



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

JANUARY 4, 2026 + THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

ON ENTERING THE HOUSE
THE MAGI SAW THE CHILD
WITH MARY HIS MOTHER.
THEY PROSTRATED
THEMSELVES AND DID
HIM HOMAGE.

LUKE 2:11



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.

CONFESION

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
- FACEBOOK @stmatthewtn
- INSTAGRAM @stmatthewtn

PASTOR:

Father Justin Raines

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

DEACONS:

Bill Forte
James Grossheim



LITURGY SCHEDULE (JANUARY 3-9)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

◆ For Lee Dorough

8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass

◆ For the People of Saint Matthew

11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass

✚ Souls in Purgatory

- Isaiah 60:1-6

- Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

- Matthew 2:1-12

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

Saint John Neumann

8:00 a.m. Mass

✚ Barbara "Lynn" Dunham

- 1 John 3:22-4:6

- Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

8:00 a.m. Mass

✚ Charlie Baldinger

- 1 John 4:7-10

- Mark 6:34-44

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

7:00 p.m. Mass

✚ Martha Baird

- 1 John 4:11-18

- Mark 6:45-52

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

8:00 a.m. Mass

✚ Margaret L. Murphy

- 1 John 4:19-5:4

- Luke 4:14-22

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Feast of Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory

8:00 a.m. Mass

✚ Robin Barrick

- 1 John 5:5-13

- Luke 5:12-16

✚ Special Intention

✚ May they rest in peace

To RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,
VISIT BIT.LY/SMCMASSINTENTION

THEOLOGY AND CULTURE

THEOLOGY & CULTURE SERIES BEGINS TODAY

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* meets between the Masses from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Parish Conference Center each Sunday in January, before transitioning to a monthly time. Coffee and doughnuts are available at today's talk. Here are the speakers for January:

January 4: Father Raines (The True, The Good, The Beautiful)

January 11: Deacon James Grossheim (Subject TBD at printing deadline)

January 18: Tony Jesse (Catholic Social Teaching, part 1)

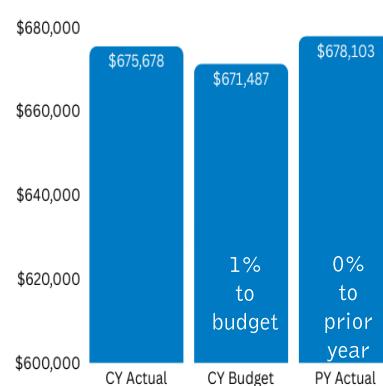
January 25: Sister Mary Diana Dreger (Understanding Human Emotions)



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Due to printing deadlines around the holidays, 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



Second Collections

This Week:

Capital Needs

Next Week:
Parish Charity

Registered Parish Families: 1270

SAINT MATTHEW NEWS

COMMUNITY SUNDAY

Be sure to visit the Cohan-Hansom Building after Masses today, Sunday, Jan. 4, for our 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!



EPIPHANY BAGS

Please take a house blessing kit with you after Mass today. Each packet contains blessed chalk, an explanation of this Epiphany tradition, and instructions on how your family can do this blessing together. Please take just one kit per family/household. Thank you to the Baker family for assembling the kits.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

Saint Matthew Loaves & Fishes ministry feeds the homeless on the first Wednesday of each month at Holy Name Catholic Church near downtown Nashville. Volunteers are needed to make and serve lunch to about 100 men on Wednesday, Jan. 7. To volunteer, or for more information, please email Bill at bthomson7504@gmail.com.

FREE SOULCORE CLASS

Join the Saint Matthew Women's Club for a FREE SoulCore class on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. 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. Bring a mat and water bottle and wear comfortable workout attire. Advance registration is requested. For questions, contact womensclub@stmatthewtn.org

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!
featuring SoulCore
& THE ROSARY

THURSDAY, JAN. 22,
6:30 P.M.

PARISH CONFERENCE CENTER



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.



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 pizza will be provided. Gather at 5:30 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building on Sunday, Jan. 11.



JANUARY LUNCH BUNCH



All parish seniors are invited to join us for Lunch Bunch, Saint Matthew's monthly parish gathering designed for social connection, fellowship, and fun.

Our next Lunch Bunch is on Tuesday, Jan. 13, from 12 to 2 p.m. in the narthex. Come wearing your favorite festive apparel as we joyfully ring in 2026. The cost is \$12 per person, along with a bingo prize valued at approximately \$10 for the prize table. Lunch will be from Publix. Please RSVP by Thursday, Jan. 8. Scan to register or visit bit.ly/smclbjan26.



SCHOOL NEWS

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!

TN EDUCATION FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS

The Tennessee Education Freedom Scholarship (EFS) Program has announced key dates for the 2025-2026 school year.

The application window for 2026-2027 EFS new applicants or applicants that applied last year and did not receive the funds opens on January 13, 2026 at 12 p.m. CT.

We highly encourage you to start gathering the required documents and have them scanned and saved to your computer for easy access once the application opens. An EFS Application Checklist and a Step-by-Step Guide for the EFS Application can be found in the current School News of the Week email or by visiting the EFS website at tn.gov/education/efs/resources.

Please note: To be eligible to receive tuition assistance directly from Saint Matthew, families must complete the EFS application.

For questions, you can email EFS directly at EFS.Questions@tn.gov or contact Leslie Holt in the Business Office at lholt@stmatthewtn.org.

RE-ENROLLMENT DATES

Re-enrollment packets will be emailed to families of current SMS students on January 14 and will be due by January 21. The book and activity fee will be due at the time the re-enrollment packet is submitted. We anticipate having the 2026-27 tuition information available when the packets are sent.

SMS SUMMER CAMPS

Summer camp registration at Saint Matthew School will open in mid-January. The dates for 2026 camp weeks are as follows, June 1-5, June 8-12, June 15-19, July 6-10, and July 20-24. Camp options and details will be released this week.

MINISTRY NEWS

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.

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. Scan the QR code for more details and to register.

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



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 RITI 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.



AROUND THE DIOCESE



DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE

World Marriage Day

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS
WITH BISHOP SPALDING

For Couples Celebrating any Wedding Anniversary (Special Recognition for 25, 50, 60+ years)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026
2:30 P.M.

CATHEDRAL OF THE INCARNATION
2015 WEST END AVE.

RECEPTION FOLLOWING MASS

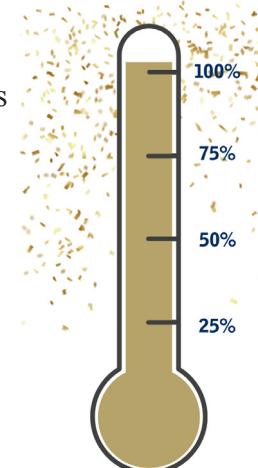
RSVP:
Visit nashvillefaithformation.com
or call the Marriage and Family Life Office
615-645-9752

MORNING COFFEE AT FATHER RYAN

Parents of 4th-8th grade students are invited to join Father Ryan for coffee and pastries on Wednesday, Jan. 14, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. President Paul Davis will share updates about Father Ryan and provide parents the opportunity to connect and ask questions on any topic, including tuition assistance opportunities, academic programs, strategic plan initiatives, and more. Register at www.fatherryan.org/visit.

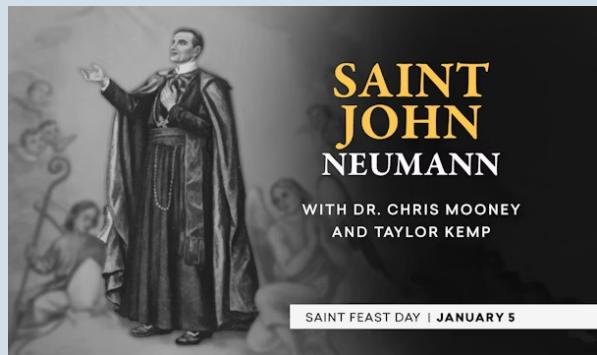
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES

Thank you to all who so generously supported the Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries in 2025 and the many diocesan ministries it sustains. While end-of-year donations are still being processed, we are grateful to share that Saint Matthew has exceeded its parish goal of \$171,000—setting a new parish record for the amount raised through this appeal. Your faith-filled generosity directly strengthens ministries that serve parishes, families, and those in need across the diocese. We are also encouraged that, through the collective efforts of parishes like ours, the diocese anticipates meeting its overall goal of \$3.65 million. Thank you for your commitment to the mission of the Church and for helping make this year's appeal such a success.



formed

Pick of the Week: January 4



Saint John Neumann

St. John Neumann is the first American male citizen saint! Dr. Chris Mooney recounts how St. John immigrated to the United States from Germany during the early nineteenth century when the church in America was still considered a mission territory. During a time period full of hardships, St. John reminds us how obstacles can be used as agents of purification and inspires us to our own missionary call. His feast day is January 5.

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

TONY'S REFLECTION KEEPING THE JOY IN CHRISTMAS

The common dictionary definition for the word "epiphany" is a sudden insight or intuitive understanding. With epiphany, one grapples with a concept for some time, then at a certain point, finally "gets it." In the revealing of an idea, having an epiphany results in a delight in the intellect. You derive joy from abruptly understanding something. As humans, we are all craving the truth. However, the seeking of the truth is an arduous task, as sin has clouded our intellect and weakened our will. That is why finding these pockets of truth through an epiphany results in enjoyment. The secular definition of epiphany stems from a Catholic ethos that we commemorate today. The Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of the divine nature of Jesus to the Gentiles, embodied by the figures of the magi. St. Matthew gives us a brief description of the magi, denoting that they came "from the East." For them, "the East" was the huge territory controlled by the Nabateans known as Persia.

Historians and theologians deduce that, as wise men, the magi would have been astrologers, but also students of the prophecies from different cultures, including the Jewish prophecies. While eastern sages in Persia studied the stars, they also viewed the cosmos as a master of divine nature. In this, the magi didn't merely dabble in astrology; as classical pagans, they viewed the stars as divine. What is more, is that we can place these ancient magi on par with sorcerers and practitioners of the black arts in that they worked with various spells and incantations to read the stars. Sorcerers of black magic were common practice in Persia. Even modern magicians view the word "magi" as the fulfillment of the concept of "magic." As Father Longenecker articulates, "The word 'magician' comes from the Persian "magus," the name of the venerable sect of the occult, astrologically adept wizards." Sorcerers in the ancient world attempted to penetrate the supernatural through illusion or other dark ways void of God.

The gifts the magi delivered to Jesus remain covertly significant. In the ancient world, if you did come before a king, you would bring them a tribute that the king's crown rights possessed you and all that is yours. Typically, the tribute you would present to a king would consist of something precious to your vocation and very livelihood. In this way, you would symbolically express that your whole work is given to the king. When we see this, we can grasp that there must be something the magi are revealing in presenting Jesus with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh were used by magi in crafting their spells to read the stars. Therefore, these gifts of the magi signify the tools of trade for these ancient sorcerers. By giving Jesus the instruments of their work, it reveals that the magi were dramatically giving up their pagan lifestyle and surrendering their entire being to Jesus.

It is fascinating that in The Epiphany, we see that the rising light of God manifested itself to those who were geographically distant and spiritually far-off. As the light of the Epiphany bursts into all areas, may all accept His divine revealed light.

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. To speak to a volunteer about their experience, contact Charlene Kimmel at Faithsharing@StPhilipMinistries.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



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 NOTES

Our next RISE event 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.

SAVE THE DATE: RISE RETREAT

Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

ADOREMUS

High School Retreat at Camp Marymount

\$100 March **27-29**

RISE SCHEDULE

**JAN
4&6**

No RISE Night
No Bible Study on 1/6

**JAN
11**

Draft Day
Social evening & semester kick-off
Drafting teams of saints

**JAN
18**

Stargazers and Base Camp
The desire for God and organized religion

**JAN
25**

J.R.R. Tolkien Catholic Theology
Being Catholic and how Tolkien's writings speak to the Sacramental life

RISE meets Sundays at 5:30 p.m. in the P.C.C. with pickup at 7:30 p.m. Dinner is provided.

RISE
SAINT MATTHEW YOUTH MINISTRY

Draft Day
Saints Edition

Spring Semester Kick-off
Jan. 11, 2026
5:30-7:30 p.m.
All 9-12th graders welcome!
Dinner Provided

Will your team win?

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**CHURCH:** 615-646-0378**SCHOOL:** 615-662-4044**PASTORAL STAFF****Father Justin Raines**

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**Father Tien Tran**

Associate Pastor

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**Bill Forte**

Deacon

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**James Grossheim**

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