

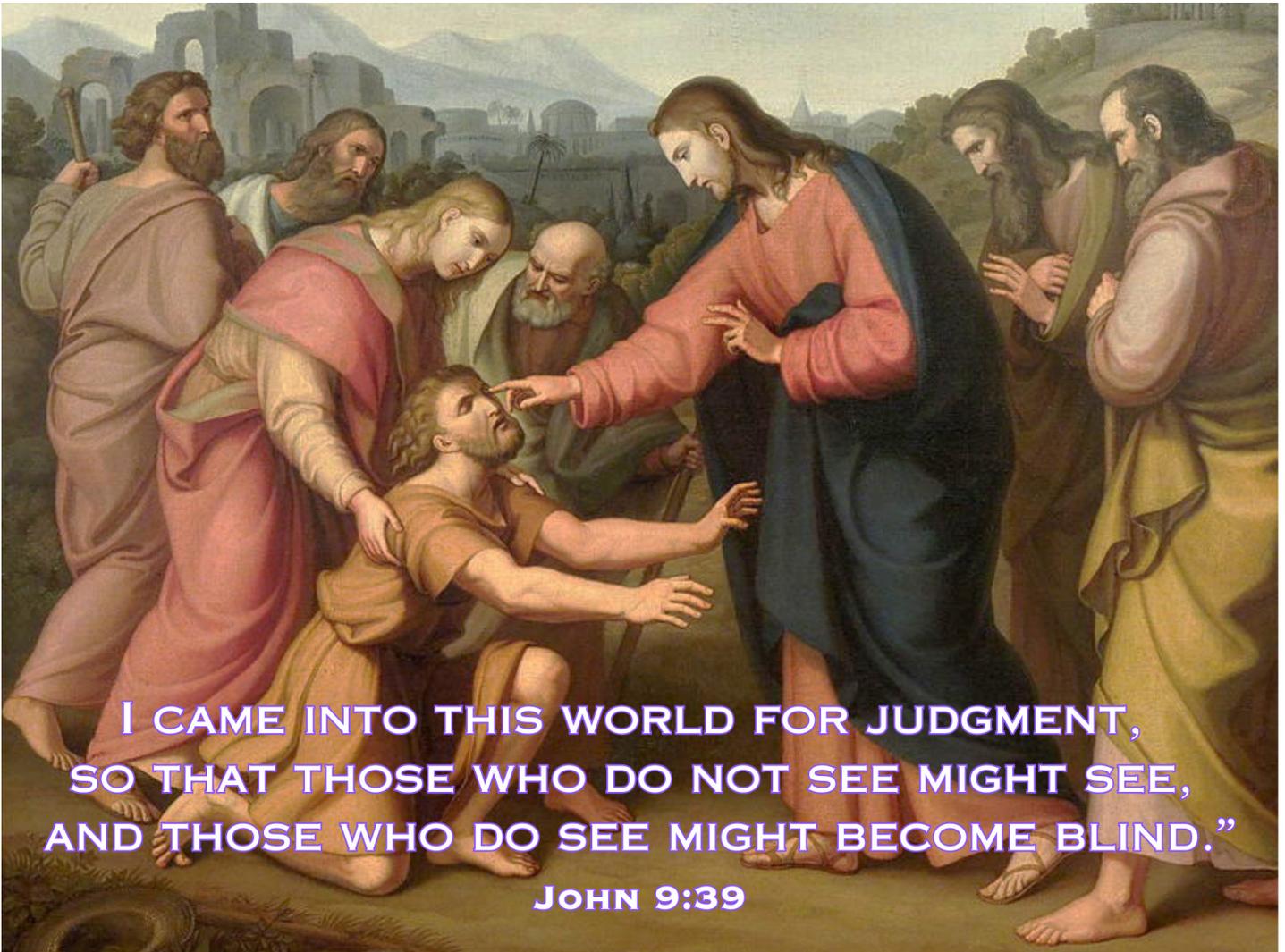


Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MARCH 15, 2026 + FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



I CAME INTO THIS WORLD FOR JUDGMENT,
SO THAT THOSE WHO DO NOT SEE MIGHT SEE,
AND THOSE WHO DO SEE MIGHT BECOME BLIND.”

JOHN 9:39

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



LITURGY SCHEDULE (MARCH 15-20)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ Souls in Purgatory

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of Saint Matthew

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Gayle Lee Watson
 • 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
 • Ephesians 5:8-14
 • John 9:1-41

MONDAY, MARCH 16

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Christian Martin
 • Isaiah 65:17-21
 • John 4:43-54

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Father Raines
 • Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
 • John 5:1-16

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ Patricia (Patsy) Wrenne
 • Isaiah 49:8-15
 • John 5:17-30

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Solemnity of St. Joseph

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Edith Murphy
 • 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16
 • Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22
 • Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Nikki Suchanick
 • Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22
 • John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

✦ **Special Intention**

✦ *May they rest in peace*

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

COVERING THE STATUES

During Lent, we are accustomed to giving up things, and you may have noticed we give up some things at Mass too. Beginning next week, you may notice another change in the church environment. Since Ash Wednesday, we have given up singing the Gloria (“Glory to God in the highest...”) and Alleluia. During the last days before Easter, we also give up looking at the images in the Church. The images are required to be covered on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, but the older tradition is to have them covered the last two weeks of Lent. The Roman Missal says, “In the Dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the Fifth Sunday of Lent] may be observed.” Exercising this option allows more people to participate in this tradition, people who may not be able to come on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Covering the images helps us to practice a kind of fasting of the eyes, and it calls us to listen more attentively to the Scriptures, especially the Gospels of the Passion, which we read on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. It also invites us to renew our commitment to observing Lent, at a time when our commitment may be waning, in preparation for the joy of Easter.

Holy Thursday Adoration Sign Up
 9 p.m. - Midnight
 Gym

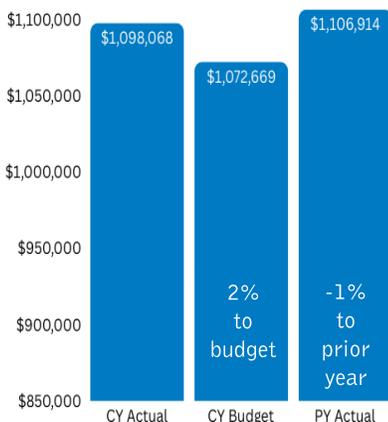
Compline prayed at midnight

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 2-8 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$28,296
CHURCH IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	\$90

YTD Summary



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



Second Collections

This Week:
 Parish Charity
 Black & Native American Missions

Next Week:
 Tuition Assistance

Registered Parish Families: 1,289

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER RAINES!

Happy birthday to Father Raines! We are grateful for your faithful leadership, pastoral care, and the many ways you guide our parish closer to Christ. May God bless you with a joyful year ahead.



WEEKDAY MASSES IN THE CHAPEL

Due to spring break this week, all weekday Masses will be celebrated in the chapel.

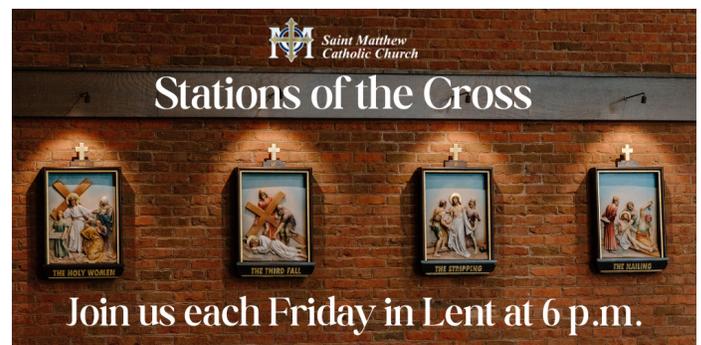
PALM SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPE

There was a printing error on the March 29 second collection envelope for Palm Sunday. Both Palm Sunday and St. Vincent De Paul were printed on the same envelope. The donations given in this envelope will go to St. Vincent de Paul unless you indicate otherwise either on the check or the envelope. We apologize for the confusion.



EASTER FLOWER FUND

Help beautify Saint Matthew this Easter with a donation toward our Easter flowers! Easter lilies symbolize virtue, innocence, hope, and life, while commemorating the resurrection of Christ and the hope of eternal life in heaven. Donations can be made in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Return your Easter flowers envelope, or scan the QR code to donate by Tuesday, March 31.



DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

The Saint Matthew Art & Environment ministry needs volunteers to help decorate the Church during Holy Week, particularly on Holy Saturday. See all the times and sign up at bit.ly/smceasterdec26.





The school year continues to move forward in full force. SMS students just finished the third quarter and will enjoy a well-deserved week off as we are out for spring break this week. As we approach the fourth quarter, we will soon enter into Holy Week, which is a wonderful opportunity for us to spend time in prayer and prepare for the final stretch of the school year.

One special part of our Holy Week preparations will be when the fourth graders present the Stations of the Cross. This is a meaningful tradition at SMS, as the fourth grade class leads the entire school through the Stations before the end of the day on Holy Thursday. This prayerful experience helps our students enter more deeply into the mystery of Easter as we move toward the final weeks of the school year.

Please keep our families in your prayers and pray for safe travels over spring break.

READY TO DISCOVER THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIFFERENCE?

COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL



Wednesday
MARCH 25
8:15 a.m.

PLEASE JOIN US!



Register online
www.stmatthewtn.org/school/admissions
Zoom and in-person options available.



Presents:



Three Show Times!

Thursday, March 26
7 p.m.

Friday March 27
1:30 & 7 p.m.

Gym
Scan for tickets



SMS COMMUNICATION SURVEY

The Saint Matthew School Board is conducting a survey to improve communication between the school and families. If you are a SMS family and did not receive the survey, or have not completed this brief, 3-minute survey yet, please scan the QR code.



JOB OPENINGS

Saint Matthew has the following job openings for the 2026-2027 school year. You can find the job descriptions and apply by visiting bit.ly/smemployment.

- Pre-K Assistant
- Middle School Math Teacher



SCAN FOR SMS SUMMER CAMP DETAILS



MINISTRY NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PARISH PICNIC

We are seeking volunteers to join our planning committee. These volunteers help in these key areas:

- Planning Games & Activities**
- Event Logistics**
- Recruiting Sponsorships**
- Ministry & Volunteer Coordination**
- Day of Volunteering**

If you have a few hours a month to help us organize this great community event, contact Colleen Curran at ccurran@stmatthewtn.org.

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 to connect more people to their mission. Plans for this year's Songwriters' Night, tentatively scheduled in September, are starting this spring. To learn more or get involved, please contact Barney Schulte at 615-397-1371.

SAVE THE DATE - FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

Our annual Father Daughter Dance is Saturday, April 18, at 6 p.m. in the Cohan Hansom Building. This year's theme is *Butterfly Kisses*. Come enjoy a memorable evening of fun, dancing, and celebrating the special bond between fathers and daughters. Registration is opening soon.



As our Room In The Inn season comes to a close this week, we want to offer a heartfelt thank you to all of the volunteers who have served our guests this year. Your generosity, compassion, and willingness to give your time have made a real difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.

If you've ever felt called to serve through Room In The Inn but weren't sure where to start, this **Thursday, March 19**, is the final opportunity this season to shadow with no pressure to commit. *We are especially looking for volunteers interested in serving as Innkeepers or Drivers next year*, and we are offering the chance to observe and train in these roles before deciding if it's right for you.

Please note, drivers must be male, and while innkeepers may be male or female, at least one innkeeper must be male each night.

We are already building our volunteer team for the 26-27 season, and this is a great chance to learn how things work before next fall. If you are interested in shadowing or would like more information, please text or call **Rhea Forte at 615-828-5950** or text **Mary Peters at 615-308-1930**.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



TOTUS TUUS
**TOTALLY
YOURS**



Learn more and register



**Totus Tuus & Vacation Bible School
June 21-26**



Tuesday of Holy Week | March 31, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.

CHRISM MASS

Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Church | Catholic Pastoral Center
2800 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN

Learn more at NashvilleChrism.org



FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

There are many things I love about spring: the beautiful weather, the blossoming of the trees, the geese honking as they return north. I even enjoy my seasonal allergies, because they mean that the long winter is ending. But as much as I love the signs of new life in nature, the solemn celebrations of Lent and Easter are my favorite part of spring. In particular, the rites of initiation for those entering the Church are hugely meaningful.



Before ascending into heaven, the Lord commanded us: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Today, this means we should spread the Gospel to everyone we meet, especially those who have never heard it, and to bring them into the arms of the Church. When non-Christians inquire about the Church, we have an official, ritualized way to do exactly what Jesus commanded us to do. First, Jesus said, "Make disciples." Then, "Baptize." So before we baptize those who want to become Catholic, we first preach the Gospel to them and accompany them as they learn to live as Christians.

We started with the Rite of Welcoming, by which the inquirers entered the Catechumenate, the stage of formal instruction and preparation for Baptism. At this point, they become officially part of the Christian community. They undergo intense catechesis and are accompanied by their godparents, who teach them to pray and live a Christian life.

On the First Sunday of Lent, our community sent them to Bishop Spalding for the Rite of Election. By this point, the catechumens had so progressed in their knowledge, faith, and conversion that their godparents judged them sufficiently ready to ask for Baptism. In the Rite of Election, then, the Bishop chose, or 'elected,' them to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Since then, the Church has called them Elect of God, for God has chosen them for himself through the Church. Last Sunday, today, and next Sunday, the Church celebrated the three Scrutinies. Through these rites we unbind the yoke of sin and death which grip those who belong to the world. Since the Elect are about to be baptized, we want them to be free of the devil's influence so they can freely and joyously experience the healing balm of the Sacraments.

Finally, on the night when Christ destroyed death by his Resurrection, the Elect will symbolically enter Christ's tomb and rise again with him through Baptism, in the presence of our Saint Matthew community. They will be freed from everything that previously held them bound and will be called sons and daughters of God, for so indeed they will be.

Please pray and fast for our Elect and candidates, now in the midst of their final preparation for the Sacraments. We are the Church, who instructs and accompanies them every step of the way, and we should do so until they fully join our ranks, so as to obey the Lord's command: make disciples and baptize them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AWAKE - NIGHT OF ADORATION

Saint Matthew is excited to present a night of Adoration and music on Sunday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. The event is called "Awake" and is a call to renew our hearts and our faith in the True Presence through Adoration, periods of silence and beautiful music provided by eight professional musicians. This particular Awake event will be focused on the Divine Mercy of Our Lord. There will be a reception afterwards, with refreshments provided by several of our parish ministries. Please plan to attend and spend some time as a parish family with Jesus in prayer and song!

FATHER RYAN SPRING MUSICAL

The Father Ryan Purple Masque Players perform *Into the Woods* in the Center for the Arts starting at 7:00 p.m., nightly from Thursday, April 9, through Saturday, April 11. Tickets: Adults, \$15, Seniors and students \$10, FRHS students free with ID. Children under 4 are free. Tickets may be purchased online or at the door.

CATHOLIC BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

Ever used an online recommendation to make a choice between products or vendors? What if you knew somebody who knew somebody? Even better! Come network with the business people of the Catholic Business League and Nashville Catholic Business Women's League and build those connections yourself! Join the Happy Hour at Coco's Event Center on March 25 at 5:30 p.m. Cash bar, delicious appetizers, and lots of information sharing! It is free for members of CBL or NCBWL, or \$15 for (soon to be?) non-members. Register at: bit.ly/ncbwlhappyhourmarch2026.

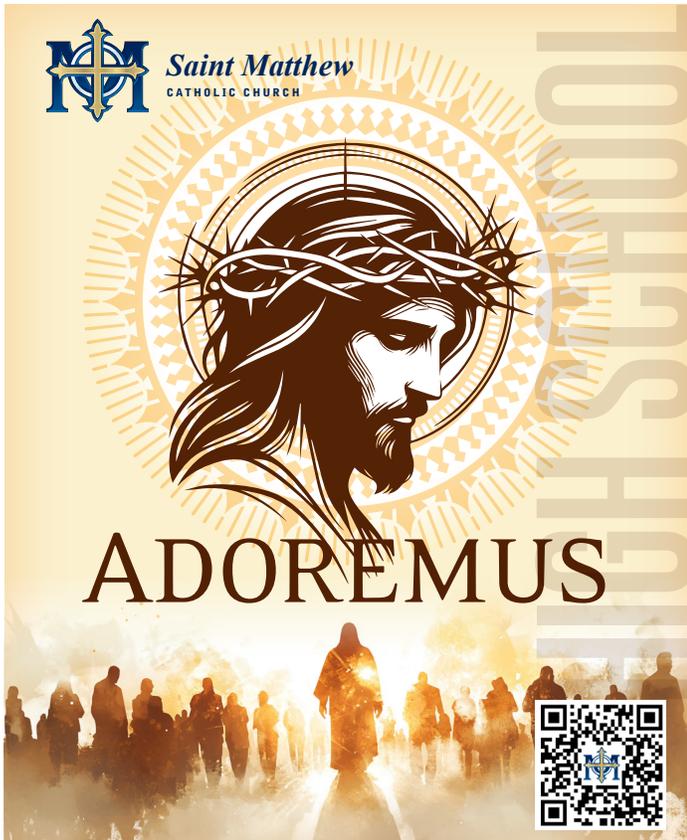
PRAY WITH 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The 40 Days for Life campaign has just two weeks left, running through Palm Sunday. The vigil hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily outside of Planned Parenthood. On Sunday, March 29, there is a **Lift High the Cross Procession** at 12 p.m. Meet at Cathedral of Incarnation for a procession to P.P. where the **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed. Learn more about or sign up for a time to pray at 40daysforlife.com/Nashville.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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. The retreat is March 27-29 at Camp Marymount and costs \$100.



Saint Matthew
CATHOLIC CHURCH

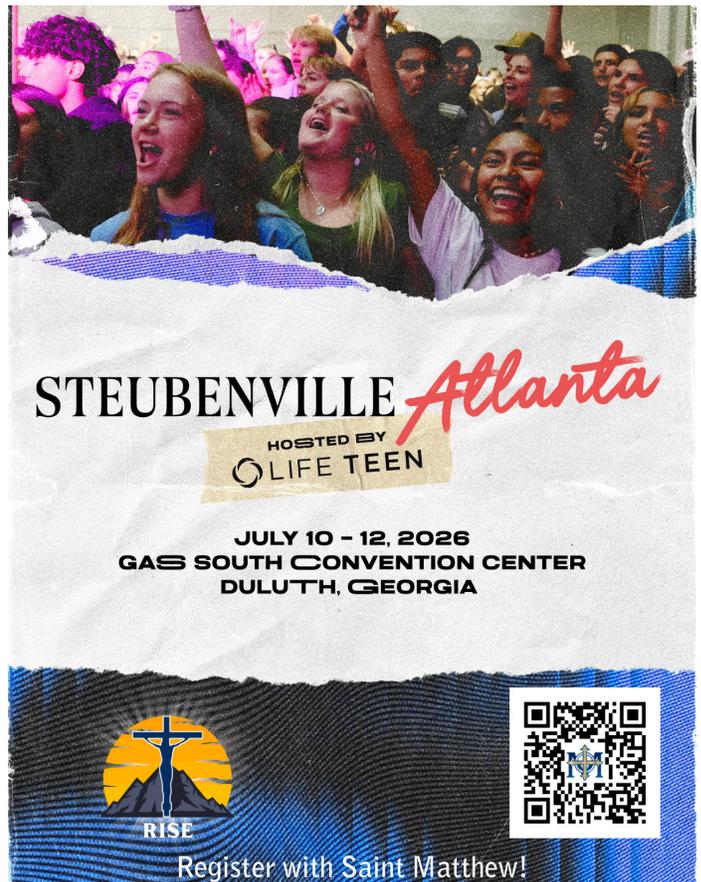
ADOREMUS

RISE SCHEDULE

RISE remains off this Sunday, March 15, for spring break. The Tuesday night Bible Study is also off on March 17. Be sure to join us on March 22, and sign up for our Adoremus retreat the following weekend.

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 to discuss and discern if you are called to serve.



STEUBENVILLE Atlanta
HOSTED BY
LIFE TEEN

JULY 10 - 12, 2026
GAS SOUTH CONVENTION CENTER
DULUTH, GEORGIA

RISE
Register with Saint Matthew!



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!



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

PASTORAL STAFF



Father Justin Raines
Pastor
fraines@stmatthewtn.org



Father Tien Tran
Associate Pastor
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Bill Forte
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Michaela Miller
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Kelly Ott
Pastoral Associate
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*Saint Matthew
Catholic Church*

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK!



PALM SUNDAY

March 28 & 29 —

Saturday Vigil
5 p.m.

Sunday Mass
8:30 & 11 a.m.

*11 a.m. Mass begins
with a procession



HOLY THURSDAY

— April 2 —

The Lord's Supper
7 p.m.

Procession &
Adoration to Follow

Compline at
Midnight



GOOD FRIDAY

— April 3 —

Morning Prayer
8 a.m.

Stations of the Cross
3 p.m.

Passion of the Lord
7 p.m.



EASTER VIGIL

— April 4 —

Morning Prayer
8 a.m.

Easter Vigil Mass
8 p.m.



EASTER SUNDAY

— April 5 —

Mass
8:30 a.m.
8:45 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
11:15 a.m.

*Easter Egg Hunt
following 11:15 a.m. Mass