



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

NOVEMBER 9, 2025 + THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

**“If anyone destroys
God's temple,
God will destroy
that person;
for the temple of God,
which you are, is holy.”**

1 Cor 3:17



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

LIGHTING PROJECT COMPLETE

Our renovation and lighting project turned out very well. It has done a lot to enhance the beauty of our church. That beauty helps us lift up our minds and hearts to God in prayer and in contemplation of him. I want to give thanks to God for the successful completion of the project, and to thank in a special way Tom Connor, Dave Lefevre, Steve Maher, Debbie Sloan, and all those who worked so hard to bring this project from start to finish. I also want to thank all the members of Saint Matthew parish for your generosity, which made this project possible. This is another sign of the way that God is blessing our growing community. - Father Justin Raines



LITURGY SCHEDULE

THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ Jeanne Lawson

8:30 a.m. Mass

✠ For the People of Saint Matthew

11:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Stephanie Sheehan

• Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

• 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17

• John 2:13-22

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Saint Leo the Great

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Philip Sheehan

• Wisdom 1:1-7

• Luke 17:1-6

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Saint Martin of Tours

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Annette Deatherage

• Wisdom 2:23-3:9

• Luke 17:7-10

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Saint Josaphat

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ Tim & Dixie Lee Butler

• Wisdom 6:1-11

• Luke 17:11-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Martin Crowley

• Wisdom 7:22b-8:1

• Luke 17:20-25

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ For Kathleen Vidito

• Wisdom 13:1-9

• Luke 17:26-37

✠ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*

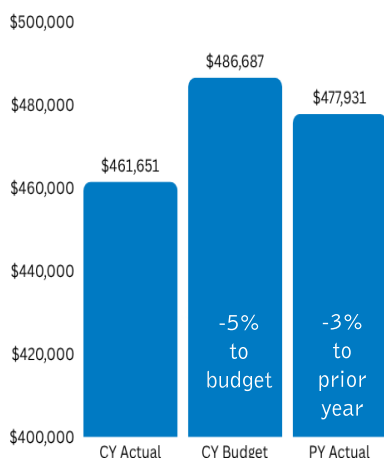
*To RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,
VISIT BIT.LY/SMCMASSINTENTION*

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 2 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$40,726
SECOND COLLECTION: BUILDING MAINT. & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS	\$1,059

YTD Summary



Second Collections

This Week:
Charity & Outreach
Priesthood Sunday

Next Week:
Human Development

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



Registered Parish Families: 1264

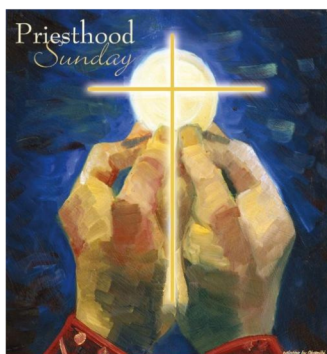
HONORING PARISH VETERANS

All parish veterans, active duty members, and their family members are invited to attend a special Veterans Day celebration by our SMS 5th graders on Monday, Nov. 10, at 8:15 a.m. in the gym. Use the QR code to register or submit the names of veterans who are unable to attend so that we can pray for them. A light reception will follow. The registration form is open through, Sunday, Nov. 9.



PRAY FOR PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

We invite you to celebrate Priesthood Sunday this weekend. It is a time to honor our priests without whom we would not have Mass and the sacraments. Here is a prayer that can be said for Father Raines, Father Tran, and all priests. All are encouraged to pray it together as a family.



Prayer for Priests

O Heavenly Father, on this Priesthood Sunday, hear our humble prayers on behalf of all priests who serve our parish, past, present, and future. We thank you for their selfless ministry. Relying on your almighty power and believing in Christ who called them to share in His priesthood, may they devote themselves to their ministry with complete trust. Strengthen them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and help them to serve with joy. Through them, may your Word be proclaimed, and may the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, be faithfully administered and received. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase during their priestly life. Amen.



Forge Middle School Ministry Bible Bites

Come for doughnuts, stay for God's word!

Mondays 3:15 - 4 p.m.
Nov. 10 - Dec. 15
Parish Conference Center



Led by our
Propaedeutic
Seminarians

Open to ALL parish middle schoolers! SMS students MUST register to be dismissed directly from school.



SUPPORT BOY SCOUT TROOP 226 CHRISTMAS WREATH FUNDRAISER



Pickup at Nov. 29 & 30 Masses.
For alternate delivery options email troop226@stmatthewtn.org



Order
Deadline:
Sunday,
Nov. 9



SAINT MATTHEW BLOOD DRIVE



NOVEMBER 16

Cohan-Hansom Building
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Paint Along



Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m.
Cohan-Hansom Building



\$15/person



Led by:
Niki Antonini



Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

This week we celebrated a fun tradition here at SMS, 1st Grade Saint Reports! Paired near the Feast of All Saints, our first graders spend many weeks preparing for this special moment. They practice at school and they practice at home, they create costumes, and they learn a great deal about their chosen saint. On the day of the reports, it is always so much fun hearing the students take pride in their saints as they present to their classmates, parents, and teachers. The joy the students have after finishing their saint report is infectious. I know this is a treasured school event many look forward to each year. It is a beautiful reminder that we are one church, united with the saints in heaven and one another here on earth.



SAINT MATTHEW MARKET - NOVEMBER 16

Get a head start on your Christmas shopping, pick up something crafty for your home, or enjoy some delicious homemade baked goods. Be sure to stop by the Saint Matthew Market next Sunday!



NATIVITY PAGEANT REGISTRATION

Register your children now for the Saint Matthew Children's Nativity Pageant. All children ages 4-14 are invited to participate. Registration is free, but must be completed prior to the first practice, on **Sunday, Nov. 23**, following 11 a.m. Mass. The Pageant is Saturday, Dec. 13. Scan to register.



Children's Nativity Pageant

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 6 P.M.



FAMILY ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Begin Advent with a special family tradition! Join the St. Gianna Circle Mothers Ministry for their 5th annual Family Advent Wreath Making event. Each family will create a wreath to take home, and children can make ornaments for residents of NHC Place at the Trace, courtesy of our Family Service Ministry. Enjoy desserts, appetizers, and drinks as we prepare our hearts for the season. A \$25 per family donation is appreciated to help cover supplies. All are welcome!



BECOME A GIFT BEARER

Saint Matthew needs gift bearers at each Mass. This is a simple, easy way to further participate in the liturgy. The presentation of gifts is an expression of gratitude and thanks for God's blessings and returning those gifts back to Him. To sign up, visit bit.ly/smcgiftbearer.

PRAYER CHAIN

You can submit special prayer requests and a dedicated group of Saint Matthew prayer warriors will pray for you. To submit or receive the requests, visit bit.ly/SMCPrayerChain.



PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

REFLECTION FROM JAMES GROSSHEIM

Today is a feast day both universal and very local. In the Diocese of Nashville, we celebrate Priesthood Sunday, which concludes National Vocations Awareness Week. All week we've been growing in our awareness that every Christian is called by God to dedicate their life to the glory of God and the salvation of souls. We are all called to become great saints, even in small and hidden ways. But to accomplish this goal, God calls us to particular states of life: Marriage, Consecrated Life, and Holy Orders.



The priesthood we celebrate today is the Priesthood of Jesus Christ, which we glimpse in today's Gospel. Jesus enters the Court of the Gentiles in the Temple, a space where even non-Jews could come and worship the one true God. Instead of finding a place of prayer, however, he encounters a noisy marketplace. By driving out the vendors, he restores space for the Gentiles to pray, quoting Isaiah: My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Catholic priesthood enables the People of God to worship rightly within the Church. It is fitting, then, that we unite the celebrations of Priesthood Sunday and the Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran, because the priesthood and the sacred buildings in which we worship are deeply connected. Without the priesthood, we cannot celebrate the Mass; and without the Mass, we have no priesthood.

Next month, I complete my studies at seminary and return to the diocese for full-time ministry. I hope to be ordained a priest next summer. As my time in seminary draws to a close, I am humbled by the generosity of the people of the Diocese of Nashville over the past seven years. Without your prayers and financial support, my preparation for ordination would have been nearly impossible. I eagerly look forward to returning to full-time ministry, when, God willing, my priestly heart will move me to create spaces for prayer in the hearts and lives of the People of God, just as Jesus did.

CELEBRATING PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

This weekend, Saint Matthew joins parishes across the Diocese of Nashville in celebrating Priesthood Sunday and supporting the Seminarian Education Fund. This fund covers the cost of educating and forming our future priests—about \$75,000 per seminarian each year—including tuition, housing, and other essential expenses.

Your generosity also supports the Office of Vocations' key programs, such as Quo Vadis, a summer camp for high school men discerning God's call (60 attendees in 2025), and the St. Andrew Dinner, which welcomed 140 young men interested in learning more about the priesthood this year.

The growth in vocations is a great blessing. Our diocese currently has 35 seminarians, including 15 in the new Propaedeutic Stage. Among them is Saint Matthew parishioner Griffin Gartner, and we look forward to welcoming back James Grossheim after he completes his final semester of seminary.

The fund also supports the growing Permanent Diaconate, which now includes 81 deacons serving in 36 parishes. On Dec. 20, seven men—including Saint Matthew parishioner Dan Ott—will be ordained. Another 10 men are in the diaconate formation for 2026, and a new Spanish-speaking cohort is beginning in 2026.

Pledge cards are available in the pews this weekend, or you can give today using the QR code below. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for vocations in our diocese.



We thank God for the gift of Priests! On Priesthood Sunday, we honor our priests and pray for them. We also have the opportunity to support our future priests by giving to the Seminarian Education Fund.

To learn more and donate, please *scan here*.



TONY'S REFLECTION

REACHING UP TO THE EXTRAORDINARY

Being consumed in the hubbub and general noise of life, it is easy to view all things you encounter under the same category. Religion gets grouped with all other activities. However, religion is meant to shape our culture, not be just another thing in culture. When Moses encountered God in the burning bush, God told Moses, "Put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." With this, God is showing us there needs to be a distinction, a separation of the ordinary from the divine. If the sacred is mingled with the everyday, we'll miss how the sacred takes us out of the commonplace to a higher place. In this, going to church must be distinct from going to a mere place of entertainment.

In the Old Testament, the temple was wholly unlike the everyday thing. In our first reading, the prophet Ezekiel has a vision of water flowing from the temple. Biblical scholars see this vision as a motif recalling the river of life flowing from Eden. Eden was viewed as the original garden-sanctuary of God. Later in the O.T., the temple personified not only Eden but all of creation. The Jewish scholar Josephus comments, "parts of the temple were in everyone, made in a way of imitation and representation of the universe." In short, the temple was a big deal to devout Jews. It was the only dwelling place of God in the world. It was the only place where you could offer sacrifices, and the temple was viewed as a microcosm of God's creation.

Yet, this sacred holy place became defiled, so much so that Jesus reacts rather aggressively. Jesus sees the temple has become overrun by merchants. Christ then proceeds to construct a whip and use it as a device to evict the buyers and sellers while flipping over their tables. Let's ponder what caused Jesus's forcible removal of these people from the temple.

Jesus sees commercialism and dishonest trade as utterly incompatible with the sacredness of divine worship and its venue. Conducting business was forbidden on the weekly Sabbath (Lev 23:3). Why? Because you are taking that which is sacred and mingling it with that which is ordinary, or in some sense, wicked. As Christ teaches, "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before swine" (Mt 7:6).

The temple cleansing then leads Christ to surmise its inevitable destruction. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." John clarifies that "he spoke of the temple of his body." All that the temple is becomes embedded in Jesus. Therefore, every church with the Eucharist is infinitely holier than the Temple in Jerusalem, for that was but a type of the real presence of God. Given that we consume Jesus's body in the Eucharist, our bodies do what a temple does — become a dwelling place for God.

Instead of a house of worship, the temple became a place of frivolous activity. When we walk into church, we are walking into holy ground. At the Mass we are dealing with the highest sacred drama put to reality. Just like Moses did, let us remove the ordinary, the mundane, so that we can experience the extraordinary.

MINISTRY NEWS

LUNCH BUNCH THIS TUESDAY

All parish seniors are invited to join us for Lunch Bunch, a monthly event featuring lunch, bingo, and fellowship. Our next Lunch Bunch is this Tuesday, Nov. 11, at noon.

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.



ROOM IN THE INN STARTING THIS WEEK

Our Room In The Inn Ministry is excited to begin their winter season this week. Over the next five months, Saint Matthew will welcome in 120 men experiencing homelessness in Nashville. We will provide them three meals, a safe and warm place to sleep, the opportunity to shower and receive fresh clothing, supplies to help them through the cold winter, and the grace and love of the Holy Spirit through our great volunteers. Thank you to all who donated to the clothing drive and have already signed up to volunteer. To volunteer with this ministry this winter, scan the QR code.



Started by Father Charles Strobel in the winter of 1985, this marks the 40th year of the Room In The Inn program in Nashville. Please see the weekly parish email for a special blessing you can pray in support of this great ministry.



JOIN ST. JOSEPH'S MEN

St. Joseph's Men is a ministry rooted in the teachings of Christ and His Church to enable men to become better disciples, husbands, fathers, and members of our parish through the inspiration and model of St. Joseph.

The group engages in topics and spiritual exercises specific to men while also developing fraternity among faithful men. If you are interested in joining, visit bit.ly/smcstjosephsmen.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ABORTION HEALING RETREAT

Rachel's Vineyard Post Abortion Healing Retreats are for anyone seeking healing and reconciliation from an abortion or involvement in an abortion. For more information, please contact Jane Crowley at janervineyard@gmail.com or 615-400-4379. The next opportunity is Thursday Nov. 13, to Sunday Nov. 16. For future dates visit, rachelsvineyard.org.

AN EVENING

WITH *Our Lady of Hope*

Advent Meditations for the Jubilee

A Women's Advent Preparation Retreat at
St. Philip Catholic Church
Franklin, TN

November 19, 2025
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Presented by
Dwell In Love Retreats



Tickets
Individual: \$25
Table of 6: \$125



bit.ly/AdventHope25

SAINT MEINRAD WINTER CHANT WORKSHOP

Discover how sacred music and chant draw you closer to God at Saint Meinrad's Winter Chant Workshop: Praying with Chant, January 12–16, 2026. Explore chant in a theological context and apply your insights in rehearsal. Register at saintmeinrad.edu/sacred-music to deepen your love of sacred music.



Three TO STAY MARRIED

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

GET TO KNOW OUR NEW YOUTH MINISTER!

- I love Star Wars, Louisa May Alcott, and Gilmore Girls
- I prefer tea over coffee
- My favorite color is purple
- My favorite ice cream is vanilla with brownies and marshmallows
- I play the piano
- I made SEARCH 201
- I ran track and cross country in high school
- My confirmation Saint is Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
- My favorite forms of prayer in this season are Adoration and Lectio Divina
- My husband and I got married at Saint Matthew 20 years ago, and we have six children
- I love animals and we foster for a local rescue
- I worked with Father Tran at my first Youth Ministry job
- I went to college with Father Raines
- I love that God has called me to continue working in youth Ministry because you all (teens) are important! I love sharing my love for Jesus and I love that you all want to learn how to love Jesus better. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your journey and for being a part of my journey towards heaven!



RISE SCHEDULE

**SUN
NOV 9**

Friendsgiving!
Enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner and an evening of gratitude.

**SUN
NOV 16**

Obstacles of the Secular World
A look at the challenges youth face in today's society and how teens can be filled with truth and stay close to God.

**SUN
NOV 23**

RISE Night
Topic TBA

**SUN
NOV 30**

NO RISE NIGHT
Enjoy Thanksgiving break with your family!

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.



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

