



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 + FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**“THE LORD, YOUR GOD,
SHALL YOU WORSHIP
AND HIM ALONE SHALL
YOU SERVE.”**

MATTHEW 4:10

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:

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✉ info@stmatthewtn.org
☎ (615) 646-0378
🌐 www.stmatthewtn.org
📱 @stmatthewtn

PASTOR:

Father Justin Raines

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

DEACONS:

Bill Forte
James Grossheim



LITURGY SCHEDULE (FEB. 21-27)

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ For Kim Baldinger

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For Carol Mascolo

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of Saint Matthew

- Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
- Romans 5:12-19
- Matthew 4:1-11

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Billy Lynch

- Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
- Matthew 25:31-46

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Cindy McMahan

- Isaiah 55:10-11
- Matthew 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ For Kevin Cox

- Jonah 3:1-10
- Luke 11:29-32

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Oren Stark

- Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25
- Matthew 7:7-12

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Dominic Tran

- Ezekiel 18:21-28
- Matthew 5:20-26

✦ **Special Intention**

✦ *May they rest in peace*

*To RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,
VISIT BIT.LY/SMCMASSINTENTION*

COME PRAY THE ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL
FOLLOWING 8 A.M. WEEKDAY MASSES

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.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK OF FEB 9-15 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$21,668
CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA	\$335

**Today's Second Collection:
Haiti Ministry**

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



SVDP FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all who signed up and generously brought food for the SVDP food drive this weekend. You can check the sign-up to see any remaining needs, or make a financial donation to the ministry through the QR code in the graphic below.



RISE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

RISE is hosting a free community pancake breakfast today, Feb. 22, after both Sunday Masses in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Donations are graciously accepted and will be used to offset the costs for our students attending our summer mission trip. Check out the menu on the back cover and come join us!

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

Join the Passion of Christ Prayer Group today, Sunday, Feb. 22, 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. This ministry’s mission is to pray for our fellow Catholic brothers and sisters who have left the Church. As St. Mother Teresa once said, “When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then; when you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now.”

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE - FEB. 24

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

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Spend some quiet time with Jesus this Lent during our First Friday Adoration on Friday, March 6. Adoration begins after 8 a.m. Mass and ends with benediction on Saturday at 8 a.m. Sign up for a time slot at bit.ly/smcffamarch26 to help us ensure someone is present with the Lord at all times.

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!

Friday, March 6

Stations of the Cross
6 p.m. in the Church.

SOUPS & STATIONS

Free soup dinner in the Cohan-Hansom Building follows.

Scan to RSVP

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

Saint Matthew Loaves & Fishes ministry is making and serving lunch to those experiencing homelessness at Holy Name Parish Center on Wednesday, March 4. To volunteer, email Bill Thomson at bthomson7504@gmail.com.

FISH FRY DATE CORRECTION - MARCH 27

The second Men’s Club Fish Fry is on Friday, March 27. The Lenten Events flyer in last week’s bulletin listed the date incorrectly.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
6 p.m. Church

CARRYOUT AVAILABLE
5:30 p.m. Cohan-Hansom

DINE-IN DINNERS
6:30 p.m. Cohan-Hansom

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Pre-orders Appreciated

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



This week at Saint Matthew School, we prayerfully welcomed the season of Lent. Our students have been learning about the importance of Lent in their religion classes and how this sacred season draws us closer to Christ. Every year, we celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass as a school community. It is always a joy to see so many parents join us that morning; your presence is a powerful witness to our students of the importance of faith lived as a family.

Throughout the school, I have also heard many thoughtful conversations among students about what they are choosing to give up or take on this Lent. These commitments—whether big or small—are meaningful opportunities to grow in patience, self-discipline, and love for God and neighbor. Please know our SMS students are praying for you during this Lenten season.

MARY’S WAY OF THE CROSS

Join St. Gianna Circle on March 6 at 2:15 p.m. as they walk along the Stations of the Cross in the Grotto experiencing our Blessed Mother’s thoughts and feelings. This beautiful and powerful reflection will enhance your Lenten journey.

FAMILY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Help beautify the Sensory Garden for the Blind. Join the Saint Matthew Family Service Ministry as they weed, prune, and plant on Sunday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. The garden features plants which call attention to the five senses: taste, smell, touch, hearing and sight. All ages are always welcome! You can come and go as you please during this time frame. The garden is located at 6759 Manley Lane, near Grassland Elementary School. Scan to RSVP.



PURSE DRIVE FOR LADIES OF CHARITY

Have a purse tucked away in your closet that hasn’t seen the light of day in years? Saint Matthew is partnering with the Nashville Catholic Business Women’s League for a purse drive benefiting our local community. We will collect new or gently used purses (all styles) in the Narthex from Thursday, March 5 through Tuesday, March 10. Purses may also be dropped off in the school lobby during these dates. All donated purses will be sold at the Ladies of Charity store, with proceeds helping local residents cover essential utility bills.

VBS & TOTUS TUUS REGISTRATION

Registration for Vacation Bible School and Totus Tuus will open this week. The registration link will be available on the Church Website and emailed out to the parish. The dates for this year are:

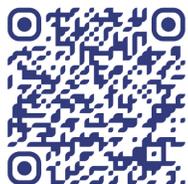
- VBS: June 22-26, Pre-K & K
- Totus Tuus Day: June 22-26, 1st-6th grade
- Totus Tuus Night: July 21-25, 7th-12th grade

PARISH PICNIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

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



VOTE FOR US TODAY!
franklins.com/the-sizzle-awards-poll



**BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL
 BEST PRE-SCHOOL**



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

BE FEARLESS THIS LENT

As Lent unfolds, the Church invites us into the desert with Christ, not only to give something up, but to allow the Lord to transform our hearts. This season is an opportunity to confront the fears and distractions that keep us from deeper trust in God. Our Adult Faith Formation Ministry is offering a guided way to do that through Fearless, a Lenten study led by Chris Stefanick (see description to the right).

Through weekly video sessions and discussion, we will reflect on what it means to live with Christian courage in a culture often marked by anxiety and uncertainty. Join others in the parish as we seek to grow in clarity and confidence as disciples of Jesus.

Beginning this Tuesday, Feb. 24, the group meets on Tuesdays throughout Lent from 7:30–9 p.m. (except March 17). Meetings are off-campus and the location will be shared upon registration.

Scan the QR code to register for the study. If you cannot attend this study, you can still explore this series at home through FORMED. We invite you to sign up and enter into Lent with renewed purpose. Be fearless!



formed®

Pick of the Week: February 22



Fearless: A Lenten Video Study

Fearless is a video series that will accompany you on your Lenten journey. 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. Don’t miss this exciting series with a special guest each week as we seek to follow Jesus into the wilderness this Lent. To take the Fearless experience further, consider joining the Saint Matthew Lenten study group on the left.

To watch this series and other great content for free, visit FORMED.org. Use our parish code, 37069 to create your free account.

BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES

Thank you to everyone who generously gave to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for ministries in 2025. Thanks to you, Saint Matthew exceeded our parish goal of \$171,000 and the Diocese of Nashville exceeded its \$3.65 million goal to help those in need and to grow the faith around the diocese. The 2026 campaign is *I am the Good Shepherd* and will officially launch in late spring. You can learn more or donate through the QR code.



TONY'S REFLECTION

INTO THE WILDERNESS WITH CHRIST

Exorcists indicate the main way the devil manipulates people is through subtle temptation. Being sent into the wilderness, the devil begins to cleverly tempt Jesus by attempting to twist God's word. To curtail the devil's sly maneuvers, Jesus quoted Scripture back to the adversary. Interestingly, recall the way in which the devil incorrectly cited God's word when speaking to Eve in the garden. This is a helpful reminder for us to learn what the Bible authentically teaches rather than distorting the Scriptures to suggest what we want it to say. In this spiritual battle, notice both Jesus and Satan quoted Scripture. However, the way they approached God's Word makes all the difference. Whereas Jesus handled Scripture with reverence and truth, Satan cunningly misconstrued its meaning to cause a rupture between man and God.

Lent is when Holy Mother Church places us in the same position—in the wilderness along the thorn-ridden road to be with Christ as He does battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil on our behalf. The forces of spiritual destruction are arrayed against Him, and He abides there for forty days, undaunted and courageous. He invites us to take our place beside Him, to suffer with Him for the salvation of the world.

In the desert of Lent, we detach ourselves from this world to move to that world we were made for—union with God. Why such a drastic detachment? Because the devil does not want us to leave his world seeped in short-term pleasures and endless distractions that appeal to our sensual delights. Here, the devil has created a system of earthly diversions that entice our emotions to overindulge in the things of this world while simultaneously sucking the life of God away from us.

Lent is a time we play defense against these worldly desires. Pope Leo XIII said that "Every Christian is born for combat." At baptism, each Christian is consecrated to God and infused with graces directly into their soul. By engaging in the moral life and the virtues, these graces form a sword that a Christian is then called to wield. Too often, Christians do not even acknowledge this sword, which, in turn, causes the sword to become dull, unused, and destined to rust in the grave. But, during Lent, the Christian is called to strap on his spiritual armor, for without the sword of Christ, we will not be able to persevere through all the spiritual deeds that accompany us these forty days in the wilderness—the trials, tribulations, fasting, almsgiving, mortifications, and extended prayer. In these forty days, Christ forges that dull rusty blade into one of great power and merit. The time in the wilderness, in which we renounce sin, is harsh to our coddled and weak nature. Lent is a most serious time in the life of every Christian, in particular those of the modern era in which indulgence, materialism, and worldly-mindedness have replaced the penitential inclinations typical of followers of Christ. Let us cast off the worldly temptations this Lent so Christ can shape our spiritual weapons as we do battle alongside our Lord.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

PRAY WITH 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The 40 Days for Life campaign is underway. Vigil hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily outside of Planned Parenthood. See their upcoming events and sign up for a time to pray at 40daysforlife.com/nashville.

CATHOLIC DAY ON THE HILL

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. The event is Tuesday, Feb. 24, and is sponsored by the Tennessee Catholic Conference. Registration details and additional information are available at tncatholic.org.

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT - FEB. 26

All women are invited to a Women's Evening Lenten Retreat at Saint Philip Catholic Church on Thursday, Feb. 26, 5:30–9:30 p.m. The evening includes dinner, a Lenten reflection, and Eucharistic adoration. The retreat cost is \$30 and is presented by Dwell in Love Retreat. Registration closes Feb. 23. Nursing babies are welcome. Learn more and register at bit.ly/dwelllent26.



Sip & Paint

PAINT VENERABLE HENRIETTE DELILLE LED BY KATE MCGEE
WINE, SNACKS, AND ART SUPPLIES PROVIDED \$45.00

SATURDAY 1-3 PM
FEB. 28TH, 2026

Drexel Event Center
1700 Helman St.
37208



Limited spots- Scan the QR code to pay + sign up.



Thea BOWMAN MINISTRY
Caretaker: Thea Bowman & St. Vincent de Paul

YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH MINISTRY SURVEY

10 QUESTIONS
5 MINUTES

FOR ALL TEENS AND FAMILIES OF TEENS
EVEN IF NOT INVOLVED WITH RISE

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK




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. Currently, the group is exploring the Marian dogmas. Come learn 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.

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



RISE SCHEDULE

**FEB
22**

Morning: Pancake Breakfast
Evening: **RISE Night** featuring a game night with Fr. Tran

**MAR
1**

Wild Life
As a teen, how can you be a disciple of Jesus and engage in a deeper relationship with him.

**MAR
8 & 15**

NO RISE NIGHTS
Enjoy your spring break!

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

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.

 Saint Matthew
CATHOLIC CHURCH

ADOREMUS

High School Retreat at Camp Marymount

\$100 March **27-29**



MICHAELA MILLER
Director of Youth Ministry
mmiller@stmatthewtn.org
615-550-5102

RISE PANCAKE MENU

SUNDAY, FEB. 22. | COHAN-HANSOM BUILDING



FATHER TRANGAKES

Pancakes topped with fresh blueberries and strawberries, then generously dusted with 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

