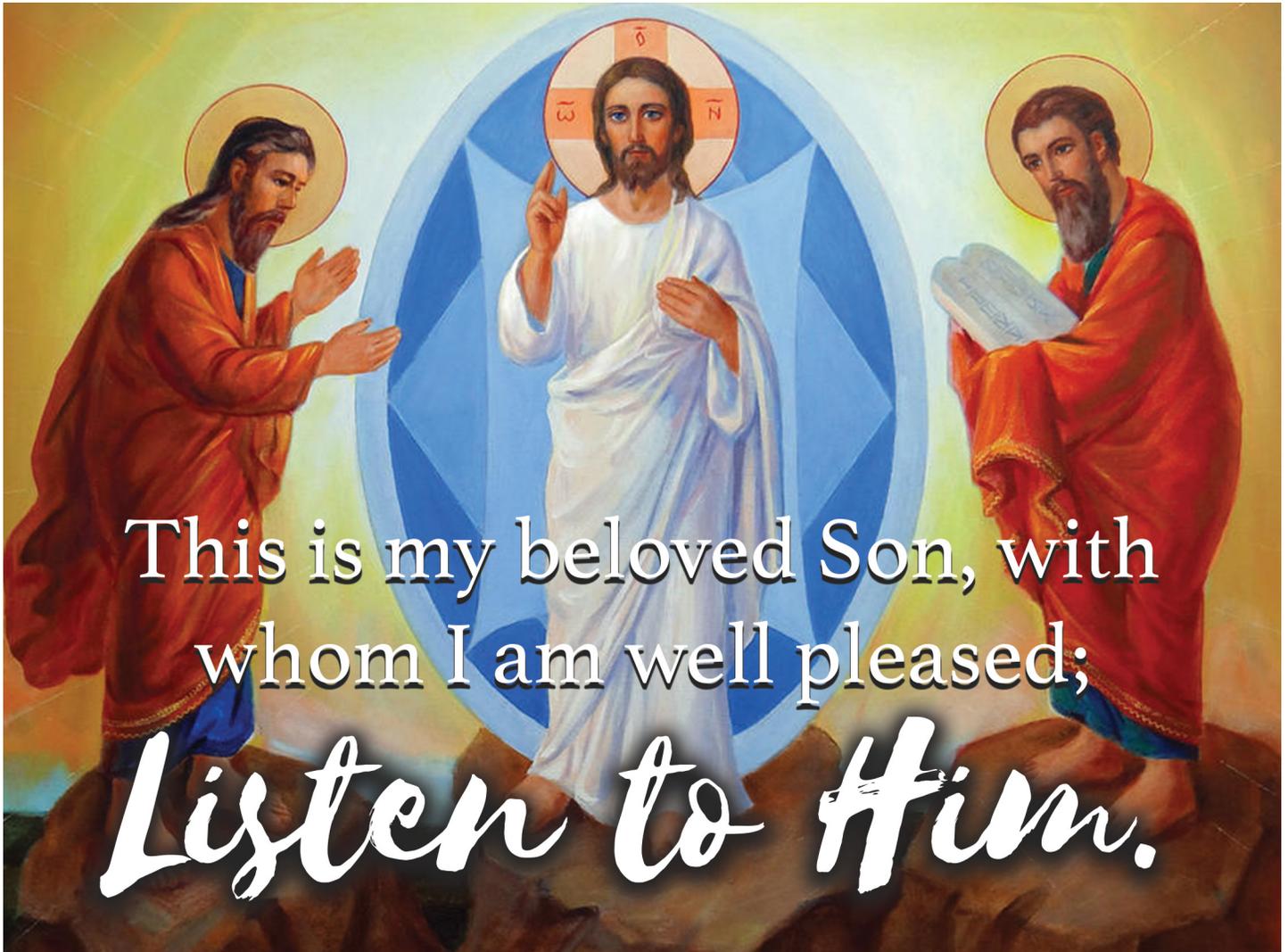




# *Saint Matthew* CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MARCH 1, 2026 + SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



This is my beloved Son, with  
whom I am well pleased;

*Listen to Him.*

## 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

☎ (615) 646-0378

🌐 www.stmatthewtn.org

📱 @stmatthewtn

### PASTOR:

Father Justin Raines

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Tien Tran

### DEACONS:

Bill Forte  
James Grossheim

## PARISH SPOTLIGHT

### SOUP & STATIONS

Lent is a deeply personal journey of prayer, repentance, and renewal—but that does not mean we are meant to walk it alone. At Saint Matthew, we are bringing our parish family together for an evening of prayer, fellowship, and simple Lenten fare with Soups and Stations.

Join us on Friday, March 6, as we gather to pray the Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m., entering into Christ's Passion and reflecting on His sacrificial love. Following Stations, all are invited to a free soup dinner. Come nourish your soul through prayer and your body through community. Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 3, so we can order enough soup for everyone.



**Friday, March 6  
6 p.m.**

Stations of the Cross followed by a free community meal.

RSVP by March 3



### LITURGY SCHEDULE (FEB. 28 - MARCH 6)

#### SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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

✦ For Brenda Walsh

**8:30 a.m. Mass**

✦ For the People of Saint Matthew

**11:00 a.m. Mass**

✦ Terry Jesse

• Genesis 12:1-4a

• 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

• Matthew 17:1-9

#### MONDAY, MARCH 2

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

✦ For Huong Tran

• Daniel 9:4b-10

• Luke 6:36-38

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 3

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

✦ For Michael LaHaie and Family

• Isaiah 1:10, 16-20

• Matthew 23:1-12

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

**7:00 p.m. Mass**

✦ For Lan Nguyen

• Jeremiah 18:18-20

• Matthew 20:17-28

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

✦ Antoinette Wyatt

• Jeremiah 17:5-10

• Luke 16:19-31

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

✦ Robert W. and Nancy J. Stewart

• Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a

• Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

✦ **Special Intention**

✦ *May they rest in peace*

*To RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,  
VISIT [BIT.LY/SMCMAASINTENTION](http://bit.ly/smcmaasintention)*

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

### MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS

Join St. Gianna Circle on Friday, 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.

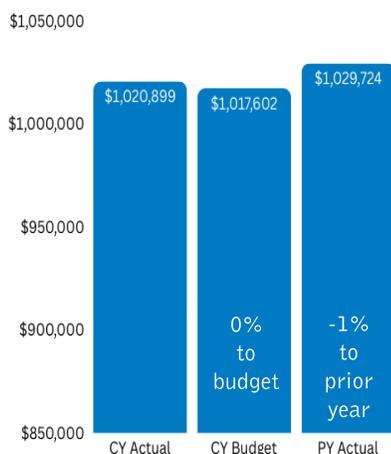


## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK OF FEB 16-22 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$23,451
HAITI MINISTRY	\$805

### YTD Summary



Visiting, new, or looking to give?

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



## Second Collections

**This Week:**  
*Building Maint. & Facility  
Improvements*  
**Next Week:**  
*Church in Central Europe*

**Registered Parish Families: 1286**

**SGC MOM'S NIGHT OUT - MARCH 4**

All mothers are invited to join St. Gianna Circle for a social evening at Tito's (Hwy. 100) on Wednesday, March 4, at 7 p.m. The full menu is available for your purchase. Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 3, at [bit.ly/sgcmarch26](http://bit.ly/sgcmarch26) to ensure an appropriate sized reservation.

**MEN'S CLUB MEETING - MARCH 5**

All parish men are invited to join the Men's Club for their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 5, at 7 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Come enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship, while also preparing for the next Lenten fish fry and Easter Egg hunt.

**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](http://bit.ly/smcffamarch26) to help us ensure someone is present with the Lord at all times.

**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.

**LENTEN VIDEO REFLECTIONS**

Saint Matthew is producing a video reflection each week during Lent to guide you as we prepare for Christ's death and resurrection. Themes mirror topics for that week in the *Crux* books that were made available. Scan to watch the reflections through our website.



**NURSERY AVAILABILITY**

The Nursery is **NOT** available for 5 p.m. Mass on March 7. The training chapel is always open to use.

**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.



**FORGE NEXT SUNDAY**

All Middle Schoolers are invited to Forge, next Sunday, March 8, from 5:30-7 p.m. The evening, with a theme of Pray Without Ceasing, will feature a panel of high school students including, Grace Richter, Emily Sowa, and Andrew Garland. Drop-off is at the Cohan-Hansom Building and pickup is from the gym. 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](mailto:bthomson7504@gmail.com).

**FISH FRY - MARCH 27**

The second Men's Club Fish Fry is on Friday, March 27. The Lenten Events flyer in a prior 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



One of our Catholic Schools Week traditions is having students talk about their experiences at SMS at the weekend Masses leading into CSW. This year, the ice storm disrupted those plans, and our students were unable to speak at that time. Thankfully, we are grateful to continue the tradition now, and you may have just heard one of our students reflect on their journey at SMS. I want to give a special thank you to our 8th graders, Isaac Abaray and Molly Brooks, who both graciously accepted the invitation to share their experience.

Their experiences exemplify how centering everything we do around Christ shapes not only strong students, but faithful young men and women. In the ways they seek knowledge, model Christ in their daily actions, and serve others with generosity, Isaac and Molly are living examples of our mission in action. I am deeply thankful for the many ways they have contributed to our school community, and I hope you enjoyed hearing about the unique and meaningful experiences they have had here at SMS. Thank you for supporting Catholic Education!

**SMS SUMMER CAMPS**

Register now for summer camps at Saint Matthew. The dates for 2026 camp weeks are as follows: June 1-5, June 8-12, June 15-19, July 6-10, and July 20-24. Learn about the 26 different camps offered this summer and register through the QR code below. Children do not need to be SMS students to attend camp. Before and/or after care is available.



**SCAN FOR  
SMS SUMMER  
CAMP DETAILS**



**SAVE THE DATE- FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE**

Our annual Father Daughter Dance will be on Saturday, April 18, at 6 p.m. See you there!

**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!

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**

Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday, March 8. Remember, we spring forward one hour so set your clocks appropriately for Mass.

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**



TOTUS TUUS  
**TOTALLY  
YOURS**



**Totus Tuus**  
7th-12th graders  
June 21-25 (evenings)  
1st-6th graders  
June 22-26 (days)



Learn more and register



**Vacation Bible School**

PreK & K  
June 22-26 (mornings)

THE NASHVILLE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

# 21st annual TRAIL OF CHURCHES

SAT. MARCH 27, 2026 AT 8:30 A.M.  
2015 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37203

**OPEN TO ALL!**

CATHOLIC SCOUTING

Cathedral of the Incarnation  
St. Mary of the Seven Sorrows  
Holy Name Catholic Church  
Church of the Assumption

**EARN A PATCH!**

**REGISTER NOW!**  
<https://scoutingevent.com/560-109603>



## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

# YOUR GIVING IN ACTION



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Saint Matthew is humbled by the generosity of all those who donated groceries and gift cards to our food drive last weekend. You successfully restocked the SVdP food pantry to help our neighbors in need. The Vincentian members are blessed to serve as the parish’s “boots on the ground” in pursuit of Christ’s challenge in the Gospel parable to be Good Samaritans to our neighbors in their time of distress. We can’t follow His lead without your generous support. Thank you!



CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF THE INCARNATION

**Catholic Affordable Classical**



Discover a High School with a Higher Purpose

# INFO NIGHT

MARCH 5, 2026 7:00 PM

615-592-6353 | [WWW.CHESTERTONTN.COM](http://WWW.CHESTERTONTN.COM)

Chesterton Academy admits students of any race, color, and national and ethnic origin.



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. The shadow dates available are **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](http://bit.ly/smcriti25)

## TONY'S REFLECTION

### A BLINDING FAITH

As spring weather begins to emerge, we notice the prominence and power of the sun. It heats the air, it evaporates water, and it brings growth to the desolate landscape. Yet, the other component of the sun is how it can overpower us. Try to look directly at the sun without sunglasses on a nice day and it will nearly blind you. Science tells us that staring at the sun for even a few seconds can cause serious eye damage. If our sensitive eyes begin to burn and we look away to avoid discomfort from the material sun, how much more so does the brightness of God revealed in the Divine Son blind us? As God created the sun, how much brighter is He than what He created (cf. Psalm 84:11)? Well, today the Gospel reading, in fact, illustrates to us how God's glory can literally blind people.

St. Matthew poetically describes that Jesus' face "shines like the sun, and His garments become white as light." Here, Christ's dazzling brightness that emanated from His whole body was produced by an interior shining of His divinity. An interesting tidbit about the Transfiguration in Matthew is that it takes place immediately following Jesus' prediction of His passion and His stating the arduous demands of discipleship (see Mt. 16:21-28). After delivering His disciples difficult news, Jesus then takes His three trusted disciples and illuminates a slice of divine splendor that causes them to collapse to the ground in holy fear.

By Jesus' glorious manifestation in the Transfiguration, He now strengthens his three friends to prepare them for the shocking struggle they will soon witness. Therefore, by giving them a foretaste of the glory and heavenly delights, they will be more likely to endure suffering, for they will comprehend where the suffering will ultimately lead to—heavenly grandeur.

You'll more likely endure a grueling ordeal if you've been given insight that your temporary trial will lead to long-term fulfillment. Suddenly, the job, the workout, and the stress of being a parent doesn't seem as daunting when fixated on the magnificent endgame of where that experience will lead you. Today's Gospel reveals the same formula applies to our faith. Lent invokes a spiritual grind full of unpleasant mortifications coupled with a constant battle of distractions during prayer. Yet this toil during Lent is best endured knowing the Easter celebration is the ultimate destination.

While the Transfiguration revealed Jesus' divinity, it also allowed His glory to shine forth for the encouragement of the key apostles who were present. Our faith beckons us to place the concept of the Transfiguration into our lives. When the stress and trials of life seem overwhelming, recall how much glory awaits those who endure in the faith. As Paul echoed Jesus' message in the Transfiguration: "For I consider that the suffering of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed to us." So much glory, it may knock us down and temporarily blind us. Yet, this blinding glory will get us through those trying times.

## FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

A holy mountain, radiant clothes, ancient prophets, Peter's nervousness, and the Father's affirmation: the Church walks us through the Fourth Luminous Mystery of the Rosary today. It seems strange: last week we heard about the temptation of Christ. We might expect, therefore, that on this Second Sunday of Lent we would hear about his public ministry, his healings, or a teaching about fasting. But instead we hear about the moment when Jesus revealed his glory to his innermost circle of friends—months or even years after he was tempted in the desert, but only days after he told them he would be crucified and then raised.



Jesus' glory captures the disciples' attention and ours. It is a magnificent scene on the heels of a dark and foreboding prediction. Stranger still is Jesus' reference to his Resurrection on the hike down the mountain. The Preface from today's Mass explains this contrast well:

*For after he had told the disciples of his coming Death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection.*

Jesus is God in the fullest sense of the term, with power in his hand to command angels, wind, sea, space, and time, yet he subjects himself to the humiliation and pain of a torturous death. Why? Because by his suffering he transforms our suffering. By embracing his Cross, our crosses become lighter. By his stripes we are healed. When we unite our suffering to his, we know that we will always find the glory of the Resurrection on the other side.

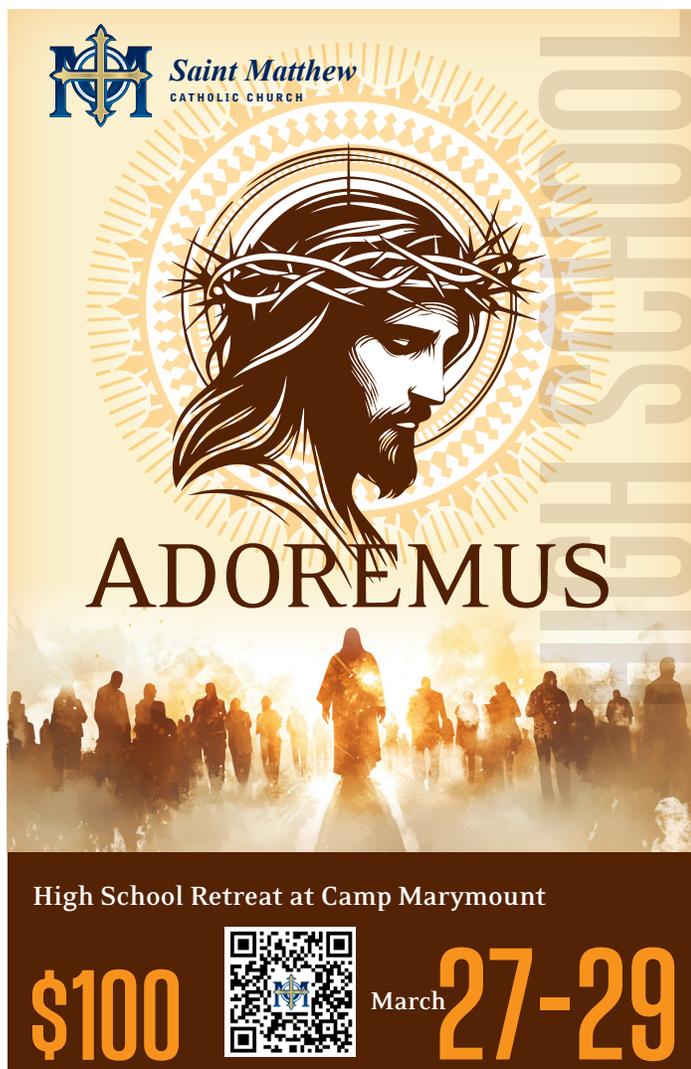


**Tuesday, March 10**  
**12 p.m. | Narthex**  
**\$12**  
**RSVP by March 5**



## 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](https://40daysforlife.com/nashville).



**Saint Matthew**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**ADOREMUS**

High School Retreat at Camp Marymount

\$100  March **27-29**

**ADOREMUS RETREAT MARCH 27-29**

Adoremus is a Eucharistic-centered retreat for high school students. Be called to a deeper relationship through talks and testimonies, and adore our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament on top of “the burning bush.” There is time to grow in fellowship and community with peers as well. PJ Anderson is providing the musical worship. Scan above for more.

**YOUTH MINISTRY SURVEY**

10 QUESTIONS  
5 MINUTES

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

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




**RISE SCHEDULE**

Be sure to join us tonight for our RISE night as we explore how you, as teenagers, can be a disciple of Jesus and engage in a deeper relationship with Him. RISE is off March 8 & 15 for spring break. The Tuesday night Bible Study is also off on March 10 and March 17.

**JOIN THE CORE TEAM**

RISE is looking for adults wanting to give their time, heart, and knowledge of the Lord to our high schoolers. Volunteering may include teaching, planning, coordinating games, dinner preparation, and clean up. If you feel called, you will be able to lead small groups and have the opportunity to present on topics in the Catholic faith of your choosing. Reach out to Michaela Miller at [mmiller@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:mmiller@stmatthewtn.org) to discuss and discern if you are called to serve.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone who made our Pancake Breakfast such a tremendous success! We are deeply grateful to all who came out to support our students, to those who generously made donations, and to our wonderful sponsors whose support made the morning possible. It was truly an amazing time—filled with fun, laughter, and plenty of delicious food. The highlight of the day was the Father “Trancake” taking things to the next level (photo below)! We are so thankful for this incredible community and the spirit of generosity that made it all possible.





**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **CHURCH:** 615-646-0378 **SCHOOL:** 615-662-4044

**PASTORAL STAFF**



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**Father Tien Tran**  
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**Bill Forte**  
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**James Grossheim**  
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM SAINT MATTHEW.

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

