



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

APRIL 12, 2026 + THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



*Jesus, I Trust
In You!*

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:

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✉ 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 (APRIL 11-APRIL 17)

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ Fr. Joseph Tran

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Beverly Ballentine

• Acts 2:42-47

• 1 Peter 1:3-9

• John 20:19-31

MONDAY, APRIL 13

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Kathleen Mary

• Acts 4:23-31

• John 3:1-8

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Peggy Maurer

• Acts 4:32-37

• John 3:7b-15

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ Daniel Bruder

• Acts 5:17-26

• John 3:16-21

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Billy Powers

• Acts 5:27-33

• John 3:31-36

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For David Suchanek

• Acts 5:34-42

• John 6:1-15

✦ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*

To RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,
VISIT BIT.LY/SMCMASSINTENTION

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

SERVIO DEO MISSION TRIP

All current 7th-12th graders are invited to our upcoming Servio Deo Summer Mission Trip. This powerful opportunity invites our teens to live out their faith by serving others as Christ calls us, through hands-on service, the Sacraments, and meaningful community. This mission experience fosters both spiritual growth and lasting friendships while putting faith into action. Registration deadline is Monday, April 27. Register today as space is limited.

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

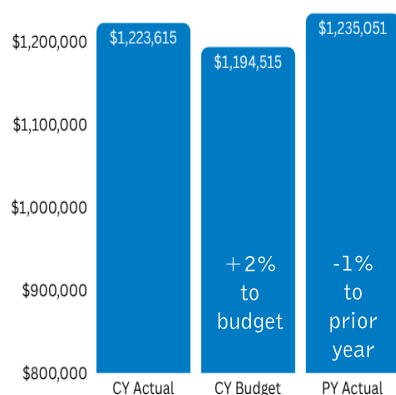
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK OF MARCH 30-APRIL 5 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$48,058
EASTER SUNDAY	\$5,914
BUILDING MAINT. & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS	\$1,034

YTD Summary



Visiting, new, or looking to give?

Scan to make a gift now, or visit

stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



Second Collections

This Week:

Charity & Outreach

Next Week:

Tuition Assistance Fund

Registered Parish Families: 1,289

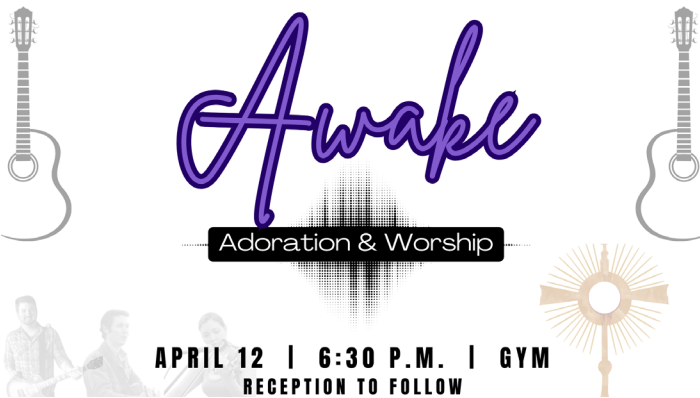
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Join us for a special Divine Mercy prayer service at 3 p.m. in the church today, Sunday, April 12. The service includes praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Adoration. You can learn more about the Divine Mercy devotion and how to earn a plenary indulgence today by visiting the church website.



AWAKE - NIGHT OF ADORATION

Our Music Ministry is offering another special prayer opportunity today, *Awake!* *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 eight professional musicians. Join us tonight, Sunday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. This particular *Awake* event will be focused on the Divine Mercy of Our Lord. A reception follows, with refreshments provided by several parish ministries. Please plan to attend and spend some time as a parish family with Jesus in prayer and song!



FORGE MEETING TODAY

Join Forge for their final event of the year, The Hungry Hangout, today, Sunday, April 12, from 4:30–6:15 p.m. Students will enjoy yard games, watch an episode of *The Chosen*, and share a potluck buffet (sign-up link available on the registration page). 5th graders are welcome to attend today. Students may also stay and attend *Awake* as a group. Drop-off is at Cohan-Hansom Building, and pick-up is at the gym at 6:15, or 7:30 for those who stay for *Awake*. RSVP at bit.ly/forgeapr26.



DIOCESAN SCHOOLS SURVEY

The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Nashville is partnering with an outside entity to conduct a survey of parents and parishioners regarding the potential expansion of a middle/high school in the central area of the diocese. We invite you to share your thoughts. The feedback you provide will be very valuable to us at Saint Matthew as we plan for the future, so we would be personally grateful for your participation. Please click the link below to take the survey. Your response will remain anonymous; no one from the parish or school will see your individual response. Reports with aggregated survey responses will be provided to the diocese. We know you are busy, so we sincerely appreciate your willingness to participate. The survey will remain open until April 21. Scan to access the survey. For questions about the survey, please contact Jordan Ware at jware@rootviewdata.com.



BEAUTIFY MARY'S GROTTTO

Help weed and plant in Mary's Grotto in preparation for Grandparents Day and First Communion! Join the Family Service Ministry on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to noon, in caring for God's creation and honoring our Blessed Mother. All ages and abilities are welcome. Learn more and sign up to help at bit.ly/smcfsmgrotto26.





Alleluia, He is Risen! I hope you all had a joyful Easter weekend with family and friends. Many of our students were blessed with time to travel and be together with loved ones. Here at SMS, we have entered the final stretch of the school year. Our 8th graders are just weeks away from exams and their class trip. Teachers are moving into their final units.

April brings two important milestones: Confirmation and First Communion. Our 8th graders will celebrate Confirmation at the Pastoral Center next weekend and have spent much of this year generously serving in preparation for the sacrament. Our 2nd graders have been preparing all year to receive the Eucharist and just attended their First Communion retreat yesterday. Please keep these students in your prayers as they prepare to receive these sacraments.

ANNUAL FUND

Saint Matthew School is in their final months of the 2025-26 Annual Fund. Please consider making your tax-deductible gift by scanning the QR Code. Contributions help us fund school security, full-time nurse and student-wide enrichment. Any amount is appreciated.



SMS GRANDPARENTS DAY: APRIL 24

Attention SMS Grandparents! Join us on Friday, April 24, for a special performance. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Afterward, you are invited to join your grandchild(ren) in their homerooms. Dismissal is at 11:30 a.m.

SMS SUMMER CAMPS

Summer is just around the corner, so register now for summer camps at Saint Matthew!

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.

TRIVIA & TACOS AT TITO'S

The Saint Matthew Women's Club is hosting Tacos & Trivia at Tito's on Tuesday, April 21, at 5:30 p.m. The event is free, and prizes will be awarded to the top team. Enjoy a complimentary taco bar and soft drinks. Margaritas and other beverages will be available for your purchase. Scan below to learn more and follow the Saint Matthew social media pages for bonus clues.

TRIVIA & TACOS AT TITO'S
TUESDAY, APRIL 21
5:30 P.M.
TITO'S (HWY 100)

Includes graphics for: Saint Matthew Women's Club, TRIVIA NIGHT, FUN! FELLOWSHIP! PRIZES!, FREE!, and FREE TACO BARI!

UPCOMING SACRAMENTS & GRADUATION

Please keep our young parishioners in your prayers as they will celebrate several upcoming milestones.

- Those preparing for **Confirmation** will be receiving the Sacrament next Sunday, April 19, at Catholic Pastoral Center.
- Our second graders will be making their **First Communion** the following Sunday, April 26, here at Saint Matthew.
- Our Saint Matthew School 8th graders will enjoy **Graduation** on Thursday, May 14.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

TOTUS TUUS TOTALLY YOURS

Learn more and register

Totus Tuus & Vacation Bible School
June 21-26

SPRING OF HOPE - FAITH SPOTLIGHT

In addition to his duties as pastor of Our Lady of Miracles Catholic Church, did you know that Father Floréal also serves the people of multiple pastoral centers beyond easy travel to Gobert? These pastoral centers are served by the chapels of St. Joseph in Lumé, St. Thérèse in Pigeotte, and St. Augustine in Carrefour Roger. In addition to saying as many as three Masses per week at OLOM in Gobert, Father travels to these small chapels to say Mass, too. He also performs the Sacraments of Baptism and First Communion at each once a year. Annual celebrations are held at each of the chapels to introduce the faith to non-parishioners and deepen the sense of community.

While the spirit of the faithful is strong, the physical structures used by the chapels are very humble. The Lumé Chapel, which also supports and houses a school for 314 students, suffers from a damaged roof, while the Carrefour Roger congregation currently gathers under a small, makeshift shed. Every Sunday, the communities transform these humble spaces into sanctuaries for worship and celebration. Despite the challenges of these remote locations, Father and the OLOM community continue to support these outlying chapels prioritizing the spiritual and educational needs of these communities. Your support of the Saint Matthew Haiti Ministry helps Father Floréal travel to and serve these small remote chapels.

Next Sunday, we are holding our Spring of Hope Campaign where your generosity tangibly spreads the faith, improves healthcare, educates children, and provides clean water. We thank you for your generous support of our mission and the people of Gobert. Scan to learn more or give now.



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.

RMH SERVICE PROJECT

Our Family Service Ministry invites you and your children to serve through their Ronald McDonald House service project, benefiting families with seriously ill or injured children receiving medical treatment at nearby hospitals. There are three ways to participate this spring: 1. Stock the RMH pantry – Drop off items in the Narthex between May 1–3. 2. Make encouraging cards – May 4 at 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center, 3. Cook lunch for RMH residents – May 6 at 10:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at RMH. Get involved at bit.ly/fsmrmh26.

formed

Pick of the Week:
April 12



Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley

Renowned speaker and author Fr. Michael Gaitley tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope St. John Paul II. In this series, the vast panorama of God's work of mercy in the world unfolds as a story to be experienced.

To watch this series and other great content for free, visit FORMED.org. Use our parish code, 37069 to create your free account.

KICKBALL TOURNAMENT - MAY 3

Save the date for our Mother Son kickball tournament on Sunday, May 3, at 1:30 p.m. hosted by our St. Gianna Circle Mothers' Ministry. Registration coming soon!

MAY 3
1:30 P.M.

TONY'S REFLECTION

WHAT TO DO WITH DOUBT?

Like it or not, doubt remains an inevitable reaction to responding to the litany of ideas in our world. However, doubt offers two sides of the coin. Doubt can be a healthy exercise in which we learn to put aside our tribal prejudices and think critically, or doubt can be a soul-shattering crisis that radically destroys our faith (see CCC 2088). The key to which direction doubt takes us hinges on how we respond to it.

The Church has never had a problem with doubt, provided it is rightly ordered. The gospel, after all, is forged in a crucible of doubt. In today's Gospel, Jesus offers evidence to "Doubting Thomas." John the Baptist doubted both Jesus and himself, asking, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" Interestingly, Jesus did not, in the slightest, rebuke these honest doubts. Honest doubt is really a quest for faith. The person who is sincerely doubting is humbly questioning in pursuit of something more.

Some of the most ardent saints approached their quest of committed faith at all costs by taking doubt head-on. Take, for example, St. Thomas Aquinas. Aquinas craved clarity, and in pursuing it, he carefully and methodically covered thousands upon thousands of doubts about the Catholic faith. Aquinas knew that the faith had nothing to fear from the truth and that it was already an anvil that had worn out a thousand hammers of doubt. In the Thomistic method, all views were on the table to explore in a marketplace of ideas. While everything was on the table, one can't stay in this state of inclusivity to all ideas. The marketplace of ideas serves to eliminate those ideas that fail the rational test. As G.K. Chesterton noted, "Merely having an open mind is nothing. The object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it on something solid." Therefore, all philosophical thinkers welcomed consulting, investigating, and questioning, reviewing opposing views because they wanted clarity, truth, and answers to doubt. Don't forget that one of the spiritual works of mercy is to counsel the doubtful. By counseling the doubtful, you would be directing them to the one thing that can satisfy their hunger—the truth. As Aquinas states, "The greatest kindness one can render to any person consists in leading them from error to truth."

When doubt becomes perverted, the person shows trust only in himself—and he doubts all things outside of him. Here, he is not skeptical about his skepticism, and he always "questions" to refuse light rather than seek it. As Paul refers to such, they are "ever learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim 3:7). When doubt runs amok, rather than trust God, we trust our dubious, fallen wisdom.

At some point in our Christian life, doubt will surface. It may seep into your soul with the accumulation of thoughts and feelings that perpetuate desolation. It may be pounded in with a nail through a personal tragedy or betrayal. However it comes, it must be faced head-on. For Christians, it is meant to be faced with the help of Jesus Christ through His body, the Church.

COMMUNITY NEWS

HERE AND NOW - SCA SPRING DANCE SHOW

Join the SCA Seasons Dance Company and the St. Cecilia Dance Academy as they present *Here and Now*. This dance show will feature works of student choreography by the high school dancers as well as performances by the younger Dance Academy students. Performances are April 17 at 6:30 p.m. and April 18 at 2:30 p.m. in the SCA Theater. More info and tickets at stcecilia.edu/fine-arts/here-and-now.

FATHER RYAN JUNIOR IRISH NIGHT

Join fellow Junior Irish for a night of Father Ryan baseball games and rugby matches, with pizza, giveaways and the Senior Night for Baseball and Rugby teams on Friday, April 17, at 4:30 p.m! To register, visit fatherryan.org/admissions/junior-irish.

LADIES OF CHARITY CONSIGNMENT SALE

The Ladies of Charity Nashville Spring Consignment Sale is happening now through May 2 at 2216 State Street, offering quality clothing and household items with proceeds supporting local families in need. Hours are Mondays from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Learn more at ladiesofcharitynashville.com.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS EVENT

WillCo WellFest 2026 is a free, family-friendly health and wellness festival on Saturday, May 16, at The Factory at Franklin. The event features 50+ vendors, live presentations, and interactive experiences focused on physical and mental well-being. There will be a strong representation of Catholic and Christian vendors, connecting faith and wellness. Reserve tickets at willcowellfest.com.

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

THE SOURCE OF DIVINE MERCY

On Divine Mercy Sunday, we celebrate a river that never dries up. When our Lord hung upon the Cross, the soldiers pierced Jesus's side with a lance, and from his side blood and water poured out onto the ground, pooling and running down the hill of Calvary.



This recalls the creation of our first parents, but it also surpasses it in grace. While Adam slept, God took a rib from his side and formed Eve with it, closing up Adam's side with flesh. While Jesus slept in death, his side was pierced, and from his side his Bride, the Church, was born. Adam gave a rib, but Jesus gave blood and water, symbols of the Eucharist and Baptism. Adam's love for Eve was broken and imperfect because of their sin, but Jesus's love for his Bride is unfailing and perfect. The wound in Jesus's side heals the wound in Adam's. From Adam's side a companion was formed, but from Jesus's side the Mercy of God flows forth like an endless river upon the earth. His blood and water, symbols of the sacraments, heal all of creation through the mercy of God.

Finally, God closed up Adam's side with flesh, but in Jesus's case, his side was never closed up. Eight days after the Resurrection, he invited St. Thomas to put his hand into his side, strengthening St. Thomas's faith and granting him access to the healing which comes from Divine Mercy. That wound in the side of Christ remains open even today. Like Thomas, we are invited to put our hand into his side. The blood and water still flow from his side through the sacraments. Jesus invites us to enter into his side, close to his Heart, and find there a rich source of mercy and healing which will never fail.



RISE YOUTH MINISTRY

RISE SCHEDULE

**APR
12**

AWAKE

Meet at the regular time for dinner. We will then join the parish for AWAKE

**APR
19**

Natural Wonder

A special night on chastity, exploring how we are purposeful masterpieces created by God.

**APR
26**

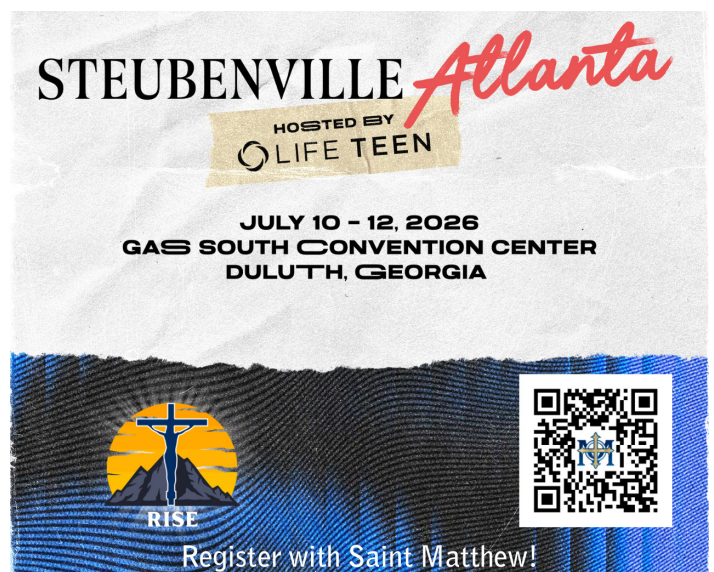
Only the Essentials and Trail Signs

Exploring the Evangelical Counsels and Moral Judgement.

RISE meets Sundays at 5:30 p.m. in the P.C.C. with pickup at 7:30 p.m. Dinner is provided.

SEARCH RETREAT

The final SEARCH Retreat weekend is scheduled for April 24–26 at Camp Marymount. This peer-led retreat offers high school juniors and seniors a chance to step away from daily life, encounter Christ, and grow in faith through talks, prayer, and community. The registration deadline is this Friday, April 17. Learn more and register at bit.ly/search2026.



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



OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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