



# *Saint Matthew*

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

AUGUST 24, 2025 + TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**“For behold, some are  
last who will be first,  
and some are first  
who will be last.”**

**Luke 13:30**

### 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

### 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

✠ Dr. Peter Lamms

**8:30 a.m. Mass**

✠ Anatoliy Gladkyy

**11:00 a.m. Mass**

✦ For the People of Saint Matthew

- Isaiah 66:18-21
- Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
- Luke 13:22-30

### MONDAY, AUGUST 25

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

✠ Souls in Purgatory

- 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10
- Matthew 23:13-22

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

✠ Bill Blackburn

- 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- Matthew 23:23-26

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

Saint Monica

**7:00 p.m. Mass**

✠ Thomas Shaughnessy

- 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
- Matthew 23:27-32

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

Saint Augustine, Bishop & Doctor

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

✠ Mark Hill

- 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13
- Matthew 24:42-51

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

✠ Nazi Roudi

- 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
- Mark 6:17-29

✦ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*

*To RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,  
VISIT [BIT.LY/SMCMASSINTENTION](http://BIT.LY/SMCMASSINTENTION)*

## SAINT MATTHEW FEAST DAY INFORMATION

### CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF SAINT MATTHEW!

Our parish feast day is a special time for us to come together as a community, honor our patron, and grow in faith and fellowship. For our parish, Saint Matthew's feast day, September 21, is elevated to a solemnity. With the feast day falling on a Sunday this year, all parishioners are invited to celebrate together as a community that weekend.

Join Bishop Mark Spalding as he celebrates the **5 p.m. Vigil Mass** on Saturday, September 20.

Former pastor and now Bishop, Mark Beckman, will celebrate the **8:30 a.m. Mass**, with the Men's Schola providing music for the liturgy. A light breakfast reception will follow Mass in the Cohan-Hansom Building.

Following the **11 a.m. Mass**, a free luncheon will be served in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Please RSVP for the luncheon to ensure enough food.

Come celebrate our patronal feast day with prayer, fellowship, and a shared meal as one parish family!



## Feast of Saint Matthew

# Sunday, September 21

## Community Receptions After 8:30 & 11 a.m Masses



**Luncheon  
RSVP**

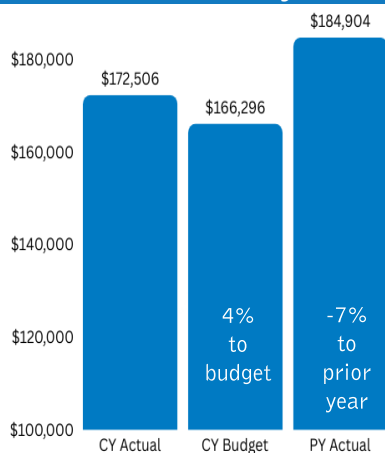


## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

### - FOR WEEK ENDED AUGUST 17 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$22,225
SECOND COLLECTION: ROOM IN THE INN	\$363

### YTD Summary



## Second Collections

*This Week:*  
**Haiti Ministry**

*Next Week:*  
**St. Gianna Circle**

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



**Registered Parish Families: 1235**



## HELP GUIDE OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES!

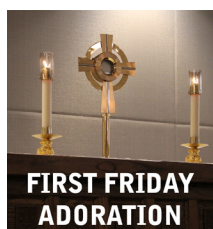
We still need **ONE** additional catechist for our faith formation classes this school year.

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, 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.

## FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

First Friday Adoration begins on Friday, September 5, after 8 a.m. Mass and concludes with benediction at 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 6. Enjoy some time in prayer with Jesus. Sign up at [bit.ly/smcffasept25](http://bit.ly/smcffasept25).



## SONGWRITERS' NIGHT TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tickets for *Well Played: A Songwriters' Night* are on sale now! Join us Saturday, September 27, and celebrate this event's 15th year of supporting water, wellness, and education in Gobert, Haiti. Donations exceeding our yearly commitment for operational needs at the parish will be used to complete Our Lady of Miracles Catholic School. This 21+ evening features an exciting lineup of hit country songwriters Bobby Tomberlin, Lance Miller, and Mark Narmore, whose songs have been recorded by Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Luke Bryan, Cody Johnson, Thomas Rhett, Reba McEntire, and more!

Scan to purchase tickets, or learn how to become a sponsor.



## ALTAR FLOWER DONATION

This weekend's altar flowers are given in memory of Janice LeJune by the Marsden Family.







**7TH ANNUAL  
FRIENDS OF THE POOR  
5K WALK RUN**

All proceeds benefit our neighbors in need including,  
**FOOD, RENT, UTILITIES, MEDICINE, ETC...**  
So dust off those Nike's and join in the family fun!  
Refreshments provided.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
8 A.M. REGISTRATION | 9 A.M. RACE START





Location:  
**St. Cecilia Academy Track**  
4210 Harding Pike

## MEN'S SCHOLA MASS SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 21, 8:30 A.M.**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 25, 5 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 30, 11 A.M.**

**SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 5 P.M.**

**FRIDAY, APR. 3, 7 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, APR. 26, 8:30 A.M.**

**SUNDAY, MAY 24, 11 A.M.**

The Schola sings traditional Gregorian chants of the Church, primarily in Latin. It was born out of deep love for the treasury of sacred music in our Catholic Church and a desire to share that music with our parish.






## JUBILEE JAMBOREE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL

Get your tickets now and come celebrate 25 years of Saint Matthew School with our Silver Jubilee Jamboree! On Saturday, September 13, enjoy a day full of fun for the whole community! We invite all parishioners, past and current families, alumni, and community to join us for this special celebration! Join our **family-friendly daytime activities** or our special **adults-only nighttime events**. The afternoon is packed with fun and games headlined by grade-level booths, dunk-tank, bingo, obstacle course, preschool playground zone and so much more! The evening includes a biergarten, live music, cornhole tournament, split-the-pot and more! Get your tickets or wristband, become a sponsor, and learn more about the event through the QR code above.

## AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

Our auction team is currently collecting items. Do you have a lake, mountain or beach house? Connections to restaurants or boutique stores? Spa services or experiences around town? Contact Tracy Becker for ways to donate at [tbecker@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:tbecker@stmatthewtn.org).

## CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Need an excuse to bake? The Jubilee Jamboree committee is looking for bakers! Scan to donate a sweet treat for our Cake Wheel.



## JAMBOREE WISH LIST

We are in the final stages of planning for the Jubilee Jamboree. Help make this Jamboree the best event possible. From prizes and activities, to supplies and treats, we would be grateful for any donations off our Amazon wish list. Please visit [bit.ly/smsjjwish](https://bit.ly/smsjjwish) to view the list and make a donation. Thank you!



Every year, our HSA hosts a New Parent Breakfast to welcome new SMS families. It's such a joy to meet these parents, hear their first impressions, and listen to their stories from the first days of school. I'd like to share one story that really struck me. I was speaking with a Pre-K family, and they were asking their children about their day after pick-up.

"Did you do any counting?" the parents asked.  
 "No," the children replied.  
 "Did you learn any letters or sing the alphabet?"  
 "No."  
 "Did you learn about Jesus?"  
 Again, "No."

But then the parents shared what their children had actually told them: they prayed the Angel of God prayer, worked on the Our Father, learned a special classroom prayer, created a number train, and listened to a story on the carpet.

What a wonderful reminder this is of the dedication of our teachers and the importance of a Catholic education! Their passion and commitment to nurturing both faith and learning shines through—even when our youngest students don't always realize it. I am so grateful for the way they share the love of Jesus and help the children grow each and every day.

## JOIN CUB SCOUTS AT SAINT MATTHEW

Parents and children (boys and girls in K–5th grade) are invited to join Cub Scouts. The first meeting is Sunday, August 31, at 1 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Cub Scouts can participate in exciting activities such as the Rain Gutter Regatta, Pinewood Derby, hiking, and camping (including cave camping), and age-appropriate opportunities for leadership, teamwork, service, and safety skills. Do not miss the chance to get started on the Cub Scout adventure! Questions? Contact Doug Kennedy at 615-669-4280, or email [pack287@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:pack287@stmatthewtn.org).

## FIND YOUR MOM COMMUNITY AT SAINT MATTHEW

Join our St. Gianna Circle Mothers Ministry on Wednesday, September 3, for 7 p.m. Mass and stay for their 7:30 p.m. Mixer in the Parish Conference Center. Sign up at [bit.ly/4ftSoBa](http://bit.ly/4ftSoBa).

If you would like to help with any SGC events, be sure to attend. New Moms get an EXTRA Door Prize Ticket too! If you cannot make the mixer, please join their mailing list at [bit.ly/SGCenrollment](http://bit.ly/SGCenrollment).

## LUNCH BUNCH RETURNS!

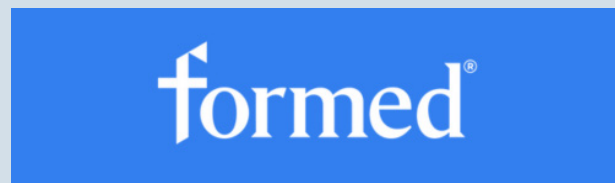
The first Lunch Bunch of the 25-26 year is Tuesday, September 9, at noon in the Narthex. The cost is \$12 per person plus a gift for the prize table. Lunch will be from Cracker Barrel. Please register by Thursday, September 4, at [bit.ly/smclbsept25](http://bit.ly/smclbsept25). Questions, email Alex Halfmann at [ahalfmann@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:ahalfmann@stmatthewtn.org).



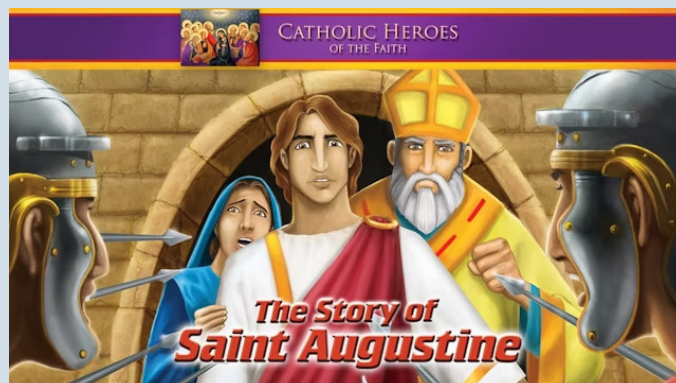
## BAAM UPDATE: HALFWAY THERE!

Earlier this month, Saint Matthew passed the halfway point toward our \$171,000 goal for the Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries! Let's keep this momentum going! You should receive a letter from Father Raines this week about this appeal. Together, we can support this vital program.

This Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries supports workforce development, prevents homelessness through financial counseling, promotes vocations, and forms seminarians. Help us reach the finish line by donating through the QR code to the right.



Pick of the Week: August 24



### Catholic Heroes: The Story of Saint Augustine

Bright, young Augustine thinks his mother's religion is foolishness. Convinced his superior intellect will guide him, he sneaks away from home and ventures to a new life in the city of Rome. Soon Augustine finds himself in an important position as "The Voice of the Emperor," with the life of luxury he's always wanted.

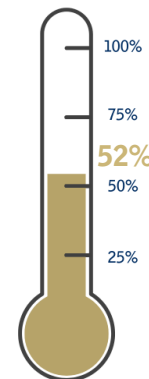
When the empire decides to take over the Christian basilica, Augustine prepares to give the speech of a lifetime, one that will slow the rising tide of Christianity's influence. With his devout mother and the unwavering Bishop Ambrose on one side and the empire's loyal soldiers on the other, Augustine must choose whom he will serve.

Watch this series and other great content for free. Visit [FORMED.org](http://FORMED.org) and use our parish code: 37069.



Scan to donate

Saint Matthew 2025  
Donations: \$89,197 (52%)  
Goal: \$171,000





## TONY'S REFLECTION ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH

This Sunday we are presented with another challenging lesson from Jesus. Jesus insists that many will attempt to enter the door to His kingdom but will not be strong enough. Why are they not strong enough? Well, one reason is they lack self-discipline. In the second reading, the author of Hebrews articulates that God disciplines those that He loves. But Hebrews also stresses that discipline must come from the self (i.e., self-discipline). Discipline means the ability to forgo immediate pleasures for a greater purpose. In discipline, one learns to temper his flawed desires while at the same time putting in the arduous work needed to fulfill his purpose. In short, discipline is the art of self-mastery. Those who achieve any success, be it an athlete, musician, or entrepreneur know that the skill of discipline is a key ingredient to their success.

With self-mastery, one must constrain what takes him away from his purpose. Ample research in psychology finds a strong connection between higher levels of self-control and life satisfaction. Why are people that are disciplined happier? Because they stand in control of their frivolous feelings rather than being controlled by them.

The disciplined person stands out, full of purpose and meaning. The saints all had discipline, and they were attractive to watch in action. Let us also notice that the word "discipline" is closely connected to the Biblical word "disciple." As Jesus stated, "In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples" (Luke 14:33). Therefore, discipline is a prerequisite to the Christian faith.

If we put our readings together, we learn those lacking discipline won't be strong enough to enter Christ's narrow path. Refusing discipline to enter the narrow gate, they will attempt to gain entry by claiming they know the master. They exclaim, "Lord, let us in." Here, Jesus bluntly says, "I do not know where you are from." They respond, "We ate and drank in your presence." But, Jesus repeats, "I do not know where you are from." St. Augustine reasoned that this passage that refers to eating and drinking in Jesus's presence can be associated with consuming Him in the Eucharist. Do not think that just because you received the Eucharist your entrance into the narrow gate is guaranteed. As St. Paul declared, "Whoever eats unworthily of the bread and drinks from the Lord's cup makes himself guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor 11:27).

After their failed attempt, the master announces that these pretenders must depart from His gate and be cast out where they will experience a "wailing and grinding of teeth." Here, Jesus is illuminating the sad reality of hell in which a person chooses to remain opposed to God. Refusing to accept Jesus's narrow way, the unrepentant sinner prefers his way. It's been said that the anthem of hell is, "I did it my way."

The entrance into the master's gate does not come merely because you were in the master's presence, but through doing the master's will (Mt. 7:21). And to do the master's will, you need to cultivate the virtue of self-discipline.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Grotto Benches Refurbished

Thank you Eli Egan and Boy Scout Troop 226 for refurbishing the benches in the Saint Matthew Grotto as part of your Eagle Scout project!



Before

After



CHESTERTON ACADEMY  
OF THE INCARNATION

Nashville's *Only* Catholic Classical High School



Join us for an  
**INFO NIGHT**

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 7:00 PM

Please call **615-592-6353** or email  
**info@chestertontn.com** to RSVP



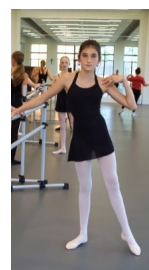
#### ABOUT CHESTERTON ACADEMY

Chesterton Academy of The Incarnation is forming a new generation of leaders and saints, educated in the classical tradition and the truths of the Catholic faith. Our rigorous, integrated curriculum unlocks student's potential and prepares students to succeed in college and professional life, and to excel in service of family, of country, and of Christ our Lord.

#### LEARN MORE

All potential new families, current 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders, parents, donors, and supporters are welcome and encouraged to attend, as well as any current high school student thinking of a change. We hope to see you there!

2419 BETHLEHEM LOOP RD, FRANKLIN TN 37069



ST. CECILIA  
DANCE ACADEMY

### OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6  
1:00 - 3:00 P.M. | SCA FINE ARTS CENTER

REGISTER: [STCECILIA.EDU/SCDA](https://stcecilia.edu/scda)



## FAITH FORMATION

### 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). Religious Education programs begin on Sunday, September 7. Learn more about these sessions and register at [bit.ly/smcreligioused](https://bit.ly/smcreligioused). Contact Tony Jesse with any questions at [tjesse@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:tjesse@stmatthewtn.org).

### O.C.I.A. CLASSES ARE FORMING NOW

Interested in becoming Catholic?

**Meet & Greet Info Session**  
Tuesday, Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m.  
Parish Conference Center




### CALLING ALL MEN: THAT MAN IS YOU!

Saint Matthew is excited to launch That Man is You!, a dynamic men's program addressing the pressures and temptations men face in today's culture, especially in their roles as husbands and fathers. The program harmonizes current social and medical science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive! Open to all men, the group is set to begin on September 13 with weekly Saturday morning meetings at 7 a.m. in the Parish Conference Center. Contact Aaron Frankovic at [aaron.frankovic@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.frankovic@gmail.com) for questions. Scan the QR code to fill out an interest form and learn more.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### RISE KICKOFF EVENT- TODAY!

All 8th to 12th graders are invited to join us after 11 a.m. Mass today as we launch the 2025-2026 RISE Youth Ministry year with a splash! Our epic Water Party is packed with fun:

- Raising Cane's lunch
- Ice cream
- Slip-n-slides & water inflatables
- Marshmallow dodgeball
- Shaving cream battle
- Water guns
- ...and so many more surprises!

Come on down to the athletic field, have a blast, and see what RISE is all about. T-shirt and shorts are recommended.

## RISE SCHEDULE *Aug./Sept. 2025*

**SUN  
AUG 24**

**Kick-off Water Party**  
12-2 p.m. on the athletic field  
Wear a t-shirt and shorts. Lunch will be served. 8-12 graders are invited!

**SUN  
AUG 31**

**NO RISE (Labor Day Weekend)**  
Thank you to all those who have worked, served, and given of themselves to take care of our world.

**SUN  
SEPT 7**

**RISE night: "Beginning the year as a high school student!"**  
Pizza and snacks will be provided.  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

**SUN  
SEPT 14**

**Rise night: Speakers Nevaeh Edwards "Biblical Femininity" & John Vargas "Virtuous Masculinity!"**

RISE meets every Sunday in the P.C.C. beginning at 5:30 p.m. with pick-up at 7:30 p.m. Dinner is provided.



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

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



**FRANKIE McCAULEY**  
Director of Youth Ministry  
[ftripodi@stmatthewtn.org](mailto: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  
INFORMATION FROM SAINT MATTHEW.

[www.stmatthewtn.org](http://www.stmatthewtn.org)

