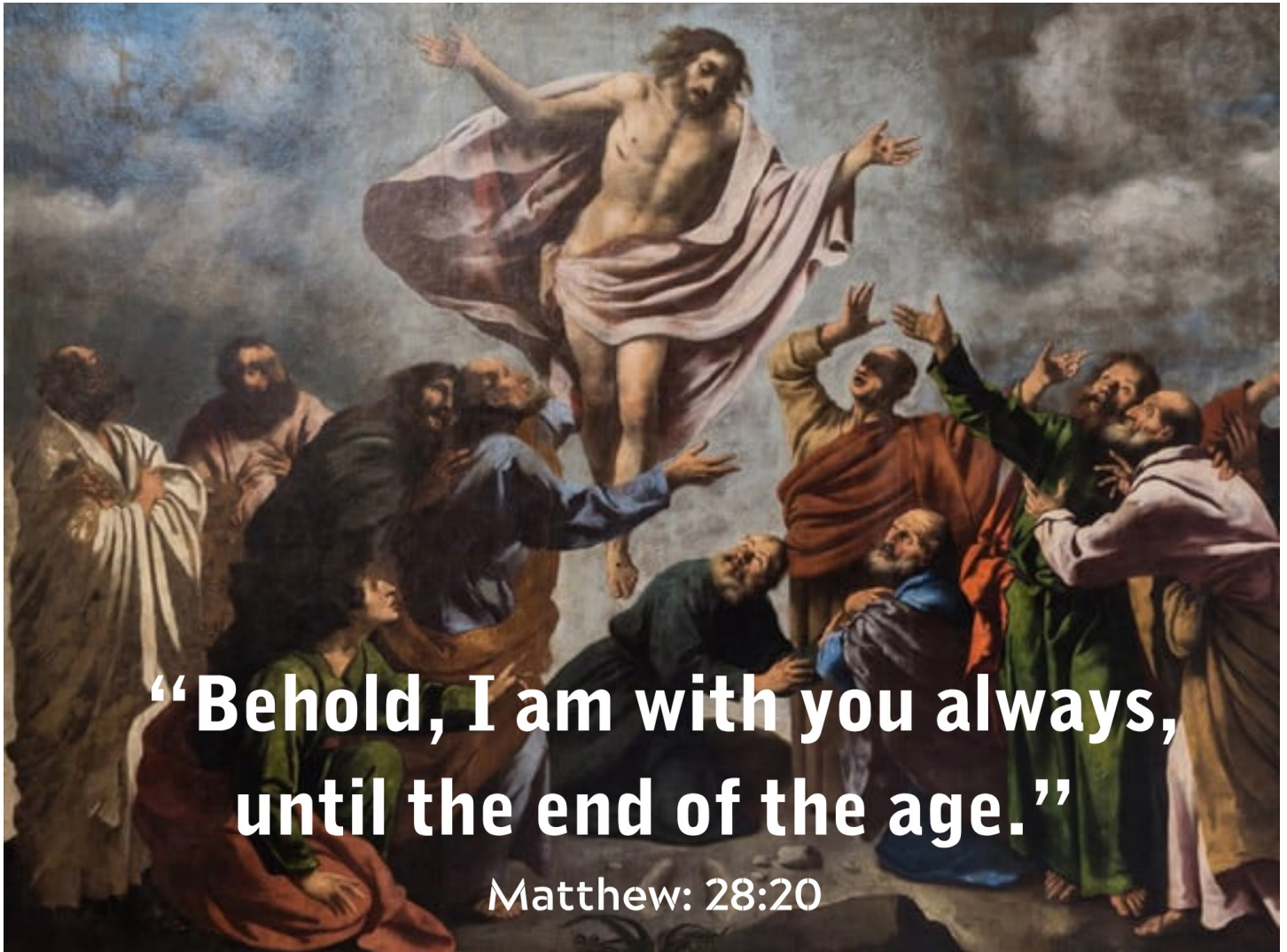




Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MAY 17, 2026 + THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



**“Behold, I am with you always,
until the end of the age.”**

Matthew: 28:20

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

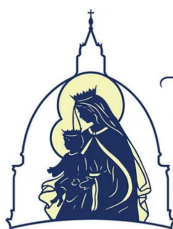
EXPLORING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Join us in the Parish Conference Center today, Sunday, May 17, from 9:45–10:45 a.m. for our Theology & Culture Series exploring Catholic Social Teaching in this special faith formation opportunity. All are welcome!



REGISTER FOR TOTUS TUUS & VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

REGISTER TODAY!



TOTUS TUUS
TOTALLY YOURS



Totus Tuus
7th-12th graders
June 21-25 6-8 p.m.
1st-6th graders
June 22-26 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.



Learn more and register



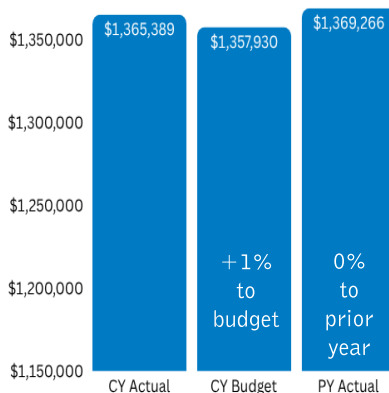
Vacation Bible School
PreK & K
June 22-26 8:30-11:30 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK OF MAY 4-10 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$28,262
SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE	\$375

YTD Summary



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



Second Collections

This Week:
Parish Charity & Outreach
Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries

Next Week:
Catholic Communication Campaign

Registered Parish Families: 1,308



LITURGY SCHEDULE (MAY 16-22)

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ Nancy Conway

8:30 a.m. Mass

✠ Souls in Purgatory

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of the Parish

- Acts 1:1–11
- Ephesians 1:17–23
- Matthew 28:16–20

MONDAY, MAY 18

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Mary Jane Brunner

- Acts 19:1–8
- John 16:29–33

TUESDAY, MAY 19

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Rose Marie Suchanick

- Acts 20:17–27
- John 17:1–11a

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ Steve Mueller

- Acts 20:28–38
- John 17:11b–19

THURSDAY, MAY 21

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Bill Teas

- Acts 22:30; 23:6–11
- John 17:20–26

FRIDAY, MAY 22

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ John Cicon

- Acts 25:13b–21
- John 21:15–23

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.

MASS UPDATES

Please note the following liturgical changes:

- Tuesday, June 2: Communion Service at 8 a.m. in the chapel (no Mass).
- Wednesday, June 3: Adoration at 6 p.m., followed by a Communion Service at 7 p.m. in the chapel. (No Confessions or Mass this evening).
- Beginning Tuesday, May 26, all weekday Masses will be held in the chapel until students return.

CHOIR NEWS

The Men's Schola will be singing at the 11 a.m. Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. This choir sings traditional hymns of the Church, primarily in Latin. If you are interested in joining the music ministry, reach out to our music director, Rebecca Harding, at rharding@stmatthewtn.org.

SMS SUMMER CAMPS

There is still time to register for Saint Matthew Summer Camps! Camps are available the weeks of June 1, June 8, June 15, July 6, and July 20, with options for all ages and interests. From sports camps like soccer, basketball, volleyball, football, and cheerleading to creative favorites like The Lion's Art Lab, Sew Much Fun!, Dancing Queens, and It's Girl Time, there's something for everyone. We also have exciting STEM, science, chess, gaming, and imaginative adventure camps including Nature Builders, STEM Around the World, Mermaids and Pirates, and Get Your Game On!

Many camps are nearing capacity, so don't wait to reserve your spot. Before and after care options are available. Scan to visit the Summer Camps page to view the full schedule and register!



JOB OPENINGS

Saint Matthew has the following openings for the 2026-2027 school year. Find the job descriptions and apply by visiting bit.ly/smcemployment.

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

END-OF-LIFE EVENT SURVEY

Saint Matthew is planning an event focused on Catholic end-of-life preparation—offering guidance on topics such as when to call a priest, planning a Catholic funeral, understanding Church teaching, and taking practical steps like wills, powers of attorney, and estate planning. This event is intended for adults in all stages of life—from young adults and those caring for aging parents, to those making their own plans—and anyone seeking to better understand these decisions through the lens of the Catholic faith. The goal is to provide an informative introduction that helps parishioners and families better understand these important decisions and connect with trusted parish and diocesan resources.

To help shape this event, we invite you to complete a brief parish survey. Your input will guide the topics, format, and timing. There will be no financial solicitations—simply an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and begin planning with clarity and peace of mind. Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/smcendoflifefsurvey.



PARISH PICNIC SPONSORSHIPS

Join us for the Saint Matthew Parish Picnic Sunday, July 19, for a joyful afternoon of food, games, and fellowship for all ages. We are proud to offer this event completely free and open to the entire Saint Matthew community. This year, we're excited to expand into the Parish Life Center (Gym), offering a more comfortable space for dining and activities while keeping all the fun you know and love.

In order to offer this event for free, we could not do it without the help of our ministries and partnerships with local businesses. We invite parishioners and local businesses to consider sponsoring this year's picnic. Sponsorship is a meaningful way to support the parish while gaining visibility within our growing community of over 1,300 families. Opportunities are available at multiple levels, including a new option to partner on a custom parish giveaway item, or to have a table to engage with the community. To learn more or become a sponsor, visit bit.ly/smcpicnicsponsor26 or contact Colleen Curran at 615-646-0378 or ccurran@stmatthewtn.org.





Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

Our 8th graders have officially reached the top of the mountain, as they graduated on Thursday evening. We celebrated this special milestone with Mass, followed by awards and the presentation of diplomas. It is always a beautiful evening, filled with joy as our graduates share their final moments on campus as Saint Matthew School students.

The Class of 2026 accomplished so much during their time at SMS and consistently gave their best each day. This class will always hold a special place in our school's history as the graduates of Saint Matthew School's 25th year. I will especially miss the smiles they brought each day, the school spirit they shared, and the love and faith they showed to everyone around them. They made a lasting impact on our student body, and I know our younger students were positively influenced by the leadership of the Saint Matthew School Class of 2026.

If you see one of our graduates at Mass this weekend, please be sure to congratulate them and keep them in your prayers as they begin this next chapter of their lives.

END OF SCHOOL NOTES & OFFICE HOURS

- The last day of the 25-26 school year is this Thursday, May 21, with dismissal at 10:30 a.m.
- If your student has medication in the nurse's office, please pick it up on Thursday.
- The school office will be closed May 25-27. Office hours for the school this summer are: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.–noon.

ANNUAL FUND

Saint Matthew School is in its 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.



ATTENTION SMS ALUMNI!

Are you a graduate of Saint Matthew School? We love hearing from you and keeping up to date with our beloved alumni! Please take a moment and visit bit.ly/smsalumniereg to update your information so that we can keep in touch and share the latest news and events from Saint Matthew School!

Congratulations SMS Class of 2026!



AROUND THE PARISH

RMHC THANK YOU!

The Nashville Ronald McDonald House Charity and our Saint Matthew Family Service Ministry would like to thank all who participated in the Ronald McDonald House service project. Your response to requests for donations, time, and talents was overwhelming. Thank you!

MOTHER'S DAY THANK YOU!

Our Respect Life Ministry would like to thank all those who gave donations for the flowers given out on Mother's Day. Saint Matthew collected \$581, and those donations are given to the Tennessee Right to Life Williamson County chapter. Thank you for supporting life from conception to a natural death!

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES

Imagine a Catholic effort that grows the faith in our youth, helps college students thrive in their faith, forms future priests and deacons, makes childcare more affordable for working families, and serves tens of thousands of meals to those in need each year. The Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries (BAAM) does all that and more. Through the BAAM, thousands of Catholics across Middle Tennessee support these efforts which bring the light of Christ to our communities. This year's theme, "I Am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:14), reminds us of Christ's faithful care for His people and our shared call to care for one another.

This weekend is Commitment Weekend at Saint Matthew for the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries. Brochures and pledge cards are available in the pews to help parishioners prayerfully consider their gift. Saint Matthew's parish goal this year is \$173,000, with a special emphasis on increasing participation to 225 parish families. Every gift—regardless of size—helps strengthen the mission of the Church throughout Middle Tennessee.

At Saint Matthew, we are blessed to see the impact of these ministries in a very tangible way, particularly through vocations. In addition to Dan Ott's Diaconate Ordination and Griffin Gartner entering seminary formation, our parish has welcomed four seminarians through the Diocese of Nashville's Propaedeutic Stage formation program, and we are blessed to have Deacon James Grossheim preparing for his Presbyteral Ordination on June 12. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of this important mission.

EYEGLASS RECYCLING

Help provide the gift of sight by donating your used prescription eyewear, sunglasses, and reading glasses to the Lions Club Recycle For Sight program. Drop your donations in the collection box located in the church kitchen. The donated glasses will be cleaned, repaired, and distributed to people in need.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you or anyone you know is struggling with food, utilities, etc., Saint Matthew supports two non-profits offering assistance. You can contact the Saint Vincent de Paul Society hotline by calling 615-550-5130 or Graceworks at 615-794-9055. Do not hesitate to reach out if you need help.



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

MOVING FROM INTERIOR FOCUS TO EXTERIOR GREATNESS

Jesus' ascension into heaven is a call to the apostles to begin His mission on earth. Before they go on this holy quest, they venture quietly into prayer. His newly minted apostles return to the upper room and devote themselves with one accord to prayer, awaiting the Spirit that He promised would come upon them at Pentecost.

The apostles' act of going to prayer before embarking on God's mission speaks of the interplay between the interior life and the exterior vocation. In short, before the work in the exterior realm can garner fruit, one's thoughts in the interior life need to fixate on God's order. Saints often speak about how the quality of the interior life drives the achievement of the exterior work. That is, what animates one's thoughts on the inside will bleed over into the level of excellence of one's external actions. Modern psychology affirms this spiritual maxim. Psychologists readily acknowledge that those who have a healthy mental state will be better at their work than those who suffer from confusion, anxiety, or depression. This behooves us to readily concentrate on our interior life before we do God's mission.

In his book, "The Power of Silence," Cardinal Sarah presents a pressing dilemma on the state of our interior life. The modern world ransacks our minds with pulsating noise, which, in turn, drains out God's voice. This "noise" often comes in the form of screen-based entertainment, the constant drip-feed of social media, the latest banter in the news, and frantically running from one activity to the next. We are chasing after the still small voice of God, but with all this external clatter surrounding us, divine contemplation becomes elusive. Cardinal Sarah implores us to boldly protect the integrity of our interior castle. Just like if someone were attempting to break into your house, you would guard against the threat, so too when noise attempts to seep into your interior domain, you must fortify against it.

The interior life of man is like a sacred chamber. We are called to fill our thoughts with the true, the good, and the beautiful. St. Paul implored, "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely... think about these things" (Phil. 4:8). Once holiness begins to occupy our interior, then we can do God's mission of showcasing and cultivating the true, the good, and the beautiful in our world.

Some years ago, I was in France, and this became apparent to me. I toured some of the most beautiful churches in France—Notre Dame Cathedral, Amiens, and Chartres Cathedral. These places emit a transcendent reality that instantly spoke to me about the true, the good, and the beautiful. It began to dawn on me—why is modern man not producing art like this? How did man build these structures centuries ago with much less technology? Well, with less "noise" and a vibrant Christian culture, medieval man was able to achieve a serene and sacred interior life. From this, he was able to construct God's beauty in his exterior work. Let us clean out and grow our interior garden so that our exterior work will produce God's fruit.

COMMUNITY NEWS



women business spotlight event

SIP, SHOP & SUPPORT



Come connect with and support women-owned businesses in your community. Wine and heavy apps at 5:30, presentations at 6:00.

Shopping proceeds to support our scholarship fund!

CATHOLIC BUSINESS LEAGUE EVENTS

Join the Catholic Business League for the monthly Power Networking on May 21 from 8:15-9:45 a.m. You are invited to attend in person at Office Evolution (5016 Centennial Blvd. - Suite 200) or join via Zoom. If you plan on attending, please RSVP by emailing James Gurman at james.r.gurman@ampf.com. More information can be found at catholicbusinessleague.org.

FATHER RYAN ALUMNI WEEKEND

Save the Date for Father Ryan High School's Alumni Weekend May 29-31. The full weekend includes the Lou Graham '56 Alumni Golf Tournament, the All-Alumni Reception, the Elliston Place luncheon, class reunion parties, and the Golden Grad Mass and Brunch. For more information, visit fatherryan.org/alumni/alumni-events.

BLUE MASS - MAY 30

Join Bishop Spalding on Saturday, May 30, at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Incarnation for the annual Blue Mass, honoring all first responders and military. Attendees are encouraged to wear their uniforms.

A well-known Saint here at Saint Matthew is St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, an adventurous young man from northern Italy who died of polio in 1925. He loved hiking and climbing with his friends and peers in the nearby Alps. Famously, one of his favorite rallying cries was, "To the heights!" It spurred him and his friends on to climb to the next challenging mountain peak, but the phrase had a dual meaning. Pier Giorgio was leading his friends to the highest mountains they could reach, but he also had his sights set on the heights of holiness, and he intended to bring his friends with him.



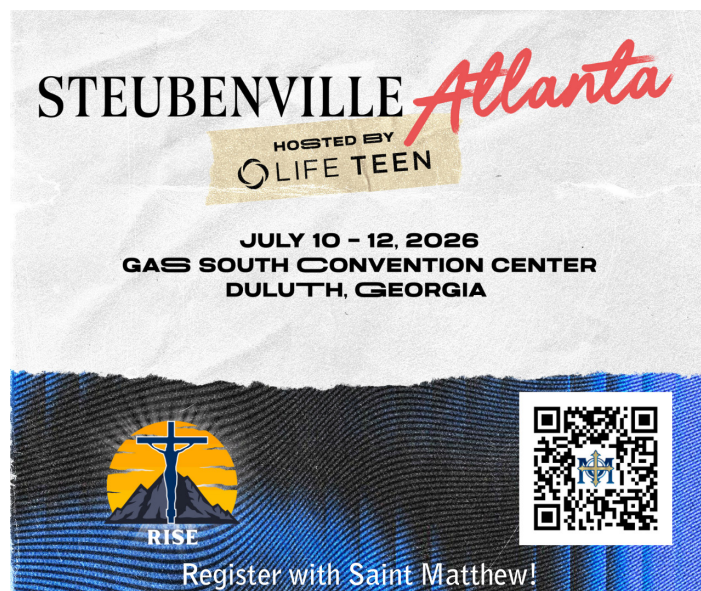
Today is the feast of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. After spending 40 days with his disciples following his Resurrection, Jesus went up from the earth and took his seat on his throne in heaven. When Jesus told the disciples about this ahead of time, at the Last Supper, they felt abandoned, discouraged by the thought of Jesus leaving them. After those 40 days, however, his disciples must have been overwhelmed with joy, understanding what they hadn't before: Jesus was deepening the way he would be present with us. Instead of walking around earth like he used to, only ever in one place at a time, he would be present in each of our communities in the Eucharist. Meanwhile, his physical body, which used to be with us, is now at the right hand of the Father. There is a human body seated on the eternal throne of God.

By ascending into heaven today, Jesus raises our human nature "to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast!" If the Church is his Mystical Body, then we are all destined to follow him, right up to the throne of God. St. Pier Giorgio was right, and we should all follow him and Jesus "to the heights!"



STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Current 10th-12th graders are invited to attend the Steubenville Youth Conference in Atlanta with RISE from July 10-12. This is a high-energy Catholic conference designed to help teens experience a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. The weekend features dynamic speakers, powerful worship, and deep spiritual moments through the Sacraments. Visit steubenvilleconferences.com for more details. Scan below to sign up. **Registration closes this Thursday, May 21.**



PRESBYTERAL ORDINATION - JUNE 12

The Diocese of Nashville joyfully invites you to the Presbyteral Ordination Mass of Deacon James Grossheim, Deacon David Herrera, and Deacon Reed Robinson at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 12, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. Join us in celebrating these men as they respond to God's call and are ordained to the sacred priesthood. A reception will follow. Deacon Grossheim will continue to serve at Saint Matthew until his ordination.



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

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

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

www.stmatthewtn.org

