




Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

NOVEMBER 30, 2025 + FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**“So too, you also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come.”
Matthew 24:44**

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

PARISH SPOTLIGHT

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.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday, Dec. 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. We will celebrate with Masses at 8 a.m. (all-school), noon, and 7 p.m. Incense will be used at 7 p.m. Mass.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Help beautify the church at Christmas by supporting the Christmas Flower Memorials fund. Gifts can be made in memory of, or in celebration of, loved ones. Scan to donate or use your corresponding church envelope. Donations must be received by **Wednesday, Dec. 17**, to be recognized in print at Christmas.



CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

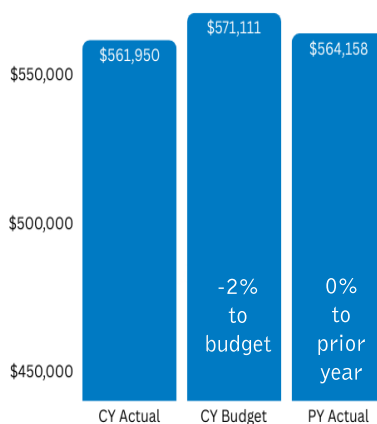
The Saint Matthew Christmas toy drive ends tomorrow, Monday, Dec. 1. Your donation of **new, unwrapped toys** benefits the GraceWorks Manger Program, which supports local families in Williamson County. The parents will “shop” for their children who otherwise may not get Christmas presents. Place your donations in the bins in the narthex or school lobby. Graceworks has shared they are particularly low on books for children ages 0-13. **Pickup is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 4**, so get your donations in now.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 23 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$22,371
SECOND COLLECTION: ROOM IN THE INN	\$784

YTD Summary



Visiting, new, or looking to give?
Scan to make a gift now, or visit
stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



Second Collections

This Week:

Archdiocese for the Military Services

Next Week:

Building Maint. & Facility Improvements

Registered Parish Families: 1263



LITURGY SCHEDULE

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ Edgar Davie

8:30 a.m. Mass

✠ For Barbara Reese

11:00 a.m. Mass

✠ For the People of Saint Matthew

• Isaiah 2:1-5

• Romans 13:11-14

• Matthew 24:37-44

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Paula Gilles Fischer

• Isaiah 4:2-6

• Matthew 8:5-11

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ For Wanda Rosa

• Isaiah 11:1-10

• Luke 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Saint Francis Xavier

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ Victor Donisi

• Isaiah 25:6-10a

• Matthew 15:29-37

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ For Austin Rappe and Katie Suchanick

• Isaiah 26:1-6

• Matthew 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Bob and Jessie Butler

• Isaiah 29:17-24

• Matthew 9:27-31

✠ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*

To RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,
VISIT [BIT.LY/SMCMASSINTENTION](https://bit.ly/smcMASSINTENTION)

COME PRAY THE ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL
FOLLOWING 8 A.M. WEEKDAY MASSES
AND 8:30 A.M. SUNDAY MASS.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

The Saint Matthew Advent Penance Service is this Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. Be sure to stop by and prepare your soul for the upcoming Christmas season.

25 VERSES FOR 25 DAYS

This Advent, we invite you to journey with us through 25 Old Testament verses that foretell the coming of the Messiah. Just as God's people once waited in hopeful anticipation, we, too, are called to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. With these verses, may you learn to wait, to prepare, and to welcome Him much like those before his arrival.

Bookmarks are available in the Narthex to help you follow along at home. A short reflection will be posted daily on our Facebook and Instagram pages to help you further enter more deeply into the season and embrace the promise of His arrival.

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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Family Service Ministry is 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! RSVP at bit.ly/fsmcaroling25.

**MOTHER-DAUGHTER
CHRISTMAS SLEEP UNDER!**
(No overnight - just all the fun!)

❄️ Movie ❄️ Snacks ❄️ Art ❄️ Fun ❄️

Friday, Dec. 5, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Cohan-Hansom Building

Register Here



FREE

SAINT MATTHEW MEN'S CLUB
**BREAKFAST
WITH
SANTA**

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13
Cohan-Hansom Building
RSVPs appreciated



CHURCH DECORATING

The Saint Matthew Arts & Environment Ministry needs volunteers to help decorate the church in preparation of Christmas. There are times on Dec. 21, 22, and 23. Scan the QR for times and details. All supplies are provided. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 24 4:15 p.m. (gym)
6:30 p.m.
10 p.m.*

Christmas Day 10 a.m.*
Thursday, Dec. 25

*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.



CHRISTMAS MASS MUSIC

4 p.m. - Full choir, organ/piano and violin. A full choir program with scripture readings before Mass begins at 3:15 p.m.
4:15 p.m. - Cantor and keyboard in the gym.
6:30 p.m. - Liturgy Choir with the organ. Musical prelude begins at 6:20 p.m.
10 p.m. - Choir, organ, and violin. Musical prelude begins at 9:40 p.m.
10 a.m. - Cantor, organ, violin. Musical prelude at 9:40 a.m.



Our 8th grade service trip to Sneedville this past weekend was a tremendous success. Our students helped load Thanksgiving meals for many in the community, painted a local building, and even delivered groceries and gas to a family in need. They took time visiting with those they served as well, listening to their stories. Through these experiences, our 8th graders gained a deeper understanding of service and the real impact their actions can have on others. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to accompany them on this meaningful trip.

Although we only had a short week of school this week, we dedicated our time to giving thanks for all that the Lord has provided. As we enter the season of Advent, we offer a special prayer for our entire SMS community.

LUNCH BUNCH TUESDAY, DEC. 9

All parish seniors are invited to join us for Lunch Bunch, a monthly event featuring lunch, bingo, and fellowship. Our next Lunch Bunch is on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at noon in the narthex. Please email Alex Halfmann at ahalfmann@stmatthewtn.org if you are interested in attending. The cost is \$12, and everyone brings a gift for the prize table valued around \$10. Lunch is provided and there will be a Christmas theme. Festive attire encouraged!



Children's Nativity Pageant SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 6 P.M.




Save the Date!



Christmas In the Air!
Saint Matthew Middle School Band and Choir Concert
December 1, 2025 ~ 6:30 p.m.



GIFT DASH

Dinner & Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 16 at 6 p.m.
Cohan-Hansom Building
Register online: bit.ly/smcgiftdash25





MINISTRY NEWS

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.**

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



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES

As we approach the end of the year, please consider including the Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries in your charitable giving. The Appeal supports seminarians, faith formation, outreach to those in need, and many ministries that directly impact lives here at Saint Matthew and throughout the Diocese. Your generosity extends the mission of the Church and shares Christ's hope with countless people.

Our parish remains \$50,000+ short of reaching our \$171,000 goal, and we need your help to close that gap. If you have not yet made a gift, or if you are able to make an additional contribution, your support ensures we fully participate in this important work. Thank you for your generosity and for strengthening the Church across Middle Tennessee.

formed®


Pick of the Week: November 30



How To Advent

Advent sometimes just feels like the time that is sandwiched between Thanksgiving and Christmas – life is hectic with Christmas shopping, parties, the school year ending, and so much more. But as Catholics – we really ought to enter into this season of joyful anticipation with purpose and intention! In *How to Advent*, we will discover the rich traditions that mark this season and how they aid us in preparing our hearts for the birth of the child Jesus at Christmas. Guided by priests, religious, professors, and a charismatic host, you will gain practical tips and spiritual reflections on the practices of the Advent calendar, Advent wreath, Jesse tree, and nativity scene. There are four 12-15 minute episodes.

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



HOPE

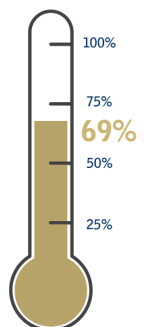
does not disappoint

ROMANS 5:5

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES



Saint Matthew 2025
Donations: \$117,663 (69%)
Goal: \$171,000



TONY'S REFLECTION

ALWAYS BE PREPARED

Any prominent athlete or musician can vouch that much of their time and effort is dedicated to constantly preparing for their big event. Successful people instinctively hone in on the key aspects of prep work to achieve their goals.

As the adage goes, "Success is 90% preparation and only 10% perspiration." Motivational speaker Zig Ziglar famously said, "Success is when preparation meets opportunity." Conversely, if people are lax in preparation, they'll inevitably experience their demise. The Harvard Business Review reports the primary reason new products fail is a lack of preparation.

In short, preparation can either make or break you. Therefore, it behooves one to not casually dismiss the significance of preparation. The same concept applies in the spiritual realm. This is why Jesus's words at the beginning of Advent highlight a constant vigilance to be ready. Being consumed in the ruckus of our fast-paced lives, our spiritual senses tend to become muddled up and see no glaring need for repentance. At this stage, Jesus warns that His spiritual reality will then catch us off guard. Faced with this dilemma, Jesus cautions us to always be on guard and remove complacency with a sense of holy urgency.

When Isaiah was writing in the 700s BC, northern Israel was near to being annihilated, and the Assyrians had reduced southern Judah to a small fragment of the kingdom of David. In Jerusalem itself, sincere worshipers of God were diminished, and the culture was dominated by "cultural" Yahwism mixed with paganism. It was a discouraging period for those wholly devoted to God, who found themselves outnumbered, powerless, and culturally impotent in the face of forces that seemed ready to extinguish any witness to the true God. Yet, during this bleak time Isaiah sees a vision of hope. In a similar vein, today's secular worldview creates a sterile atmosphere where the faithful cannot muster the joy and courage to raise enough children to replace themselves. Yet, Advent has us focus our attention on this coming hope by preparing for it.

Throughout the Scriptures, spiritual vigor is described as "wakefulness" or "alertness," whereas turning aside from God to seek pleasure in this present life is described as "sleep" or "drunkenness." Jesus uses the warning of the flood to Noah as a type of the end of the age—and reminds us to do what Noah did—prepare for it. As Jesus cautions, "They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage." Here, Jesus invokes images of sensual indulgence alluding that most people will be distracted with pleasure-seeking in this life when the end comes. Knowing all this, one must segue into preparation mode.

Where preparation abounds, it will always stir one into a mission. As Advent begins, let us reflect upon how ready we are for Jesus's coming into our lives, coming to us this Christmas, and coming to us directly in the Eucharist. If you find you are not as prepared for Jesus as you'd like to be, make this Advent a time when you get your soul ready through prayer, spiritual exercises, reflection, and attentiveness to Him in the Mass.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIACONATE ORDINATION & RECEPTIONS

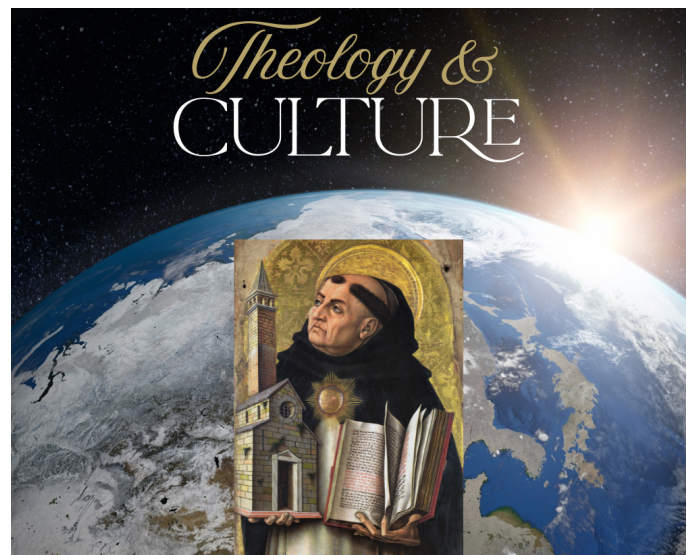
All are invited to attend the Diaconate Ordinations for the Diocese of Nashville on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 10 a.m. at Sagrado Corazón Church inside the Catholic Pastoral Center. Among those being ordained are parishioner Dan Ott to the permanent diaconate, and James Grossheim as a transitional deacon.

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.

THEOLOGY & CULTURE SERIES

Join us in the new year for *Theology & Culture*, a formation series exploring where our Catholic faith intersects with the world around us—and how these connections shape the way we live, think, and engage with modern culture. The series will meet between the Masses (9:45–10:45 a.m.) in the Parish Conference Center. *Theology & Culture* will meet each Sunday in January 2026. It will then have monthly sessions beginning in February.

Speakers will include Father Raines, Tony Jesse, and James Grossheim, with topics and exact speaker dates to be announced soon. Come discover how faith and culture meet—and how that meeting point can transform our daily lives.



IN THE COMMUNITY

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 supports 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.



Faith & Family

the Center of It All

Dinner & Inspiration with **MATT BIRK**
NFL Man of the Year, Super Bowl Champ, ALL-Pro Center and Devout Catholic



SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
 6:15 pm
 Cathedral's Fleming Center



YOUTH MINISTRY

RISE SCHEDULE

**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!
 Celebrate this great season with your RISE family. You won't want to miss it.

**SUN
DEC 21**

CHRISTMAS CAROLING
 Spreading Christmas Joy to those who are suffering. More details and signup will be available in December.

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.

GUEST SPEAKER NEXT WEEKEND

On Monday, Dec. 8, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. In honor of this great feast, we will be joined by a dynamic guest speaker, Dr. Alex Gotay, a.k.a. Dr. G, who will lead us in a special evening on our Blessed Mother.

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

PASTORAL STAFF



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE NEWS AND
INFORMATION FROM SAINT MATTHEW.

www.stmatthewtn.org

