



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

DECEMBER 7, 2025 + SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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.

*Immaculate Conception Mass Times on page 2

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

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), 12 p.m., and 7 p.m. Incense will be used at 7 p.m. Mass.

2026-2027 SCHOOL APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, DEC. 12

The priority deadline for the Saint Matthew School 2026-2027 school year is **Friday, Dec. 12**. Applications are available on the Saint Matthew School website. Visit the "Admissions" page for more information.

Email Holly Ledieu with any questions at hledieu@stmatthewtn.org.

Re-enrollment takes place in January for current students.



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.



CHURCH DECORATING

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

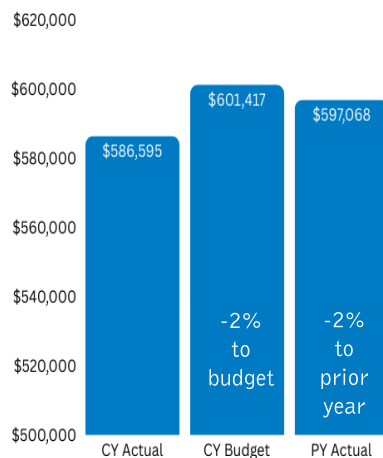


STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 30 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$36,824
SECOND COLLECTION: ARCH. FOR MILITARY SERVICES	\$0

YTD Summary



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



Second Collections

This Week:
Building Maint. & Facility Improvements
Immaculate Conception

Next Week:
Retirement for Religious

Registered Parish Families: 1264



LITURGY SCHEDULE

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ Souls in Purgatory

8:30 a.m. Mass

✠ For the People of Saint Matthew

11:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Moira Kathleen Shields

• Isaiah 11:1-10

• Romans 15:4-9

• Matthew 3:1-12

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Butch Garland

12:00 p.m. Mass

✠ Lora Talpey

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ For the People of Saint Matthew

• Genesis 3:9-15, 20

• Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

• Luke 1:26-38

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Robert W. Stewart

• Isaiah 40:1-11

• Matthew 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ Dan Reese

• Isaiah 40:25-31

• Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Honorable J. Randall Wyatt

• Isaiah 41:13-20

• Matthew 11:11-15

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ James Michael Dabonka

• Revelation 12:1-6, 10

• Matthew Luke 1:39-47

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

If you were unable to get a copy of the Advent Reflections booklet by Bishop Fulton Sheen, more have been ordered and will be delivered this week.

Take a bookmark for our own Advent Journey through the Old Testament, *25 Verses for 25 Days*. These verses foretell the coming of the Messiah and are calling us to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming much like those before His arrival. Additional reflections on these verses are posted daily on our Facebook and Instagram pages and on the Saint Matthew website.

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.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PAGEANT

All are invited to the Saint Matthew Children's Nativity Pageant next Saturday, Dec. 13. The pageant begins shortly after the 5 p.m. Mass and features youth in our parish from ages 4-14.

GIFT DASH RSVP DEADLINE: DEC. 9

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

RSVP by Thursday Dec. 9th

SAINT MATTHEW MEN'S CLUB

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, Dec. 13
Cohan-Hansom Building

RSVPs appreciated

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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.

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.



Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends. I heard many great stories from our students here at school about their travels over the break, or about their time at home. I even ran into an SMS family on my plane flight to Florida. As we return from break, we begin our Advent season. Our students have been learning about Advent, and they heard a great homily about Advent at Mass this past Tuesday. Our students will continue to celebrate the Advent season here at school over the next weeks, and they will soon come to the end of their second quarter. I ask that you please continue to pray for our students, especially those students who will be taking exams in just two weeks time! God Bless.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Registration for this year's confirmation retreat is open! Students will hear engaging talks from young adults to awaken their souls as they prepare for 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. Scan the code for more details, and to register.

Additionally, we are in need of several volunteers to help from the retreat including adults, young adults, and high school students. Contact Tony Jesse at tjesse@stmatthewtn.org for more information about the retreat or volunteering.



VOTE FOR THE SAINT MATTHEW TREE

Vote for the Saint Matthew School's Christmas Tree in the Steven's Valley Festival of Trees competition. Our tree, *'Every Time a Bell Rings, an Angel Gets its Wings,'* is inspired by the Christmas classic - It's a Wonderful Life. Keeping with our Silver Jubilee theme, it features silver bells and angels.

Help Saint Matthew become be back-to-back winners by voting through the QR code. You can visit the Festival of Trees display nightly from 5-8 p.m. at Meriwether Park inside Steven's Valley.

GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND

As you make your year-end giving plans, please consider supporting the Saint Matthew Annual Fund. 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. Our Annual Fund goal is \$125,000.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a lasting impact on our children and our community. Visit stmatthewtn.org/school/support or scan the QR code to make your gift today. Pledges and matching gifts are also welcome.

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Matthew School and for helping us nurture a faith-filled, academically excellent environment for all our students.



Scan to
support the
Annual Fund

MINISTRY NEWS

DAN OTT AND JAMES GROSSHEIM DIACONATE ORDINATION & RECEPTIONS

WITH PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD,
THE DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE ORDINATION OF

Dr. Albert Domm *Mr. David Johnson*
Mr. James Grossheim *Mr. Daniel Ott*
Mr. David Herrera *Mr. Patrick Owings*
Mr. Glenn Hutchens *Mr. James Quinby*
Cel. James Rose

TO THE SACRED ORDER OF DEACON THROUGH THE
INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE
IMPOSITION OF HANDS BY

Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding, D.D., J.C.L.
TWELFTH BISHOP OF NASHVILLE

SATURDAY, THE TWENTIETH OF DECEMBER
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE
AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

IGLESIA SAGRADO CORAZÓN DE JESÚS
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Saint Matthew is holding receptions for Dan Ott and James Grossheim on Sunday, Dec. 21, after they celebrate their first Masses as deacons. Dan is preaching at 8:30 a.m. Mass, and James is preaching at 11 a.m. Mass. Both Masses will be livestreamed. Join us in the Cohan-Hansom Building after their first Masses for celebratory receptions.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES

As we approach the end of the year, please consider a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries. Your generosity helps Saint Matthew reach our parish goal of \$171,000 while investing in the future of our Church and supporting those who are seeking Christ through the many ministries of our diocese. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need and strengthen the mission we share as the Body of Christ. You may give directly to the BAAM via the black QR code or to Seminarian Education Fund via the blue QR code to the right.

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Pick of the Week: December 7



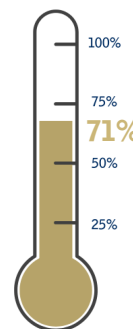
What Should I Do During Advent

In this episode of What Catholics Believe, Fr. Chris Martin explains what Advent is, why the Church celebrates it, and how Catholics can enter more deeply into this season of preparation. Discover the meaning behind the colors of Advent, the difference between Advent and Christmas, and how Scripture — from Mary and Joseph to John the Baptist — teaches us to be a people awake and ready for the Lord's coming.

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

NOTE: If you watch FORMED on your Roku device, you are now required to log-in to watch. Be aware the password through your Roku app may be different than what you use to log in via the website. Follow the prompts if needed to reset or create your password.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES



Saint Matthew 2025
Donations: \$121,068 (71%)
Goal: \$171,000

TONY'S REFLECTION

MOVING TOWARD PURPLE

While people decorate their houses with the Christmas colors of red, green, and white, the prominent color of Advent remains distinctly different—purple. In the ancient world, purple was implausibly rare. The cost of purple dye was extremely expensive, not to mention time-consuming to make. Therefore, those who donned purple were held in high esteem, as purple was the pigment of choice for royalty and nobility. Given this expression of power, position, and wealth, it is no wonder that with the coming of Christ the King, the Church celebrates this season with purple.

Purple is also the first color seen as darkness gives way to light. The sky emits a purple glow as it transitions from the dark of night to the brightness of a new day. In anticipation of Christ's illumination of light coming into our lives, there too should be a shift in our souls—from darkness to purple, while eventually, our souls will don the white garment with Christ in heaven.

Whereas the color purple introduces the manifestation of a color change, John the Baptist is calling for a radical conversion of the whole person to God in preparation for our Lord's coming. In today's gospel, the prophet reverberates, "Prepare the way of the Lord." And how is John telling us to prepare? The first word John thunderously announces is "Repent!" The biblical word "repent" has a similar connotation to the modern phrase "reposition." Therefore, you prepare for Christ's coming through a dramatic repositioning of your soul away from sin and darkness and towards Christ, the light. By going from darkness to light, you experience the "purple" transition of the soul.

To trigger this repentance, one must take stock of their mental state and actions. Would you be comfortable if everyone knew your thoughts? Probably not. Recall that the father of the prodigal son allowed his son to wallow with the pigs so that he could recognize his sins. After repentance, the person must quickly segue into conversion. This conversion doesn't merely dabble in the faith, but heads deep into it. You cannot be a mere mish-mash of living for the world and living for Christ, for this conversion has us go from being a part-time Catholic to being a full-time Catholic. Yes, the Catholic faith temporarily inconveniences one's personal life because it binds you to go "all in" on a system of ethics built around it, whereas secular society lets you do what you want and be the authority of all ethical matters. Yet, living for the latter philosophy, one becomes caved in on himself. Here, he is hyper-focused on sensual pleasure, which inevitably places him in the degraded scene of the prodigal son—in the muck with animals. The crucial move is when the son had an about-face and flung his identity, his way of life, towards the Father.

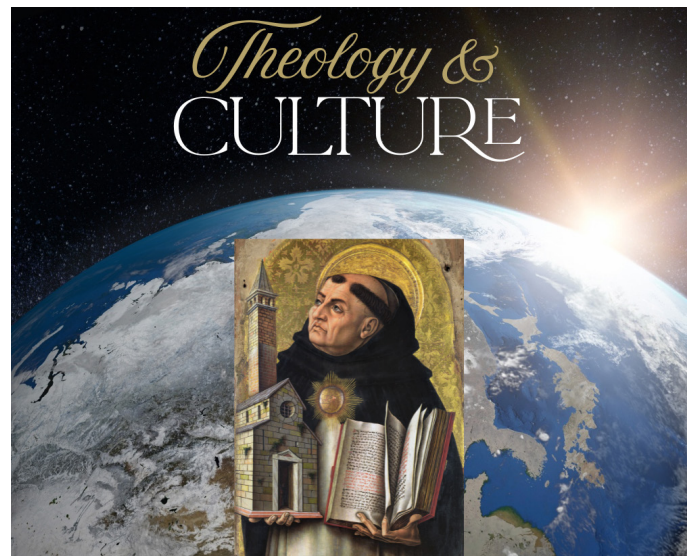
The Lord wants us to prepare for His coming as an ordinary aspect of our daily Christian life. After all, the man who has his spiritual affairs in order shows no reason to panic when Christ enters the scene. So, let us move towards the purple light so we can be ready for the King.

FAITH FORMATION

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.



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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Grow your faith at home. Receive the monthly Saint Matthew Adult Faith Formation newsletter. Sign up to receive it at bit.ly/smcadulthoodfaithformation.

YOUTH MINISTRY



RISE SCHEDULE

**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**

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

**SUN
DEC 21**

CHRISTMAS CAROLING
We will meet at the Heart of Mary House at 5pm spreading Christmas Joy to those who are suffering. Families welcome.

**SUN
DEC 28**

Christmas Break
Be sure to join us for our Spring Semester Kick-off event on January 11th

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 TONIGHT

Before we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary tomorrow, we will focus on our Blessed Mother, Mary, tonight. RISE will be joined by a dynamic guest speaker, Dr. Alex Gotay, a.k.a. Dr. G, who will lead us for this special evening.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING REMINDER

All contributions to Saint Matthew or directly to the Diocese must be postmarked by Wednesday, December 31 to be credited toward your 2025 contributions. Please note that while the parish offices will be closed for the holidays (Dec. 24–Jan. 1), the business office will be open in a limited capacity to process end-of-year gifts on:

- Monday, Dec. 29
- Tuesday, Dec. 30

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 or by phone at (615) 550-5107.

You may also make gifts through our online giving platform, Pushpay. If you plan to 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.

Gifts for the 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries are also due by Wednesday, December 31. The easiest way to give is by visiting dioceseofnashville.com/appeal and selecting "Saint Matthew" as your parish when you donate. Please note that gifts to the Seminarian Education Fund also count toward the Bishop's Annual Appeal. QR codes for the BAAM and the Seminarian Education Fund can be found on page 5.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



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
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www.stmatthewtn.org

