

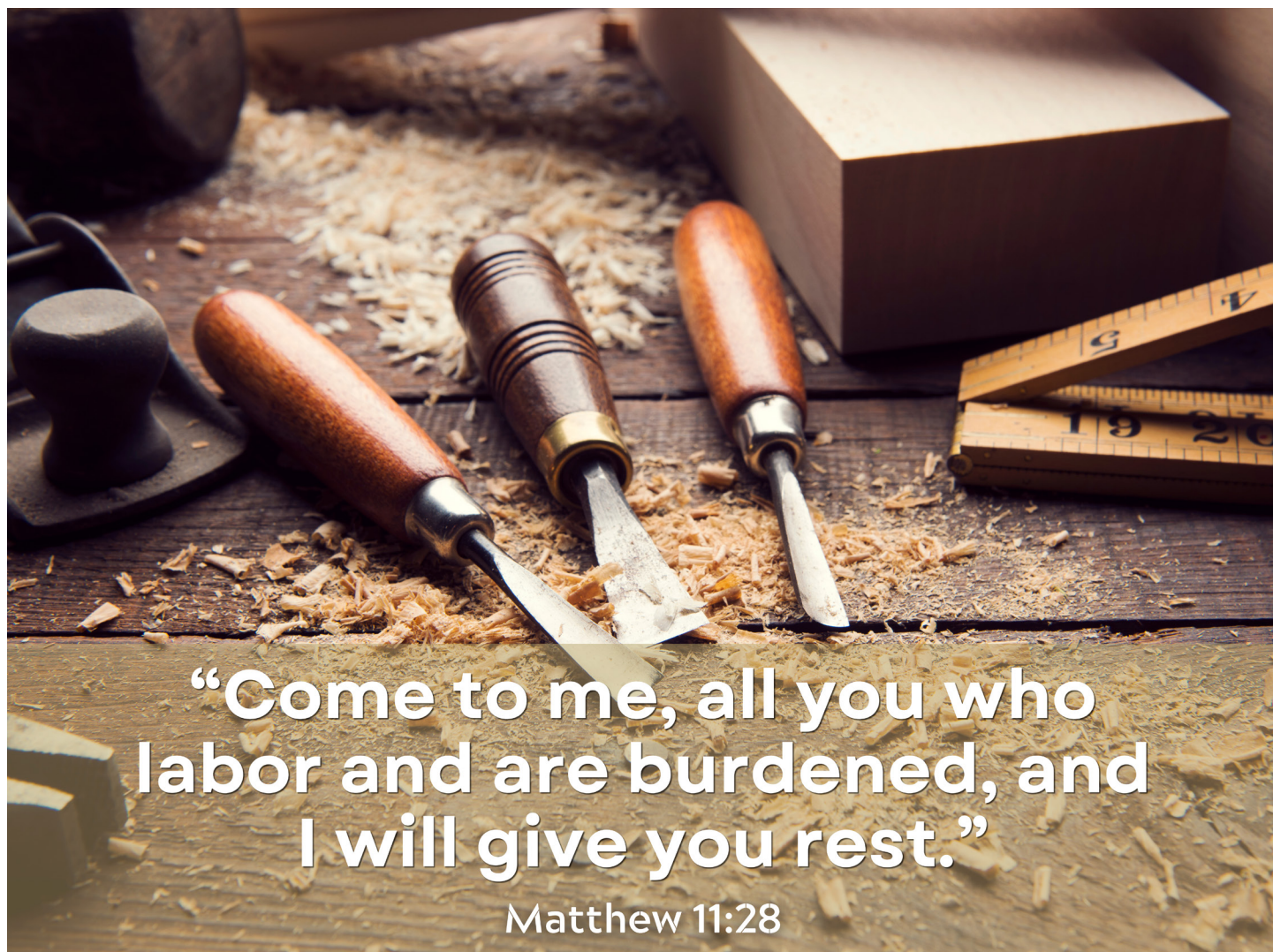


Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

JULY 5, 2026 + FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER



**“Come to me, all you who
labor and are burdened, and
I will give you rest.”**

Matthew 11:28

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 Anthony Stewart

DEACON:

Bill Forte

PARISH SPOTLIGHT



LITURGY SCHEDULE (JULY 4- JULY 10)

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ For Lauryn Green & all those
serving in the Armed Services

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For the Souls in Purgatory

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of Saint Matthew
• Zechariah 9:9-10
• Romans 8:9, 11-13
• Matthew 11:25-30

MONDAY, JULY 6

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Gabrielle Brault
• Hosea 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22
• Matthew 9:18-26

TUESDAY, JULY 7

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Anna Tran
• Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13
• Matthew 9:32-38

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ Jeff Carlovsky
• Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12
• Matthew 10:1-7

THURSDAY, JULY 9

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Gary High
• Hosea 11:1-4, 8e-9
• Matthew 10:7-15

FRIDAY, JULY 10

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Abby Cox
• Hosea 14:2-10
• Matthew 10:16-23

✦ **Special Intention**

✦ *May they rest in peace*

*TO RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,
VISIT [BIT.LY/SMCMAASSINTENTION](http://bit.ly/smcmaassintention)*

COME PRAY THE ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL
FOLLOWING 8 A.M. WEEKDAY MASSES



Welcome
**TO SAINT
MATTHEW**

Fr. Anthony Stewart
Associate Pastor

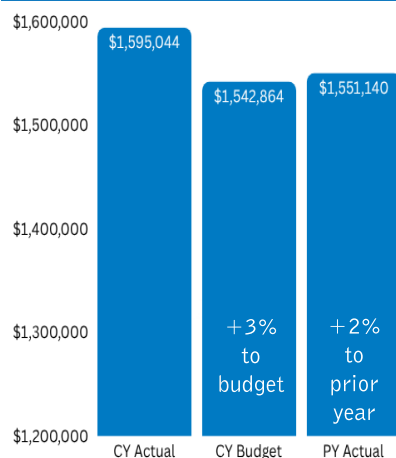
From: McEwen, TN
Ordained: June 30, 2018
Parishes Served: Holy Family
Mother Theresa, & Saint Henry.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

~ FOR WEEK OF JUNE 22-28 ~

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$37,314
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL	\$386

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:

Peter's Pence

Registered Parish Families: 1,319

THEOLOGY & CULTURE JULY 12



FEED THE PRIESTS

As we welcome Father Anthony to Saint Matthew, we created a new Feed the Priest signup to provide a weekly homemade meal for our priests.

Providing a meal is a simple yet meaningful way to support our priests and the important work they do in serving our parish. Meals should be packaged individually in disposable containers and may be dropped off at the Parish Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on your scheduled Tuesday.

Please be sure to review the dietary preferences listed on the signup before selecting a date. Thank you for your generosity and for helping care for those who faithfully care for us.



PLEASE RETURN YOUR BABY BOTTLES

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Baby Bottle Drive benefiting Mulier Care and the Pregnancy Help Center. Your generosity helps provide vital support and resources to mothers and families facing crisis and unplanned pregnancies.

If you still have a baby bottle at home, please return it to the parish business office as soon as possible so that we can complete the collection and deliver the donations. Thank you for supporting Mulier Care for mothers and their children.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

Knights of Columbus Council 12012 invites all men to its monthly Business Meeting on Monday, July 13. Come for a faith formation session at 6:30 p.m., attend the meeting at 7 p.m. in the Saint Henry Parish Office, and stay afterward for food, drinks, and fraternity beginning around 8 p.m. We hope you'll join us! Contact Grand Knight Sal Lombardi at kofc12012@gmail.com for more information. Council 12012 proudly serves the men of both Saint Matthew and Saint Henry.



FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for the Saint Matthew 2026–2027 fall sports season. Students in our Religious Education programs are also welcome to participate in all eligible sports except for cheerleading and swimming.

Fall sports include:

- Volleyball (girls, grades 5–8)
- Cheerleading (girls, grades 5–8; SMS only)
- Flag Football (co-ed, grades 5–8)
- Cross Country (kindergarten–grade 8)
- Swimming (grades 5–8; SMS only)
- Soccer (boys and girls, grades 5–8)

Registration closes Friday, July 31, at 11:59 p.m. No late registrations will be accepted, so families are encouraged to register early. For registration information, visit bit.ly/smsfallsports26.

BECOME A GIFT BEARER

Families and children are invited to participate in the liturgy by bringing up the gifts at Mass. Sign up your family at bit.ly/smcgiftbearer.

ARE YOU ON OUR EMAIL LIST?

Our parish email list is the best way to stay up to date on parish events, ministry opportunities, schedule changes, and important announcements. If you are not receiving parish emails—or if you used to receive them but no longer do—scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/smcemails to sign up and stay connected.



2026-2027 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Limited openings are still available for the 2026–2027 school year in select grades. We invite families seeking a Catholic education to apply today. We'd love the opportunity to welcome your family, schedule a tour, and share what makes our school such a special place. Our online application can be found on the Admissions page of our website or contact Holly Ledieu at 615-550-5112 for more information.

2027-28 SMS APPLICATION IS OPEN!

Applications for the 2027–2028 school year are now being accepted for students in Pre-K3 through 8th grade. Guided by our motto, Seeking Knowledge, Modeling Christ and Serving Others, Saint Matthew School provides a nurturing environment where students grow academically, spiritually, and socially.

Families are encouraged to apply early. The Priority Application Deadline is December 11, 2026.

For more information or to begin the application process, please visit the admissions page of our website www.stmatthewtn.org/school/admissions/. Contact Holly Ledieu at hledieu@stmatthewtn.org or 615-550-5112 with any questions.

We look forward to welcoming new families to Saint Matthew School!

MANE EVENT - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Save the date for our Home and School Association annual fundraiser, 'The Mane Event' on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026. Not only is this a great opportunity to meet other parents, but also a wonderful way to support our school. This year's outdoor event, "Havana Nights" features games, food, live music, auction, specialty drinks, and more!

We are preparing for this event now and can use volunteers! If you are interested in helping to procure auction items, secure sponsorships, assist with communication needs and/or anything in between, we would love to have you on a committee! Contact Tracy Becker at tbecker@stmatthewtn.org.

P.S. This fundraiser has 2 events. In spring 2027, we will hold a carnival style day with games, food and music for the whole family.

SONGWRITERS' NIGHT - SEPTEMBER 12

Mark your calendars for our 16th annual Songwriters' Night on Saturday, Sept. 12! Our very own Saint Matthew Choir will open the night singing contemporary Christian music to set the tone for a memorable evening under the stars. This year's event will feature Patrick Murphy and friends! Patrick is a Warner Brothers singer/songwriter who wrote Tim McGraw's hit "Standing Room Only." He has opened for artists such as Maren Morris, Kane Brown, Kip Moore, Maddie & Tae and more. Please plan to join us as we celebrate music and help support our brothers and sisters at Our Lady of Miracles Church and School in Gobert, Haiti! Contact Barney Schulte, ben87ce@yahoo.com for sponsorship opportunities or to volunteer with planning the event.

SVdP FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK RUN

The Saint Matthew Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society invites you to their 8th annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run on Saturday, Sept. 26. Enjoy a refreshing morning strolling around the beautiful Dominican campus while also helping your brothers and sisters in need. Learn more at bit.ly/svdpwalkrun26.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

As we transition to the second half of the year, we wanted to offer an update on our 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries campaign. As of July 1, Saint Matthew has raised \$74,313, or 43% of our \$173,000 goal. A total of 99 Saint Matthew families have contributed toward the campaign, or 44% of our parish goal of 225 participating families. Please prayerfully consider supporting this vital ministry of the diocese which does so much to provide hope to those in need and fosters a thriving faith for the future. Scan below for details or to donate.



SUNDAY, JULY 19 12-3 PM



**BIGGER!
BETTER!
& COLDER!**
LUNCH, BINGO,
& MORE IN THE
GYM!

FOOD • GAMES • MUSIC • FUN

Corn-Hole Tournaments

Dessert Contest

BoUnCy
Houses

DUNK TANK

Bingo

MINI GOLF

water
balloons

FOAMBOREE PARTY

...and more!



Sponsor



RSVP



Everything else
Cornhole, Volunteer, & more

Event Sponsors



Council #12012



Hiller
Plumbing • Heating • Cooling • Electrical

PREMIERE SPONSORS



Friends of the Picnic



Jeff & Melissa Briner
Barney & Beth Schulte
The Leindecker Family

Family Sponsors

Curran Homes Girl Scout Troop #3214 Dan & Katherine Bolson Jim & Angelia Brunner Matthew & Anne Margaret Weishaar

bit.ly/smcpicnic26

TONY'S REFLECTION

My Yoke Is Easy

Today Jesus speaks words of consolation, some favorite verses that many battle-tested Christians have memorized: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The connection is commonly missed, but in this passage, Jesus is emphasizing two points. First, He is alluding to a historical connection in the O.T. In 1 Kings 12, there is the account of the transition from King Solomon to King Rehoboam, his heir, and the subsequent tragic splitting of the Kingdom of David into North and South. The backdrop of the story reveals after King Solomon's death, the people of Israel came to King Rehoboam because they were burdened with forced labor and wanted rest from his heavy taxation. They pleaded with Rehoboam the crown prince to "lighten their yoke" of taxation and forced labor. But Rehoboam arrogantly doubled down. Instead, he promised them a "heavy yoke" and an increase in unjust burdens. As a result, the northern tribes "divorced" the Son of David and returned to their own homes. They chose a different king, Jeroboam, and the sorry disintegration of the once-great Kingdom of David began. It turned from a united kingdom into a fractured one.

The second aspect of this passage illustrates that the new King, Jesus, will deny Himself for us and offer us a heavenly companion as we experience our trials. Expressing that His yoke is easy doesn't mean we won't experience challenges.

The description of a yoke is fitting to grasp the concept that Jesus is teaching here. A yoke is a wooden beam that holds the heads of two animals plowing a field. Picture two oxen pulling a heavy plow. The yoke connects them so that they can pull the burdensome plow together. This yoke, this wooden beam, also represents carrying our cross. Because when we view the yoke, it connects two objects at the horizontal level, much like the arms of the cross, whereas the wooden beam connects objects at the vertical level – such as pulling a plow or wagon. So, as we are lugging our horizontal cross, it is connected to Christ, who is also bearing our plow. And the plow signifies our worries or sufferings. The image strikingly illuminates that Christ is right alongside us carrying our burdens, much like Simon of Cyrene is beside Christ helping Him carry His cross.

As you journey in life, you may feel you are alone, encircled by and temptation and obstacles. But with this imagery of a yoke, Christ is showing us that He is very much near and active in supporting our struggles. This is why he says "My yoke is easy" – for when we allow Him to carry our burdens with us, it becomes easier for us. God does allow suffering for us, but unlike King Rehoboam, He doesn't give us heavy burdens and leave us to wither with it alone. Rather, Christ is yoked to us in helping us through our challenges in life.

FAITH FORMATION

RELIGIOUS ED & IGNITE REGISTRATION

Our faith formation ministry is designed to help children know and live their faith throughout their lives. Registration is now open for the 26-27 school year for Religious Education (PreK-6th) and Ignite (7th-8th). The first sessions of R.E. and Ignite will be Sunday, Sept. 13. Learn more about these engaging programs and register at bit.ly/smcreled.



OCIA CLASSES NOW FORMING

Do you know anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic? OCIA is the step-by-step spiritual journey and educational process through which adults and older children enter into the Church. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please fill out the inquiry form by scanning the QR code or visiting bit.ly/smcocia26. OCIA classes begin in September.



DISCOVER GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR FAMILY



SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER
NASHVILLE, TN

Couple \$64
Childcare \$5/child

Register by July 27 to grab
an Early Bird discount



REGISTER
HERE!

For more information, please visit
togetherinholiness.org/nashville

PRESENTED BY



COMMUNITY NEWS

CATHOLIC BUSINESS LEAGUE - JULY 9

All are invited to join the CBL for its meeting on Thursday, July 9. Enjoy networking and coffee as seminarian Andy Ketch shares his journey to the priesthood alongside fellow seminarians. The event begins at 7:45 a.m. in the Fleming Center at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. Mass is at 7 a.m. For more information, visit catholicbusinessleague.org.

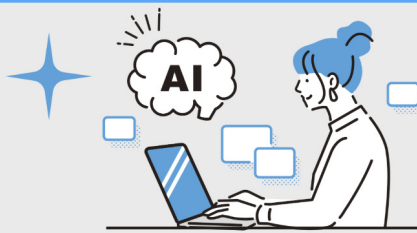
STUFF GALORE SALE

Ladies of Charity of Nashville hosts its Stuff Galore summer sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 9-11, 16-18, and 23-25 at 2216 State Street in Nashville. The sale includes home decor, lamps, artwork, furniture, kitchen supplies, china, crystal, linens, toys, holiday decor, garden items, and books. Proceeds support the Ladies of Charity Emergency Assistance Office.

**NCBWL**
Nashville Catholic Business Women's League

JULY MEETING

AI, FAITH & WISDOM



practical tips for using AI

JULY 15, 2026
5:00 SOCIAL HOUR
5:45 DINNER and
PRESENTATION
Hampton Inn, Green Hills

 **RSVP AT NCBWL.ORG**



**KorC**

COUNCIL 12012 PRESENTS

FOOD DRINK TRIVIA

**TEAMS OF 8
DOOR PRIZES
\$35/PERSON**

Trivia Knight

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 1
6:15 P.M.**

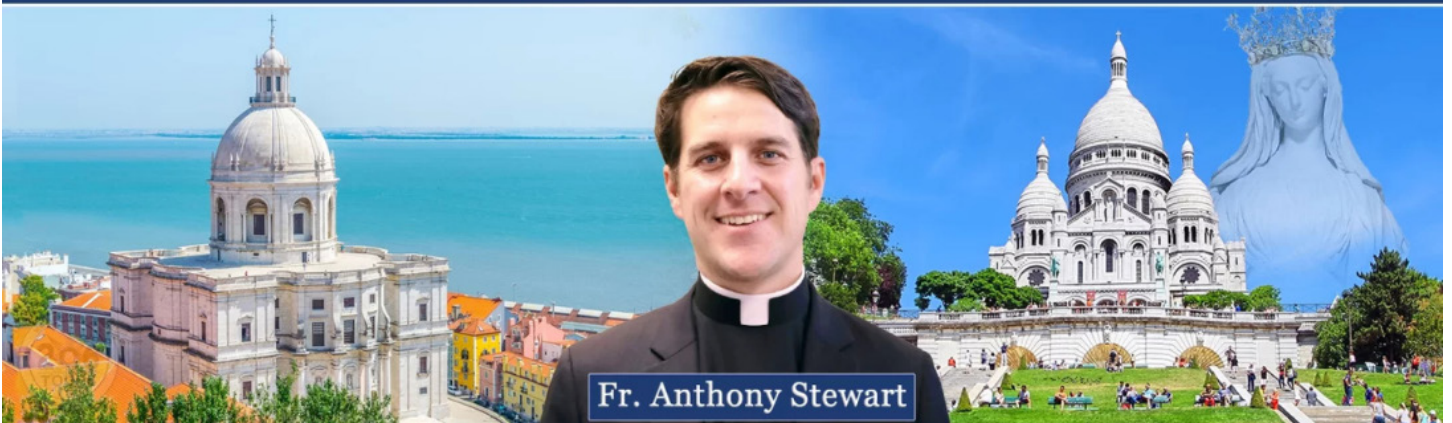
**St. Henry
FELLOWSHIP HALL
6401 HARDING PIKE**

REGISTER AT
BIT.LY/KOC12012TRIVIA26

COUNCIL 12012 SUPPORTS ST. HENRY & ST. MATTHEW



PORTUGAL, SPAIN & FRANCE



Fr. Anthony Stewart

Aug. 19 - Sept. 1, 2026
9, 10, or 14 day options available

206tours.com/cms/frstewart/



OFFICE HOURS: Mon.-Thu. 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Fri 8:30 a.m.-12:00 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

