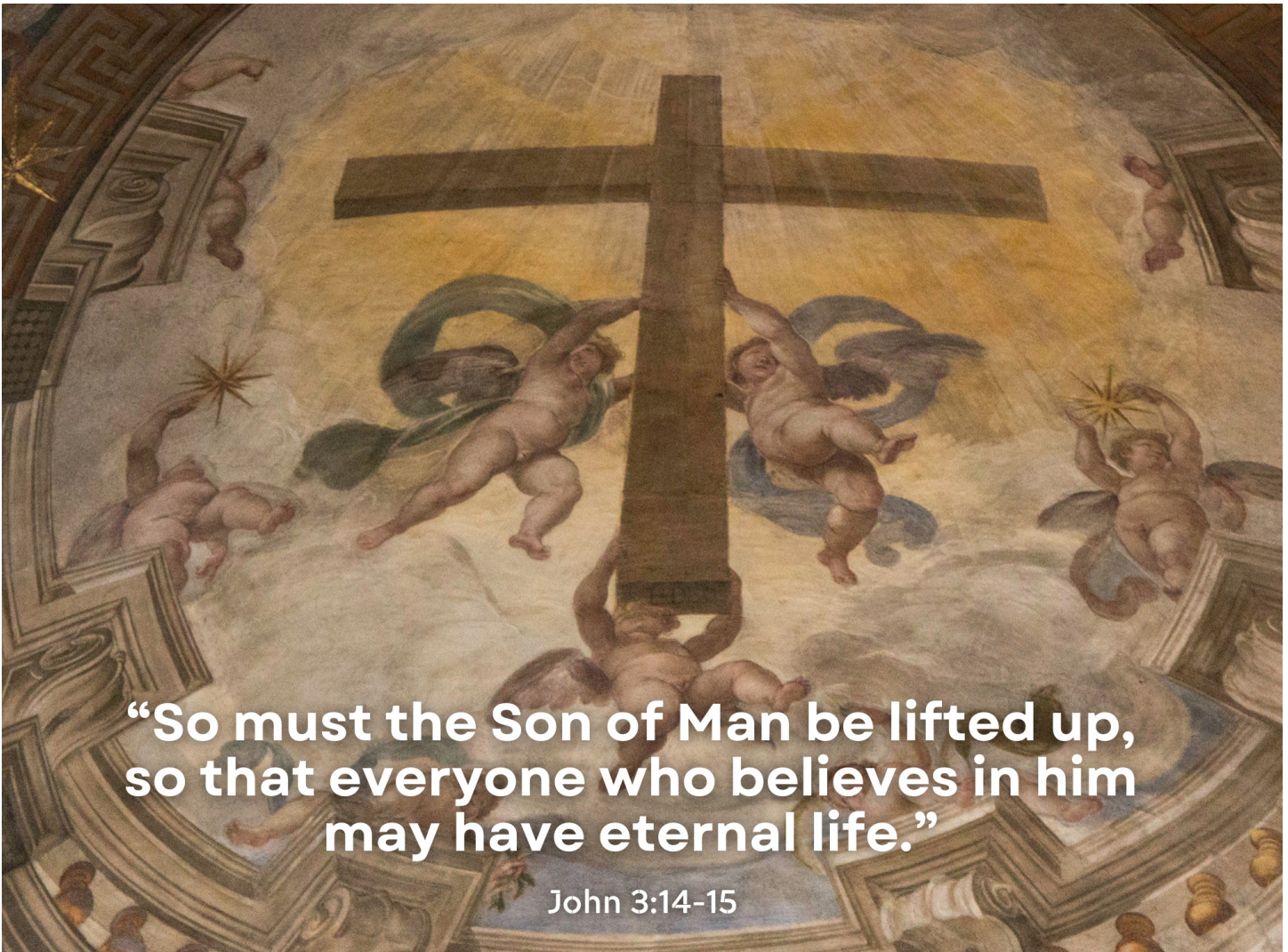




Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 + EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



**“So must the Son of Man be lifted up,
so that everyone who believes in him
may have eternal life.”**

John 3:14-15

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
☎ (615) 646-0378
🌐 www.stmatthewtn.org
📱 @stmatthewtn

PASTOR:

Father Justin Raines

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

DEACON:

Bill Forte



LITURGY SCHEDULE

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ For Matthew Straw

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of Saint Matthew

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Thais Gamez

- Numbers 21:4b-9
- Philippians 2:6-11
- John 3:13-17

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Mary Freitas

- 1 Timothy 2:1-8
- John 19:25-27

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Saints Cornelius and Cyprian

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Ronald C. Becker

- 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- Luke 7:11-17

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ Souls in Purgatory

- 1 Timothy 3:14-16
- Luke 7:31-35

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Edward Vohsen

- 1 Timothy 4:12-16
- Luke 7:36-50

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Leslie Buzan

- 1 Timothy 6:2c-12
- Luke 8:1-3

✦ **Special Intention**

✦ *May they rest in peace*

*To RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,
VISIT BIT.LY/SMMASSINTENTION*

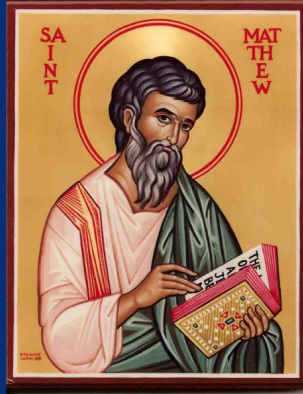
COME PRAY THE ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL
FOLLOWING 8 A.M. WEEKDAY MASSES

FEAST OF SAINT MATTHEW

As we conclude our Silver Jubilee celebrations on the

Feast of Saint Matthew

Sunday, September 21



Join us for a

**Free Light Breakfast
after 8:30 a.m. Mass
with Bishop Beckman**

or a

**Free CATERED Luncheon
after 11 a.m. Mass
Please RSVP**

**On Saturday,
September 20,
Bishop Spalding
will preside
at 5 p.m. Mass**



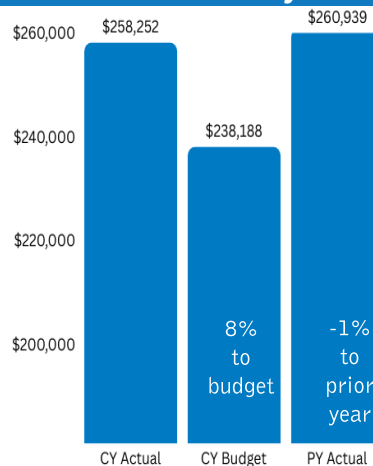
RSVP deadline extended through Sunday, September 15.
Receptions are in the Cohan-Hansom Building

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 7 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$31,579
SECOND COLLECTION: BUILDING MAINT. & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS	\$1,194

YTD Summary



Second Collections

This Week:

Catholic University

Next Week:

Feast of Saint Matthew

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



Registered Parish Families: 1248

FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK/RUN

Be sure to support our Saint Vincent de Paul Society and sign up for their annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run next weekend. The proceeds from this event are critical in helping the ministry serve our neighbors in need in our community. Come enjoy a refreshing morning while sharing the love of Christ. Scan below to register today!



**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

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you or anyone you know is struggling with food, utilities, etc., Saint Matthew supports two organizations offering assistance. You can contact the Saint Vincent de Paul Society hotline by calling 615-550-5130 or Graceworks at 615-794-9055. Do not hesitate to reach out if you need help.

NURSERY AVAILABILITY

Saint Matthew has a nursery available as a safe and caring environment for your little ones during the 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday Masses. Children who are able to walk through age 3 are welcome.

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

Do you know someone searching for deeper meaning, a stronger community, or a spiritual home? A simple invitation can open the door. Our O.C.I.A. ministry welcomes those curious about Catholicism. Invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to a casual meet-and-greet on Tuesday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. It's a no-pressure opportunity to meet our priests, ask questions, and take a first step in faith. Your personal invitation can open the door to a life-changing journey of faith for someone you know. For those wanting to move forward with joining the Church, classes would begin shortly thereafter. To learn more or to take the first step, visit bit.ly/smcocia.

Interested in becoming Catholic?

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





KNIGHT'S SOCCER CHALLENGE

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge next Saturday, September 20, at 3:45 p.m. on the Saint Matthew Soccer Field. Winners will advance to the regional competition. The competition will conclude before 5 p.m. Mass. Entry forms are in the church and school offices or on our website.



FAMILY SERVICE MINISTRY ANNUAL SOCIAL

The Family Service Ministry's Annual Social and Box of Joy Kick-Off is Wednesday, September 24, on the playground. Come learn about this ministry, socialize, play, and discover ways you and your kids can live your faith together this year. You can also sign up for the Box of Joy program which sends Christmas boxes to children in developing countries like Haiti, Malawi, and the Dominican Republic. RSVP to the social at bit.ly/fsmko25.



As I sit here this week in preparation for the Jubilee Jamboree, I am constantly blown away by the support of this community. The amount of volunteer hours, donations to the big day, and the consistent help for months has been nothing short of special. A big thank you to everyone that helped make the Jubilee Jamboree a reality here at Saint Matthew School. I know this event means so much to so many people here on our campus, whether you are an alumni or you currently have kids or grandkids at the school. I pray that Saint Matthew School continues to grow and flourish, and that the community continues to be a blessing to all who are members.



Apple Distinguished School



COME AND DISCOVER THE SAINT MATTHEW DIFFERENCE

**COFFEE
WITH THE
PRINCIPAL**



Thursday
SEPTEMBER 25
9:00 a.m.

PLEASE JOIN US!



Scan here or register online

www.stmatthewtn.org/school/admissions
Zoom and in-person options available.



FATHER SAPPENFIELD AT MASS

Father Mark Sappenfield is concelebrating school Mass at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, September 16, as part of our SMS Jubilee Celebration. Parishioners are asked to sit in the narthex.

JOIN THE CUB SCOUTS

It's not too late to join the Cub Scouts for the 2025-2026 school year. Parents and children (K-5th grade) are invited to join Cub Scouts this Sunday, September 14, at 1 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building for their monthly meeting.

Cub Scouts participate in exciting activities such as the Rain Gutter Regatta, Pinewood Derby, hiking, camping, and age-appropriate opportunities for leadership, teamwork, service, and safety skills.

All boys and girls in K-5 are welcome—don't miss out on the Cub Scout adventure! Questions? Email pack287@stmatthewtn.org.

HELP MAKE COMMUNITY SUNDAY HAPPEN!

Community Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to bring our parish family together after Mass for fellowship, coffee, and donuts. Saint Matthew wants to bring Community Sundays back on the first Sunday of each month, but we need your help.

We're looking for families and individuals to sign up to pick up and serve doughnuts and make coffee. It's an easy process, but it takes 2-3 people per Mass to run smoothly. We can't make it happen without volunteers like you. If your family would like to be part of making Community Sunday possible, please sign up below. For more information, email Colleen Curran at ccuran@stmatthewtn.org.



SONGWRITERS' NIGHT TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tickets for the 15th annual *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. This 21+ evening features an exciting lineup of three hit country songwriters. Scan for tickets.

MEET THE ARTIST: LANCE MILLER

ACC Award-nominated singer-songwriter Lance Miller has toured with Tim McGraw and Faith Hill and written multiple No. 1 hits, including Jerrod Niemann's "Drink to That All Night," Tim McGraw's "I Called Mama," and Matt Stell's "Everywhere But On." His songs have also been recorded by Luke Bryan, Thomas Rhett, Lee Brice, and more. Lance has sung background vocals on major projects, including Willie Nelson's Heroes album with Merle Haggard, and was a finalist on USA Network's Nashville Star.



WOMEN'S CLUB SOCIAL THIS THURSDAY

All women are invited to join the Saint Matthew Women's Club on  Thursday, September 18, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center for their September Social. Connect with old friends, make new ones, and learn about the amazing events planned for this year. Win a door prize and enjoy refreshments. You can get your book for the October book club meeting where a NYT best-selling author will be joining in-person.

OKTOBERFEST- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Saint Matthew Men's Club invites you to their annual Oktoberfest Festival for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun! The Joe Pouliot Band returns this year! Enjoy a delicious German-themed menu and cold beer for the adults. Completely free and family-friendly. Please bring a dessert to share.





Saint Matthew Catholic Church

PRESENTS

WELL PLAYED

A SONGWRITERS' NIGHT
BENEFITTING OUR HAITI MINISTRY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

<p>CLASSROOM SPONSORS</p> <p>Callahan Family Fund Anonymous X2</p>	<p>PLATINUM SPONSOR</p> <p>Marc & Joan Warrick</p>
<p>GOLD SPONSORS</p> <p>Tom & Julie Connor, Janet Dittus & Tim Wibking, Greg & Rebekah Pope, Barney & Beth Schulte, Clay & Kim Teter, Matthew & Anne Margaret Weishaar, Anonymous</p>	
<p>SILVER SPONSORS</p> <p>Glenn Allen & Charlene Pershke, Craig & Georgann DeMille, John & Angela Durland, Marilyn Hartz, Mark & Mary Peters, Anonymous</p>	
<p>FAMILY SPONSORS</p> <p>Abaray Family, Gary & Ann Mayfield, Kent & Marye Pat Skinner, Julie & Ralph Perrey, Anonymous</p>	






BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES



HOPE

does not disappoint

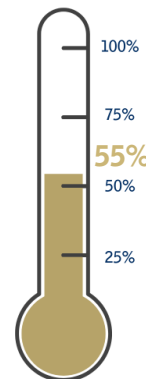
ROMANS 5:5



By supporting vital ministries like vocations, faith formation, and outreach; we build our community, grow in faith, answer God's call, and serve with love. Together, we can be a source of unwavering hope in our community. Your involvement—whether through donations, spreading the word, or prayer—helps bring this hope to life.



Scan to donate



Saint Matthew 2025
Donations: \$94,830 (55%)
Goal: \$171,000

TONY'S REFLECTION

THE HOLY CROSS

In a study rating human action to emotional response, psychologists showed people many different images that ranged in the spectrum of human life. As you might guess, images of a Nazi concentration camp received less attention and "likes" by people than other images of human activity. At the core, suffering disrupts our innate desire for survival and well-being. The obvious conclusion from this study is that images that invoke torture are hard to look at. No one seeks these types of images out to be ingrained in their psyche. Yet, as evident as this study is, today we are called to honor the image that would appear as an instrument of torture—the cross of Jesus.

In the readings today we hear two references of lifting an image that would normally summon disgust but, instead, has healing power. In our first reading, Moses hoists a bronze serpent on a pole as a remedy for the faithless people of Israel. The people's lack of faith and love in God led to them being swarmed by poisonous serpents. However, God promised to save everyone who looked at the bronze serpent that Moses raised up. Looking up to the bronze serpent represents the moment when the people realize their deadly betrayal of God and are searching for His mercy. Interestingly, Jesus uses this Old Testament scene to apply it to His own crucifixion and the subsequent healing it will bring to a rebellious world. The lifting up of the serpent signifies the death of Christ. The serpent's poisonous bite is sin, and its effect is death. At the cross Jesus took on the effect we should have received. However, our Lord did not transfer the poisonous sin of the serpent to His flesh, but instead transferred to us His divine life. The effect of our sin is a separation from God, which the cross vividly displays as a sad separation into death. But, ironically, the healing of our sins comes from that very instrument of death—the cross. Not that we are Protestants and believe "once saved always saved" from Jesus's cross, rather, that we apply all the cross has to offer—partaking in the sacramental union, self-denial, embracing suffering, humility, and agape love.

As you stare at the massive crucifix in our sanctuary, the cross will communicate to you two vital concepts. The first is what your sin leads to. Sin is more than bad actions; it is a death of God's immortal life in your soul. Sin leads to a gruesome death. The other concept a crucifix will communicate to you is how much God loves you. That is not you on the cross; it is Jesus Christ—true God and true man. As Scott Hahn puts it, "Jesus paid a debt he didn't owe, because we owed a debt we couldn't pay." The cross reveals a love that is self-emptying and self-giving.

Yes, staring at suffering is incredibly challenging, and often we'd like to look away. But the suffering on the cross is unique. The suffering moment of the cross takes human torture and transforms it into divine love. So, look up at the crucifix and let this image be seared into your memory and into the way you live.

COMMUNITY NEWS



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

FATHER RYAN ENROLLING NOW

Applications are now open for the 2026-2027 school year! The Class of 2030 will be Father Ryan's 104th graduating class. At Father Ryan, "You Will be Known. You Will be Loved.®" Apply today at www.fatherryan.org/admissions. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Enrollment at admissions@fatherryan.org.

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



formed®

Pick of the Week: September 14



Pier Giorgio Frassati: If I Didn't Have Love

Frassati was a handsome, athletic and fun-loving young man from a rich, aristocratic Italian family who turned from a life of privilege to one devoted to working with the poor, suffering and homeless, and was a courageous witness of Christian faith and charity to many others. An avid mountain climber, Frassati exemplified a great love for life, nature and humanity. He was a leader of youth in Italy in Catholic social justice and charitable organizations, and is the patron saint of World Youth Days. He died of the polio virus at 24.

Watch this video and other great content for free. Visit FORMED.org and use our parish code: 37069.

YOUTH MINISTRY

RISE SCHEDULE

SUN
SEPT 14

RISE Night: Speakers Nevaeh Edwards "Biblical Femininity" & John Vargas "Virtuous Masculinity!"
Will begin at 6 PM!

SUN
SEPT 21

RISE Night: "Rise of the Guardians" Movie and discussion.
Zaxby's for dinner.

SUN
SEPT 28

RISE Night: Addy Prenares on "The Seven Deadly Sins and How They Present Themselves in High School."

SUN
OCT 5 & 12

NO Sessions
Happy Fall Break!

SUN
OCT 19

The Life of Saint Padre Pio: Man of Humility and Obedience

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.

REGISTER FOR RISE 2025-2026

Hey teens—ready to grow in faith, make new friends, and have a blast while doing it? RISE Youth Ministry is back, and we want you to be part of it! Whether you are new or returning, this is your place to connect with God, serve others, and discover the joy of living your Catholic faith. Don't miss out on the fun, food, and fellowship—register today by scanning the QR code, and let's RISE together!



Lectio Divina & Doughnuts

Join us every Tuesday evening. Please bring your Bible and journal!

Bible study begins at 6:30pm



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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fraines@stmatthewtn.org



Father Tien Tran
Associate Pastor
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Bill Forte
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE NEWS AND
INFORMATION FROM SAINT MATTHEW.

www.stmatthewtn.org

