



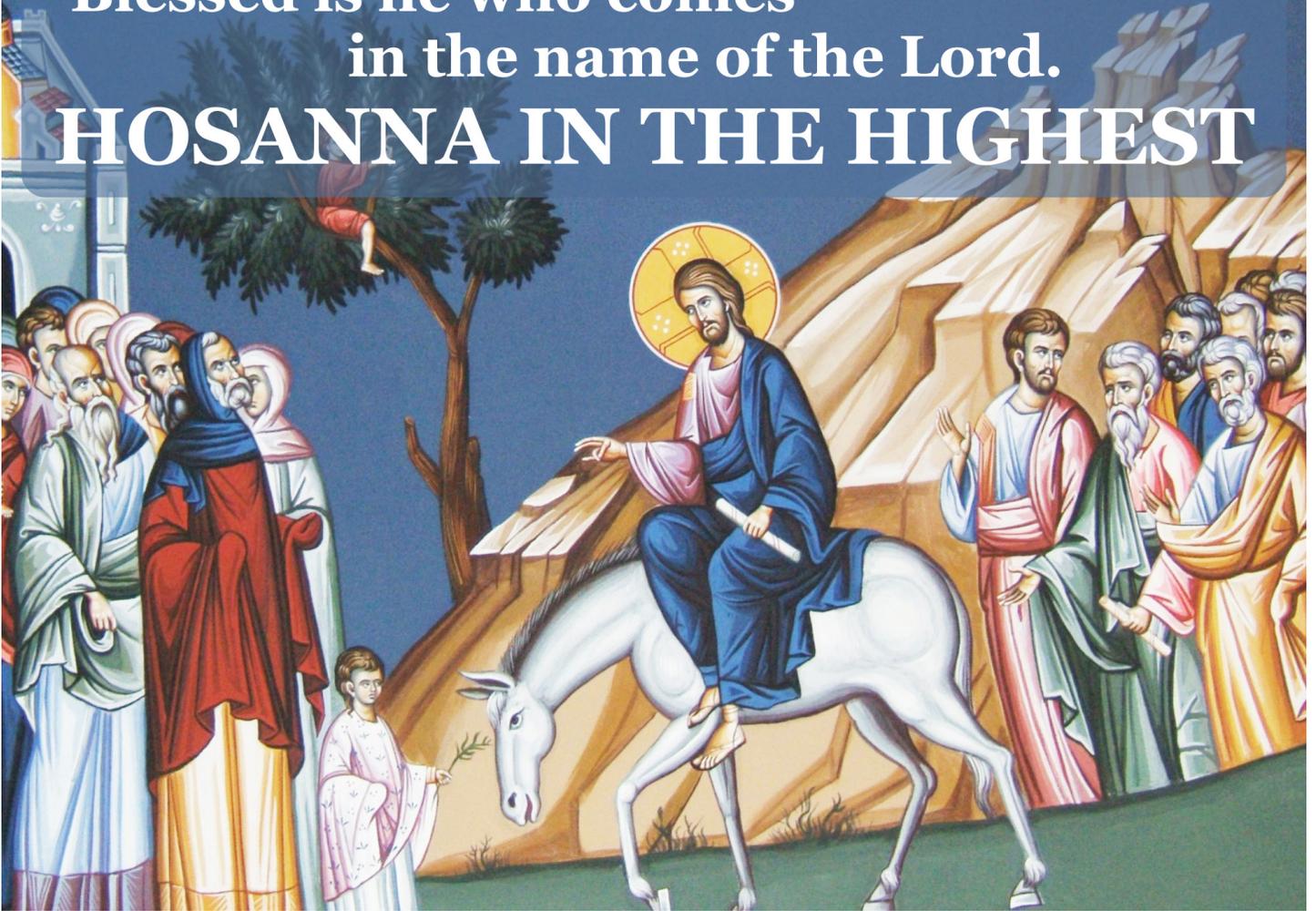
Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MARCH 29, 2026 + PALM SUNDAY

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST



Painting: *Entering Jerusalem With Glory*. Artist Unknown. Photo of painting by Deu and used with permission under CC ShareAlike 3.0 license.

NORMAL WEEKLY 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.

Holy Week schedule on back

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 29-APRIL 3)**

PALM SUNDAY

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

◆ For Jennifer Van Allen

8:30 a.m. Mass

◆ For the People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. Mass

✚ Tim Howie

- Matthew 21:1-11
- Isaiah 50:4-7
- Philippians 2:6-11
- Matthew 26:14—27:66

MONDAY, MARCH 30

8:00 a.m. Mass

✚ Kathleen Mary

- Isaiah 42:1-7
- John 12:1-11

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

8:00 a.m. Mass

◆ For Jim and Becky Hicks

- Isaiah 49:1-6
- John 13:21-33, 36-38

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

7:00 p.m. Mass

✚ Harriet “Teena” Rodgers

- Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Matthew 26:14-25

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Mass of the Lords Supper

7:00 p.m. Mass

✚ Norma Nicol Hamilton

- Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- John 13:1-15

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. Passion of the Lord

- Isaiah 52:13—53:12
- Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- John 18:1—19:42

◆ **Special Intention**

✚ *May they rest in peace*

To RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,
VISIT BIT.LY/SMCMASSENTENTION

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)

 *11:15 is the only Mass without incense
Holy Week schedule on back.

PALM SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPE

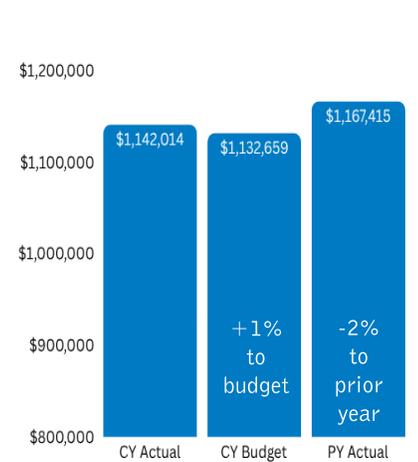
There was a printing error on the March 29 second collection envelope for Palm Sunday. Both Palm Sunday and St. Vincent De Paul were printed on the same envelope. The donations given in this envelope will go to St. Vincent de Paul unless you indicate otherwise either on the check or the envelope. We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

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK OF MARCH 9-15 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$22,298
SECOND COLLECTION: TUITION ASSISTANCE	\$292

YTD Summary



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



Second Collections

This Week:
*Catholic Relief Services
St. Vincent de Paul; Palm Sunday*

Next Week:
*Easter
Building Maint. & Facilities*

Registered Parish Families: 1,289

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

Join the Passion of Christ Prayer Group this Sunday, March 29, at 3 p.m. in the chapel as we enter more deeply into Holy Week. Come pray the Way of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and reflect on our Lord’s Passion. The group’s mission is to pray for our fellow Catholic brothers and sisters who have left the Church, especially in this sacred season of repentance and renewal.

EASTER FLOWER FUND - DEADLINE TUESDAY

Donations for Easter lilies must be received by Tuesday, March 31. Donations can be made in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Scan the QR code or visit the church office to donate. Thank you!



ADORATION THIS WEEK

With Good Friday falling on the first Friday of the month, we will not have First Friday Adoration in April. However, we do encourage everyone to join us for Adoration following the Mass of the Lord’s Supper (7 p.m.) on Holy Thursday. The Blessed Sacrament will be in the gym from 9 p.m. until Midnight. Please sign up for a time slot below.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office is closed beginning at noon on Thursday, April 2, through Monday, April 6. Mass on Monday, April 6, remains as scheduled. Services for Holy Week are on the back of the bulletin.

LENTEN REFLECTION

As we enter Holy Week, Father Raines leads our Lenten Reflection. He explores how the Lord’s passion and suffering are filled with His great love for us, how we can unite our suffering to His, and how God can use our suffering for the greater good.



NO SGC MEETING THIS MONTH

With Holy Week upon us, St. Gianna Circle will not have their usual monthly meeting this week. All mothers are invited to join them on May 6 for a casual evening of wine, charcuterie, and fellowship as they discuss events for the 2026-2027 year. More at bit.ly/smsgcmay26.

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



Welcome back from Spring Break! We have entered the fourth quarter here at SMS in full swing. Students are excited to be back in the classroom and are enjoying the warmer weather, not only on the playground, but also with additional outside learning opportunities. As we settle back into the rhythm of school this week, we also are turning our hearts toward Holy Week.

As mentioned in my previous Principal's Pen, our fourth graders are preparing to lead us in the Living Stations of the Cross. This prayerful experience invites students to quiet their hearts and minds as they reflect on the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

As we conclude this Lenten season, please know our students are praying for you and your family.

LUNCH BUNCH THIS TUESDAY

All parish seniors are invited to join us for Lunch Bunch, a monthly event featuring lunch, bingo, and fellowship. Our next Lunch Bunch is on Tuesday, April 14, at noon in the narthex. Register at bit.ly/smclbapr26 or email Alex Halfmann at ahalfmann@stmatthewtn.org. The cost is \$12 and everyone brings a gift for the prize table valued around \$10.



BUTTERFLY KISSES
 A Saint Matthew
Father & Daughter Dance
 SATURDAY, APRIL 18
 6-8 P.M.
 COHAN-HANSOM BUILDING
 \$30/Couple
 \$40/Family

FINANCIAL AID DEADLINE TUESDAY

Financial aid applications for the 2026-2027 school year are due by Tuesday, March 31. Please log into FACTS to apply. Contact the business office with any questions.

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/smemployment.

SMS SUMMER CAMPS

Summer is just around the corner, so register now for summer camps at Saint Matthew! With dozens of camps across six weeks, your kids will have a blast! Don't wait, as some camps are nearing or have already reached capacity.

**SCAN FOR
 SMS SUMMER
 CAMP DETAILS**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PARISH PICNIC

We all love the parish picnic, but we can't do it without your help. 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. Thank you for making this great event a reality.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
 TOTUS TUUS
 TOTALLY
 YOURS
 Learn more and register
**Totus Tuus & Vacation Bible School
 June 21-26**

Join us in celebrating
Divine Mercy Sunday
Sunday, April 12

Divine Mercy Service
3 p.m., Church

Divine Mercy Novena
Begins on Friday, April 3

Forge (5th-8th grades)
4:30-6:15 p.m., Cohan-Hansom Building
Potluck snack buffet; 7:30 pickup if attending Awake with Forge
5th graders invited! RSVP at bit.ly/forgeapr26.

RISE (H.S.)
5:30 p.m., Parish Conference Center
Includes dinner; RISE will attend Awake

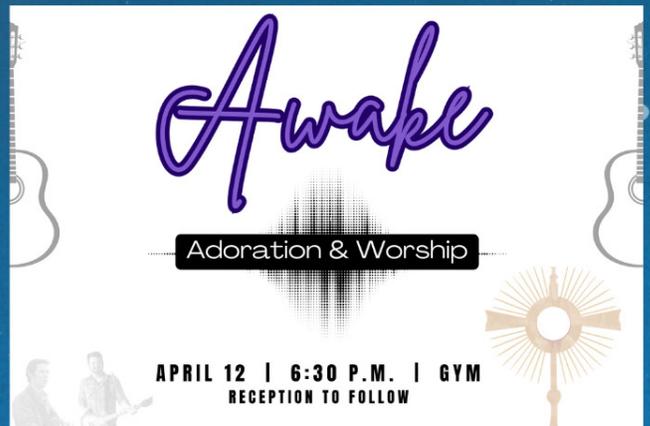
Awake
6:30 p.m., Gym

Awake is a call to renew our hearts and our faith in the True Presence through Adoration, periods of silence and beautiful music provided by a team of professional musicians. The evening is focused on the Divine Mercy of Our Lord.

What Is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Divine Mercy is devotion focused on God's infinite, loving compassion and desire to forgive, particularly for the most sinful, as revealed through Scripture and the diary of St. Faustina. It emphasizes trusting in Jesus, receiving His mercy through sacraments, and showing mercy to others.

For more information on these events and prayers for the Novena, visit, bit.ly/smcdds.



Jesus I Trust In You

TONY'S REFLECTION

THE PASSION BEGINS

A range of emotions flows through Holy Week – joy at the entrance of Jesus, into Jerusalem. This joy quickly shifts to anxiety, misery at His arrest, and finally unbounded horror, sadness, and anger at his violent death.

In the news, we hear of innocent people dying untimely and horrible deaths. Such questions inevitably surface: How can evil exist? How can the mother of a murdered child cope? In a similar vein, place yourself in the shoes of The Blessed Mother. How can Mary watch as her son endures such an excruciating and humiliating death? How can she become the mother of all – including those who violently persecuted her son? While placing ourselves amidst the events in Holy Week seems daunting, it allows us to unite Christ's ordeal in our own lives.

The Gospel begins with Judas's betrayal of Jesus. It appears one of the main motivators for Judas was his love of money. Recall that St. John let us know that Judas secretly stole from the money bag (see John 12:6). Judas sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. The Book of Exodus tells us that thirty pieces of silver is the price of a slave. With this exchange, Judas views Jesus as valuable as a common slave. Curiously, Jesus is not the first person in the Bible betrayed by someone close to him and sold into slavery for pieces of silver. In Genesis, Joseph was also left for dead and sold into slavery for silver by his brother Judah. Interestingly, Judas and Judah are the same names in the Hebrew language. It is fitting that Jesus came from the line of Judah as Judah's betrayal of Joseph mirrors Judas' betrayal of which Christ takes on the effect. In a way, every time we sin, we mimic Judas' unfaithfulness to Christ. I must face the harsh reality that my sins act as a betrayal of my baptismal vows, thus an infidelity of the one who I have devoted my life to. The effects of this betrayal are on full display at the blood-drenched body of Christ.

Badly beaten hanging up on the Cross, Christ "yielded up his spirit" and died a violent death on our behalf. This tragic scene has us reflect on the reality of death. It wasn't supposed to be this way. God created us for eternity with Him without experiencing a bodily death. However, our free choice to sin unleashed death upon us. St. Francis de Sales urges us to spend ample time meditating on our death for by contemplating death we simultaneously see the effects of our sins. Yet de Sales notes that when we live for Christ we live precisely to prepare for death – to unite our life with Christ's life so our death can be bonded to Christ's death.

Jesus' ordeal is telling in our time today. With the unjust trial, scourging, and violent death of a holy, innocent man it may seem beyond belief how evil can cause so much misery. But this story is short-lived for while evil always lurks in the background, God wins in the end. The gut-wrenching events of Jesus' death are meant to escort us to Easter Sunday when He is victorious over death.

MINISTRY NEWS

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/smspringofhope to learn more and make your gift. Please prayerfully consider participating in this campaign. Thank you!



PLAY IT FORWARD MUSIC CAMP

Play It Forward is a 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 more. 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.

FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

One of the most striking contrasts in the entire liturgical year comes in two moments during Mass on Palm Sunday. At the beginning of Mass, we join in the song the children sang when they and their parents welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem for Passover and prepared to proclaim him their king: “*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! Hosanna in the Highest!*” We feel their jubilation, and like them, our hearts are stirred to proclaim Jesus as our King. Yet just a few minutes later, we allow the chief priests to stir us up, as they stirred up the crowds in Jerusalem, and we cry out, “*Crucify him!*”



This contrast reflects our real experience. On the one hand, we want to follow Jesus and be faithful to him. On the other hand, Jesus is the King of Saints, and sometimes we respond to his call to greatness by rejecting him instead of responding with love, zeal, and humility. The challenge during Holy Week is to make our Hosanna stronger in our hearts than our “*Crucify him.*”

One of the best ways to unite our hearts to our voices’ *Hosanna* is to stay very close to Jesus this week. On Thursday, we will remember the Last Supper and the agony Jesus experienced afterward in the Garden of Gethsemane. We can cry *Hosanna* by staying awake for an hour with Jesus in the garden until the Eucharist is taken away at midnight, as Jesus was taken away from his disciples and put in prison. On Friday, we will follow our suffering Lord to Calvary, and we will cry *Hosanna* by kissing the Cross on which our King gave everything for us. On Saturday, our *Hosanna* will wait silently by the tomb until we begin our Solemn Vigil, when our *Hosanna* will follow the new Paschal Candle into the Church, because our King holds the keys to death and hell.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN ENDING

The 40 Days for Life campaign is ending today, Sunday, March 29, with a Lift High the Cross Procession at 2 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 at 40daysforlife.com/Nashville.

RISE YOUTH MINISTRY

RISE NOTES

Please keep our teens in your prayers as they are on retreat this weekend. Our next RISE night will be Sunday, April 12. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. before attending the Awake event.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP

Be sure to register for our Summer Mission trip to the Black Mountain region of North Carolina this summer. The trip is open to all current 7th-12th grade students. The deadline to register is Monday, April 20, and spots are limited.

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!
QR Code

STEUBENVILLE *Atlanta*
HOSTED BY
LIFE TEEN
JULY 10 - 12, 2026
GAS SOUTH CONVENTION CENTER
DULUTH, GEORGIA
Register with Saint Matthew!
QR Code
RISE

**RISE welcomes all students
in grades 9-12**



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
frtran@stmatthewtn.org



Bill Forte
Deacon
bforte@stmatthewtn.org



James Grossheim
Deacon
jgrosheim@nashvocations.org



Rebecca Harding
Dir. of Music Ministry
rharding@stmatthewtn.org



Tony Jesse
Dir. of Religious Ed.
tjesse@stmatthewtn.org



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