



# Saint Matthew

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MARCH 8, 2026 + THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



**“WHOEVER DRINKS THE WATER I  
SHALL GIVE WILL NEVER THIRST.”**

**JOHN 4:14**

Artist: Giovanni Lanfranco; Photo Credit: Lawrence OP

### 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

### 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.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PARISH PICNIC

The tradition continues! Save the date for our annual parish picnic: **July 19**. While the date is set, *we can't do this alone!* 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](mailto:ccurran@stmatthewtn.org).

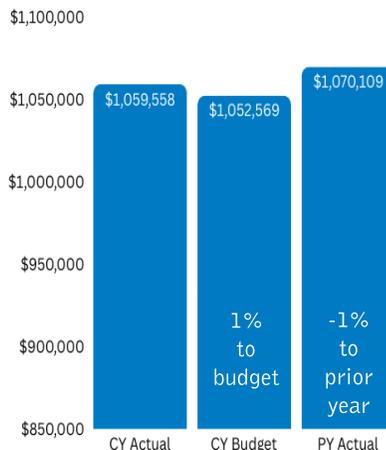


## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

**- FOR THE WEEK OF FEB 23 - MARCH 1 -**

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$34,569
BUILDING MAINT. & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS	\$695

### 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:**  
*Church in Central Europe*

**Next Week:**  
*Parish Charity*  
*Black & Native American Missions*

**Registered Parish Families: 1289**



### LITURGY SCHEDULE (MARCH 8-13)

#### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ For the People of Saint Matthew

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ Bernard Hetzler

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Souls in Purgatory

• Exodus 17:3-7

• Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

• John 4:5-42

#### MONDAY, MARCH 9

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Annette Deatherage

• 2 Kings 5:1-15ab

• Luke 4:24-30

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 10

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Fr. Giacobe Dang

• Daniel 3:25, 34-43

• Matthew 18:21-35

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ For Daniel Ott

• Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9

• Matthew 5:17-19

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 12

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Nguyen's grandparents

• Jeremiah 7:23-28

• Luke 11:14-23

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 13

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Lois Jerkovic

• Hosea 14:2-10

• Mark 12:28-34

✦ **Special Intention**

✦ *May they rest in peace*

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

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

**FAMILY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY**

Help beautify the Sensory Garden for the Blind. Join the Saint Matthew Family Service Ministry as they weed, prune, and plant today, 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 for details.



SAINT MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH

**LENTEN VIDEO REFLECTIONS**

SCAN TO WATCH

*Theology & CULTURE*

Sunday, March 22  
9:45-10:45 a.m.  
Parish Conference Center

*How the Church Built Western Civilization*  
Led by Tony Jesse

Saint Matthew  
**Middle School**  
Ministry Meeting

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8**  
**5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**TOPIC: PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING**

**PIZZA!**

**GAMES!**

**Bring a friend and get a prize!**

**Stations of the Cross**

Join us each Friday in Lent at 6 p.m.

**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**

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

Pre-orders Appreciated

**PURSE DRIVE FOR LADIES OF CHARITY**

Saint Matthew is partnering with the Nashville Catholic Business Women’s League for a purse drive benefiting our local community. Collection bins will remain in the narthex or school lobby through Tuesday, March 10. All donated purses will be sold at the Ladies of Charity store, with proceeds helping local residents cover essential utility bills.

**JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!**

Stay up to date with the latest news, information, and events from Saint Matthew! Join our email list today! Visit [bit.ly/smcemailsignup](http://bit.ly/smcemailsignup).

**EASTER EGG HUNT 2026**

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



Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, Saint Matthew students gather for daily Mass. A truly special part of these liturgies is the choir, which is our Liturgy Choir made up of 3rd-8th graders. Under the dedicated leadership of Mrs. Holderman, our choristers and cantors work hard each week practicing hymns and responsorial psalms. Their hard work is evident in their beautiful sound, and I feel a genuine joy in hearing our students sing their hearts out. These young musicians bring so much light to our students, staff, parents, and parishioners alike. We are so grateful for their commitment to honing their musical gifts. If you haven't yet attended a Tuesday or Thursday morning Mass, please join us to experience the wonderful voices of our students praising the Lord firsthand.



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](http://www.stmatthewtn.org/school/admissions)  
Zoom and in-person options available.



**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.



**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**





**Presents:**



**Three Show Times!**

**Thursday, March 26  
7 p.m.**

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

**Gym**

Scan for tickets



**SAVE THE DATE- FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE**

Our annual Father Daughter Dance is on Saturday, April 18, at 6 p.m. The theme for this year's dance is *Butterfly Kisses*. The dance is open to all - parish, school, and that friend you've been wanting to invite to church. See you there!

## MINISTRY NEWS

### VBS & TOTUS TUUS REGISTRATION

Register now for Vacation Bible School and Totus Tuus at Saint Matthew. This year's dates are:

- VBS: June 22-26, Pre-K & K
- Totus Tuus Day: June 22-26, 1st-6th grade
- Totus Tuus Night: July 21-25, 7th-12th grade



**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

TOTUS TUUS  
**TOTALLY  
YOURS**



Learn more and register



**RAINFOREST  
FALLS**  
celebrating the 10th anniversary

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

### 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 their 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.

### BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES

The 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries will be starting soon, and we invite you to join us in supporting the vital work of our Diocese. If you have given in recent years, please keep an eye out for a letter arriving in your mailbox later this week with more information. This year, the Diocese of Nashville has set a collective goal of \$3.8 million, with our own parish goal established at \$173,000. Beyond our financial target, we are striving for even greater parish participation this year, with a goal of 225 families contributing to the mission. Your generosity will support essential programs and new initiatives, such as Saint Mary Villa, a child development center that utilizes a sliding scale payment system to ensure hardworking families can afford the quality childcare they need. While our parish will officially launch the campaign in May, help us get a head start on our goal by scanning the QR code to the right to donate today. Thank you for your prayerful support of our faith community throughout the Diocese of Nashville!



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](https://bit.ly/smcriti25)

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Did you know Saint Matthew has a prayer shawl ministry? To learn more and get involved contact Mary at [maryestarr25@gmail.com](mailto:maryestarr25@gmail.com). Yarn provided.

## TONY'S REFLECTION

### WAITING AT THE WELL

Those who've become embarrassed about their troubled past typically try to avoid the local crowds lest people gossip and continue to smear their reputation. But what if, instead of finding the chattering crowd, they find an outsider who interestingly knows every detail of their past? Our Gospel reading presents such a scenario. Two cultural taboos initially stick out in this exchange: a man speaking with a woman, coupled with a Jew conversing with a Samaritan. The enmity between the Jews and Samaritans was deep. It went back centuries when the Assyrians destroyed the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. The people were forcibly deported, and foreign tribes were brought in to settle the land. The Israelites that remained in the north were known as Samaritans. They assimilated with these pagan people, engaged in intermarriage, and adoption of pagan gods, while the Jews in the Southern Kingdom remained somewhat loyal to God's covenants. The northern and the southern kingdoms became competing camps in which one group thought the other had defiled the covenant. Consequently, the Jews and Samaritans avoided any contact with each other.

The context of a man speaking to a woman reveals the intimacy of this conversation goes beyond mere chit-chat. This woman's multiple marital struggles parallel the historical experience of the Samaritan people as the five foreign tribes who intermarried with the Samaritans introduced five male deities into their religion. Through her, Jesus is speaking to the entire nation of Samaria and showing the Samaritan people that their long-awaited God has come to marry them back. The five false gods to which the Samaritans built shrines were also known as "Baals." While Baal was a name of a particular deity, it was also used to refer to a "husband." Therefore, in worshiping five Baals, Samaria was engaging in actions analogous to adultery to the Lord's covenant. Yet, despite Samaria's unfaithfulness and infidelity, God remained faithful to them.

And here He is—God in human form, waiting for them by the well of Jacob. The image of the well harkens back to the marital arrangements described in the OT. Here, the wives of Isaac, Jacob, and Moses were first encountered at a well. Given this marriage backdrop, Jesus is the Divine bridegroom searching for the lost people who've run off to be with other gods to call them back to be His covenant bride.

Continuing the nuptial theme, move to see what Jesus is asking for—water. The woman thinks Jesus is talking about "flowing water," which would be better than stagnant well water. But Jesus is referring to "living water." While Jesus is physically thirsty for water, He longs for something else. When was another time Jesus said he was thirsty? On the cross, He bellowed out, "I thirst." As Bishop Sheen was fond of saying, when Christ says, "I thirst," He is referring to His thirst for souls. He is signifying His yearning for us. Let us meet Him as he stands waiting for us wherever our "well" should be.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### PRAY WITH 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The 40 Days for Life campaign runs through Palm Sunday. The vigil hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily outside of Planned



Parenthood. There are two more community campaign events coming up this spring. Learn more about them and sign up for a time to pray at [40daysforlife.com/Nashville](https://40daysforlife.com/Nashville).

- 3/14 **Jericho March**, 12 p.m., P.P.

- 3/29 **Lift High Cross Procession** 12 p.m., Meet at Cathedral of Incarnation followed by the **Stations of the Cross** outside P.P.

### 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 March 25 at 5:30. Cash bar, delicious appetizers and lots of information sharing!

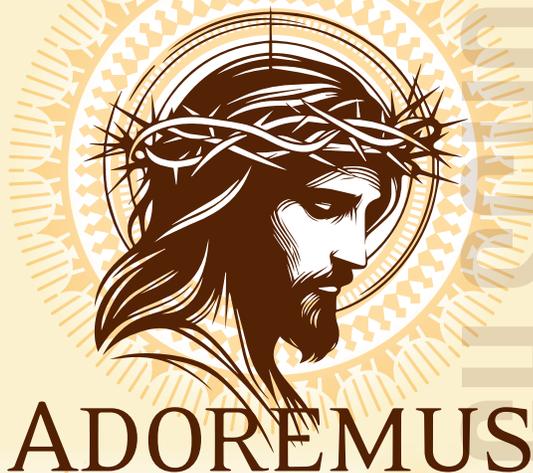
Free for members of CBL or NCBWL, or \$15 for (soon to be?) non-members. Please register at [bit.ly/ncbwlhappyhourmarch2026](https://bit.ly/ncbwlhappyhourmarch2026).

A blue poster for the "21st annual TRAIL OF CHURCHES" event. At the top, it says "THE NASHVILLE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING". The event is on "SAT. MARCH 27, 2026 AT 8:30 A.M." at "2015 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37203". It is "OPEN TO ALL!" and participants can "EARN A PATCH!". A dashed line path leads to three churches: "Cathedral of the Incarnation", "St. Mary of the Seven Sorrows", and "Holy Name Catholic Church Church of the Assumption". There is a "REGISTER NOW!" button with the URL "https://scoutingevent.com/560-109603" and a QR code in the bottom left corner. The Catholic Scouting logo is also present.

## YOUTH MINISTRY



Saint Matthew  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



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.

### RISE SCHEDULE

RISE is off March 8 & 15 for spring break. The Tuesday night Bible Study is also off on March 10 & 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](mailto: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



Register with Saint Matthew!



### YOUTH MINISTRY SURVEY

10 QUESTIONS  
5 MINUTES

WE WANT

YOUR

FEEDBACK

FOR ALL TEENS AND  
FAMILIES OF TEENS

EVEN IF NOT INVOLVED WITH RISE



**MICHAELA MILLER**  
Director of Youth Ministry  
[mmiller@stmatthewtn.org](mailto: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  
frtran@stmatthewtn.org



**Bill Forte**  
Deacon  
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**James Grossheim**  
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**Rebecca Harding**  
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**Tony Jesse**  
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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