

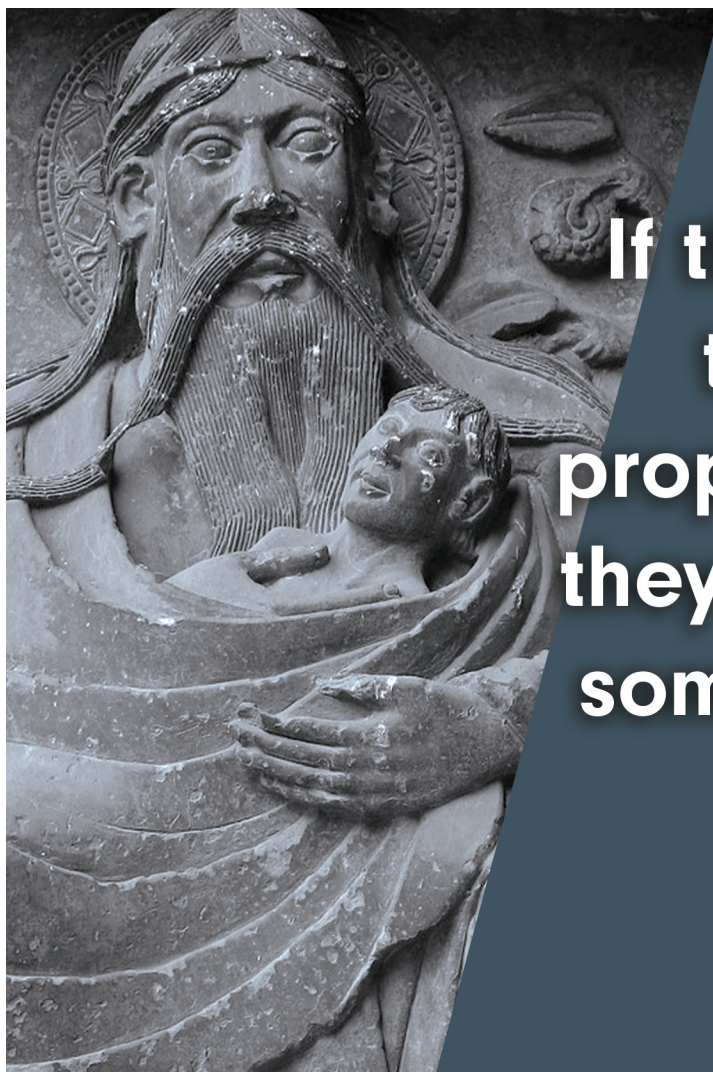


Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 + TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**If they will not listen
to Moses and the
prophets, neither will
they be persuaded if
someone should rise
from the dead.**

Luke 16:31

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

PASTOR:

Father Justin Raines

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

DEACON:

Bill Forte

SAINT MATTHEW NEWS

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

The Church Office will have limited availability this week as we hold our staff retreat. The office will close at noon on Tuesday, September 30, and remain closed all day Wednesday. Masses and the school are not affected.

OKTOBERFEST - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

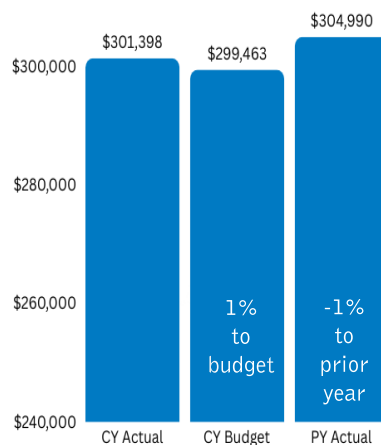
All are invited to the annual Men's Club Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 4. Enjoy a family-friendly evening of food, fellowship, and fun complete with live music! Included in a German-themed menu are brats, Reubens, and German chowder, along with hot dogs for the kids. Adults can enjoy free beer and wine. Oktoberfest is completely free, though RSVPs are appreciated to help with planning. Bring a dessert to share.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 21 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$25,949
SECOND COLLECTION: FEAST OF SAINT MATTHEW	\$115

YTD Summary



Second Collections

This Week:
St. Vincent de Paul

Next Week:
Building Maint. & Facility Improvements

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



Registered Parish Families: 1251

LITURGY SCHEDULE

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ Janice Willingham

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For The People Of Saint Matthew

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Dennis Riley

• Amos 6:1a, 4-7

• 1 Timothy 6:11-16

• Luke 16:19-31

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Saints Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Lucy Armour

• Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

• Luke 8:16-18

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Saint Jerome

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Ellen Wheat

• Zechariah 8:20-23

• Luke 9:51-56

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ Stephanie Sheehan

• Nehemiah 2:1-8

• Luke 9:57-62

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Souls in Purgatory

• Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12

• Matthew 18:1-5, 10

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Jim and Lee Dorough

• Baruch 1:15-22

• Luke 10:13-16

✦ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

Join the Passion of Christ Prayer Group this Sunday, September 28, 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.

SAINT MATTHEW MEN'S CLUB

Join the Men's Club for their monthly meeting this Thursday, October 2, at 7 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Enjoy a social evening with your fellow brothers while helping plan upcoming community events such as Oktoberfest and Breakfast with Santa.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Sign up and spend some quiet time with Jesus during First Friday Adoration on Friday, October 3. Adoration begins after 8 a.m. Mass and ends with benediction on Saturday morning at 8 a.m. Sign up for a 30-minute time slot at bit.ly/smcffaoct25.



NEW PARISHIONER RECEPTION

New to Saint Matthew? We would love to get to know you better and help you feel more connected to our parish family! Join us on Thursday, October 9, from 6–7 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center for a New Parishioner Reception. Meet our priests, connect with other new parishioners, and discover ways to get involved in parish life. Light refreshments will be served. Scan to RSVP.



FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

Saint Matthew is looking for volunteers to organize this year's Father Daughter dance. If you are interested in helping keep this great parish tradition going, please contact Colleen Curran at ccurran@stmatthewtn.org.

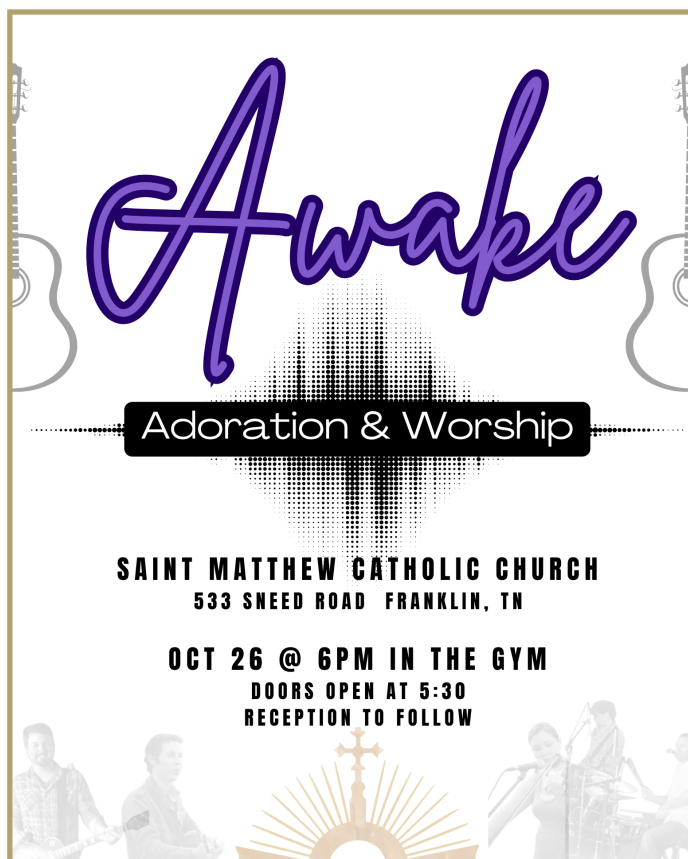
MASS LIVESTREAMING HAS RESUMED

School Masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 a.m., Saturday 5 p.m. Masses, and Sunday 8:30 a.m. Masses will be livestreamed through our Youtube Channel, [@SaintMatthewCatholicChurch](https://www.youtube.com/SaintMatthewCatholicChurch).



AWAKE RETURNS OCTOBER 26

Saint Matthew is excited to present another night of Adoration and music on Sunday, October 26, at 6 p.m. in the gym. The event is called "Awake" and is a call for renewal in our lives through Adoration, periods of silence, and beautiful music provided by a group of professional musicians. There will be a reception afterwards, with refreshments provided by several of our parish ministries. Please plan to attend and spend some time as a parish family with Jesus in prayer and song!





Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

I want to take a moment to thank the parents in our community this week. Over the past couple of weeks, I have witnessed parents going above and beyond in so many ways. Thank you to those who prepared meals for Feed the Staff. Thank you to those who dedicated countless hours to ensure all the recent school events ran smoothly, especially those who helped with Jubilee celebrations. Thank you as well to the parents who coach and guide our students in athletics and extracurriculars.

Saint Matthew thrives because of the generosity, dedication, and love of our parents. Please know of my continued prayers for each of you. Thank you for all that you do in making Saint Matthew such a wonderful community.

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION



**NOW
OPEN**

REGISTER NOW



Registration deadline is Oct. 8, 2025

TRIVIA NIGHT - NOVEMBER 8

Mark your calendars! The Saint Matthew Trivia Night, the Athletic Booster Club's annual fundraiser, will be held on November 8, 2025, at 6 p.m. Start thinking about your team of 8 players now! Team themes and costumes are encouraged.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATION

The altar flowers this weekend were donated by the Yopp Family in memory of Mikayla Yopp Honeycutt.



NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

Saint Matthew is launching a new youth ministry program for middle school students. The first event is on Sunday, October 26. More details to come.

SIGN UP TO SERVE COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS

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 are looking for families and individuals to sign up to pick up and serve doughnuts and make coffee. While simple, it does take 2–3 people per Mass to run smoothly. We can't make it happen without volunteers, so if your family would like to be part of making Community Sunday possible, use the QR code below to sign up. For more information, email Colleen Curran at ccurran@stmatthewtn.org.



MASS OF REMEMBRANCE - NOVEMBER 5

Saint Matthew will celebrate our annual Mass of Remembrance, commemorating the lives of those we lost over the past year, on Wednesday, November 5, at 7 p.m. If you lost a loved one over the past year (Nov. 2024 to present), email bereavement@stmatthew.org by Friday, October 31, to have their name included in this Mass. The Book of Remembrance will be in the Narthex from October 1-31 for any parishioners who would like to write in names of any loved ones who have passed away. Please make plans to attend this special service.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Clean out your closets and help the homeless with our Room In the Inn Ministry's annual Winter Coat Drive. Saint Matthew hosts guests from November through March, and your donations allow us to offer them warm attire to make it through the cold winter. Drop off your donations in the bins across from the sacristy through October 12. You can scan below to get involved, or volunteer with RITI this winter.

Winter COAT DRIVE
MEN'S CLOTHING ONLY PLEASE

ROOM IN THE INN

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- ✓ Warm Winter Coats (new & gently used)
- ✓ Athletic Shoes (new & gently used)
- ✓ Blue Jeans and Belts (new & gently used)
- ✓ Hoodies/Sweatpants/Sweatshirts (new & gently used)
- ✓ Winter Hats & Gloves (new & gently used)
- ✓ Boxer Briefs (new only)
- ✓ See Amazon Wish List for additional items

Donations accepted **October 1-12** in the Narthex.

RITI serves men in need twice a month from November through March.

Summer clothes, dress shirts, slacks, and women's attire are not needed

Questions?
Rhea Forte 615-828-5950
Mary Peters 615-308-1930

Scan to volunteer with RITI

GROTTO PAVERS AVAILABLE

Leave a lasting tribute on our parish grounds with a commemorative paver for our Path of Remembrance in the grotto. Each brick can be inscribed with up to 3 lines of 14 characters, making it a beautiful way to honor loved ones, celebrate special occasions, or express your faith. Donation: \$80 per brick. Order yours at bit.ly/smcpavers and become part of this meaningful pathway of memories.

WOMEN'S CLUB

Get your book now for the Women's Club annual Book Club meeting. The ladies will be joined in-person by best-selling author Jennifer Moorman who will discuss her book, *The Vanishing of Josephine Reynolds*. The meeting is Thursday, October 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center, but you are encouraged to order your book now and read it ahead of the meeting. Once purchased, you can pick up your copy from the church office.



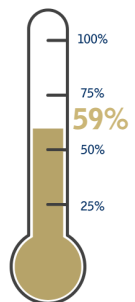
BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES

We are thrilled to share Saint Matthew has crossed the \$100,000 mark for this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries! Thank you to everyone who has given so generously. While this is a wonderful milestone, we still have more than 40% of our goal needed to reach our goal of \$171,000.

It is especially fitting that we reached this milestone last weekend, as Bishop Spalding visited in honor of Saint Matthew School's 25th anniversary. Just as the school has blossomed from a vision, the Bishop's Annual Appeal brings hope to so many for their future and the future of the church. Unlike most diocesan priests, the Bishop does not have a parish of his own. Instead, he relies on the generous support of his flock throughout the diocese to fund these vital ministries and programs.

Let's keep the momentum going and do our part to ensure Saint Matthew reaches our goal! If you have not yet made a gift, please prayerfully consider joining in today.

You can give online through the QR code, or use an envelope from the table across from the sacristy. Thank you for being a beacon of hope to those in need—"Hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5).



Saint Matthew 2025
Donations: \$100,892 (59%)
Goal: \$171,000

TONY'S REFLECTION

TWO MEN IN TWO DIRECTIONS

In today's Gospel reading, we witness two people that embody two stark paths. On one hand, you have a rich man that "was clothed with purple and fine linen." In the ancient world, this phrase would have cued up images of high living as purple was expensive apparel often associated with kingship or royalty. And on the other hand, we see a poor man covered with sores craving to eat the scraps at the rich man's gate. From this scene, we view a powerful ruler who rather than serves his fellow man, is ensconced on feasting through his sensual pleasures. Consequently, his selfish fixation results in an eternal sentence in which he experiences "a great chasm" fixed between himself and God.

We'll notice in the readings today that God calls Lazarus by name and knows Joseph in his suffering while the leaders and the rich man have no name. God isn't condemning the concept of being rich and powerful in itself, but their refusal to use it for good all the while being hyper-focused on their sensual pleasures. Here, we come to a common theme in that God raises the lowly to the heavenly banquet while the prideful and gluttonous are far removed. It remains ironic as the world is abuzz with the names of the rich and powerful. Yet to God, they remain anonymous if they don't use their status to point to God and serve others while refraining from merely serving themselves. On the other side of the spectrum, the average and poor are anonymous in the pop culture. Few people at Saint Matthew will be nationally known. Yet, God is showing us that even if the world doesn't know who you are, He does. He recognizes your "sores" of suffering and as long as you keep holding on to His teachings, you will eventually be in His presence just like Lazarus.

This story of the rich man and Lazarus portrays what each view inevitably leads to. Turning inward on sensual pleasures separates one from God, whereas those that suffer and seek Divine assistance find God in the end. These paths are realized at the point of death. We'll notice that the rich man, being spiritually blind his whole life, is frantically trying to fix his dilemma. However, the man who has his spiritual affairs in order shows no reason to panic as he approaches death.

The cultural air we breathe trains us to surround ourselves with comfort and luxury yet this inevitably leads to a life of debauchery. We must also take stock that given our culture's fixation on health and longevity, we generally stand frightened by the prospect of death and spend too much of our time and energy evading its inevitable occurrence. Yet the resurrection of Christ cries out to mankind that if we cling to Him who is Life, our death that separates our soul from our body will lead to our soul eventually uniting with Christ. Devout Christians should look forward to the day when they will see the Lord, and prepare for it every day by their way of life, by remaining in the state of grace, and by asking the Lord for the gift of perseverance in His love.

COMMUNITY NEWS

PRAY THE ROSARY IN OCTOBER

Pope Leo XIV requested this week for all Catholics to pray the rosary every day in October for God's gift of peace. The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is October 7, and the Church dedicates October as the month of the Holy Rosary. Please pray this beautiful devotion with faith and hope, trusting in Mary's intercession for peace in our world and in our hearts. A communal rosary is prayed following the 8 a.m. weekday Masses and the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. All are invited to join in the chapel.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The Nashville 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign began this week and runs through Sunday, November 2. To sign up for an hour of prayer, or to see the special events planned, visit 40daysforlife.com/en/nashville.



SPECIAL DIOCESAN JUBILEE MASSES

The Diocese of Nashville invites you to attend three special Masses next month as part of the Jubilee of Hope. All Masses will be celebrated by Bishop Spalding at the Cathedral of the Incarnation.

- White Mass for all healthcare professionals
Saturday, October 18, 5 p.m. (Feast of St. Luke)
- Red Mass for all legal professionals
Thursday, October 23, 12:10 p.m. (Feast of St. John of Capistrano)
- Queen of Families Mass for all those who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth, or child loss.
Sunday, October 26, 2:30 p.m.

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.

PRAYER CHAIN

Submit special prayer requests and a dedicated group of Saint Matthew prayer warriors will pray for your intention. Visit bit.ly/SMCPrayerChain to submit or receive the requests.



YOUTH MINISTRY

THANK YOU AND GOODBYE

Dear Saint Matthew Families,

This is not an easy message to write, nor was it something I ever anticipated sharing—but as we know, it is often the way in which our Heavenly Father speaks.

It is with a heavy heart that I share my time at Saint Matthew is ending. This decision has not been easy, as I have truly cherished every moment spent here, getting to know your incredible children and building relationships with all of you has been an immense blessing in my life.

My husband has accepted a new job in Ohio and we are relocating in October. I was able to share this news with the students who were present last Sunday, and I was deeply moved by the love and kindness they showed me. It was a beautiful reminder of the special community we have here.

God is at work at Saint Matthew, and I am confident that He will continue to guide and bless this wonderful parish. The mission of this program is so important—our youth are truly the future of the Catholic Church. Their journey will be supported with continued love and faith. Plans are already in place to ensure there is no loss of service with our RISE program until a new Director of Youth Ministry starts.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your support, prayers, and the warm welcome you have extended to me during my time here. It has been an honor and a joy to walk alongside you.

With Gratitude and Love,
Francesca McCauley

RISE SCHEDULE

**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

**SUN
OCT 26**


**Special RISE Night- Parents Invited!
Human Life presented by guest speaker Samantha Funderlich.
See info below for more details.**

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.



Lectio Divina & Doughnuts

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



Bible study begins at 6:30 p.m.
Meet in the Church Kitchen


A SPECIAL NIGHT FOR PARENTS AND TEENS: HUMAN LIFE ON OCTOBER 26

All teens and parents are invited to *Human Life*, a special presentation from Turning Point USA. We encourage parents to attend alongside their children for this meaningful evening of personal enrichment and spiritual growth, with a focus on the dignity of human life from the moment of conception backed by science and the Bible. Join us on Sunday, October 26, at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. Dinner will be provided, so please RSVP using the QR code. We look forward to seeing you there!



HUMAN LIFE

BY DR. WILLIAM LILE



**ST. MATTHEW
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
535 SNEED RD W, FRANKLIN, TN 37069
10/26 | 5:30 PM
Equip yourself with scientific
knowledge and biblical
principles to take a stand for
the protection of the pre-born!



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

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

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