



Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

APRIL 19, 2026 + THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

*"Were not our hearts
burning within us."*
Luke 24:32



Robert Zünd, *Way To Emmaus*, 1877

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 18-APRIL 25)**

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass**
 † Mary Louise Murphy
- 8:30 a.m. Mass**
 † Ida Francken
- 11:00 a.m. Mass**
 ◆ For the People of the Parish
- Acts 2:14, 22-33
 - 1 Peter 1:17-21
 - Luke 24:13-35

MONDAY, APRIL 20

- 8:00 a.m. Mass**
 † Kathleen Mary
- Acts 6:8-15
 - John 6:22-29

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

- 8:00 a.m. Mass**
 † Paul Vy Tran
- Acts 7:51-8:1a
 - John 6:30-35

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

- 7:00 p.m. Mass**
 ◆ For the Suchanek & Rappe Families
- Acts 8:1b-8
 - John 6:35-40

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

- 8:00 a.m. Mass**
 ◆ Bill Blackburn
- Acts 8:26-40
 - John 6:44-51

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

- 8:00 a.m. Mass**
 † Harriet "Teena" Rodgers
- Acts 9:1-20
 - John 6:52-59

◆ **Special Intention**
 † *May they rest in peace*

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

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

PARISH SPOTLIGHT

Theology &
CULTURE

Sunday, April 26
 9:45-10:45 a.m.
 Parish Conference Center

What Is Catholic Social Teaching?

Based on Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum*

CONFIRMATION

Please pray for our students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation today. Pray that they may reaffirm their faith and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit throughout their lives. May they be strengthened in courage, guided in truth, and rooted always in Christ.

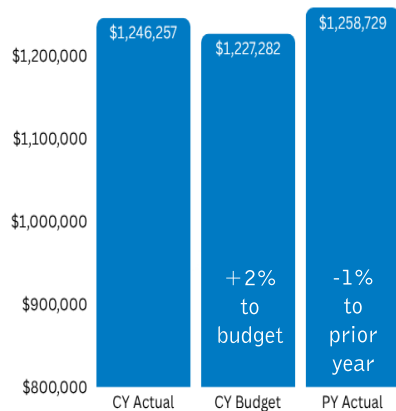
APRIL 19 | 3:30 P.M. | CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK OF APRIL 6-12 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$22,165
CHARITY & OUTREACH	\$651

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 Fund

Next Week:

Catholic Home Missions

Registered Parish Families: 1,289

TRIVIA & TACOS AT TITO'S

The Saint Matthew Women's Club is hosting Tacos & Trivia at Tito's this 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 a hint to a bonus question.



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.



SPRING OF HOPE APPEAL

Our Spring of Hope Appeal is taking place this weekend. Please refer to the enclosed flyer or scan the QR code to learn more about the impact of our Haiti Ministry at our sister parish, and how to support our brothers and sisters in Gobert, Haiti.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting is Monday, April 27, from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. They welcome anyone who can or wants to learn to, knit or crochet, to join them in creating prayer shawls for anyone in need of being "wrapped in prayer." Yarn is provided. Completed prayer shawls are given to those facing illness, grief, or other hardships. If you have any completed shawls please bring them with you or drop them off at the church office so they may be blessed by a priest. To learn more and get involved contact Mary at maryestarr25@gmail.com. You can also reach out to Mary if you know someone in need of a prayer shawl.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Spend some quiet time with Jesus during our First Friday Adoration on Friday, May 1. Adoration begins after 8 a.m. Mass and ends with benediction on Saturday at 8 a.m. Sign up for a time slot at bit.ly/smcffamay26.



FEEDING THE HOMELESS

Saint Matthew Loaves & Fishes ministry cooks and serves lunch to those experiencing homelessness at Holy Name Parish Center on the first Wednesday of each month. If you would like to get involved with this ministry or to join the volunteer list, email Bill Thomson at bthomson7504@gmail.com.



Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

What a joyous weekend for our 8th grade students. As I mentioned last weekend, our 8th graders receive the sacrament of Confirmation this Sunday afternoon at the Catholic Pastoral Center. In doing so, our 8th graders are deepening their baptismal life in Christ and are strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I have been speaking with our 8th graders about their service projects this year, and one experience consistently stands out—their trip to Sneedville. There, they delivered groceries, painted homes, and assisted families in need in meaningful, hands-on ways. They truly gave back to a community in need of assistance, which was incredible to see as a chaperone on that trip. The 8th grade class is well-prepared and ready for Confirmation, and I am so excited for them to receive the sacrament this weekend. Please keep them in their prayers on Sunday!

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.



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.



GOT SPARE CHANGE?

There are clear boxes on the table outside the training chapel where you can share your spare change to benefit our sister parish in Haiti. Don't have any change in your pocket or purse? Use the included QR code on the box to donate a dollar or two (or more!). Thank you in advance for sharing your spare change!

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.

BECOME A GIFT BEARER

Families and children are invited to help bring up the gifts at Mass—a special way to further participate in the liturgy, and a sign of thanksgiving for God's blessings. Sign up at bit.ly/smcgiftbearer.

SMS SUMMER CAMPS

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



**SCAN FOR
SMS SUMMER
CAMP DETAILS**




REGISTRATION NOW OPEN




Learn more and register



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

MINISTRY NEWS

COMMUNITY SUNDAYS

We are looking to grow our Community Sunday ministry. Volunteers pick up donuts, brew coffee, and serve after Mass. It's simple, flexible, and a fun way to get involved. It's also a meaningful way families can serve together. Kids can jump in, lend a hand, and be part of building a welcoming parish community. More than anything, Community Sundays create space to connect—meet new people, catch up with friends, and spend time with our priests in a relaxed, casual setting. Interested in helping out? We'd love to have you! Email Colleen at ccurran@stmatthewtn.org to get on the volunteer list or learn more.

SGC MAY MEETING

All mothers are invited to join St. Gianna Circle on Wednesday, May 6. They begin with 7 p.m. Mass, then gather in the Parish Conference Center to connect, share, and dream together. Enjoy motherly fellowship and help shape next year's events, activities, and ways we can support our families and parish community. RSVP at bit.ly/smsgcmay26.

JOIN THE RISE 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.

RMH SERVICE PROJECT

Our Family Service Ministry invites you and your children to serve through their Ronald McDonald House service project, benefiting seriously ill or injured children and their families. 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 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center, 3. Cook lunch for RMH residents – May 6 at 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m. at RMH. Get involved at bit.ly/fsrmrh26.

2026 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES

The 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries is officially launching across the Diocese this weekend, and we invite you to join us in supporting the vital work of our local Church. Here at Saint Matthew, our parish campaign will begin in May, but thanks to several generous one-time gifts and the faithful support of our monthly donors, we are already off to a strong start—having raised more than \$25,000, or 14% of our goal. This year, the Diocese of Nashville has a collective goal of \$3.8 million, with our parish goal established at \$173,000. Beyond our financial target, we are striving for even greater parish participation, with a goal of 225 families, an increase of 50 families. Your generosity, no matter the size, supports essential programs and new initiatives, such as Saint Mary Villa, a child development center utilizing a sliding scale payment system to ensure hardworking families can access quality child-care. While our parish launch is still to come, you can help us build momentum by scanning the QR code to donate today. Thank you for your prayerful support of our faith community throughout the Diocese of Nashville!



Please prayerfully consider supporting the **Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries**. Your gift strengthens and sustains the daily work of Church through essential diocesan ministries such as:

- Forming future priests and supporting men in seminary
- Bringing college students closer to Christ through University Catholic
- Providing life-changing youth and family faith formation
- Meeting the corporal and spiritual needs of our neighbors



To learn more and donate, please scan the QR code or visit dioceseofnashville.com/appeal

TONY'S REFLECTION

RECOGNIZING THE RISEN CHRIST

All human experience starts with our five senses. Even before our ability to think and to feel kicks in, the data is channeled through the human senses. While our senses hold great sway over our experience, we can readily admit that our human senses are flawed in perceiving ultimate reality. Right now, the Earth is moving at 66,000 mph around the Sun and spinning on its axis at 1,000 mph. Do you feel this with your senses?

Beyond our physical human senses lie deeper spiritual senses. In the Gospel reading today, the human senses communicate to the disciples that a Jewish man is walking beside them, asking questions. However, the spiritual reality is that this man is God in human form – The Second Person of the Holy Trinity. The penetrating mystery is how one goes from grasping the physical certainty to comprehending the spiritual reality. But, in answering this question, we must observe the movement from God to us through our faith. Notice that the Gospel reads, "Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him." Why did Jesus veil Himself so they couldn't recognize Him? Throughout the Bible, Jesus hides His divinity almost as if to test people's faith in Him. Here, it appears that Christ conceals Himself because these two disciples lacked faith. They said, "...we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel." It is not so much that God likes to hide, but because we have deficiencies in our faith in Him, His hiddenness becomes a reflection of our limited faith.

It stands to reason that if we are to put faith in Christ, we must become detached from faith in ourselves, for Christ taught that when you lose yourself, you will gain God. However, when you lose God, you are caved in around yourself. The state of our entertainment-obsessed lifestyle has one view that their life is the main drama, with everyone around them playing a supporting role in their show. However, the spiritual life illuminates that this is God's drama in which He made you a character in His story - and that only when you give Him your entire self, you will play your best role.

We can see ourselves placed as these disciples as they walked with the veiled Jesus on the road. Just like these disciples, we too are confused about the interplay of Christ's words and how they play out in our lives. But as we become accustomed to hearing Jesus's words in Scripture and in silent prayer, just like those disciples on the road, we'll become more drawn to Him, asking Him to "stay with us." In fact, at the Mass, we become situated in this scene as these two disciples. In the Mass, we first have the exposition of the Scriptures (Liturgy of the Word) as they walk along, then there is the intimate encounter with Him in the breaking of the bread (Liturgy of the Eucharist). May this gospel grant us the same burning hearts as those two disciples. And may we truly recognize Him in the Eucharist as those disciples did two thousand years ago.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

ST. GIANNA NOVENA

From April 19-27, thousands of Catholics across the country will unite in prayer for pregnant and parenting moms in need, for whom St. Gianna is a powerful intercessor. Download the novena or receive it daily by email at bit.ly/wmsgn.

Will Co Well Fest

WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERES A WELL

Williamson County's Best Health Leaders ALL In One Space

Saturday, May 16th, 2026 9 am - 5 pm

DR. CHRIS MOTLEY
HOST OF THE ANCIENT HEALTH PODCAST

DR. ANIS KHALAF
EVENT HOST
ST. PHILIP PARISHONER

FR. DAN REEHIL
EXORCIST FOR THE DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE

JORDAN RUBIN
NY TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR THE MAKER'S DIET

- Connect with many Catholic vendors across health, wellness, nutrition, and lifestyle
- Watch Dr. Chris Motley host his LIVE podcast at the Expo featuring Jordan Rubin, New York Times bestselling author, Fr. Dan Reehil of the Battle Ready Podcast, and Dr. Anis Khalaf, TikTok celebrity health creator.
- Access clean foods, natural products, and innovative wellness tools
- Family-friendly activities, demos, and giveaways

CLAIM YOUR FREE TICKET!

Website: WillCoWellFest.com

Location: The Factory at Franklin



AQUINAS COLLEGE

Nurturing a Mother's Heart

Women's Retreat at Siena Hall Conference Center

Speakers:

Sr. Gabriella Yi, O.P. and Claire Lawborne



June 26-28, 2026

www.aquinascollege.edu/retreats/mothers



After 40 days without flowers or decorations in our churches, now our sacred spaces are transformed into a garden, erupting with dozens of Easter lilies. Life has definitively crushed death. When I see or smell the lilies, I feel grounded in the joy of the Resurrection. It just *smells* like Easter.



In Catholic art, lilies are associated with the virtue of purity or chastity, because of their pure white color, so we often see lilies in images or saints known for their chastity, such as St. Joseph and St. Catherine of Siena. This is especially famous in French symbolism, where the lily (fleur de lis) represents the purity, love, and protection of the Virgin Mary. So the lily represents total dedication to God in purity, holding nothing back from living in perfect accordance with who we are and where we are going.

But lilies are also shaped distinctly like a trumpet or horn, reminding us of the fanfare traditionally played before the entrance of a king, the announcement of some life-altering news, or a victory over a menacing enemy. If the Resurrection really happened, then Jesus is the King of Life, and the angels announce to us news of the greatest importance: Christ has risen! Death has been defeated. The lilies are the fanfare that accompany this great joy, and they invite us to hold nothing back from living out our true identity and our ultimate destiny.

Our King has won for us the great victory over sin and death. We see the pure white trumpets. We smell their sweet fragrance. We sing the Alleluia, the echo of their original triumph. We live the reality they announce. One day, from our own graves, we will hear those trumpets sound again, and we will rise from the dead and experience the fullness of our great King's victory.

RISE NOTES

Join us tonight for an evening on Natural Wonder, a special night on chastity, exploring how we are purposeful masterpieces created by God. Our RISE night next Sunday, April 26, is now canceled. Enjoy the evening with family or friends.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP

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!

All current 7th-12th graders are invited to our Servio Deo Summer Mission Trip this June. 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.

RISE
SAINT MATTHEW YOUTH MINISTRY

All 8th graders
JOIN US
May 3
At 5:30 PM in the PCC
Dinner is provided

Feed the Priests

SIGN UP TODAY



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

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

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