



# *Saint Matthew* CATHOLIC CHURCH

**DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER**

**DECEMBER 28, 2025 + THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**



## **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.

\*See pg. 2 for changes to this week's schedule

## **PARISH INFORMATION**

### **CONTACT US:**

📍 535 Sneed Road W, Franklin, TN 37069  
✉ [info@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:info@stmatthewtn.org)  
☎ (615) 646-0378  
🌐 [www.stmatthewtn.org](http://www.stmatthewtn.org)  
📱 @stmatthewtn

### **PASTOR:**

Father Justin Raines

### **ASSOCIATE PASTOR:**

Father Tien Tran

### **DEACONS:**

Bill Forte  
James Grossheim

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

#### 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ For the People of Saint Matthew

#### 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass

✦ Anna Grace Miller

#### 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass

✠ Bruce Dawson

- Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
- Colossians 3:12-21
- Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Alphonse Marcuri

- 1 John 2:3-11
- Luke 2:22-35

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For John Saab & Family

- 1 John 2:12-17
- Luke 2:36-40

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Vigil for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God

#### 5:00 p.m. Mass

✦ For the Tran Family

- Numbers 6:22-27
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Luke 2:16-21

No 7 p.m. Mass, Adoration, or Confession

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

#### 9:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Billy Lynch

- Numbers 6:22-27
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Luke 2:16-21

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

Feast of Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Steve Wyatt

- 1 John 2:22-28
- John 1:29-34

✦ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*

**To RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,  
VISIT [BIT.LY/SMCMASSINTENTION](http://BIT.LY/SMCMASSINTENTION)**

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

## SAINT MATTHEW NEWS

### END-OF-YEAR GIVING REMINDER

All contributions to Saint Matthew or directly to the Diocese must be post-marked by Wednesday, Dec. 31, to be credited toward your 2025 contributions. Please note that while the church office will be closed for the holidays (Dec. 23–Jan. 1), the business office will be open in a limited capacity to process end-of-year gifts on **Monday, Dec. 29 and Tuesday, Dec. 30.**

*Please call the business office at 615-550-5111 to ensure somebody is in the office prior to visiting on these days.*

Stock contributions require additional processing time. If you wish to make a donation of appreciated stock before year-end, please contact Bill Stewart at [bstewart@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:bstewart@stmatthewtn.org) or by phone at (615) 550-5107.

You may also make gifts through our online giving platform, Pushpay, through the QR code at the bottom of this page. If you utilize a Donor Advised Fund for any 2025 contributions, please verify cut-off timing as soon as possible with your financial advisor or brokerage firm. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

### MASS CHANGES & OFFICE CLOSURE

As noted above, the church office is closed through Jan. 1.

**Dec. 31** - Mass on Dec. 31 is at 5 p.m. We will *NOT* have the regular weekly Wednesday night adoration, confession, or 7 p.m. Mass.

**Jan. 1** - Mass is 9 a.m. on Jan. 1. No 8 a.m. Mass.

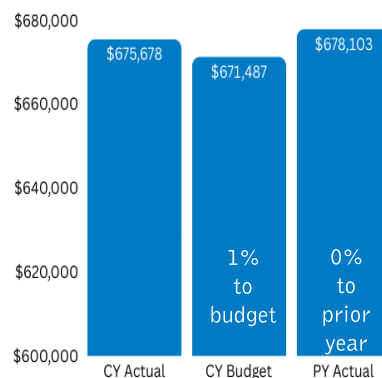
### PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

Join the Passion of Christ Prayer Group today, December 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.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Due to the parish office closure, giving updates for December 21 through January 4 will be included in the January 11 bulletin. Thank you for your generosity and support of Saint Matthew.

### YTD Summary (through 12/14)



Visiting, new, or looking to give?

Scan to make a gift now, or visit

[stmatthewtn.org/church/giving](http://stmatthewtn.org/church/giving)



### Second Collections

**This Week:**

Youth Ministry

1/1 Solemnity of Mary

**Next Week:**

Capital Needs

**Registered Parish Families: 1270**



## SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On Thursday, Jan. 1, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Saint Matthew has Masses available on **Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 5 p.m.**, and on **Thursday, Jan. 1, at 9 a.m.** Incense will be used at 9 a.m. Mass. We will *NOT* have our regularly scheduled 7 p.m. Mass, adoration, or confession on New Year's Eve, nor an 8 a.m. Mass on New Year's Day.

## FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

First Friday Adoration on Friday, Jan. 2, will have reduced hours, beginning after 8 a.m. Mass and concluding that evening at 5 p.m. Sign-up for a 30-minute time slot now at [bit.ly/smcffajan26](https://bit.ly/smcffajan26).



## THEOLOGY & CULTURE SERIES BEGINS JAN 4

Join us for a new faith formation series, *Theology & Culture*, 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. *Theology & Culture* will meet between the Masses (9:45–10:45 a.m.) in the Parish Conference Center each Sunday in January. Our first speaker is Father Raines discussing “Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.”



## COMMUNITY SUNDAY

Be sure to visit the Cohan-Hansom Building after Masses on Sunday, Jan. 4 for our next Community Sunday. Enjoy hot coffee, fresh doughnuts, and wholesome fellowship. Thank you to the Banker family and Girl Scout Troop 3214 for providing the hospitality!



## NEW PARISHIONER RECEPTION - JAN 8

Whether you are new to Saint Matthew or seeking to be more involved, you are invited to our New Parishioner Reception on Thursday, Jan. 8. Meet at 6 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center for a casual evening with parish staff and fellow parishioners. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP below.



**Saint Matthew Catholic Church**

### New Parishioner Reception

**Thursday Jan. 8, 2026**

- Meet the priests
- Learn about our parish
- Connect with ministries
- Discover ways to live your faith



**6 p.m. Parish Conference Center**

## REFINER'S FIRE - FORGE JAN 11

All middle school students are invited to join Forge for their January event, *Refiner's Fire: Finding Our Identity in Christ*. They will discuss the meaning behind the ministry's name, Forge, play games, and have pizza available. Gather at 5:30 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building on Sunday, Jan. 11.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Want to go deeper with your faith? Each month, Saint Matthew sends out a monthly Adult Faith Formation newsletter offering additional resources to grow your faith, including brief videos, articles, and spiritual opportunities. To sign up to receive this newsletter, visit [bit.ly/smcadulthoodfaithformation](https://bit.ly/smcadulthoodfaithformation).

## EPIPHANY BAGS

Next weekend, for the feast of The Epiphany of the Lord, Saint Matthew will have house blessing bags available. Be sure to grab one per family as you leave Mass. Thank you to the Baker family for assembling the bags.



### SCHOOL RETURNS JANUARY 6

Enjoy the remainder of your Christmas break! As a reminder, the faculty has an in-service day on Monday, Jan. 5, and school resumes on Tuesday, Jan. 6. Merry Christmas!

### ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

As you make your year-end giving plans, please consider supporting the Saint Matthew Annual Fund. As this campaign reaches the mid-year point, we are at 29% of our \$125,000 goal. Make your end-of year tax deductible donation today!

Your generosity directly strengthens our mission by providing essential resources that keep our students safe, supported, and growing in faith—especially through vital services like school security and our nurse. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a lasting impact on our children and our community. Visit [stmatthewtn.org/school/support](http://stmatthewtn.org/school/support) or scan the QR code to make your gift today. Pledges and matching gifts are also welcome. Thank you!



### GOT SPARE CHANGE?

There are clear boxes on the table outside the training chapel where you can share your spare change to benefit our sister parish in Haiti. Don't have any change in your pocket or purse? Use the included QR code on the box to donate a dollar or two (or more!). Thank you in advance for sharing your spare change!

### KoC FREE THROW CHALLENGE

Knights of Columbus Council 12012 is holding their annual free throw challenge on Sunday, Jan. 18, at 12:30 p.m. in the Saint Henry gym. All children ages 9-14 are invited to participate in the competition with winners advancing to the regional competition.

### 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/smccgiftbearer](http://bit.ly/smccgiftbearer).

### FEEDING THE HOMELESS

Saint Matthew Loaves & Fishes ministry will be making and serving lunch at Holy Name on Wednesday, Jan. 7. Email [bthomson7504@gmail.com](mailto:bthomson7504@gmail.com) to volunteer and for more information.

### JANUARY LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch returns on Tuesday, Jan. 13! All parish seniors are invited. Come wearing your favorite festive apparel to ring in 2026. The event is from 12 to 2 p.m. in the narthex. The cost is \$12 along with a prize valued around \$10 for the prize table. To register, visit [bit.ly/smclbjn26](http://bit.ly/smclbjn26).



### WOMEN'S CLUB JANUARY MEETING

Join the Saint Matthew Women's Club for a FREE SoulCore class on Thursday, January 22. SoulCore combines praying the rosary with core-strengthening exercises, stretching, and gentle movement to nourish both body and soul. Rooted in Christian meditation, SoulCore promotes spiritual and physical wellness and is not affiliated with yoga.

The class starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. Bring a mat and water bottle and wear comfortable workout attire. Advance registration is requested. Email questions to [womensclub@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:womensclub@stmatthewtn.org).



### ROOM IN THE INN NEEDS

Our Room In The Inn ministry is seeking a few items to best serve our guests during their visit at Saint Matthew. The following items are requested:

- Jeans (particularly sizes 30 & 32)
- Boxers (all sizes, particularly medium)
- Shoes (athletic or boots)
- Long Underwear (all sizes)

Please bring donations to the church office or order through their Amazon Wish List. There are still volunteer opportunities for some of our 2026 dates. You can sign up or view the wish list through the QR code. Thank you to everyone who donates clothing or volunteers with RITI. Without your generosity we could not offer this program, nor the love of Christ, to our guests.





## BISHOPS' ANNUAL APPEAL

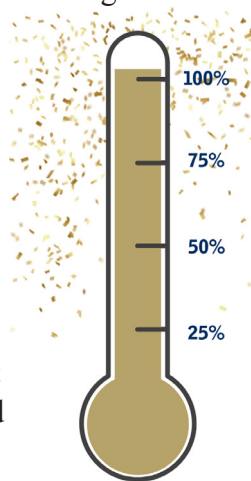
### 2025 GOAL REACHED! THANK YOU!

Merry Christmas from Saint Matthew! As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the many blessings God has poured out upon our parish community and for the faithful generosity you continue to show in support of our Church.

Here at Saint Matthew, 2025 has been a year marked by growth and joy. We were especially blessed to recently celebrate the ordinations of Deacon Dan Ott to the permanent diaconate and Deacon James Grossheim to the transitional diaconate—powerful signs of God's work among us and the vitality of our local Church. These milestones echo a broader story of grace across the Diocese of Nashville, which was recently recognized by Catholic World Report as the most fruitful diocese in the United States based on key indicators of spiritual life and sacramental growth.

With grateful hearts, we are pleased to share that Saint Matthew has reached its goal for the Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries. Including current pledges for 2025, our parish has raised more than \$172,000 as of December 22, exceeding our goal of \$171,000. Not only does this make 2025 a record setting year for Saint Matthew, surpassing last year's total of \$139,518 raised, but it returns us to our strong tradition of fully funding our parish commitment. This achievement is a testament to your faithful stewardship and shared commitment to the mission of the Church.

Thank you for your extraordinary generosity. Through your support, vital ministries are strengthened—forming our youth, fostering vocations, serving those in need, supporting seminarian education, and building up parishes throughout the Diocese of Nashville. Your faith in action is making a lasting impact, both here at Saint Matthew and well beyond our parish walls. If you would like to learn more about this annual campaign you can visit [dioceseofnashville.com/appeal](https://dioceseofnashville.com/appeal) and consider supporting it in 2026.



formed®

Pick of the Week: December 28



### Christmas: Sacred Art

This Christmas season, “Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting *Adoration of the Shepherds* by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.

Watch this video and other great content for free. Visit [FORMED.org](https://FORMED.org) and use our parish code: 37069.



**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.*

**Saint Matthew 2025**  
**Goal: \$171,000**  
**Donations Received: \$172,200 (101%)**

## TONY'S REFLECTION

### KEEPING THE JOY IN CHRISTMAS

The secular world tends to ransack the days after December 25 to prep for New Year's while viewing Christmas in the rearview mirror. Yet, in the Church, now is when we begin our Christmas celebration—not early December. Given this point, let us revert to the prominent theme of "joy" during the Christmas season. In many great Christmas entertainments we watch, there are villains who threaten to keep Christmas from coming. The Grinch wanted to steal Christmas away by pilfering its decorations—but the people celebrated Christmas anyway. Scrooge would have the day and its humbug killed off by the sheer force of his stinginess—but he later comes to regret his joylessness, and in the end, he, too, keeps the festive day.

In the real Christmas story, we see villains abound. King Herod wanted to kill the newborn King. In the early centuries of the Church, heretics attempted to alter the meaning of Christmas by denying the incarnation. Gnostics and Docetists claimed that Jesus wasn't really human and did not arrive as a child born on Christmas Day, while Arians denied that Jesus was God. In our day, a prominent spokesperson of the World Economic Forum declared that "Jesus is fake news." However, all these efforts to thwart God's plan and actions in our world fade away in our celebrations of this season. The joy of the Christmas season cannot be crushed or silenced by outside forces. In fact, Christmas joy may expand in the face of opposition, as we can see in the case of the Grinch and Scrooge.

In a world of deception and darkness, Christmas shines uniquely as a beacon of truth and light. The faithful's response to this divine illumination in our chaotic world is one of awe, reverence, and finally joy. Joy surfaces because we are in desperate need of Christ.

You can't help but witness joy during the Christmas season. This joy includes all people. It comprises the wise, represented by the Magi, and the poor, represented by the shepherds. What both groups have in common is their joy. Even people clueless to the true meaning of Christmas often exhibit a sense of joy at the heart of Christmas. While Christmas commercialism often makes me wince, in an odd way, it's an acknowledgment of Christmas joy. Consumerism is our feeble human attempt to put happiness in our lives—giving people gifts. Pope Benedict observed, "Why do we give gifts? Because God has given himself to us as a gift, wrapping His divinity in true humanity." Our secular "joy" in giving and getting stuff on Christmas in a way alludes to the entire world receiving the gift of Jesus.

Life is filled with bursts of happiness, but sustained joy is rare. We can find this prolonged joy when we realize the meaning of Christmas—that God loves us so much, He has come into our world and remains with us to the close of time (Mt. 28:21).

Life is a grind. However, these moments of joy can get us through. Let Christ's birth into our human world encircle you with joy. Let this season sparkle as a pulsating light among the rest of the days you live.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### HEART OF MARY HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Has Jesus been nudging your heart to serve His people more directly? There is a powerful opportunity to do just that—right here in Nashville. The Heart of Mary House, situated in the Nations neighborhood, is a volunteer-run Catholic hospice that lovingly cares for people who are dying and have nowhere else to go. The house can welcome up to six residents at a time—but they need your help.

Volunteers are needed to cook, clean, assist with meals, offer companionship, and pray with residents. No clinical experience is necessary—just a heart open to Christ and a willingness to be present. Learn more at [heartofmaryhouse.org](http://heartofmaryhouse.org). To speak to a volunteer about their experience, contact Charlene Kimmel at [Faithsharing@StPhilipMinisteries.com](mailto:Faithsharing@StPhilipMinisteries.com).

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





**JOHN PAUL II Healing Center**  
*Transformation in the Heart of the Church*

Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ?  
Have you forgiven, but are still experiencing negative emotions?  
Do you feel like you bring the same sins to confession, again and again?


The uniquely engaging format of *Healing the Whole Person* will help you see and experience God's healing love through teaching, prayer, personal reflection, adoration and the Sacraments. Join us Thursday & Friday evening and all-day Saturday.

*Healing the Whole Person*

**FEBRUARY 12-14, 2026**

Catholic Pastoral Center | Nashville, TN

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**





## YOUTH RETREATS

### CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Register now for this year's confirmation retreat! Students will hear engaging talks from young adults to awaken their souls in preparation of the sacrament of confirmation. All students being confirmed in 2026 are asked to attend the free retreat. The retreat is on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We need several volunteers to help with the retreat including adults, young adults, and high school students. Contact [tjesse@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:tjesse@stmatthewtn.org) for more information.



### SAVE THE DATE: RISE RETREAT

**ADOREMUS**

High School Retreat at Camp Marymount

**\$100** March **27-29**

## RISE YOUTH MINISTRY

### YOUTH MINISTRY SURVEY

If you have a teen in the parish, we want to hear from you. Please take a brief 10-question survey which will allow us to better serve and provide spiritual opportunities for the youth in our parish. Whether your children have never attended RISE, or are a weekly attendee, we want to hear from you. It should take no longer than five minutes and you have the option to remain anonymous. Thank you!



### RISE SCHEDULE

Our next RISE night is Sunday, Jan. 11, and it's all about fun, friends, and a little saintly competition. You don't need to know anything about saints ahead of time. Come hang out, compete, and discover some seriously awesome stories from the lives of the saints.

**Draft Day**  
**Saints Edition**

**Spring Semester Kick-off**  
**Jan. 11, 2026**  
**5:30-7:30 p.m.**  
**All 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders welcome!**  
**Dinner Provided**  
*Will your team win?*

**MICHAELA MILLER**  
**Director of Youth Ministry**  
[mmiller@stmatthewtn.org](mailto: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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[www.stmatthewtn.org](http://www.stmatthewtn.org)

