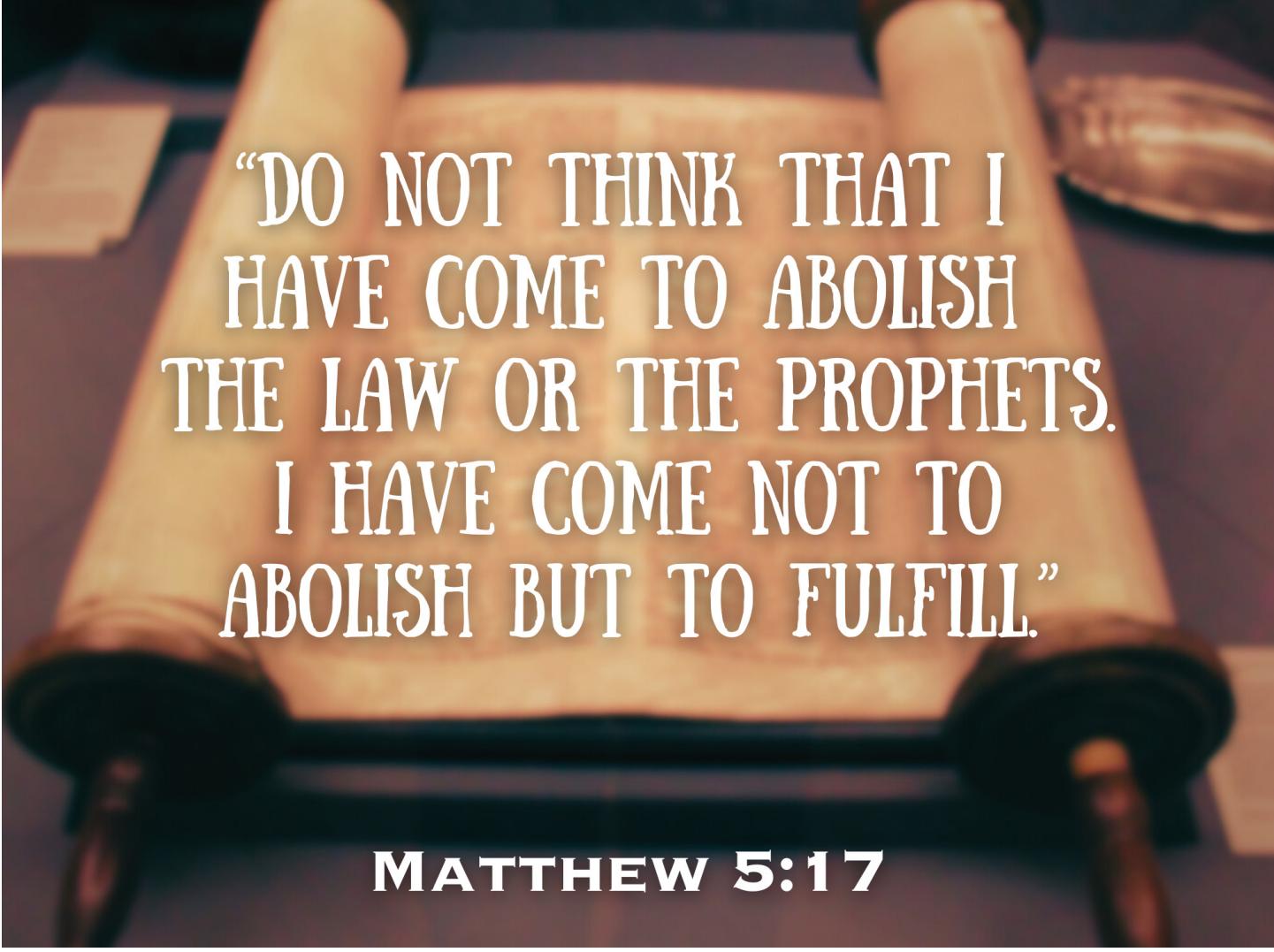




# Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 15, 2026 + SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“DO NOT THINK THAT I HAVE COME TO ABOLISH THE LAW OR THE PROPHETS. I HAVE COME NOT TO ABOLISH BUT TO FULFILL.”

**MATTHEW 5:17**

## 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.

### CONFESION

Wednesday | 6 - 6:50 p.m.  
Saturday | 4 - 4:45 p.m.

\*Ash Wednesday information inside

## 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

### SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

◆ For Kori Jones

#### 8:30 a.m. Mass

◆ For the People of Saint Matthew

#### 11:00 a.m. Mass

◆ For Polly Thomson

- Sirach 15:15-20
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
- Matthew 5:17-37

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass

◆ For Lisa Wright

- James 1:1-11
- Mark 8:11-13

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass

◆ For Jeff and Kathy Matyas

- James 1:12-18
- Mark 8:14-21

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

#### Ash Wednesday

#### 6:30 a.m. Lit. of Word w/ Ashes

#### 8 a.m. Mass

◆ For Becky Catalano

#### 12 p.m. Mass

◆ For The People of Saint Matthew

#### 7:00 p.m. Mass

◆ Mathar Nguyen

- Joel 2:12-18
- 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2
- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass

◆ Jimmy Baldinger

- Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- Luke 9:22-25

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass

◆ For Susan Cox

- Isaiah 58:1-9a
- Matthew 9:14-15

◆ Special Intention

◆ May they rest in peace

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER RAINES

If you ever come to daily Mass at Saint Matthew, you will know that the congregation says the Hail Mary and Saint Michael Prayer together after Mass each day. I learned of this about three and a half years ago, when I celebrated my first daily Mass after being appointed pastor. We didn't include the prayers that day, of course, since I didn't know about the practice. After Mass, a parishioner kindly explained that this had long been the custom of the parish. I was aware that many parishes in our diocese do this, as well as some whole dioceses in our country, so it seemed like a reasonable thing to continue. As time went on, I found it to be a really great way to pray after Mass before leaving.

When we went through our strategic planning process in 2024-2025 to strengthen Saint Matthew Catholic Church and School, and plan for the future, one of the ideas that came out of the plan, inspired by our daily Masses, was to begin saying these prayers after our Tuesday and Thursday school Masses as well. We began doing that almost a year ago, after the celebration of Easter last year. All of our SMS students and teachers learned the Saint Michael Prayer and our student cantors have been leading the student body in saying these prayers after every school Mass. Since that time, we have had a lot of interest from parishioners in extending that to our weekend Masses as well.

Lent is an opportune time to try this out, as our parish has had a Lenten tradition for many years of not doing a closing hymn at Mass, but rather ending Mass with the ringing of a bell. It's also a time in which many of us seek to incorporate new spiritual practices in our relationship with the Lord. So, this Lent we will try out saying the Hail Mary and Saint Michael Prayer together after our weekend Masses like we have been doing after our daily and school Masses.

This practice comes from Pope Leo XIV's predecessor, Leo XIII. The idea is that we have just heard the word of the Lord and received Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass, and now we are called to take him out into the world with us. We ask for the intercession of our Blessed Mother and the prayers and protection of Saint Michael as we do this so that the Lord Jesus may conquer evil and we may be strengthened in our own battles. If you don't know this prayer already, don't worry! It will be printed in the music leaflet in your pew that we will be using this Lent.

## STEWARSHIP UPDATE

### - FOR THE WEEK OF FEB 2-8 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$29,174
A&E/ALTAR FLOWERS	\$246

**Today's Second Collection:  
The Church in Latin America**

Visiting, new, or looking to give?  
Scan to make a gift now, or visit  
[stmatthewtn.org/church/giving](http://stmatthewtn.org/church/giving)



### OFFICES CLOSED

In honor of Presidents' Day, the Saint Matthew Church and School Offices are closed on Monday, Feb. 16. Mass remains as scheduled at 8 a.m.

### 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**  
**Liturgy Schedule**

**6:30 a.m.** Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Ashes  
**8 a.m.** Mass with School  
**12 p.m.** Mass  
**6 p.m.** Adoration and Confession  
**7 p.m.** Mass (with incense)

**FEBRUARY 20 & MARCH 27**

All are invited to attend Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m. in the church before dinner. Carry out is available starting at 5:30 p.m. Dine-in dinners begin at 6:30 p.m.

Fried Catfish
Hush Puppies, Fries, & Coleslaw
Spaghetti
\$10 / Plate

Pre-orders Appreciated

### NEW HOME KITS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

On Thursday, Feb. 19, at 3 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center the Family Service Ministry is hosting a New Home Welcome Kit packing party. These kits are given to families who receive housing through Catholic Charities. Saint Matthew's goal is to prepare 20 welcome kits to help families feel at home from day one. Families are invited to help by packing kits, donating needed items, or giving funds by Feb. 16 so supplies can be purchased. See items needed, sign up, or donate at [bit.ly/smcfsmhome26](http://bit.ly/smcfsmhome26).

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Let us come together and Pray the Stations of the Cross as a parish community each Friday in Lent at 6 p.m. in the church. We hope you can join us starting this Friday, Feb. 20.

**Saint Vincent de Paul Society**  
**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 at Masses on Feb. 21 & 22.



What a wonderful week we had at SMS! We celebrated Catholic Schools Week later than planned due to the ice storm, but we were able to fit in most of our activities and events. On Wednesday, our students participated in Demonstration Day, speaking about their service learning opportunities they completed over the school year. That afternoon, our middle schoolers showed off their talents with an excellent Variety Show. On Thursday, we took our 2nd and 7th grade students to the Pastoral Center for the CSW Mass with Bishop Spalding, which was a great celebration. Thursday night we had an excellent Whiteout event with performances by our basketball teams and cheerleaders.

Throughout the week we also raised money for Haiti, and the girls were victorious on the Silver Coin Drive! Celebrating Catholic Schools is always such a fantastic week.

### SUPPORT CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND SPONSOR COACH CAT CLASSIC

The 9th annual Coach Cat Basketball Classic is played at Christ the King from Feb. 23 through March 1. This is the Parochial League Championship Tournament for the 5/6 grade boys and girls teams. Sponsors are needed. All funds raised will provide Coach Cat scholarships to deserving students at participating schools. By becoming a sponsor for the tournament, your school can help create opportunities for their students to receive financial assistance for their education. All funds raised by the individual schools go directly back to that school in the form of scholarships. Scan for more information, or contact Chuck Curran at [chuckcurran@gmail.com](mailto:chuckcurran@gmail.com).



**SCAN FOR  
SMS SUMMER  
CAMP DETAILS**



**VOTE FOR US TODAY!**

[franklinis.com/the-sizzle-awards-poll](http://franklinis.com/the-sizzle-awards-poll)



**BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL  
BEST PRE-SCHOOL**



*Saint Matthew School*



Forge Middle School Ministry  
Presents

**Bible Bites**

Come for doughnuts, stay for God's word!



**Led by the Propaedeutic Seminarians**



Wednesdays  
3:15 - 4:15 p.m.  
Limited spots remain! Scan to register.



## FAITH FORMATION

### VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking a team of volunteers to help organize and joyfully lead our Vacation Bible School camp this summer for our children and parish community. Please contact Tony Jesse if you are interested at [tjesse@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:tjesse@stmatthewtn.org).

### BE FEARLESS THIS LENT

Time and again, the people of God are called to “be courageous” and “be not afraid.” Yet, we live in a time where fear seems to guide our very existence. This Lent our Adult Faith Formation Ministry will be using Chris Stefanick’s series, *Fearless*, to approach our Lenten sacrifices with Christian courage and conviction. The group will meet on Tuesdays throughout Lent beginning on Feb. 24 (except for Tuesday, March 17), from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. If you are interested in being a part of this study, please visit [bit.ly/smcfearless](http://bit.ly/smcfearless).



### LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

All parishioners are invited to join for a Lenten Bible Study on Thursdays at 1 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. No registration needed.

### DAILY LENTEN REFLECTION

Saint Matthew is providing books with daily Lenten meditations to help guide you this Lent. The book, *Crux* from Ascension Press, will teach you to surrender to God through the adoption of four daily challenges: daily physical exercise, a dietary fast, daily reading of scripture, and a nightly examination of conscience. Beginning Ash Wednesday, the books will be available on a table in the narthex until they run out.

### LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE - FEB. 24

The Saint Matthew Lenten Penance Service begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Church on Tuesday, February 24. We will have several outside priests joining us to hear everyone’s confession. All are encouraged to take advantage of this Sacramental opportunity during Lent.

## TONY'S REFLECTION

### THE NEW FULFILLS THE OLD

People tend to view the Old Testament and New Testament as two stories going in opposite directions. However, this Sunday, we witness a harmonic synthesis in the interplay of the old and the new. The readings in Sirach and the Psalm convey the importance of God’s laws in the Old Testament. Then in the Gospel, Jesus says He has not come to abolish the Law of Moses and the teaching of the prophets, but to fulfill them. Here, we see a completion and expansion in the story of God’s healing process. The law in the OT is designed to keep Israel firmly near God while simultaneously away from peril. God established the Mosaic Law after the abhorrent scene in which Israel worshiped the Egyptian god embodied in a golden calf. The whole point of the law is to act as a buffer to guide God’s people away from the false idolatry encircling their lives. Therefore, the law acts as a preventive measure all the while steering one closer toward the divine path.

Because we live in a fallen world and are inclined to sin, the law acts as a helpful deterrent much like a life jacket is to an adventurous four-year-old as they run on an ocean dock. The four-year-old may complain that the life jacket the father demands he wears is “restrictive” but that doesn’t take away from the reality that wearing the life jacket allows the boy to remain close to his father rather than risk being tragically pulled away to the depths of the ocean.

However, the story of healing does not end with the external act of the law. There needs to be a transformation in the interior disposition of the soul. When the four-year-old obeys the “law” and wears the life jacket, this is good, but incomplete by itself. It would be far better to eliminate the child’s rebellious urge to withdraw himself from the loving father altogether. Therefore, the external act of the law actually points to the more pressing matter – the interior change of the person.

Jesus is showing us that outward observance of the law is not sufficient. It is not enough that we do not murder, commit adultery, or lie. We must take these warped desires out at the source. While following laws may deter threats, for the act of sin to be eliminated, one needs to go deep into his interior and boldly remove his deformed thoughts so he can attain union with God. To be sure, taking custody of one’s thoughts so they are saintly is no easy undertaking in our hyperactive secular world. While this process may take years in the making, when we humbly receive Christ’s grace transferred to us in the sacraments, our dubious motives are curtailed and we become molded closer to His interior.

From the heavenly vantage point, we are analogous to the four-year-old who is instructed to wear the life jacket as he darts across the dock. Yes, dutifully wearing the life jacket is admirable, but do we go beyond this and allow our interior to refrain from running away from God and instead hold his hand, so no life jacket is necessary?



Have you felt called to serve through Room In The Inn but aren't sure where to begin? We are especially in need of **Innkeepers** and **Drivers**, and are offering the opportunity to shadow and train in these roles before committing as a volunteer. Shadow dates include **2/19, 3/12, & 3/19**.

**Drivers** must be male. **Innkeepers** may be male or female. (At least one Innkeeper must be male.)

Additional RITI volunteer roles include: hospitality, cooking dinner, providing breakfast or bagged lunches, washing linens, and a shower assistant (must be male). While there are only a limited number of volunteer slots remaining for the 25-26 year, we are actively building our volunteer base for this fall and beyond. Our Amazon Wish List was recently updated to reflect our current needs.

If you're interested, or seeking more information, please text or call **Rhea Forte at 615-828-5950** or text **Mary Peters at 615-308-1930**.

Your presence makes a meaningful difference. Thank you for serving our neighbors in need!

Learn more, sign up, or donate: [bit.ly/smcri25](http://bit.ly/smcri25)

## Haiti Happenings

The completion of Our Lady of Miracles School is now underway. Funds were transferred to Fr. Nicolas Floréal at the beginning of this year, and construction has officially begun. Below, you can see a recently fabricated metal door and window installed at the school. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Fr. Nicolas also reached out during the recent winter storm and shared that he and the OLOM community prayed for the Saint Matthew community during that difficult time and extend their blessing to all who endured hardship, especially to those without heat.



## WOMEN'S CLUB & RITI - FEB. 19

The Saint Matthew Women's Club is focused on service this month and partnering with our Room In The Inn ministry on Thursday, Feb. 19. If you'd like to volunteer or cook a meal visit [bit.ly/smcri26](http://bit.ly/smcri26).

## PARISH PICNIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Saint Matthew needs volunteers to help plan our annual parish picnic. Interested? Contact Colleen Curran at [ccurran@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:ccurran@stmatthewtn.org). Thank you!

## ST. JOSEPH'S MEN

Men, take some time this year to grow closer to Jesus by joining our St. Joseph's Men ministry. St. Joseph's Men is our faith formation ministry for men that meets twice a month on Thursday nights and explores ways to learn and live out the faith. Email Tony at [tjesse@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:tjesse@stmatthewtn.org) to get involved.

## 2025 GIVING STATEMENTS

2025 giving statements were emailed on Jan. 30 to all parishioners with an email address on file. If you do not have an email address on file, your statement was mailed to you. If you did not receive your statement, or need a copy mailed, please contact the parish office for assistance.

## LENTEN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RETREATS

Spend time away with Jesus on a directed, silent retreat at Bethany Retreat House this Lent. The retreats include daily Mass, confession, spiritual direction, retreat conferences, and extended periods of silence for prayer and rest. Father Doug Grandon will serve as retreat master. The Women's Retreat is Feb. 20-22 ([bit.ly/scawr26](http://bit.ly/scawr26)), and the Men's Retreat is Feb. 27-March 1 ([bit.ly/scamen26](http://bit.ly/scamen26)). The cost is \$250. All meals and a private room for lodging included.

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

**Sunday, Feb. 22**

FOLLOWING SUNDAY  
MASSES IN THE  
COHAN-HANSOM BUILDING



SUPPORTING  
SERVIO DEO  
MISSION TRIP

TO LEARN MORE, DONATE,  
OR BECOME A SPONSOR,  
VISIT [BIT.LY/SMCPANCAKE26](https://bit.ly/smcpancake26)



You're invited! Thanks to our generous sponsors, including the Andolina family, Clay and Kim Teter, the Barbee family, Alan Robinson Painting, and others, you can enjoy this breakfast for free. Any donations are greatly appreciated and will offset costs for our students to attend our summer mission trip, Servio Deo. See the menu on back!

### TEEN BIBLE STUDY

All high school students are invited to join RISE for their weekly Bible study on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. This week, the group begins a new study exploring the Marian dogmas, what the Church teaches about Mary, and how these teachings are rooted in Sacred Scripture.

This weekly Bible study is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your faith beyond the Sunday gatherings, ask thoughtful questions, and grow in your understanding of Church teaching alongside your peers, not to mention a great spiritual activity for Lent.

RISE YOUTH MINISTRY

# Servio Deo

HIS MISSION, OUR HANDS

Black Mountain, NC  
June 1-5, 2026

OPEN TO ALL CURRENT  
7TH-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

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



### RISE SCHEDULE NOTES

RISE is **not** meeting this Sunday, Feb. 15, due to President's Day weekend. The Tuesday Night Bible Study is still meeting this week. The next RISE Night is Sunday, Feb. 22, featuring a game night with Father Tran. Earlier that day, we will have our pancake breakfast. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

### 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](https://bit.ly/risebreakfastvolunteer26).

### ADOREMUS RETREAT MARCH 27-29

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 with a cost of \$100.

**High School Retreat at Camp Marymount**

**\$100**      **March 27-29**



**MICHAELA MILLER**  
Director of Youth Ministry  
[mmiller@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:mmiller@stmatthewtn.org)  
**615-550-5102**



# RISE PANCAKE MENU

SUNDAY, FEB. 22. | COHAN-HANSOM BUILDING



## FATHER TRANCAKES

Pancakes topped with fresh blueberries and strawberries, then generously dusted with angel dust—a.k.a. powdered sugar.

**Sponsored by the Andolina Family**



## THE PAINTER'S PALATE

Gluten free pancakes topped with strawberries, blueberries, whipped cream and sprinkles.

**Sponsored by Alan Robinson Painting**



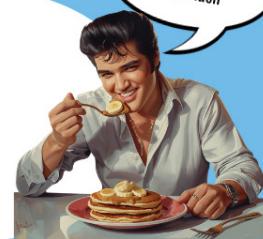
Thank ya, thank ya  
very much



## ELVIS PANCAKES

Delicious pancakes topped with Elvis' favorites, peanut butter and bananas!

**Sponsored by the Barbee family**



## SIMPLE STACK

Go classic or get creative! Hot, fresh, fluffy pancakes waiting for your customization at the famous RISE toppings bar.



## THE FATHER RAINES

A side of bacon.

Need we say more?

**Sponsored by Clay and Kim Teter**

Support the RISE  
Mission Trip

DONATIONS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED

