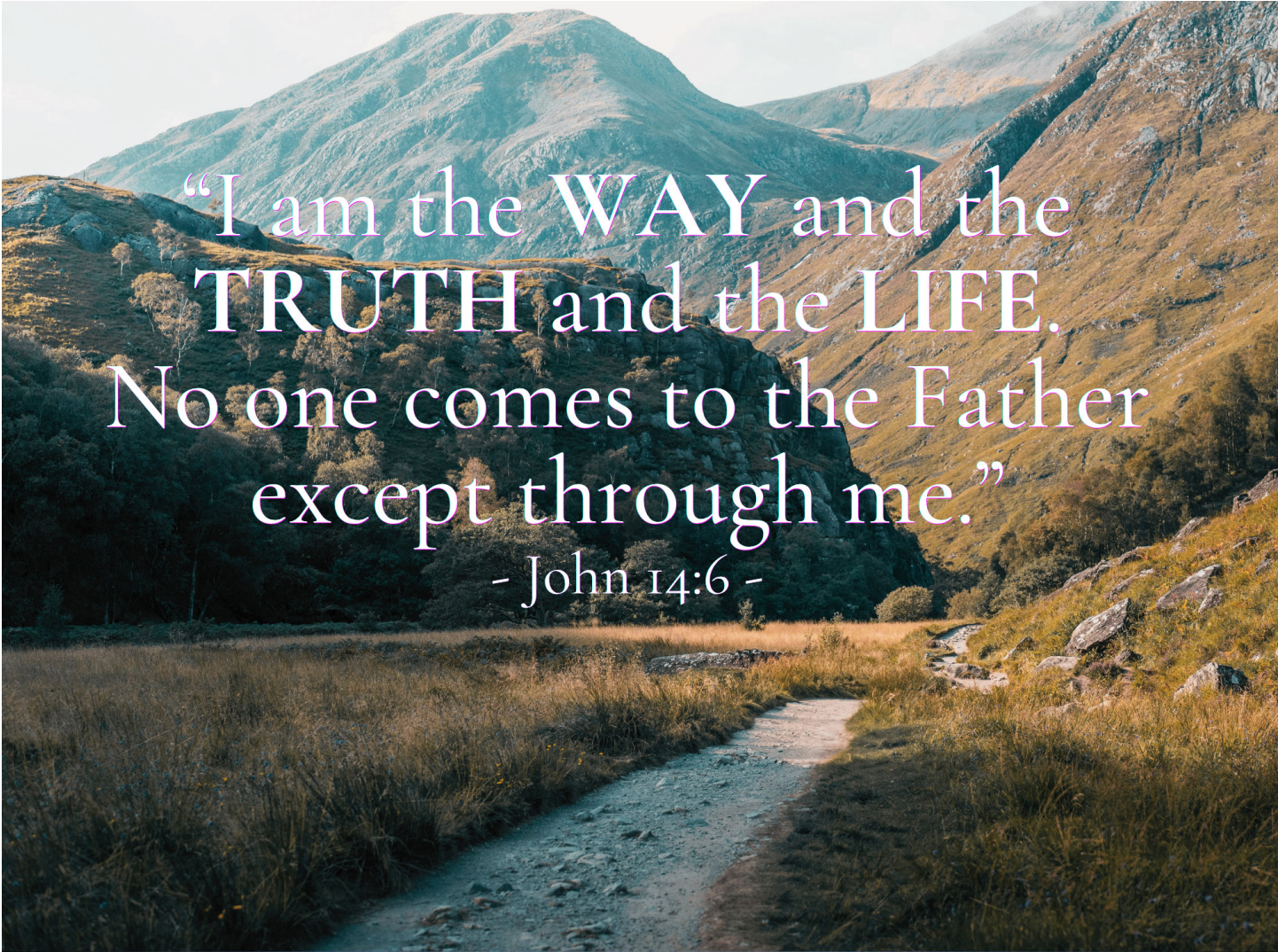




Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

MAY 3, 2026 + THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



“I am the **WAY** and the
TRUTH and the **LIFE**.
No one comes to the Father
except through me.”
- John 14:6 -

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

PARISH SPOTLIGHT

FAREWELL TO OUR PROPAEDEUTIC SEMINARIANS

Today marks the final day our two Propaedeutic Seminarians are with us at Saint Matthew – Jason Koenemann (left in picture) and Szymon Sierzega (right in picture). We are very grateful for their presence at our parish this semester, both in the church and in the school. Through their joyful presence, eagerness to serve, openness to learn, and willingness to share their faith, they have made a positive impact on our community. One such example was their dedication to continuing Bible Bites, the Bible study program for our middle school-aged students.

As part of their propaedeutic formation, they have been learning about the life of a parish, and we are grateful that our community could be a part of that experience. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their discernment and priestly formation.



SAVE THE DATE: PRESBYTERAL ORDINATION FRIDAY, JUNE 12

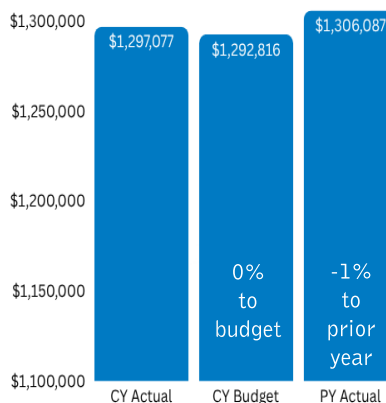
The Diocese of Nashville joyfully invites you to the Presbyteral Ordination of Deacon James Grossheim (center in picture), Deacon Reed Robinson, and Deacon David Herrera. The ordination will take place on Friday, June 12, at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. Please join us in celebrating these men as they respond to God’s call and are ordained to the sacred priesthood. Deacon Grossheim will continue to serve at Saint Matthew until his ordination.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- FOR WEEK OF APRIL 20-26 -

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$26,019
CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS	\$220

YTD Summary



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



Second Collections

This Week:

Building Maint. & Facility Improvements

Next Week:

Tuition Assistance Fund

Registered Parish Families: 1,302



LITURGY SCHEDULE (MAY 2-8)

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ For the People of the Parish

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ Connie Willyoung

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Paul Gomez

- Acts 6:1-7
- 1 Peter 2:4-9
- John 14:1-12

MONDAY, MAY 4

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Pat Bianco

- Acts 14:5-18
- John 14:21-26

TUESDAY, MAY 5

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Joe Bianco

- Acts 14:19-28
- John 14:27-31a

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ Deceased Parents of Dominicans

- Acts 15:1-6
- John 15:1-8

THURSDAY, MAY 7

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For the Tran Family

- Acts 15:7-21
- John 15:9-11

FRIDAY, MAY 8

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Victor Anfuso

- Acts 15:22-31
- John 15:12-17

✦ **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.

COMMUNITY SUNDAY

Join us after Masses today for Community Sunday. Enjoy fresh doughnuts, hot coffee, and wholesome fellowship in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Thank you to the Lennon, Ruppenner, and Tallhamn families for volunteering this month. If you'd like to sign your family up to volunteer for a Community Sunday, please reach out to Colleen Curran at ccurran@stmatthewtn.org.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), America's oldest Irish Catholic fraternal organization, is visiting the parish this weekend. Established in 1836, the AOH was founded to protect the welfare of Irish immigrants while preserving their faith and cultural heritage. Rooted in "Hibernia," the classical Latin name for Ireland, the organization promotes the Catholic faith, fosters Irish heritage, and serves those in need through charitable works.

Organized into local divisions, the AOH brings together Catholic men for fellowship and service. The local Father Abram J. Ryan Division, chartered in 2024 and gathering at St. Henry Catholic Church, continues this mission by promoting the values of friendship, unity, and Christian charity while sharing the rich history and ongoing influence of Irish culture. Representatives will be available after Mass to answer questions and provide more information.

MEN'S CLUB MEETING - MAY 7

All parish men are invited to join the Men's Club for their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Come enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship, while also looking ahead to upcoming parish events including the Parish Picnic. The Men's Club will not be meeting in June or July.

CHOIR NEWS

The Little Light Choir is singing at the 11 a.m. Mass next Sunday, May 10. The Men's Schola will be singing at the 11 a.m. Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. If you are interested in joining any of our church choirs, contact Rebecca Harding at rharding@stmatthewtn.org.

ST. GIANNA CIRCLE NEWS

All mothers are invited to join St. Gianna Circle on Wednesday, May 6, for their monthly fellowship gathering. You are invited to attend 7 p.m. Mass, with the meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. Come connect, share, and dream together as faithful mothers.

As the ministry looks ahead to the coming year, St. Gianna Circle is entering a season of transition and renewal. Women are invited to help shape its future—whether by offering ideas, assisting with events, or discerning a leadership role—so that this ministry may continue to support mothers and families within the parish and lead community events.

St. Gianna Circle is dedicated to supporting and affirming women in their vocations as mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and friends, fostering fellowship, service, and growth in the Catholic faith. Moms of all ages and stages are welcome. RSVP at bit.ly/smcsbcmay26.

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS

Next Sunday, May 10, our Respect for Life Ministry will be handing out flowers to all Mothers after Masses. Any donations given will be given to Tennessee Right to Life.

LUNCH BUNCH

The final Lunch Bunch gathering of the 2025–2026 season is Tuesday, May 12, from 12–2 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of lunch, fellowship, and bingo for those ages 55+. The cost is \$12 per person, and participants are asked to bring a small prize. Lunch will be your choice of a Cobb Salad or Ultimate Wrap from Publix. Please RSVP by the Thursday, May 7, to help ensure adequate food. Scan or visit bit.ly/smclbmay26 to register.



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

Our 2nd graders have now officially received their First Holy Communion, and we are so joyful for them as they enter more fully into the Eucharistic life of the Church. They are excited to join the rest of the school during communion at weekly Masses. They looked incredible on Sunday and they are radiating Christ through the school this week!

Our 8th graders have completed their final exams and are now finished with their academic coursework at SMS. As you read this, we will be in Chicago on their 8th grade trip. Please keep them and their chaperones in your prayers as they tour Notre Dame, attend a Cubs game, explore the zoo and museums, and enjoy an architectural boat tour of the city. We also attend Mass while there which helps set the tone of the trip. This special trip always seems to be one of those memories that has a positive impact on our 8th graders far beyond graduation.

As we enter May, we look forward to several meaningful end-of-year events, including May Crowning, Lion Challenge, Graduation, and other grade-level celebrations. We will continue to share updates as these events approach. SMS continues to keep you in our prayers. God bless.

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/smemployment.

- 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**



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)

Congratulations to those celebrating the Sacraments of First Communion & Confirmation



FIRST COMMUNICANTS: Ansley Andolina, Grace Anthony, Olivia Antun, Adam Atay, Ava Grace Bartkowiak, Mason Bassetti, Quinn Bohn, Quinn Bontrager, Ryan Bouman, Hudson Breymaier, Nolan Burbage, Oliver Chamberlain, Frank Clinkenbeard, Camilla Cole, Jack Commare, Claire Comroe, Ramsey Costello, Benjamin D'Augusta, Quinn D'Augusta, Annie Derrick, Michael Derrick, Max Duprey, Clayton Dyer, Jay Evans, Rachel Fisch, Kirkland Fuqua, Hayes Haeckel, Michael Hale, Renna Hall, Mason Harder, Joanna Harding, James Hiller, Sarah Grace Hobgood, Caroline Honeycutt, Liana Huckemeyer, Finn Javier, Miles Kahle, Holden King, Luke Licata, Dixie Matthews, Thomas Nichols, Vincent Orlando, Micah Palmer, Charlotte Papuchis, Lincoln Photivihok, Molly Plappert, Matthew Poplin, Cole Rester, Parker Schmid, Anne Simpson, Theo Smith, Noraa Sparrow, Anthony Stapp, Patrick Stonerock, Sofia Tallhamn, Harvey Thurston, Henry Trzil, George Tutor, Isaac Vezzetti, Anson Weatherly, Drake Wright, Nash Yan, and Caroline Young.

CONFIRMANDI: Isaac Abaray, Claire Allegretti, Isla Barretto, Elizabeth Bateman, Logan Bell, Hadley Boughner, Clark Bowler, Wyatt Bradley, Molly Brooks, Andrew Buckner, Ethan Dang, Stephen Derrick, Molly Escott, George Furey, Preston Grello, Maddux Guest, Teagan Guidry, Adyson Guss, Abby Heresel, Andrew Herndon, Harper Hodes, Rosalie James, Reid Jensen, Alexander Keenan, Michael Knapp, Kristina Komsic, Adriana Kournianos, Aubrey Lenahan, Matthew Martinello, Vincent McAtee, Andrew McCoy, William Metzger, Madison Mullen, Thomas Mustell, Hannah N., Tyler Neblett, Juliana Orange, Gianna Orlando, Lucas O'Sullivan, Milo Oxborough, Katherine O'Shea, Patrick Peterson, Gabrielle Poradek, Emmeline Poradek, Alexander Prenares, Mary Clare Reimold, Brennan Roberts, Joan Robinson, Ryan Schmit, Audrey Sheesley, Dominic Simpson, Ashtyn Soriano, Nora Stacey, Braeden Stack, Jon Szelagowski, Elizabeth Tutor, and Lillian Ustick.

TONY'S REFLECTION

A LOOK INTO THE FATHER'S HOUSE

A recent report from Pew Research divulged that while nine-in-ten Americans believe in a divine presence, only a slim majority accept God as described in the Bible. The report highlighted that most people view God as an impersonal higher power who binds all things together, but does not call you to a radical transformation and offers no direct intimacy. Think of the popular image of "the force" in Star Wars. The force is a kind of deity that holds all of existence together and gives power and life to all things. But it is certainly not a person; you use the force, but you cannot love the force.

This vague notion of God eradicates the physical, knowable, and tangible nature of God that Jesus describes today. Jesus bluntly tells His disciples that when they see Him, they see God the Father. Here, God is not an obscure deity unrelated to human beings. Rather, God comes squarely situated to us in the flesh. Even more so, the Bible describes that God wants to intimately unite Himself to us through wedding imagery.

All of salvation history is described as a love story in which God weds Himself to His people. As the Catechism states, "The entire Christian life bears the mark of the spousal love of Christ and the Church." The nuptial language of Christ and His Church seems hidden, for the Bible is full of concepts coded in images and parables that are veiled to the naked eye. Today's readings give us a sliver of this marriage motif eloquently displayed below a deceptively simple surface. Jesus tells the disciples He is going to depart from them, go to His Father's house to prepare a place for them, so that He can, at some point, return and take them with Him. At first blush, these words may seem like a poetic way of Christ saying, "Don't worry. I'll be back." However, Christ's words take on a new meaning when viewed through ancient Jewish marriage customs. In biblical times, Jewish grooms built a new room or "bridal chamber" onto their father's house during a 12-month betrothal period to prepare for married life. It is fitting that Jesus refers to preparing a place for His followers in His "father's house," as this is precisely what a groom would do for his new bride.

In Jesus' parable about the "Sons of the Bridechamber," theologians view the enactment of Christ's wedding ceremony to His followers as taking place at the cross. That is, Christ consummates the marriage to his bride through the blood of the cross. What follows the marriage at the cross is that Christ must temporarily leave His beloved to "prepare a place" for them. Of course, this "place" is an allusion to the heavenly temple (cf. John 2:16-21) where a person joyfully encounters God in heaven. At the Mass, this union is put into reality. While all the ruckus in the culture is fixated on frivolous entertainment, when we place ourselves at the Mass, we are dealing with the highest sacred drama of our lives. Let us become magnetically drawn to God's marriage proposal and, in turn, go all in on our Catholic faith.

MINISTRY NEWS

THEOLOGY & CULTURE UPDATES

Due to the overwhelming interest in last Sunday's topic, Tony Jesse will further explore *Catholic Social Teaching* in the Theology & Culture talk on Sunday, May 17. This interactive presentation draws from Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum*. All are invited, and attendance at April's presentation is not required.

The following Theology & Culture session will take place on June 28, when Dr. Brad Pepper will present on *The City of God vs. The City of Man*, engaging the thought of Saint Augustine of Hippo.



VOLUNTEER WITH SONGWRITERS' NIGHT

The Saint Matthew Haiti Ministry is looking for a few volunteers to join 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 in 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, which helps change the lives of our brothers and sisters at our sister parish.

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/smcadultfaithformation.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you or anyone you know is struggling with food, utilities, etc., Saint Matthew supports two organizations 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.

GET INVOLVED WITH HEART OF MARY HOUSE

Has Jesus been nudging your heart to serve His people more directly? One powerful way to do that is through the Heart of Mary House, situated in the Nations. This is a volunteer-run Catholic hospice that lovingly cares for people who are dying and have nowhere else to go. The house can welcome up to six residents at a time—but they need your help.

Volunteers are needed to cook, clean, assist with meals, offer companionship, and pray with residents. No clinical experience is necessary—just a heart open to Christ and a willingness to be present. Learn more at heartofmaryhouse.org. To speak to a volunteer about their experience, contact Charlene Kimmel at Faithsharing@StPhilipMinisteries.com.

SENIOR SEND OFF



STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Saint Matthew is taking a group to the Steubenville Youth Conference in Atlanta from July 10-12. Steubenville Youth Conferences are high-energy Catholic conferences 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. All current 10th-12th graders are invited to attend.

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

STEUBENVILLE *Atlanta*

HOSTED BY LIFE TEEN

JULY 10 - 12, 2026
GAS SOUTH CONVENTION CENTER
DULUTH, GEORGIA

RISE

Register with Saint Matthew!

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



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

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SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

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