



# *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.

#### CONFESSION

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](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

## 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



RISE



SCAN FOR MORE INFO ON  
BECOMING A SPONSOR

SUPPORTING  
SERVIO DEO  
MISSION TRIP



## 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*

## STEWARDSHIP 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](http://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](http://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/smeffafeb26](http://bit.ly/smeffafeb26).



## 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/smlcbfeb26](http://bit.ly/smlcbfeb26).

## 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](http://clubs.bluesombrero.com/stmatthewtn).

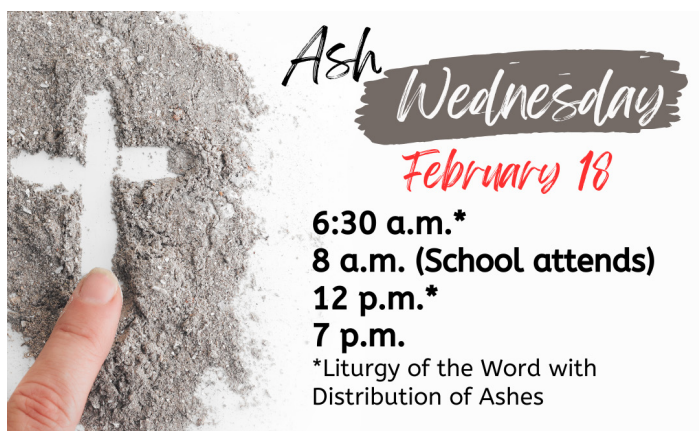


Girl Scout  
Cookie Sales



## 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.



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



## 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](http://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.



## 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](http://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 who 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](mailto:maryestarr25@gmail.com).

**TENNESSEE RIGHT TO LIFE**  
Williamson County

# Kick-Off

*& Meet and Greet*

Do you have a heart for unborn children and their mothers? A calling to help and protect those with special needs, the elderly or others that are vulnerable?

Have you wanted to get involved with pro-life work but not sure where to start?

Do you want to learn more on how you can...

## Be a voice for LIFE!

*Special Guest*

Rep. Gino Bulso (R-Brentwood)

Daniel Breeden, TRL Executive Director

Meet the new Williamson County Right to Life Board

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026**  
6:00 pm.

Parish Presbyterian | Chalmers House  
4150 Clovercroft Rd. | Franklin, TN 37067

For More Information  
615.298.LIFE (5433) | [info@tnrtl.org](mailto:info@tnrtl.org)

Join The Movement to Protect God's Gift of LIFE in Williamson County!

*Support our Work and more!*  
North Arrow coffee

### 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](https://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.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS TO SCOUTING AND HONORING THEIR FAITH AND "DUTY TO GOD."

# SCOUT SUNDAY

2026

ALL CURRENT SCOUTS AND FORMER SCOUTS ARE WELCOME!

"SCOUT SUNDAY MASS" WITH BISHOP SPALDING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2026 - 5:00 PM (VIGIL MASS)  
CATHEDRAL OF THE INCARNATION  
2015 WEST END AVE, NASHVILLE, TN 37203

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://scoutingevent.com/560-109617>

### 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](http://tncatholic.org).

A night of study, prayer, and community for Nashville Young Adults

# STEEPED

*in friendship*

A Talk and Compline with the Dominican Sisters  
St. Cecilia Motherhouse

**24 FEB**  
**06:30PM**

Questions or more information:  
[vocation@op-tn.org](mailto:vocation@op-tn.org)



## 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.



## 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.

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

### SERVIO DEO REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

RISE YOUTH MINISTRY

*Servio Deo*

**HIS MISSION, OUR HANDS**

Black Mountain, NC  
June 1-5, 2026

OPEN TO ALL CURRENT  
7TH-12TH GRADERS

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

### 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](http://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.

Saint Matthew  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**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  
fraines@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.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE NEWS AND  
INFORMATION FROM SAINT MATTHEW.

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

