security.

### SMS DRAMA CLUB WORKSHOPS FOR 25-26

SMS Drama Club's Workshops are designed to give students a place to build confidence, show their creativity, learn teamwork, and have a lot of fun! Each workshop focuses on a different aspect of the theater experience, culminating in the Spring Musical. You may register for any combination or ALL of them! An info meeting is Friday, August 15, at 3 p.m. Visit [bit.ly/smsdrama25](https://bit.ly/smsdrama25) to learn more. Contact Laura Holderman, [lholderman@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:lholderman@stmatthewtn.org) with any questions.

### 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 including food, rent, utilities, medicine, and more. 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](http://bit.ly/smcsvdpwalkrun25).

### 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!

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will begin regular monthly meetings on the third Monday of each month from 1-2:30 in the P.C.C. Their hand crafted prayer shawls are gifted to people facing illness, grief, or other hardships. All skill levels, including beginners are welcome to join. Want to work at home? Suggested shawl sizes are 20" x 60" for a traditional shawl or approximately 30" x 30" for a lap shawl. If you are able to donate yarn to support this ministry, you can drop it off at the church office.

### DAISY TROOP INTEREST

Do you have a kindergarten or first grade daughter who might be interested in joining a Daisy Girl Scout Troop at Saint Matthew? If so, please email [schuyler.m.lucio@gmail.com](mailto:schuyler.m.lucio@gmail.com). If there is enough interest to form a troop, you will hear back shortly for the 2025-2026 school year.

### 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). The first week of Religious Education programs is Sunday, September 7. Learn more about these sessions and register at [bit.ly/smcreligioused](http://bit.ly/smcreligioused).

### HELP GUIDE OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES!

We are still in need of three catechists for our Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade faith formation classes for the 2025-2026 year.

Serving as a catechist is a meaningful way to nurture the faith of our children and help them grow in their relationship with Christ. You do not need to be a theologian. We provide all the materials and support you need. What matters most is your willingness to share your love for the faith.

If you are interested in volunteering as a catechist, please fill out a brief form by visiting [bit.ly/smccatechist25](http://bit.ly/smccatechist25) or contact Tony Jesse at [tjesse@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:tjesse@stmatthewtn.org) with any questions.



## 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 [kott@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:kott@stmatthewtn.org)



## TONY'S REFLECTION

### LESS IS MORE

In Catholic theology the first path towards one's union with God is called the purgative way. The purgative way suggests a purging, an eradication from sin and the disordered attachments of the world. One of the keys of the spiritual life is to reach a mental state in which you are detached from material pleasures. To get to this stage, you train yourself to view material possessions as distractions so you can more easily let them go. Today, we are presented with texts that remind us that human happiness is not to be found in the accumulation of material goods. Riches are fleeting and empty. We are called instead to "store up treasure in heaven, where neither rust nor moth destroy, where thieves cannot break in and steal."

The Old Testament book, Ecclesiastes, may be considered a philosophical "thought-experiment." It is an attempt to find out what happens when you focus only on temporal, material, and unaided reason. The results are meager. The reader learns it does not lead to happiness, but to despondency.

In the Gospel, we are presented with a parable of the rich fool. Seeing that family wealth is causing tensions, Jesus responds with a parable on the danger of excessive material possessions. In the parable, the foolish man hoards his resources as if it'll provide him security and happiness. Consequently, he then becomes lazy especially in the spiritual life and seeks only to "rest, eat, drink, and be merry." His obsession with possessions leads him to a life of gluttony where he merely indulges in his appetites and removes a God-focused mentality. What's more the rich man's anxiety and toil in his resources expose his lack of faith in God's care and provision.

We notice that it is not the production of wealth per se that merits this man's condemnation, but his plan to hoard it for his own comfort. The creation of wealth in itself can be good as Proverbs emphasizes. "A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich" (Prov 10:4). The productivity of the land of the wealthy man could have been an indication of natural virtues: prudence, self-discipline, hard work, as it is in the case of the Woman of Noble Character (Prov 31). Rather, it is the intent to consume the wealth in self-indulgence that is vicious. The sin comes in spending the gained wealth on our pleasure and comfort, rather than spending it for the love of others and of God. Here, wealth becomes an impediment because it becomes a God-substitute that thwarts total devotion to God. It's hard to give God your attention when your attention is infatuated with material things.

The key hinge with wealth and poverty is what lies inside. Material poverty in itself is not virtuous, because material poverty may be the result of laziness, imprudence, addiction, or some other vice. That is why Jesus teaches that "blessed are the poor in spirit," which may be interpreted as "those who are poor for the sake of the Spirit," that is, for spiritual ends, not simply because of laziness or incompetence.

In the end, we must let go of all earthly attachments. The motto for material possessions is "less is more." Let us purge earthly possessions so we'll have room for heavenly riches.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Scout Troop 226 will be hosting a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Saturday, August 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the courtyard. The event is open to everyone. If you have an American flag that is worn, damaged, or faded and would like it properly retired, please bring it with you and they will respectfully include it in the ceremony, or drop it off at the church office.

### AUGUST IS MAKE-A-WILL MONTH

Make-a-Will Month is observed in August. As a reminder to create or update your will the Diocese of Nashville is offering a free interactive panel discussion (online, phone, and radio) from 12-1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 18, to discuss the importance of having a will. Hosted by Nashville Catholic Radio at 100.5 FM, panelists will include two Saint Matthew parishioners, Greg Pope and Liz Poplin. All members of the Catholic community are invited to join the tutorial via phone or online. RSVP to Matt Wilson at [Matt.Wilson@Dioceseofnashville.com](mailto:Matt.Wilson@Dioceseofnashville.com).



**MAKE-A-WILL PLANNING SESSION**  
FREE INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION  
Aug. 18, 2025 • 12-1 PM CDT  
RSVP & SUBMIT A QUESTION: [matt.wilson@dioceseofnashville.com](mailto:matt.wilson@dioceseofnashville.com)

 <b>GREG POPE</b> Chief Administrative Officer Diocese of Nashville	 <b>LIZ POPLIN</b> SVP, Wealth Management Merrill Lynch
 <b>TOM RIORDAN</b> VP of Mission Partnerships Catholic Extension Society	 <b>JOHN ROBERTS</b> Chief Financial Officer Diocese of Nashville



### STRESSED IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples feeling bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness, others conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. To learn more or register for the next program, which begins with a weekend on August 29, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com).

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

JOIN RISE

# CORE TEAM



## 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. Scan the QR code in the graphic to learn more and apply.

## RISE SCHEDULE

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 Athletic Field

AUG. 24<sup>TH</sup> 12-2

COME AND JOIN

# RISE

*kick-off*



**rsvp**

## WATER PARTY



OPEN TO 8-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

## DONATE A PIZZA

### FOR RISE STUDENTS

Each Sunday, RISE brings teens together to share a meal and grow in their faith. To offset some of the cost of food, whether it is pizza, or another meal, we are humbly asking for \$20 donations. Your financial support makes a real difference and helps us share Christ's love with our youth. Thank you!



Scan to donate



**TONY JESSE**

Director of Religious Education  
[tjesse@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:tjesse@stmatthewtn.org)

Want to learn about the faith? Visit  
[bit.ly/SMCFaithFormationInterestForm](http://bit.ly/SMCFaithFormationInterestForm)



**FRANKIE McCAULEY**

Director of Youth Ministry  
[ftripodi@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:ftripodi@stmatthewtn.org)

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



We want to extend our deepest thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Parish Picnic an unforgettable event! It was an afternoon full of laughter, joy, and community—something truly special that could only happen when so many come together with generous hearts.

A special thank you goes to all the ministries that made the picnic a reality. From working events, cooking and serving food, to cleanup and everything in between, your involvement is what makes all of this possible. Thank you to the Family Service Ministry, Girl Scout Troop #3214, Lunch Bunch, RISE Youth Ministry, Saint Gianna Circle, Saint Matthew Men's Club, Saint Matthew School Cheerleaders, Saint Matthew Women's Club, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and St. Joseph's Men. You are the life of our church, and without you, this picnic could not happen. In addition to their volunteering, many of these ministries also supported the picnic financially.

To all the individuals who stepped up and helped, we cannot thank you enough. Whether you signed up in advance or simply showed up and offered your time and talent, you helped fill in the gaps and kept things running smoothly. Your involvement reminds us that the Church is not just a staff, not just ministries—it is a community of individuals who come together for the greater good. Thank you!

We are also incredibly grateful to our generous sponsors. 206 Tours and an anonymous donor provided the tents to eat in, play Bingo, and take a break in the shade. Exodus Counseling, Knights of Columbus 12012, Maid in Nashville, and SFM & Serva sponsored events for everyone's enjoyment. Chesterton Academy of the Incarnation as well as Hiller Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, and Electrical helped cover some of the delicious food cooked by our Men's Club. Curran Homes and the Leindecker family supported us at the Friends of the Picnic level. To the ministries and families who joined as sponsors, thank you! To all the individuals who donated beyond a sponsorship level, we are deeply grateful. It takes each and every one of your support to keep this a free event for the entire parish community.

### HOSPITALITY SPONSOR



### FRIENDS OF THE PICNIC

Curran Homes      Chuck & Rachel Leindecker

### EVENT & FOOD SPONSORS



### FAMILY AND MINISTRY SPONSORS

Damon & Elizabeth Abaray, Paul & Kim Baldinger, Sandra Greenwell, Eric & Maria Rupaner, Barney & Beth Schulte, Matthew & Anne Margaret Weishaar, Family Service Ministry, Girl Scout Troop #3214, St. Gianna Circle, Martha Ministry, Women's Club