



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 + FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



BLESSED ARE THEY

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.” - Mt 5:12a

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:

- 📍 535 Sneed Road W, Franklin, TN 37069
- ✉️ 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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

† Martin Holmes

8:30 a.m. Mass

◆ For the People of Saint Matthew

11:00 a.m. Mass

◆ For Dr. Simpson and Family

• Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

• 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

• Matthew 5:1-12a

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Presentation of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Mass

◆ For Sandy & Ben Arcese

6:00 p.m. Mass

† Tien Tran

• Malachi 3:1-4

• Hebrews 2:14-18

• Luke 2:22-40

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:00 a.m. Mass

† Steve Trauernicht

• 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a,
30-19:3

• Mark 5:21-43

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

7:00 p.m. Mass

◆ For Suzanne Davis

• 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17

• Mark 6:1-6

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Saint Agatha

8:00 a.m. Mass

◆ For Mary Denault

• 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12

• Mark 6:7-13

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Saint Paul Miki and Companions

8:00 a.m. Mass

† Souls in Purgatory

• Sirach 47:2-11

• Mark 6:14-29

◆ Special Intention

† May they rest in peace

PARISH SPOTLIGHT

CANDLEMAS - FEB. 2

Saint Matthew will celebrate Candlemas tomorrow, Monday, Feb. 2, with Masses at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. We will bless all of the candles we will use in the church this year during the 6 p.m. Mass and have a brief procession before that Mass. You may bring your candles from home to be blessed at the 6 p.m. Mass. In addition, blessed candles will be available after the Masses. Each parishioner is welcome to take two candles. A donation of \$5 is greatly appreciated.

BLESSING OF THROATS

The Feast of St. Blaise is Tuesday, Feb. 3. We will offer the blessing of the throats after the all-school Mass on his feast day, as well as after all Masses on the weekend of Feb. 7 & 8.

RISE PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER - FEB. 22

All are invited to enjoy a free community breakfast, with freewill donations gratefully accepted in support of the RISE summer mission trip, Servio Deo. Sponsors are needed for the breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 22. To become a sponsor or learn more (including what the priests say their favorite 'pancakes' are) scan the QR code below.

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

Sponsors Needed and Save the Date

Sunday, Feb. 22

FOLLOWING THE
SUNDAY MASSES



SUPPORTING
SERVIO DEO
MISSION TRIP



SCAN FOR MORE INFO ON
BECOMING A SPONSOR

STEWARSHIP UPDATE

Stewardship details for the week of January 19-25 are delayed due to the ice storm and will be shared next week. Thank you for your continued support of Saint Matthew.

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



Today's Second Collection
Building Maintenance &
Facility Improvements

FORGE MEETING TONIGHT

All middle school students are invited to join Forge tonight, Feb. 1, for their monthly meeting. The theme is *Peace Be With You: Managing Stress*. Drop off is at 5:30 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building and pickup is at 7:30 p.m. at the gym. Bring a friend this month and get a prize! Let us know you are coming at bit.ly/forgefeb26.

ST. GIANNA CIRCLE MEETING - FEB. 4

It's Galentine's night with Saint Gianna Circle. All moms are invited to enjoy wine, cheese, and charcuterie on Wednesday, Feb. 4. The meeting will also include Valentine's crafts and discussion on ways to show love and appreciation to our husbands. Start the evening with 7 p.m. Mass in the chapel, followed by the meeting in the Parish Conference Center.

MEN'S CLUB MEETING - FEB. 5

All parish men are invited to join the Men's Club for their monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Come enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship while also preparing for the Lenten fish fries (Feb. 20 & March 27).

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Spend some quiet time with Jesus during our First Friday Adoration on Friday, Feb. 6. Adoration begins after 8 a.m. Mass and ends with benediction on Saturday at 8 a.m. Sign up for a time slot to help us ensure we have someone present with the Eucharist at all times at bit.ly/smcffafeb26.



LUNCH BUNCH

All parish seniors are invited to join for our Lunch Bunch Ministry for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and bingo on Tuesday, Feb. 10 from noon to 2 p.m. Admission is \$12 plus a prize for the prize table valued around \$10. Please RSVP by Thursday, Feb. 5, to help us plan meals at bit.ly/smclbfeb26.

COMMUNITY SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND

Community Sunday is pushed back one week and will now be on Sunday, Feb. 8. Please join us for coffee, doughnuts, and fellowship in the Cohan-Hansom Building after Masses next weekend.

THEOLOGY & CULTURE UPDATES

Our next *Theology & Culture* presentation is next Sunday, Feb. 8, from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Parish Conference Center. It will be led by Sister Mary Diana Dreger O.P. on the topic *Understanding Human Emotions*. Coffee and doughnuts will be available for those attending.

SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION

SMS spring sports registration is now open for Junior Cheerleading, Flag Football, Touch Rugby, Soccer, Track & Field, Volleyball and Golf. Registration closes on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 11:59 p.m. and late registrations are **NOT** accepted. Register at clubs.bluesombrero.com/stmatthewtn.



Girl Scout
Cookie Sales



RETURN OLD PALMS

There is a basket in the Narthex in which you may place your old, blessed palms ahead of Ash Wednesday. The basket is available until Tuesday, Feb. 17.



Ash Wednesday
February 18

6:30 a.m.*
8 a.m. (School attends)
12 p.m.*
7 p.m.

*Liturgy of the Word with
Distribution of Ashes

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

PRAY WITH THE POPE

Pray with the Pope is a global initiative of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network where the Holy Father shares his monthly prayer intention, an invitation to pray and mobilize for the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church. Simple and accessible, it helps anyone, anywhere, take a moment to pray with the Pope and stay connected to the Church's mission. To join this spiritual community, visit popesprayer.va/praywiththepope.

DISCIPLESHIP & DELIVERANCE

Discipleship & Deliverance is a Lenten workshop by Whole Catholic, a local Catholic apostolate, which will take place at St. Philip Catholic Church in Franklin. The 8-week program is available both in-person or via Zoom with gatherings on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. starting Feb. 3. The cost is \$197. Visit bit.ly/ddlent2026 for more information or to register.

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/smccgiftear.



PARISH NEWS

NEW HOME KITS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

On Thursday, Feb. 19th, the Family Service Ministry will host a new home welcome kit packing party for those folks receiving housing through Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities places an average of 10 families per month. Saint Matthew's goal is to collect items for and make 20 new home welcome kits. Once a family is placed in a home, our welcome kits will be presented to them. What a warm welcome they will receive!

Families can help pack and/or donate items. Don't have time to shop or pack? Donate funds by Feb. 16 and we can buy supplies. See what's needed, sign up to help, or donate at bit.ly/smcfsmhome26.

SVDP FOOD DRIVE

FOOD DRIVE

Feb. 21 & 22

ITEMS NEEDED

- Instant Potatoes or Shelf-stable Rice
- Peanut Butter & Grape Jelly (No glass)
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Cans of Soup
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Spaghetti Sauce (plastic jars)
- Ravioli, SpaghettiOs, Hamburger Helper
- Canned Tuna
- Shelf-stable Canned Meats
- Shelf-stable Microwavable Meals
- Boxes of Cereal
- \$25 Gift Cards to Kroger or Walmart

Please sign up for items using the QR code below to help us fill 40 boxes. Drop off in the Narthex before or after Masses.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL
FRANKLIN, TN

FOOD DRIVE

SAINT MATTHEW NEWS

NEW VBS COORDINATOR NEEDED

We are seeking a VBS Coordinator with a heart for service to help organize, support volunteers, and joyfully lead our Vacation Bible School camp this summer for our children and parish community. Please contact Tony Jesse if you are interested.

GET INVOLVED WITH OUR HAITI MINISTRY

Looking for a fun and easy way to get involved with the Saint Matthew Haiti Ministry? Consider joining the Songwriters' Night Committee! There are opportunities for both day-of support, such as setup and cleanup, and pre-event help, including mailing letters, organizing sponsorship gift baskets, and coordinating food trucks and beverages.

This ministry hopes to grow participation on this subcommittee and connect more people to our mission. We especially welcome anyone with connections to or experience in the music industry. An organizational meeting will be held in late spring, and Songwriters' Night is tentatively scheduled for September. To learn more or get involved, please contact Barney Schulte at 615-397-1371.

LENTEN FISH FRIES

Save the date for our annual Lenten Fish Fries put on by the Saint Matthew Men's Club. The dates for this year are Friday, Feb. 19, and Friday, March 20. Come for Stations of the Cross and stay for dinner!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY HELPLINE

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a Catholic charity helping the poor through prayer, food, and financial intervention. We exist to sanctify our members and to assist, discreetly and non-judgmentally, those experiencing hunger or financial distress. If this ministry appeals to you, or if you know of a parishioner or others in need of help, we invite you to contact the help line at 615-550-5130.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Stay up-to-date with the latest news and information from Saint Matthew Catholic Church! Join our email list today to receive our regular newsletters, updates on upcoming events, and more. To join our list, visit bit.ly/smcemailsignup and fill out the form.

TONY'S REFLECTION

THE WISDOM OF THE BEATITUDES

The great thinkers throughout history each agree that all people are ultimately seeking happiness. The core debate is - what brings us happiness. Today, Jesus presents us the solution to this pressing question. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus uses the phrase "blessed" repeatedly. The word "blessed" is translated into the Greek word makarios, which means to be happy, content, or fulfilled. Therefore, when we hear the "blessed" in the beatitudes we can simply replace the words "happy" or "fulfilled."

Let us entertain an intriguing thought experiment by comparing Jesus's list of what makes us happy to the culture's list. If we polled the popular messages embedded in our culture, we would likely pose the following list of "things" that would bring us happiness. Notice that Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel stands in stark contrast to what the culture is presenting.

Culture's List:

1. Acquiring money and possessions will bring you happiness.
2. Not suffering will bring you happiness.
3. Obtaining power and conquering nature will bring you happiness. Also, being admired and praised will bring you happiness.
4. Feeling good about yourself and increasing your self-esteem will bring you happiness.
5. Enacting revenge against people who wrong you will bring you happiness.
6. Sex for pleasure will bring you happiness.
7. Dominating others will bring you happiness.
8. Having a long, comfortable life will bring you happiness.

Jesus' List:

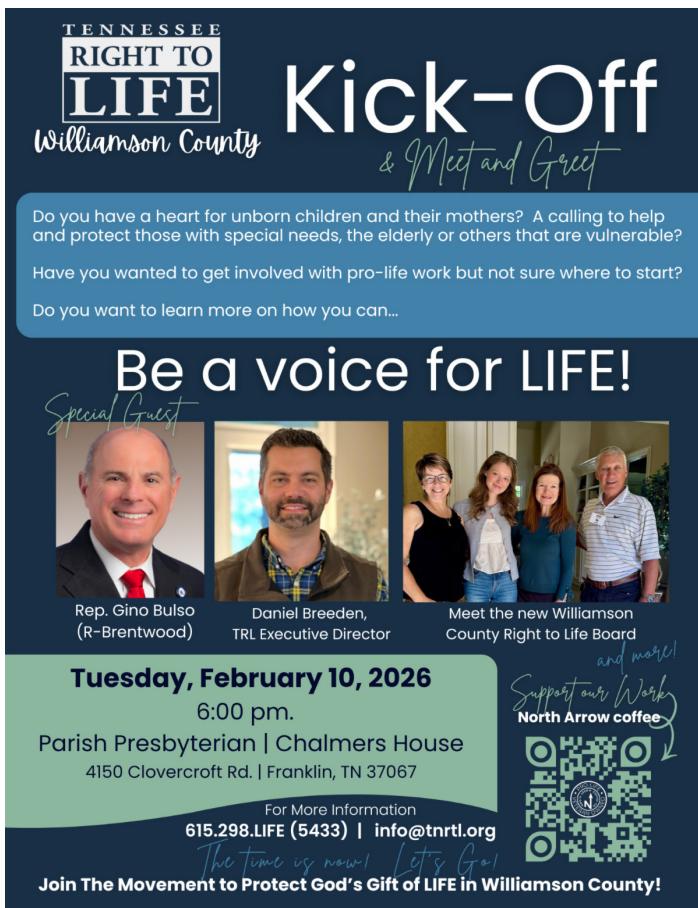
1. Happy are the poor in spirit who allow God to fill their emptiness.
2. Happy are those that mourn.
3. Happy are the meek - those that have self-control.
4. Happy are those that hunger and thirst for righteousness who trust God to right wrongs.
5. Happy are the merciful.
6. Happy are the pure in heart.
7. Happy are the peacemakers.
8. Take up your cross and follow Me.

It should be noted that while the world's method may lead to short-term happiness, it invariably results in long-term misery. Instead, Christ rips away at the comfort of short-term feelings to have us make way for the glories of sacrifice. While the world is abuzz with immediate gratification of the senses, Jesus calls us to a model of self-discipline to bring about real happiness. Try as we may to avoid Jesus's list, deep down we instinctively know His way is the best.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

NEW TN RIGHT TO LIFE CHAPTER

Tennessee Right to Life is launching a new chapter in Williamson County. See the flyer below for more information regarding their kick-off event. To learn more about the organization you may contact Mary Starr at maryestarr25@gmail.com.



CATHOLIC DAY ON THE HILL

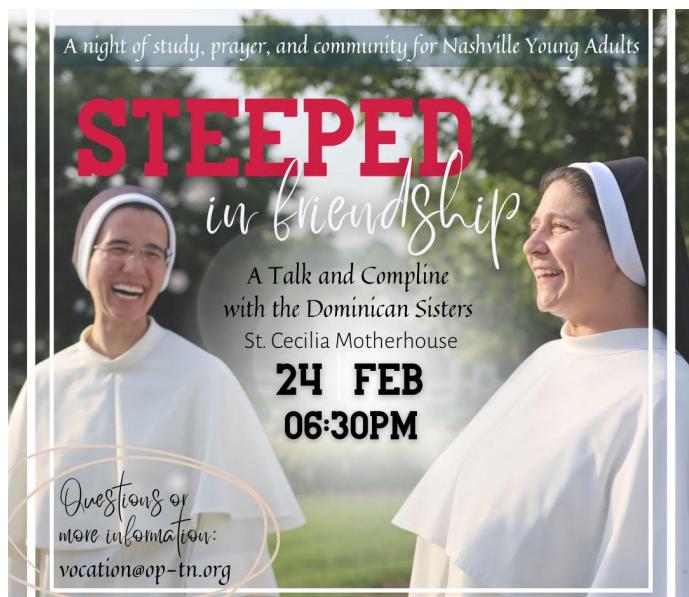
Catholics from across Tennessee are invited to gather at the State Capitol on Tuesday, Feb. 24, for Catholic Day on the Hill sponsored by the Tennessee Catholic Conference.

Catholic Day on the Hill provides an opportunity for the faithful to bring Gospel values into the public square by engaging directly with state lawmakers. Participants will join fellow Catholics, clergy, and bishops to pray, learn about key public policy issues, and advocate for legislation that upholds the dignity of human life, protects religious freedom, supports families, and promotes the common good. Registration details and additional information are available at tncatholic.org.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE STARTS FEB. 18

The Nashville 40 Days for life spring campaign runs from Wednesday, Feb. 18, through Sunday, March 29. The vigil hours run daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. outside of Planned Parenthood (P.P.). Here are a few community events. Learn more and sign up for a time to pray at 40daysforlife.com/nashville.

- 2/18 **Kickoff Rally**, 1:30 p.m., P.P.
- 2/28 **Rosary Rally**, 12 p.m., P.P.
- 3/14 **Jericho March**, 12 p.m., P.P.
- 3/29 **Lift High Cross Procession** 12 p.m., Meet at Cathedral of Incarnation followed by the **Stations of the Cross** outside P.P.



YOUTH MINISTRIES



Forge Middle School Ministry

Bible Bites

Come for doughnuts, stay for God's word!

Wednesdays 3:15 - 4 p.m.
Starting February 11
 Parish Conference Center




Led by our Propaedeutic Seminarians

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





BIBLE BITES

Bible Bites, a special bible study just for our middle school students is returning this month! This next session will begin on Wednesday, Feb. 11, and meet weekly until at least March 11. Please register your child through the QR code above. Even if your child attended in the fall, you will need to register them again. For any questions, please reach out to forge@stmatthewtn.org.

SERVIO DEO REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

RISE YOUTH MINISTRY

Servio Deo

HIS MISSION, OUR HANDS



OPEN TO ALL CURRENT 7TH-12TH GRADERS

Non-Refundable Deposit: \$250
 Pay In Full: \$540
 Scholarships Available

Black Mountain, NC
June 1-5, 2026





RISE SCHEDULE

**FEB
1**

Trailblazer

Examining the uniqueness of Jesus' public ministry

**FEB
8 & 15**

NO RISE NIGHT

Enjoy the Super Bowl and your long weekend!

**FEB
22**

Pancake Breakfast (see page 2)

Volunteers needed (see this page)

RISE Night: Game Night with Fr. Tran

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to help with the RISE Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 22. All current 7-12th graders are able to attend the Mission Trip this summer. Those who volunteer at the breakfast will receive a discount on the trip. You do not need to be attending the trip to volunteer at the pancake breakfast. Please sign up at bit.ly/risebreakfastvolunteer26.

ADOREMUS

Adoremus is a Eucharistic-centered retreat for our high school students. They will be called to a deeper relationship through talks and testimonies as they adore our Lord exposed in the Most Blessed Sacrament on top of "the burning bush." There will be time to grow in fellowship and community with peers as well. PJ Anderson will provide the musical worship for the weekend. Adoremus is March 27-29 at Camp Marymount. Scan to register.



ADOREMUS

High School Retreat at Camp Marymount

\$100 March 27-29





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**

Pastor

frraines@stmatthewtn.org

**Father Tien Tran**

Associate Pastor

frtran@stmatthewtn.org

**Bill Forte**

Deacon

bforte@stmatthewtn.org

**James Grossheim**

Deacon

jgrossheim@nashvocations.org

**Rebecca Harding**Dir. of Music Ministry
rharding@stmatthewtn.org**Tony Jesse**Dir. of Religious Ed.
tjesse@stmatthewtn.org**Michaela Miller**Dir. of Youth Ministry
mmiller@stmatthewtn.org**Kelly Ott**Pastoral Associate
kott@stmatthewtn.org

BUSINESS STAFF

**Leslie Holt**Director of Operations
lholt@stmatthewtn.org**Dr. Anthony Simpson**

SMS Principal

asimpson@stmatthewtn.org

**Lori Bellante**SMS Advancement Director
lbellante@stmatthewtn.org**Bill Stewart**Dir. of Finance
bstewart@stmatthewtn.org**Alex Halfmann**Dir. Comm./Stewardship
ahalfmann@stmatthewtn.org**Lisa Newman**Accounts Payable Clerk
lnewman@stmatthewtn.org**Christy McCoy**Receptionist
cmccoy@stmatthewtn.org**Colleen Curran**Facility Coordinator
ccurran@stmatthewtn.orgVISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE NEWS AND
INFORMATION FROM SAINT MATTHEW.www.stmatthewtn.org