



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 + FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**YOU ARE THE
LIGHT
OF THE WORLD**

MATTHEW 5:13

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

PARISH SPOTLIGHT

THEOLOGY & CULTURE - TODAY AT 9:45

Today's *Theology & Culture* presentation is led by Sister Mary Diana Dreger, O.P., on the topic *Understanding Human Emotions*. Meet in the Parish Conference Center at 9:45 a.m. for this series that meets between the Masses. Coffee and doughnuts will be available for those attending.

2025 GIVING STATEMENTS

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

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALES

It's cookie season! Stock up on your favorite Girl Scout cookies



*Girl Scout
Cookie Sales*

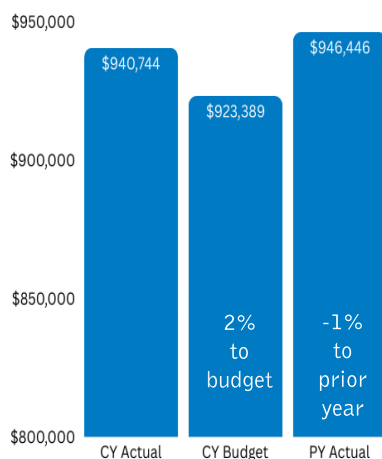
before they are gone. The cookie booth in the Narthex this weekend is staffed by Saint Matthew Troop #802. Next weekend, Feb. 14&15, the girls from Saint Matthew Troop #3214 will be selling cookies in the Narthex. This is your last chance to stockpile a box—or a couple of cases—of your favorite flavors. Thank you for supporting our parish Girl Scouts!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEKS OF JAN 19 - FEB 1 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS (TWO WEEKS)	\$50,999
SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE	\$980
BUILDING MAINT. & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS	\$830

YTD Summary



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



Second Collections

This Week:

Arts & Environment/Altar Society

Next Week:

Latin America

Registered Parish Families: 1282



LITURGY SCHEDULE

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ For the People of Saint Matthew

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For Scott and Trudi Lynch

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For all deceased parents of Dominicans

• Isaiah 58:7-10

• 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

• Matthew 5:13-16

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Eva Coursey

• 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13

• Mark 6:53-56

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Saint Scholastica

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Joan Holmes

• 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30

• Mark 7:1-13

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ For Diane Marcuri

• 1 Kings 10:1-10

• Mark 7:14-23

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Linda Langly

• 1 Kings 11:4-13

• Mark 7:24-30

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Cole Goodrum Jr.

• 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19

• Mark 7:31-37

✦ **Special Intention**

✦ *May they rest in peace*

**To RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,
VISIT [BIT.LY/SMCMAASSINTENTION](https://bit.ly/smcmaassintention)**


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

SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION

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

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. Mass (School Attends)
12 p.m. Mass
7 p.m. Mass

*Liturgy of the Word w/ Distribution of Ashes

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. 20, and Friday, March 27. Come for Stations of the Cross and stay for dinner!

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST - FEB. 22

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



PARISH PICNIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Saint Matthew is looking for volunteers to help plan the annual parish picnic this summer. Reach out to Colleen Curran at ccurran@stmatthewtn.org for more information. Thanks!

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.

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/smcwcriti26.

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.







Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

Saint Matthew School students have returned to school after missing a week due to the recent ice storm. The ice storm was devastating to many of our SMS families, and I am sure there are families in the parish who were met with that same impact. Although there were many without power, water, or heat, the response from our community was nothing short of spectacular. I know members of our community hosted other families so they could stay warm and have food. I know members of our community offered their time and efforts with trucks, chainsaws, and manpower to help clear trees and roads. I am so appreciative of everyone in our community that came together to make sure all of our families were safe and warm through this weather. Thank you to our community, your work has not gone unnoticed.

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 tournament is the Parochial League Championship tournament for 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. For more information, contact Chuck Curran at chucktcurran@gmail.com or scan the QR Code.



**SCAN FOR
SMS SUMMER
CAMP DETAILS**



WHITE OUT GAMES AND COACH CROW HONOR RESCHEDULED TO FEB. 12

All parishioners are encouraged to come support our Lion basketball teams for their annual White Out games on Thursday, Feb 12, in the gym. Wear white in support of the teams! The game times are:

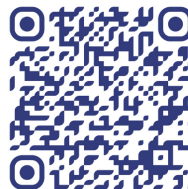
- 4:30 p.m. JV Boys - SMS White vs. SMS Navy
- 5:45 p.m. Varsity Girls - SMS vs. Linden Waldorf
- 7 p.m. Varsity Boys - SMS vs. Saint Edward

This year, we will also have a special honor for Coach Libby Crow for her incredible impact on her student athletes over the years. Former players can meet up with Coach Crow between games in the Parish Conference Center.

Additionally, we will once again hold a Miracle Minute and a Half during the 3rd quarter of our White Out Varsity games. Bring your spare change and support our Haitian Brothers and Sisters. This is part of our Silver Coins for a Change campaign (formerly the Penny Drive) which benefits our sister school, Our Lady of Miracles, in Gobert, Haiti.



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



**BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL
BEST PRE-SCHOOL**



FAITH FORMATION

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.

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.



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.



TONY'S REFLECTION

SALTING THE EARTH

In today's Gospel, Jesus presents us with three images that represent God's people and what we are called to do. The images He impels us to reflect on are salt, light, and mountain.

Salt was a highly valued mineral and an expensive commodity in the ancient world. Many cultures used salt as a seasoning, a preservative, a disinfectant, and a key component of ceremonial offerings. Salt, as a chemical compound, cannot change. Because salt cannot be altered, or ruined, it is naturally pure. Therefore, biblically speaking, salt signifies that which is pure and can't be defiled. One such example occurs when Elisha went out to the spring of water and threw salt in it, saying, "Thus says the LORD, 'I have purified these waters; there shall no longer be death or unfruitfulness from there any longer.'" Because salt was a sign of permanence and purity, God forever aligned His kingdom with Israel's by a "covenant of salt" (2 Chron 13: 5-8, Lev 2:13). Understanding salt's preserving quality, we are called as well to conserve the deposit of faith that Christ has given to us and resist the temptation to alter it into a watered-down version pleasing to the world.

Jesus next invokes an image of light to explain how with it, all can see and all are drawn to its illumination. Light's self-giving quality projects outward, allowing others' scope of vision to be enhanced. The theme of light calls the Church to be a lighthouse or beacon summoning the anxious world to the safe harbor with God.

Interestingly, the harsh ice storm we experienced presses the point home even more so. Salt gave us traction on the icy elements while light and heat were in desperate need. While not wanting to provoke PTSD from the storm, the more prominent display is that light and salt both have disinfectant and preservative properties. The Church as "light" and "salt" refers to her role to identify and counteract sin, which, in turn, conserves society from decay.

Lastly, the image is a "city on a mountain." While some translations describe a hill, you get the point—God is giving us a vision of a high point. A mountain or hill stands above the rest and arouses one to ascend to a higher place. More importantly, it gives to those below. Without the peaks of mountains, all the plains and valleys would be as barren as the Sahara. It is the flow of water from the mountains that gives us rivers and reservoirs, which create earth's fertility. Therefore, this city set way above is simultaneously meant to serve those below and inspire them to climb higher.

God is calling us to do what salt, light, and a mountain do—use itself as a gift for others. How this plays out is as our faith increases, allowing us to be wiser, purer, and ascend to greatness, we must use the God-given attributes in our faith to draw others to God. To be sure, this is not an easy proposition, but as God inspires us, we, in turn, can be God's instrument to do His work.

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. They 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.



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 **2/12, 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/smcriti25

FROM THE DEACON'S DESK (DCN. GROSSHEIM)

Nobody likes to be left in the dark. Yet most of us have recently spent far more time than usual in the dark. The recent storm and ensuing power outages left us cold and in the dark. Even today, some homes remain cold and dark. We may have found alternative methods of lighting and heating our homes, but the truth is that our conventional source of light failed, and our homes were, at least momentarily, dark.



This storm came in the dead of winter, when nights are long and daylight is short. Remarkably, the Church calendar anticipates our lack of natural light, and even possibly of artificial light, during the colder months. In December we celebrated Christmas, when in the bleak midwinter, the Light of the World was born, a brightly clothed angel chorus glorified God, and a star led the way to Bethlehem. Traditionally, we illuminate the darkness of December and January by lighting up our houses, streets, porches, and windows. On Monday we celebrated Candlemas, commemorating the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, when the Light of the World entered into his Temple in human form for the first time. That same Light now illuminates the Church, the fulfillment of the old Temple. Tuesday was the Memorial of St. Blaise, when we bless throats using two candles. Just as Jesus entered into the Jerusalem Temple, we bring candles, sources of light, close to our bodies, which, as St. Paul says, are living temples of the Holy Spirit, and receive God's blessing.

We may have recently sat in the darkness, but without electric lights, maybe we could better see the true Light of the World. With that Light within us, we are commanded to shine that light before others who still sit in darkness and may not even know it.

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), and the Men's retreat is Feb. 27-March 1 (bit.ly/scamen26). The cost is \$250, and includes all meals and a private room for lodging.

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 begins on Wednesday, Feb. 11, and meets weekly until at least March 11. *Limited Spots Remain!* 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, email 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

RISE SCHEDULE NOTES


RISE is **not** meeting this Sunday or next (Feb. 8 & 15) due to the Super Bowl and the long Presidents Day weekend. The Tuesday Night Bible Study will continue to meet each week. The next RISE Night is Sunday, Feb. 22, which will feature a game night with Father Tran. Earlier that day, we will have our pancake breakfast. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. See pg. 2 for more details on that event.

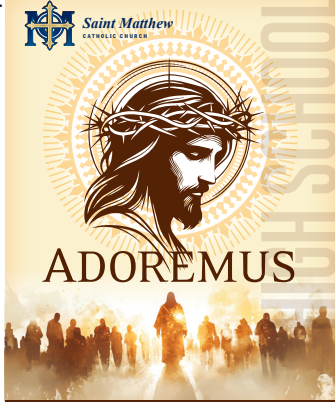
PANCAKE BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS

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 with a cost of \$100. Scan to register.

 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



OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

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INFORMATION FROM SAINT MATTHEW.

www.stmatthewtn.org

