

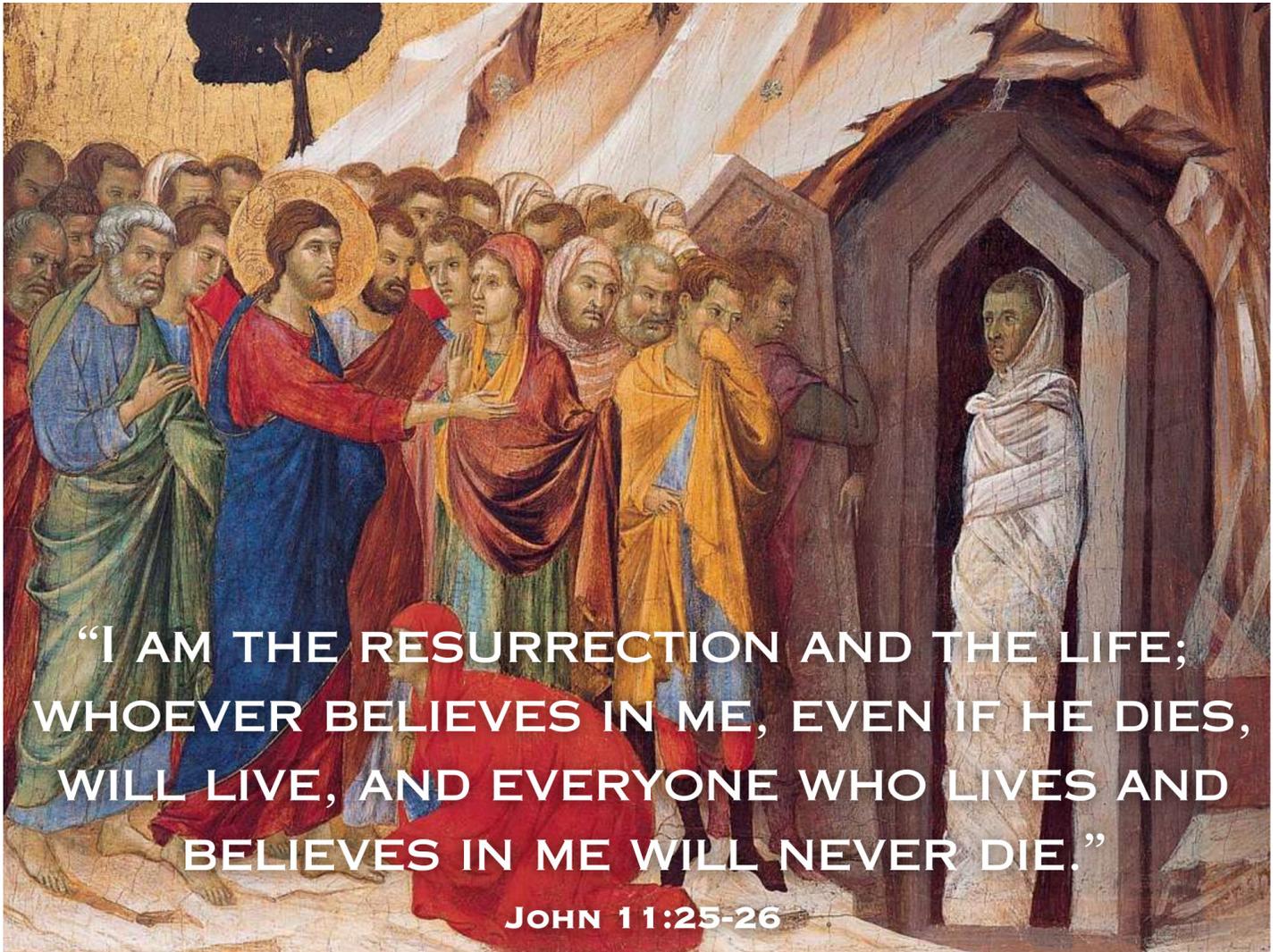


Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MARCH 22, 2026 + FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



“I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE;
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME, EVEN IF HE DIES,
WILL LIVE, AND EVERYONE WHO LIVES AND
BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER DIE.”

JOHN 11:25-26

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 21-27)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ For Paul Baldinger

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ Peter Srufari

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of the Parish

- Ezekiel 37:12-14
- Romans 8:8-11
- John 11:1-45

MONDAY, MARCH 23

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Michelle Guinn

- Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62
- John 8:1-11

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Lea Miller

- Numbers 21:4-9
- John 8:21-30

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

The Annunciation of Our Lord

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ David Reese

- Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
- Hebrews 10:4-10
- Luke 1:26-38

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Ruth Borrell

- Genesis 17:3-9
- John 8:51-59

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Shirley Ann Troutt

- Jeremiah 20:10-13
- John 10:31-42

✦ **Special Intention**

✦ *May they rest in peace*

**TO RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,
VISIT BIT.LV/SMCMASSINTENTION**

COME PRAY THE ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL
FOLLOWING 8 A.M. WEEKDAY MASSES
AND 8:30 A.M. SUNDAY MASS.

WHY ARE THE STATUES COVERED

During Lent, we are accustomed to giving up things, and you may have noticed we give up some things at Mass too. Beginning today, 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.

PALM SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPE

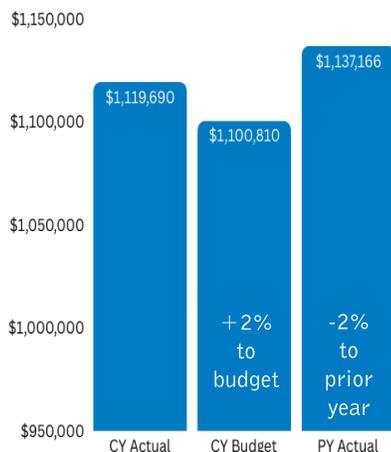
There was a printing error on the March 29 second collection envelope for Palm Sunday. Both Palm Sunday and St. Vincent De Paul were printed on the same envelope. The donations given in this envelope will go to St. Vincent de Paul unless you indicate otherwise either on the check or the envelope. We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

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK OF MARCH 9-15 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$21,381
SECOND COLLECTION: CHARITY & OUTREACH	\$336
SECOND COLLECTION: BLACK & INDIAN MISSIONS	\$175

YTD Summary



Visiting, new, or looking to give?

Scan to make a gift now, or visit
stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



Second Collections

This Week:

Tuition Assistance

Next Week:

*Catholic Relief Services
St. Vincent de Paul*

Registered Parish Families: 1,288

THEOLOGY & CULTURE

Have you ever wondered about the Church’s impact on today’s society? It’s likely even more than you realize. Join us for a fascinating presentation as part of this year’s Theology & Culture series. Meet in the Parish Conference Center between Masses this Sunday, March 22. Coffee and donuts provided.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saint Matthew has three remaining scheduled opportunities to pray the Stations of the Cross:

- Friday, March 27, at 6 p.m. in the Church
- Sunday, March 29, at 3 p.m. in the Chapel with the Passion of Christ Prayer Group
- Friday, April 3, at 3 p.m. in the Grotto



FISH FRY
 ST. MATTHEW MEN'S CLUB

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

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

EASTER
 Mass Times

EASTER VIGIL 8 P.M.	EASTER SUNDAY 8:30 A.M. (CHURCH) 8:45 A.M. (GYM) 11:00 A.M. (CHURCH) 11:15 A.M.* (GYM)
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*11:15 is the only Mass without incense
 Holy Week schedule on back

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.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Divine Mercy Sunday is Sunday, April 12. On Divine Mercy Sunday, Saint Matthew is hosting a prayer service at 3 p.m. in the chapel which will include praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. In preparation of this feast day, all parishioners are invited to pray the Divine Mercy Novena, beginning on Good Friday, April 3. To learn more about this devotion, and to access the prayers for the novena, please visit the church website.





Three Show Times!

Thursday, March 26
7 p.m.

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

Gym

Scan for tickets



Presents:

A Year With **Frog and Toad** KIDS

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.



SMS SUMMER CAMPS

Register now for summer camp at Saint Matthew as some camps are reaching capacity. With dozens of camps across six weeks, your kids will have a blast!



SCAN FOR SMS SUMMER CAMP DETAILS



JOB OPENINGS

Saint Matthew is looking for a Pre-K Assistant and a Middle School Math Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. You can find the job descriptions and apply by visiting bit.ly/smcemployment.

BUTTERFLY KISSES

A Saint Matthew **Father & Daughter Dance**

SATURDAY, APRIL 18
6-8 P.M.

COHAN-HANSOM BUILDING

\$30/Couple
\$40/Family



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.



EASTER EGG HUNT 2026

FOLLOWING 11:15 A.M. MASS ON EASTER SUNDAY

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



TOTUS TUUS **TOTALLY YOURS**



Learn more and register

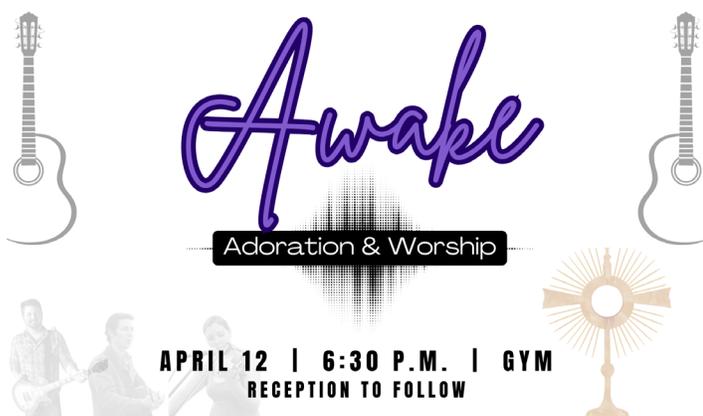


Totus Tuus & Vacation Bible School
June 21-26

MINISTRY NEWS

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!



DIGNITY OF WORK SERIES

St. Joseph's Men invites all men to join them as they explore a series on the Dignity of Work. The series will meet weekly beginning Thursday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. Email Tony Jesse at tjesse@stmatthewtn.org to learn more about St. Joseph's Men.



SPRING OF HOPE

The Saint Matthew Haiti Ministry holds the *Spring of Hope* appeal each spring, benefiting our sister parish, Our Lady of Miracles, in Gobert, Haiti. Leading up to the appeal, which will take place the weekend of April 18–19, we will highlight special ways your gifts are making a difference for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. On the appeal weekend, members of the Haiti Ministry will be available before and after Masses to share how the parish continues to minister to the community in Gobert, and to collect funds to support these efforts. Now more than ever, our Haitian brothers and sisters need your support. Visit bit.ly/smcspringofhope to learn more and make your gift. Please prayerfully consider participating in this campaign. Thank you!



EYEGGLASS RECYCLING

Help provide the gift of sight by donating your used prescription eyewear, sunglasses, and reading glasses to the Lions Club Recycle For Sight program. Drop your donations in the collection box located in the church kitchen. The donated glasses will be cleaned, repaired, and distributed to people in need.

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

A decorative banner for Chrism Mass. On the left is the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Nashville, featuring a shield with a dove, three stars, and a cross. On the right is a golden chalice with a cross on top. The background is a dark, textured surface.

TONY'S REFLECTION

ARISE LAZARUS

While Lent presents itself as rugged terrain at first, this journey into the wilderness with Christ full of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving will eventually sharpen our spiritual senses towards freedom. Freedom is expressed in detaching oneself from that which negatively controls us. Something controls you – be it anxiety, other people's opinions, or perhaps some vector of short-term pleasure. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus demonstrates His power to free us from that which controls us – including death!

Yet, when Jesus hears of the illness of Lazarus, He actually delays His travel to Bethany, because of His love for the family. Interestingly, we see that the death and resurrection of Lazarus is a "premeditated" act of Jesus' love. Here, Christ uses the temporary sadness of the family and transforms grief into a revelation that He holds the power over death. It remains a spiritual maxim that God can use one's suffering to deliver something greater. The key hinge is do you trust Him enough to hand over your suffering to Him?

However, before this miraculous event of turning suffering into joy takes place, Jesus bonds Himself to our human emotion. Upon approaching Lazarus' tomb Jesus becomes "deeply moved" (John 11:33 & 38). The Greek word used here is especially strong—as some scholars have translated as "troubled" or "angered." What is the cause of Jesus' anger? The brute fact of death in a fallen, sinful world? A lack of faith among the faithful who mourn? Theologians have not come to a satisfactory consensus. Surely, though, one of the purposes of St. John in reporting the emotion of Jesus is to stress His sharing in our human nature, including the depth of human emotion. John portrays Jesus in some of the most deeply human moments of his ministry: "Jesus wept." Here, God is showing that He is not some distant deity that stands well-above human affairs. No, He happily enters our misery to unite with us and draw us out of it.

Jesus shows He has power over death. He speaks a command and disables death. The imagery is striking – Lazarus walks out of the tomb after four days with bandages still binding him. Jesus then instructs others to "unbind him, and let him go." Lazarus' bandages reflect what sin does to a person – it restricts the person from God and eventually leads to the death of the soul. When Jesus commands Lazarus to be "loosed" and "let go," he employs a verb elsewhere used of being loosed from Satan's power (Luke 13:16, Acts 2:24). This resurrection, then, is also a "release" from sin, death, and Satan.

As astonishing as this miracle is, it pales in comparison to saving a soul. As Fr. Garrigou-Lagrange commented, "But even the raising of the dead to life, the miracle by which a corpse is reanimated with its natural life, is almost nothing in comparison with the resurrection of a soul, which has been lying spiritually dead in sin and has now been raised to the essentially supernatural life of grace."

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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 is entering its final week. The vigil hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily outside Planned Parenthood. On Sunday, March 29, there is a **Lift High the Cross Procession** at 12 p.m. Meet at the Cathedral of Incarnation for a procession to Planned Parenthood where the **Stations of the Cross** will be prayed. Learn more or sign up for a time to pray at 40daysforlife.com/Nashville.

ALL THINGS NEW BENEFIT DINNER

GraceWorks is holding their annual benefit dinner and auction, All Things New, on Thursday, April 16, at the Factory in Franklin. Reserve your seat by Saturday, March 28, at graceworkstn.org/dinner.

PLAY IT FORWARD MUSIC CAMP

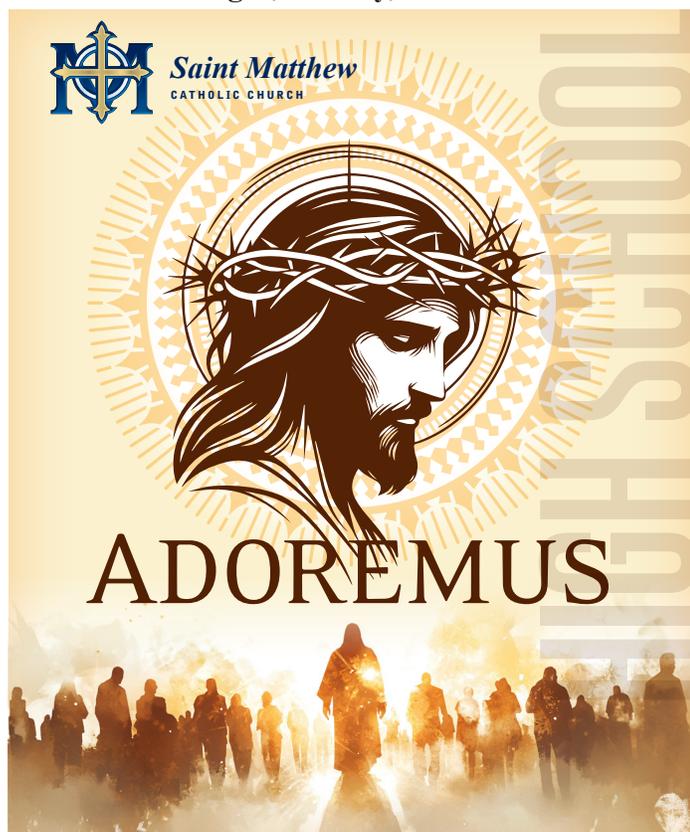
Play It Forward is a week-long music camp designed to educate, inspire, and engage students in music and liturgy while helping them explore their role in music ministry. Open to rising 7th-12th graders, the week includes daily prayer, hands-on instruction, electives like songwriting, drama, and videography, and fun activities like jam sessions and a talent night. The camp concludes with a Friday evening concert and a Sunday Mass commissioning. The camp runs June 8-12 at Saint Philip and costs \$200. Learn more and register at bit.ly/pifcamp26.



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 leading the musical worship. The retreat is March 27-29 at Camp Marymount and costs \$100. Contact Michaela Miller, mmiller@stmatthewtn.org, with questions or financial assistance. **The registration deadline is tonight, Sunday, March 22.**



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 SCHEDULE AND NOTES

RISE is meeting tonight for a time of prayer and Adoration, holding in our hearts a family connected to our community who is experiencing a profound loss. Adults will be present to support and accompany any teens who may need space to talk and process.

Due to our Adoremus retreat next weekend, RISE will not be meeting next Sunday, nor on Easter.

On April 12, we will be meeting and attending the parish Awake event. Teens, we encourage you to invite your family members to also come to campus for this powerful spiritual opportunity.



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!



STEUBENVILLE *Atlanta*

HOSTED BY
LIFE TEEN

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


RISE

Register with Saint Matthew!





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
Deacon
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James Grossheim
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Tony Jesse
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Michaela Miller
Dir. of Youth Ministry
mmiller@stmatthewtn.org



Kelly Ott
Pastoral Associate
kott@stmatthewtn.org



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