



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

NOVEMBER 23, 2025 + SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



The Solemnity of **JESUS CHRIST** *King of the Universe*



NORMAL WEEKLY 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.

*Thanksgiving Mass is at 9 a.m. Thursday

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

PARISH SPOTLIGHT

THANKSGIVING MASS & OFFICE CLOSURE

Mass on Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 27, will be celebrated at 9 a.m. in the Church. The church and school offices will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 26 through Friday, Nov. 28. Enjoy the holiday!

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Save the date for the Saint Matthew Advent Penance Service. This year's Penance Service will be on Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. Stop by and prepare your soul for the upcoming Christmas season.



LITURGY SCHEDULE

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ Bruce Dawson

8:30 a.m. Mass

✠ For the People of Saint Matthew

11:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Linda McDougal

• 2 Samuel 5:1-3

• Colossians 1:12-20

• Luke 23:35-43

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Saint Andrew Dũng-Lạc, and Companions

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ For Valerie Stewart

• Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20

• Luke 21:1-4

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Steve Pepper

• Daniel 2:31-45

• Luke 21:5-11

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ For Gina Miller

• Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28

• Luke 21:12-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Thanksgiving Day

9:00 a.m. Mass

✠ For the People of Saint Matthew

• Sirach 50:22-24

• 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

• Luke 17:11-19

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ James Gill

• Daniel 7:2-14

• Luke 21:29-33

✠ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*

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



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, Dec. 24

4 p.m.

4:15 p.m. (gym)

6:30 p.m.

10 p.m.*

Christmas Day

Thursday, Dec. 25

10 a.m.*

*Incense will be used at these Masses

We will not have weekly adoration, confession, or 7 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, nor 8 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day.

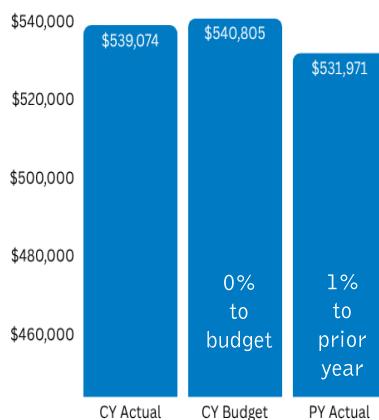


STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 16 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	46,704
SECOND COLLECTION: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	\$175

YTD Summary



Visiting, new, or looking to give?

Scan to make a gift now, or visit

stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



Second Collections

This Week:

Room In The Inn

Next Week:

American Military Services

Registered Parish Families: 1265

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus #12012 invite you to help those with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Donations will be collected after all Masses next weekend, Nov. 22 & 23. This is the Council's annual KIND Charities fundraiser. Receive a Tootsie Roll as a token of gratitude for your support.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PAGEANT

Today is your last chance to register your children now for the Saint Matthew Children's Nativity Pageant. All parish children ages 4-14 are invited to participate. Registration is free. The first practice is today, **Sunday, Nov. 23**, following 11 a.m. Mass. The Nativity Pageant is on Saturday, Dec. 13. Scan to register your child and see the practice schedule.



ADVENT WREATH MAKING - NOV. 30

Begin Advent with a special family tradition! Join the St. Gianna Circle Mothers Ministry for their annual Family Advent Wreath Making event on Sunday, Nov. 30, at noon in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Each family creates a wreath to take home, and children can make ornaments for residents of NHC Place at the Trace. Enjoy desserts, appetizers, and drinks as a community. A \$25 per family donation is appreciated to help cover supplies.



CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

The Saint Matthew Christmas toy drive is happening now through Monday, Dec. 1. Your donation of **new, unwrapped toys** will go to the GraceWorks Manger Program, which supports local families in Williamson County. The parents will "shop" for their children who otherwise may not get Christmas presents. Place your donations in the bins in the narthex or school lobby. Graceworks has shared they are particularly low on books for children ages 0-13.

You can also get involved with the Manger program by **volunteering** at our assigned service date (Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-noon), or by **sponsoring a Holiday Food Box** for a family in need (delivery date Dec. 13 or 14). Thank you to everyone who signed up for a food box. While we have filled our initial commitment, if you would still like to put together a food box, email Kelly Jensen at kellyannejensen1@gmail.com. Only a few spots remain for volunteering. Scan the QR code to learn more about each opportunity. Thank you for bringing joy to families this Christmas season!



MEN'S SCHOLA - 11 A.M. NOV. 30

Next Sunday, the Men's Schola will be singing at 11 a.m. Mass. This choir sings traditional hymns of the church, often in Gregorian chant and in Latin.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Saint Matthew is hosting an Advent Bible Study on Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center from Dec. 4 to Dec. 18. Contact Tony Jesse, tjesse@stmatthewtn.org, with any questions.





Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

Throughout this past week, Saint Matthew students have been giving thanks for the many gifts and blessings they have received. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, our students have spent time in prayer to give thanks for all the Lord has provided to them. This weekend, our school is taking many of our 8th grade students to Sneedville, TN, for a service-learning experience, and I am blessed to join them. The Sneedville trip is always such a great opportunity for our 8th graders to give back to another community, and I firmly believe it helps our students to grow in their service to others. I am certain there will be stories to share about our experiences, so please keep a look out in the near future. As you read this on Sunday, we will be traveling back to Nashville. Please pray for our safe return and for all those we served this weekend.



GETTING INVOLVED AT SAINT MATTHEW

Last Sunday, Father Raines' homily offered a beautiful challenge: to take the next step in living out our faith. Many parishioners have already responded, asking about ways to get more involved here at Saint Matthew. On the following page, you will find a list of the many ministries, organizations, and opportunities available in our parish community.

To learn more about any ministry, simply scan the QR code or visit our ministries page at stmatthewtn.org/church/ministries/. In addition to a longer description, you will also find the contact information for the ministry or additional links to discover more. You may also reach out to the church office with any questions.

Thank you for sharing and living the faith and making Saint Matthew such a thriving, Christ-filled community.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Family Service Ministry will be caroling at NHC Place at the Trace on Monday, Dec. 8, at 3:30 p.m. Bring the whole family and spread some holiday cheer to the residents there! All voices are welcome. Let us know you are coming at bit.ly/fsmcaroling25.

2026-2027 SCHOOL APPLICATION OPEN NOW

Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are now available on the Saint Matthew School Website. The priority application deadline is **Friday, Dec. 12**. Visit the Admissions page for more information. Email Holly Ledieu at hledieu@stmatthewtn.org with any questions. **Current SMS students do not need to re-apply at this time. Re-enrollment will take place in January.**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Follow Saint Matthew to deepen your Catholic faith on your favorite social media platform! Find us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with everything happening here on Sneed Road.



@stmatthewtn



@stmatthewschooltn



@stmatthewtn

FREE

SAINT MATTHEW MEN'S CLUB

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



Saturday, Dec. 13, 9-11 a.m.
Cohan-Hansom Building
RSVPs appreciated



Religious Education & Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation Offers bible studies, book clubs, monthly newsletter, speaker series, plus other talks and events

Bible Study Meets weekly on Thursdays at 1 p.m. for in-depth studies on scripture

Book Clubs A daytime and evening option that meet once per month

Forge (6th-8th) Youth ministry program specifically designed to share Christ with our middle school students

Ignite Youth Ministry (7th-8th) R.E. program for Confirmation prep & forming kids into disciples of Christ

O.C.I.A. Program to welcome new members into the Church. Sponsors accompany candidates on this journey

RISE Youth Ministry (HS) Helping teens grow their relationship with Jesus through faith, fun, and food

Religious Education (PreK-6th) Offers knowledge, experience, and skills necessary to become disciples of Jesus. R.E. also includes the summer programs **Totus Tuus (1st-6th & 7th-12th)** and **VBS (PreK&K)**

Spiritual

First Friday Adoration Special opportunity for prayer on the first Friday of each month

Passion of Christ Prayer Group Meets monthly and prays for those who have left the Church

Prayer Chain Receives special prayer intentions via email

Seven Sisters Apostolate Prays a holy hour each day with the sole intention of our priests

Saint Joseph's Men Inspired by St. Joseph, engages in topics and spiritual exercised to grow as Catholic men

That Man Is You! Addressing the pressures men face in today's culture, especially as husbands and fathers

Liturgical

A/V Ministry Provides live streaming for Masses and other special events

Altar Servers Assist the priest and deacon during Masses and other liturgical events

Art & Environment Decorates the church for liturgical seasons

Bereavement Ministry Assists with funerals and funeral luncheons

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Distribute the Blessed Sacrament during Mass

Homebound Ministry E.M.H.C. members trained to bring Holy Communion to those unable to attend Mass

Hospitality Greet those coming into Mass, collect offertory, and pass out bulletins

Lectors Proclaim the word of God during Mass

Masters of Ceremony Men who assist priests and deacons at Mass to ensure it runs smoothly

Martha Ministry Group of women who provide great care and respect for all linens used during the Mass

Music Ministries Includes choirs for each Mass, childrens choirs, a handbell choir, and schola

Sacristans Prepare the church and chapel for all liturgies

Social Action & Outreach

Feed the Priests Provides a homecooked meal for our priests

Haiti Ministry Supports our sister parish, Our Lady of Miracles, in Gobert, Haiti

Knights of Columbus Fraternal Catholic men's organization devoted to charity, unity, and patriotism.

Loaves & Fishes Cooks and serves a warm meal for Nashville's homeless on the first Wednesday of each month

Prayer Shawl Ministry Creates hand-crafted prayer shawls for people facing grief, illness, or other hardships

Respect for Life A ministry dedicated to respecting the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death

Room In the Inn Offers homeless men a safe, warm place to sleep, shower, and be fed twice a month in the winter

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Provides food and financial assistance to those struggling in the community

Saint Matthew School

There are numerous ways to volunteer with Saint Matthew School; inquire with Lori Bellante or Grace Wright

Family Life

Boy Scouts (6th-12th) Camping, adventures, leadership, and service. Helping boys become respectable men

Community Sundays Volunteers serve doughnuts and coffee as the community gathers after Sunday Masses

Cub Scouts (K-5th) Open to boys and girls. Family-centered activities include camping and service projects

Family Service Ministry Provides opportunities for whole families to serve, regardless of age or ability

Girl Scouts Girls (K-5 & 6-8) Girls learn new skills, earn badges, and explore the world around them

Lunch Bunch Social program for our senior parishioners including lunch and bingo

Men's Club Leads parish-wide community events such as Oktoberfest, Fish Fries and more

St. Gianna Circle Designed for mothers, meets monthly and leads social events for parents and kids

Women's Club An event-drive, community-oriented ministry, focused on fun and female fellowship

TONY'S REFLECTION

LONG LIVE CHRIST THE KING

Some years ago, a movie about the struggle for religious freedom among Catholics in Mexico was released, titled "For Greater Glory." The movie tells the story of how the Communist government in Mexico was violently removing the Catholic faith from the people. The rallying cry of the persecuted Mexican believers was "Viva Cristo Rey!" "Long Live Christ the King!" For many of them, these were the last words out of their mouths before their violent deaths. Here, faithful men boldly proclaimed that Christ was King of the World, King of their lives, in the face of persecution and their looming death.

Today, we celebrate the Kingship of Christ. This feast proclaims what the Church has always believed: that Jesus Christ is not only our Savior but also our King, reigning now and reigning forever. The feast was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI in response to the social, political, and cultural upheaval that followed World War I. In the years after the war, Europe was fractured—economies had collapsed, and the social landscape was teetering. As a result, people were turning away from traditional institutions, including the Church. Secular ideologies were gaining influence, and dictators like Mussolini, Stalin, and Hitler were beginning to rise. Pius XI recognized that people were placing their hope in political figures and ideologies, rather than in God. In response, he wrote the encyclical *Quas Primas* and established the Feast of Christ the King. His goal was to remind the faithful that Christ's authority extends beyond private religious devotion and into every part of our lives—personal, political, and societal. Christ is not merely King of our hearts; He is King of all creation.

Unlike the vast majority of human kings, Christ the King came to give up His life for His followers rather than protect it. In our gospel reading, the people have it backwards. They claim if He is truly King, God will save Him from death on the cross. So, they taunt Him. What they don't understand is that this King didn't come to save Himself, but to save them—and us. By the blood of His cross, Jesus reveals His Kingship—not in protecting His own life, but in offering it as a ransom for ours.

Interestingly, while one criminal dared Christ to save Himself, the other criminal humbled himself and cried out for repentance. Notice, he rebuked his fellow inmate and said, "Do you not fear God?" The good thief shows us how we are to approach Jesus—with reverence all the while confessing our sins and pleading for His salvation. The penitent thief, known through tradition as St. Dismas, then recognized Christ's kingship when he declared, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

When we speak of Christ as King, we mean that He holds authority over all things, over nations and history, and over our minds, wills, and hearts. His kingship is not based on conquest or coercion, but on sacrificial love. Christ reigns not from a golden throne, but from the cross; His crown made of thorns.

Let us allow the title Christ as King to penetrate our psychology and permit Him to rule over us in every way.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Spend some quiet time with Jesus during our First Friday Adoration on Friday, Dec. 5. Adoration begins after 8 a.m. Mass and ends with benediction on Saturday at 8 a.m. Sign up for your time slot at bit.ly/smcffadec25.



DIACONATE ORDINATION & RECEPTIONS

All are invited to attend the Diaconate Ordinations for the Diocese of Nashville on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 10 a.m. at Sagrado Corazón Church inside the Catholic Pastoral Center. Among those being ordained are parishioner Dan Ott to the permanent diaconate, and James Grossheim as a transitional deacon.

These two men will celebrate their first Masses as deacons on Sunday, Dec. 21. Dan Ott will preach at the 8:30 a.m. Mass, and James Grossheim will preach at the 11 a.m. Mass. Join us for celebratory receptions for their ordinations in the Cohan-Hansom Building after their respective Masses.

Saint Matthew Women's Club

GIFT DASH

Dinner & Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 16 at 6 p.m.
Cohan-Hansom Building

Register online: bit.ly/smcgiftdash25

TURKEY TROT

Support our friends at Graceworks by running in their annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. They have a 10K, 5K, and a kid's Turkey Chase available. Visit bit.ly/gwtrot25 for more information and to register.



MATT MAHER & SARAH KROGER BENEFIT CONCERT

Join Matt Maher and Sarah Kroger this Advent season on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Church. This special night of worship will prepare your heart for the coming of Christ through music, prayer, and reflection. Tickets are on sale now! Doors open at 6 p.m. The VIP experience includes early entry at 5:30 p.m. and a Q/A with Matt and Sarah. Seating is first come, first serve within each section. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Advancement of Catholic Education (ACE) endowment fund, which was established in 1992 to support Catholic education in Nashville.



ADVENT RETREAT

Mothers of young children and expecting mothers are invited to join the Saint Ann Gianna's Group for a morning of reflection, community, and prayer on Saturday, Dec. 13, at Saint Ann Catholic Church. The retreat begins with Mass at 8:30 a.m. and ends with Eucharistic Adoration from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Arrive early for confession from 7-7:40 a.m. in the church or for personal prayer. The cost is \$20 and includes brunch. Register at bit.ly/ggadvent25.



Saint Matthew BAAM 2025
Donations: \$116,163 (68%)
Goal: \$171,000

RISE SCHEDULE

SUN
NOV 23

Q&A RISE Night
 You've got questions, we've got answers! All questions welcome.

SUN
NOV 30

NO RISE NIGHT
 Enjoy Thanksgiving break with your family!

SUN
DEC 7

MARY!
 Guest Speaker Dr. Alex Gotay Jr. will be joining us for a special evening on our Blessed Mother.

SUN
DEC 14

CHRISTMAS PARTY!
 More details to come, but you won't want to miss it.

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

JOIN US TONIGHT!

Got questions? Bring them to RISE! Michaela and the core team are taking questions on anything and everything: faith, life, the Church, or whatever is on your mind. All teens are invited. Dinner is provided.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RISE

We are looking for helping hands to make RISE a success! We need volunteers to assist with meal preparation, serving, and clean-up for youth nights, as well as those interested in joining the RISE Core Team—a group of adults who help guide and support our teens in their faith.

Whether you can help once a month or more often, your support makes a difference!

If you would like to learn more or get involved, please contact Michaela Miller, our Director of Youth Ministry, whose contact information is below.



MICHAELA MILLER
Director of Youth Ministry
mmiller@stmatthewtn.org
 615-550-5102



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

