

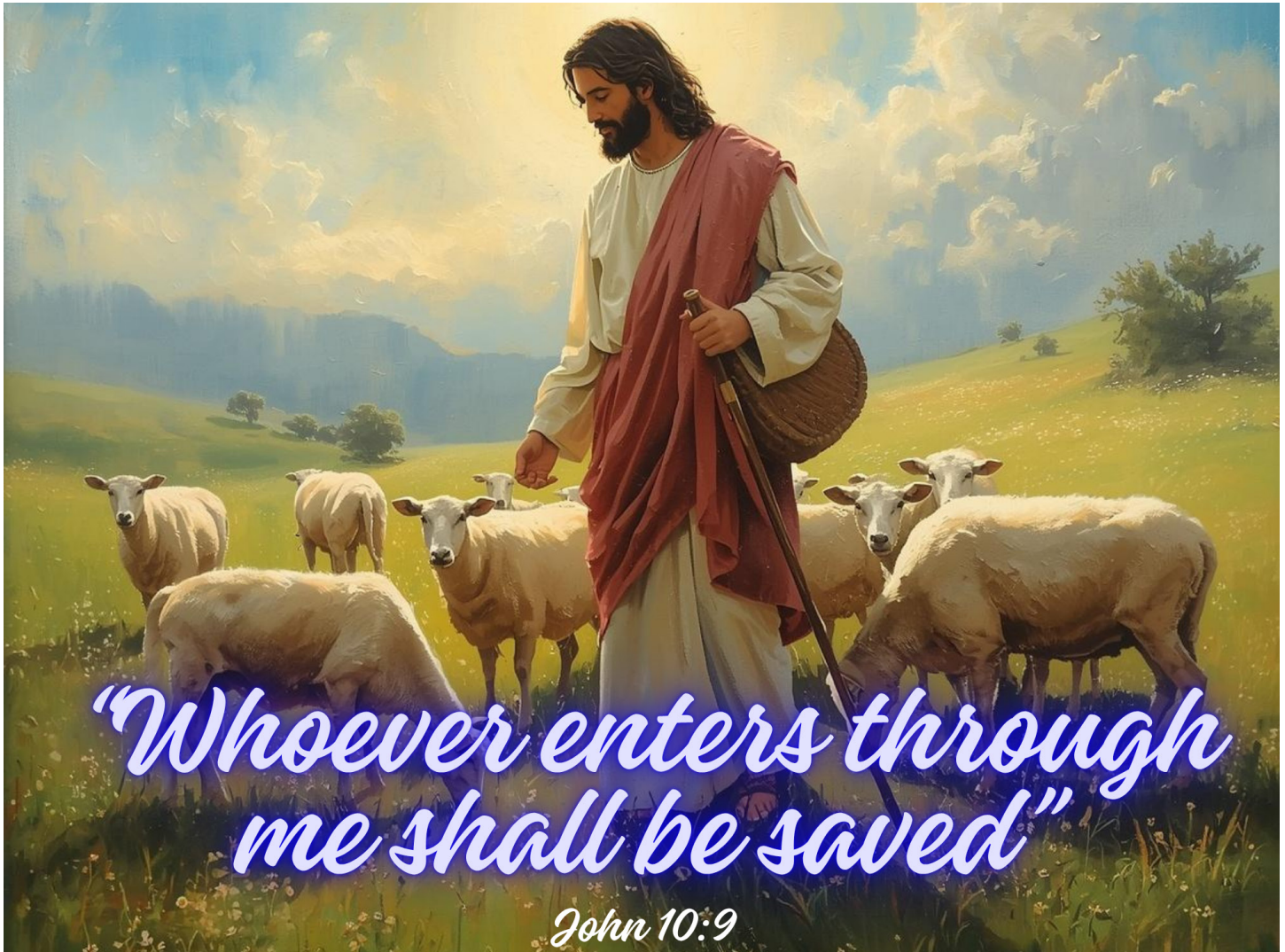


# Saint Matthew

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

APRIL 26, 2026 + THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



*"Whoever enters through  
me shall be saved"*

*John 10:9*

### 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  
(APRIL 26-MAY 1)**

**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass**

- ◆ For All Saint Matthew School Grandparents

**8:30 a.m. Mass**

- ◆ For the People of the Parish

**11:00 a.m. Mass**

- ✙ Terry Jesse

**2:00 p.m. Mass**

- ◆ For Those Receiving Their First Communion.
  - Acts 2:14a, 34-41
  - 1 Peter 2:20b-25
  - John 10:1-10

**MONDAY, APRIL 27**

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

- ✙ Kathleen Mary
  - Acts 11:1-18
  - John 10:11-18

**TUESDAY, APRIL 28**

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

- ✙ Father Tran's Grandparents
  - Acts 11:19-26
  - John 10:22-30

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29**

**7:00 p.m. Mass**

- ◆ For Jean Lees
  - Acts 12:24—13:5a
  - John 12:44-50

**THURSDAY, APRIL 30**

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

- ◆ For Patrick Kopf
  - Acts 13:13-25
  - John 13:16-20

**FRIDAY, MAY 1**

**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/SMCMASSINTENTION](http://BIT.LY/SMCMASSINTENTION)*

**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*

**First Holy Communion**

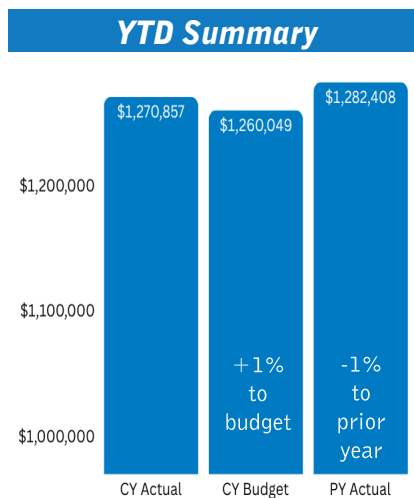
Please pray for our students receiving their First Holy Communion today. Pray that they may experience Christ's love for us through the Eucharist and always recognize Jesus is truly present. May they be nourished by His grace, strengthened in faith, and drawn ever closer to Him through this Sacrament.

**APRIL 26 | 2 P.M. | SAINT MATTHEW**

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

**- FOR WEEK OF APRIL 13-19 -**

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$24,345
TUITION ASSISTANCE	\$740



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:*  
*Catholic Home Missions*

*Next Week:*  
*Building Maint. & Facility Improvements*

**Registered Parish Families: 1,302**

**KICKBALL TOURNEY REGISTRATION TODAY**

Join us for the Ultimate Mother & Son Kickball Tournament on Sunday, May 3, from 1:30–3:30 p.m. at the Saint Matthew Sports Field! Mothers and sons ages 3 and up are invited for an afternoon packed with kickball, a bouncy slide, snacks, prizes, and plenty of fun. Register today to give your team the best shot at greatness—lock in your roster, dream up a creative team name, and start planning those winning (and possibly award-winning!) uniforms. Sign up as a team or a free agent and we’ll take care of the rest. Don’t miss out—register by today, April 26, and get ready for a kicking good time!



**PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP**

Join the Passion of Christ Prayer Group this Sunday, April 26, at 3 p.m. in the chapel. Come pray the Way of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and reflect on our Lord’s Passion for our fellow Catholic brothers and sisters who have left the Church.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is meeting on 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](mailto:maryestarr25@gmail.com). You can also reach out to Mary if you know someone in need of a prayer shawl.

**MISSION TRIP REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

Monday, April 27, is the final day to register for our summer mission trip, Servio Deo. All current 7th to 12th graders are invited to join RISE for a faith-filled and fun week of service to those struggling in the Black Mountain area of North Carolina, a small mountainous community devastated by Hurricane Helene in 2024. The trip is June 1-5 and costs \$540.



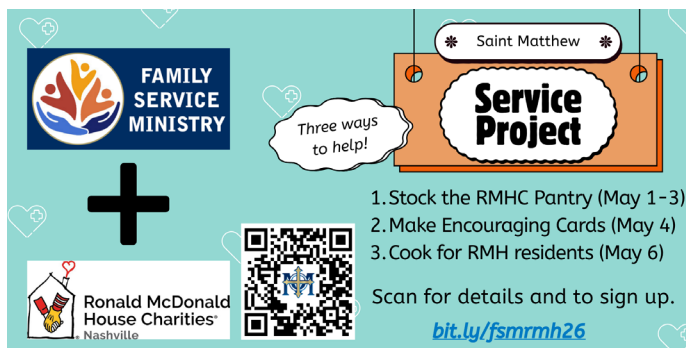
**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION**

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](http://bit.ly/smcffamay26).



**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. Scan the graphic below for a list of items needed to donate, or to sign up to get involved. Donated items may be brought to the Narthex next weekend.



**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](mailto:bthomson7504@gmail.com).

## SCHOOL NEWS



### Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

What a joyous week here at SMS! Our 8th graders were confirmed during a beautiful Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center last Sunday. I am so happy for them, as they spent a great deal of time preparing for this holy sacrament.

This weekend, we celebrate our 2nd graders as they receive the Eucharist for the first time. First Holy Communion is a significant step in each child's personal union with Jesus and has a lasting, influential impact. Please pray for our 2nd graders this weekend as they take this important step. I know they are incredibly excited—please join us in that excitement!

Beyond our students celebrating the sacraments, we also marked one of our favorite days of the school year on Friday: Grandparents Day! There was so much joy and pride radiating from both students' and grandparents' faces. Grandparents enjoyed a heartfelt performance in the gym before visiting classrooms and spending the afternoon with their grandkids.

### JOB OPENINGS

Saint Matthew has the following openings for the 2026-2027 school year. You can find the job descriptions and apply by visiting [bit.ly/smcemployment](https://bit.ly/smcemployment).

- 4th Grade Social Studies/ELA Teacher
- Art Teacher
- Individual Teaching Assistant
- Middle School Math Teacher
- Pre-K Assistant

### SMS SUMMER CAMPS

Can you believe we have less than one month of school left until summer break? Still need plans for your kids? Saint Matthew has you covered with more than two dozen camps spread over six weeks. Don't wait, as many camps are nearing or have already reached capacity. Scan below for more information and to register.



**SCAN FOR  
SMS SUMMER  
CAMP DETAILS**



## SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



TOTUS TUUS  
**TOTALLY  
YOURS**



#### Totus Tuus

7th-12th graders  
June 21-25 (evenings)  
1st-6th graders  
June 22-26 (days)



Learn more and register



#### Vacation Bible School

PreK & K  
June 22-26 (mornings)

## MINISTRY NEWS

### 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. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some motherly fellowship while helping shape next year's events, activities, and ways we can support our families and parish community. Whether you have ideas to share or simply want to meet other moms and enjoy an evening together, we'd love to have you! This ministry brings mothers and families together for fellowship, service, and evangelism throughout the Saint Matthew community. RSVP at [bit.ly/smcsgeomay26](http://bit.ly/smcsgeomay26).

### 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](mailto:ccurran@stmatthewtn.org) to get on the volunteer list or learn more.

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Want to go deeper with your faith? Each month, Saint Matthew sends out a monthly Adult Faith Formation newsletter offering additional resources to grow your faith. To sign up to receive this newsletter, visit [bit.ly/smcadulthoodfaithformation](http://bit.ly/smcadulthoodfaithformation).

### 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 cleanup. 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.

### HAITI MINISTRY NEWS

Thank you to all who supported this year's Haiti Spring of Hope Appeal. We are deeply grateful to everyone who made a gift, as well as those who took time to stop by the table, learn more, and engage with the Haiti Ministry. Your generosity and interest make a meaningful difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters at Our Lady of Miracles in Gobert, Haiti. Through your support, we are able to continue our mission. If you didn't get the chance to explore our Haiti Ministry last week, be sure to visit [bit.ly/smcspringofhope](http://bit.ly/smcspringofhope).

If you would like to get more involved with our Haiti Ministry, consider joining the Songwriters' Night Committee. There are "day of" needs like setup and cleanup, and "pre-event" needs like mailing letters, organizing sponsorship, creating gift baskets, and preparing food and beverages. Additionally, we welcome anyone who has contacts or works in the music industry. Please contact Barney Schulte if you're interested at 615-397-1371. This year's Songwriters' Night is scheduled for Saturday, September 12. Thank you for being part of this important work.



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](http://dioceseofnashville.com/appeal)



## TONY'S REFLECTION

### WHOSE VOICE IS CALLING

Marriage therapists reason that in thriving marriages of intimacy, both spouses inevitably obtain voice recognition of each other. One mentioned if she were presented with a thousand male voices all saying "hello" with her husband's voice implanted at voice number 899, she'd be able to pick out her husband's voice with relative ease. When asked why, her answer was simple—"After "spending ample time with my husband and listening to his voice, I know his tone and expression almost instinctively."

In today's Gospel, we are presented with two competing voices speaking to the sheep in a sheepfold—a stone enclosure with one entryway. The structure was used to protect the flock of sheep from thieves and predators. As humble followers of Christ, we stand in the position of the sheep in the sheepfold—that is, the church. But, sadly, Jesus warns us that there will be pretenders masquerading as His voice in order to steal and destroy the sheep. Jesus alludes that, rather than enter through the gate, these pretenders climb in another way. This "other way" signifies presenting the sheep a false gospel. Recall, Jesus warned, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves" (Mt 7:15). These false shepherds often cherry-pick words to "itch the ears" of their audience. Here, they present an attractive, feel-good message that lacks sacrifice and truth. These false prophets place an overemphasis on feeling instead of thought and reduce the supernatural to the natural. In some circles, religion has turned into poetry or therapy, where truth becomes vague or relative.

The widespread replacement of Catholic doctrine with a psychological perspective means more people are focusing on what they should feel, not what they should do. Here, private experience and expressions usurp discovering truth and acquiring virtue through discipline.

The crucial question remains—how do we distinguish Jesus's voice today from the cacophony of noise of other "voices" in society? Just like the wife who knew her husband's voice, the answer is by spending time with Him. The more time we devote to prayer, Scripture, Adoration, and the Mass, the more Jesus's teaching and His utterances will become ingrained in us. If we consume Our Lord into us intimately and reverently in the Eucharist, His inner being, which contains His voice, will continue to reverberate in us like a sacred echo.

If, instead of soaking ourselves in Christ, we fixate more on social media or feel-good messages, then we'll have effectively muted Jesus's voice, in turn, not recognizing Him from the other clamoring voices. Our constant recourse to opinions and predictions by cultural commentators has made us more anxious than our ancestors. There are enough vocal "influencers" today telling us how to live; it's enough to make our heads spin. What Christ is alluding to is best to turn down the volume of outside opinions and, conversely, turn up His voice. As we instill in us His voice, His teaching will become obvious even as we are thrown many fake voices in our confusing times.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### CHRIST THE KING MERCADITO LUNCH TODAY!



You are invited to our  
**MERCADITO**

COME ENJOY A DELICIOUS HOMEMADE LUNCH  
WHILE SUPPORTING OUR NASHVILLE  
NEIGHBORS

Sunday, April 26th  
12-2 P.M.  
CTK West Wing  
Venmo and Cash Accepted

HOSTED BY THE CABRINI CONNECTION  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE REMIX WAY

TO PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE:



### LADIES OF CHARITY CONSIGNMENT SALE

This is the final week for the Ladies of Charity Nashville Spring Consignment Sale, ending May 2. Come shop at 2216 State Street, and discover quality clothing and household items with proceeds supporting local families in need. Get half off certain items this week. Hours are Monday from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Learn more at [ladiesofcharitynashville.com](http://ladiesofcharitynashville.com).

### COWBOYS & CUPCAKES ON THURSDAY

St. Philip's annual Cowboys and Cupcakes event is at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, featuring country music star Clay Walker. Proceeds benefit the St. Philip Learning Center. For tickets and more information visit [stphilipfranklin.com/cowboys](http://stphilipfranklin.com/cowboys).



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](http://www.aquinascollege.edu/retreats/mothers)



**EUCHARIST FROM CHRIST'S TOMB**



The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem straddles the two holiest places on the planet: Calvary and the empty tomb of Jesus. In the early Church, Easter Night in the ancient Church of the Holy Sepulchre was the setting for a dramatic liturgy for new converts. The ancient baptistry was located near Calvary, but the Eucharist was celebrated at the empty tomb. During the ancient Easter Vigil, then, when the Church welcomed converts into her fold, those to be baptized had to go to Calvary to die to their sins through Baptism and be Confirmed, and then walk to the empty tomb to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

The Sacraments of Initiation have always had an Eastertide flavor. Easter is still the preferred day for adult baptisms, and even infant baptisms usually take place on Sunday, the day of the Resurrection. Similarly, it's no coincidence that our annual Confirmation and First Communion Masses are normally scheduled during the Easter season. Last Sunday saw our eighth graders receive Confirmation, and this weekend our second graders will receive Holy Communion for the first time.

The sacraments flow as water and blood from Christ's side, but they carry with them the life that walked out of the empty tomb. Those about to receive their First Communion have already died with Christ and have risen with Him. This weekend, they join in our feasting which prefigures heaven. The Eucharist is the best of pastures for Christ's flock, because it is the food of heaven. Christ has hidden within it the life of the Resurrection.

**SIGN UP TODAY**

**RISE NEWS & NOTES**

Thank you to all who prayed for the students that attended the SEARCH retreat this weekend. Due to the retreat, RISE will NOT be gathering tonight.

All teens are invited to join us for our weekly Bible Study on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building.

Be sure to register for Servio Deo as the registration deadline is tomorrow, Monday, April 27. Please reach out if cost is a concern.

*Servio Deo*  
**HIS MISSION, OUR HANDS**

Black Mountain, NC  
June 1-5, 2026

OPEN TO ALL CURRENT  
7TH-12<sup>TH</sup> 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

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**



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frraines@stmatthewtn.org



**Father Tien Tran**  
Associate Pastor  
firtran@stmatthewtn.org



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE NEWS AND  
INFORMATION FROM SAINT MATTHEW.

[www.stmatthewtn.org](http://www.stmatthewtn.org)

