



# Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

DECEMBER 25, 2025 + THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

# Rejoice!

“FOR TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID, A SAVIOR HAS  
BEEN BORN FOR YOU WHO IS CHRIST AND LORD.”



## 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 pgs. 6&7 for changes through Jan. 1

## PARISH INFORMATION

### CONTACT US:

- 📍 535 Sneed Road W, Franklin, TN 37069
- ✉️ info@stmatthewtn.org
- 📞 (615) 646-0378
- 🌐 www.stmatthewtn.org
- 👤 @SaintMatthewCatholicChurch

### PASTOR:

Father Justin Raines

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

### DEACONS:

Bill Forte & James Grossheim

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM ALL OF US AT SAINT MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH



## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM SAINT MATTHEW

Thank you for joining us this Christmas. Whether you are visiting, returning, or seeking a parish to call home, know that you are welcome here. Saint Matthew is a community of faith where people of all ages gather to worship, grow in discipleship, serve those in need, and walk together in Christ. We offer opportunities for prayer, faith formation, service, and fellowship throughout the year. You can learn more about the various ministries we offer by scanning the QR code on the left. If you feel called to become part of our parish family, we invite you to register with the parish using the QR code on the right.



Explore  
Saint  
Matthew  
Ministries

Visit us online  
[www.stmatthewtn.org](http://www.stmatthewtn.org)

Register  
with  
Saint  
Matthew



## NEW PARISHIONER RECEPTION

Whether you are new to Saint Matthew or simply seeking to be more involved in our faith community, 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 and children are welcome to attend with you. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the life of the parish, discover ways to get connected, and begin building relationships within our community. RSVP using the QR code in the graphic.

**Saint Matthew Catholic Church**

## New Parishioner Reception

Thursday  
Jan. 8, 2026

RSVP Here

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

6 p.m., Parish Conference Center



## A GROWING PARISH



97  
new families  
(Net growth of 80)

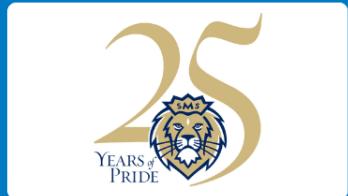


171 total  
Baptisms, First  
Communions, &  
Confirmations



17 people received  
the Sacraments  
through OCIA &  
OCIC programs

### SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL



SEEKING KNOWLEDGE + MODELING CHRIST + SERVING OTHERS



Celebrating 25 years of Catholic education  
at Saint Matthew with a Jubilee Jamboree,  
visits from bishops, & more.



Instituted a middle school elective program.  
Classes include sewing, finance through  
sports, statistics, woodworking, and others.



Students performed hundreds of service  
hours, thousands of acts of kindness, and  
numerous drives in living out our faith.

### MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Launched new  
ministries for men &  
for middle schoolers



550 + Parish Picnic  
attendees

Record-breaking Songwriters'  
Night helping to fund the  
completion of the school for  
our Sister Parish in Haiti



533 individuals helped by SVdP  
120 guests served by RITI

Dozens of social, service, and  
spiritual events led by our  
thriving parish ministries



### SPIRITUAL HIGHLIGHTS

14 relics displayed for  
veneration over 2 weekends



Created Awake, a special  
community adoration event



Community talks included  
Shroud of Turin, Echos of  
Heaven, and Conclave Class



150 students attend weekly  
religious education

Vocations Thriving: Dan Ott  
ordained a Deacon - Griffin Gartner  
entered seminary - Mary Hampton  
Hayden & Br. Simeon Mary Jaeger  
professed their temporary vows

### CHURCH RENOVATIONS



New & Accent  
Lighting



Enhanced  
Acoustics



Aesthetic  
Upgrades

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER



# CHRISTMAS

- ◆ In memory of the deceased members of the Baldinger and Butler families, by Paul and Kim Baldinger
- ◆ In memory of George & Virginia Comer, and Aldo & Rose Bettile, by John and Diane Comer
- ◆ In memory of Judith Ann Iovinelli, by Lauren Tanner and family
- ◆ In memory of Barbara Butkerait, by Carol Ann, Glenn, and Gabrielle Butkerait
- ◆ In memory of Frances & Dominic Nardacci, by Suzanne Nardacci
- ◆ In memory of Mikayla Yopp Honeycutt, by Mike and Alice Yopp
- ◆ In memory of Diana Hocutt, by Brian and Marcy Callahan
- ◆ In memory of the Namesnik and Lucia families, by Frank and Dianna Lucia
- ◆ In memory of the Miller and Dufur families, by John and BethAnn Dufur
- ◆ In memory of Chas & Mary Adams, by Albert and Marie Tarolli
- ◆ In memory of Tom & Mary Jane Brunner, by Jim and Angelia Brunner
- ◆ In memory of Lloyd & Jean Tobias, by Brian and Celeste Grider
- ◆ In memory of the White-Loftus family and the Meacham family, by Hal and Leslie Meacham
- ◆ In memory of parents and brother, Rip & Lucille Ryan and Tim Ryan, by Kurt and Beth Winstead
- ◆ In memory of Joel Dixon Gray, by Stephanie Gray
- ◆ In memory of James Kerrigan and Jimmy Ragan, by the Chau family
- ◆ In memory of Mary Dabrowiak, by Don Dabrowiak
- ◆ In memory of John Cicon, by Janet Cicon
- ◆ In memory of Jim Jarvis, by Janie Jarvis
- ◆ In memory of Elaine Dacote, Jim & Lois Felsman, Warren & Janice LeJeune, Carl & Bertha Parker, Walter & Lucille LeJeune, and Arnold Marsden, by Dr. Mark and Gina Marsden
- ◆ In memory of Virginia A. Cochran, John W. Cochran, and Jan E. Cochran, by Linda Cochran
- ◆ In memory of Edward Mascolo, by Carol Mascolo
- ◆ In memory of George Rentschler, and Paul & Sara Fleming, by Nan Rentschler
- ◆ In memory of Anne Rice, by Matthew and Anne Margaret Weishaar
- ◆ In memory of Bruce Dawson, Scott Dawson, Byrnes Butler, Jeppie Butler, and Ray & Rachael Harness, by Ray and Susan Harness
- ◆ In memory of Gilbert Fuentes, John Voltaggio, and Nicholas & Florence Caime, by Victoria Fuentes
- ◆ In memory of Rita Smith, by Paul and Bobette Smith
- ◆ In memory of Bruce & Scott Dawson, by Bruce and Patricia Dawson
- ◆ In memory of members of the Sorochak family, by Jasen and Susan Ingram

# MEMORIALS

- ◆ In memory of Frank & Frances Howatch and Frank Howatch Jr., by Jasen and Susan Ingram
- ◆ In memory of Rosemary Ross, John C. Fleckenstein, and Diane R. Fleckenstein, by Steven and Pamela Fleckenstein
- ◆ In memory of Virginia Kruciak, Josefa Sanchez, Mercedes Cue, Victor Sanchez, Jerome Kruciak, Greg Molina, and Maria Hernandez, by Rusty and Nura Kruciak
- ◆ In memory of Anna Grace Miller and Dutch & Marie Morrissey, by Brad and Gina Miller
- ◆ In memory of Marion & Katherine Oden, and Hayden & Gin Hicks, by James and Rebecca Hicks
- ◆ In memory of Barbara Marsh and Dennis Rolfsen, by James, Elaine, and Lily Denney
- ◆ In memory of Bob Bradford, by Jane Bradford
- ◆ In memory of Jim & Sara Little, Philip & Josephine Lang, and John & Charleen Little, by Paul and Mary Lang
- ◆ In memory of Frank R. Wittmer, Sue A. Wittmer, Philip D. Cox, and Judith S. Cox, by Kevin and Susan Cox
- ◆ In memory of Ron Deal Sr., by Suzanne Deal
- ◆ In memory of James & Donna Hausman, James & Julia Starr, Craig Hausman, Suzanne Creasman, Karen Goldberg, Christopher Bozung, and Marybeth Detweiler, by Cory and Mary Starr
- ◆ In memory of Ronald Ameen and Michael Mowry, by the Ameen family
- ◆ In memory of the Crowley and Lillis families, Jeff Dudley, and Jay Crowley, by James and Joan Crowley
- ◆ In memory of Art & Vi Guepe, by Ann Harris
- ◆ In honor of Helen A. Young, by Heather Young Warmbrod
- ◆ In honor of those fighting cancer, by the Massey Family
- ◆ Dennis and Laura Campelse
- ◆ Marvin Clements
- ◆ Marilyn Hartz
- ◆ Erik and Stacy Hennings
- ◆ Stan and Shannon Kasakevics
- ◆ Charles and Sharon Kennedy
- ◆ Jim and Carol Kennedy
- ◆ Edwin and Cynthia Lomocso
- ◆ David and Simone Murray
- ◆ Gary O'Reilly
- ◆ Sam and Janet Siekpe
- ◆ Dr. James and Halina Warmbrod Jr.

## PARISH NEWS

### CHRISTMAS BREAK OFFICE CLOSURES

Merry Christmas from Saint Matthew Catholic Church and School! Our offices are closed for Christmas Break. The church office will reopen on Friday, Jan. 2. Saint Matthew School will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 6.



### LITURGY SCHEDULE (DECEMBER 24-28, 2025)

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

4:00 p.m. Mass

4:15 p.m. Mass - Gym

6:30 p.m. Mass

◆ For the People of Saint Matthew

- Isaiah 62:1-5
- Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
- Matthew 1:18-25

10:00 p.m. Mass

◆ For the People of Saint Matthew

- Isaiah 9:1-6
- Titus 2:11-14
- Luke 2:1-14

7 PM Mass, Adoration, and Confession cancelled

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Mass

◆ For All Those Remembered in Christmas Memorials

- Isaiah 52:7-10
- Hebrews 1:1-6
- John 1:1-18

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Feast of Saint Stephen

8:00 a.m. Mass

◆ Stephanie Sheehan

- Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
- Matthew 10:17-22

#### SATURDAY/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Feast of the Holy Family

5:00 p.m. Saturday 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

◆ Special Intention

◆ *May they rest in peace*

### YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAINT MATTHEW

With the end of the year upon us, please remember all contributions to Saint Matthew or the Diocese must be postmarked by Wednesday, Dec. 31, to be credited towards your 2025 contributions. While the parish offices will be closed, our business office will be available in a limited manner to process end-of-year contributions on *Monday, Dec. 29, and Tuesday, Dec. 30*. *Please call the business office at 615-550-5111 to ensure somebody is here before coming up.* If you are interested in making a stock or IRA gift before the year's end, please contact Bill Stewart in the business office at [bstewart@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:bstewart@stmatthewtn.org) or (615) 550-5107 to start the process. Gifts can also be made through our online giving platform, Pushpay, by visiting [stmatthewtn.org/giving](http://stmatthewtn.org/giving). Thank you for your generous support!

### THEOLOGY AND CULTURE - NEW FAITH FORMATION SERIES STARTING JANUARY 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 from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Parish Conference Center each Sunday in January before transitioning to once a month. Our first speaker will be Father Raines on Sunday, Jan. 4, discussing "Truth, Goodness, and Beauty." Coffee and doughnuts will be available at this first presentation.



### PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

Join the Passion of Christ Prayer Group this Sunday, 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.

### JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Stay up to date with the latest news and information from Saint Matthew! Join our email list to receive our newsletters, updates on upcoming events, and more. Scan or visit [bit.ly/smcemailsignup](http://bit.ly/smcemailsignup).



## PARISH NEWS

### SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

January 1 is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. We will celebrate with two Masses - Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 5 p.m., and Thursday, Jan. 1, at 9 a.m. Incense will be used at 9 a.m. Mass. We will *NOT* have adoration, confession, or 7 p.m. Mass on Dec. 31 nor 8 a.m. Mass on Jan 1.

### FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Join us First Friday Adoration on Friday, Jan. 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please note the shortened hours due to the holidays. We need to ensure someone is present with the Blessed Sacrament at all times throughout the day. Register at [bit.ly/smcffajan26](https://bit.ly/smcffajan26).



### 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](https://bit.ly/smclbjan26).



### 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](mailto:womensclub@stmatthewtn.org)



### FORGE - REFINER'S FIRE

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, and will also play games and have pizza available. Meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building on Sunday, Jan. 11.



### RISE YOUTH MINISTRY

All high school students are invited to start the new semester with a special night titled, *Draft Day: Saints Edition* on Sunday, Jan. 11. Teens will have fun, build community, and grow in their knowledge of the saints through a competitive game. This social evening includes dinner and begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center.



Please note the dates for some RISE events this semester in the section below.

### YOUTH MINISTRY SURVEY

We are looking to improve youth ministry at Saint Matthew. If you have a teen in the parish, we invite you to complete a brief survey to help us better serve and provide meaningful spiritual opportunities for our youth. The survey takes no more than five minutes and can be anonymous. Thank you.



### PARISH EVENTS - SAVE THE DATE

Here is a preview of some of the other great events coming up at Saint Matthew in 2026:

- Jan 4 & Feb. 1:** Community Sunday
- Jan 22:** Free SoulCore Class (Women's Club)
- Jan. 25-31:** Catholic Schools Week
- Jan. 31:** Confirmation Retreat
- Feb. 20 & March 27:** Fish Fries
- Feb. 21 & 22:** Canned Food drive for SVdP
- Feb. 22:** Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
- March 6:** Mary's Way of the Cross
- March 27-29:** Adoramus (RISE retreat)
- April 12:** Awake
- May 3:** Mother & Son Day
- June 1-5:** RISE Summer Mission Trip



MERRY CHRISTMAS!



**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](http://www.stmatthewtn.org)

