



Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

JULY 12, 2026 + FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

**“Whoever has ears
ought to hear.”**

Matthew: 13:9

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 Anthony Stewart

DEACON:

Bill Forte

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Donna Wilson

Dan Reese

For the People of the Parish

- Isaiah 55:10-11
- Romans 8:18-23
- Matthew 13:1-23

MONDAY, JULY 13

Taffy Armbruster

- Isaiah 1:10-17
- Matthew 10:34—11:1

TUESDAY, JULY 14

8:00 a.m. Mass

Germana Yumul Palisoc

- Isaiah 7:1-9
- Matthew 11:20-24

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

7:00 p.m. Mass

Jim Olenick

- Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16
- Matthew 11:25-27

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Anna Thao Tran

- Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19
- Matthew 11:28-30

FRIDAY, JULY 17

Brigid O'Mahony

- Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8
- Matthew 12:1-8

Special Intention

May they rest in peace

**TO RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,
VISIT BIT.LY/SMCMASSINTENTION**

JOIN US FOR THE PARISH PICNIC

Join us for the Saint Matthew Parish Picnic on Sunday, July 19, from noon–3 p.m.! Enjoy an afternoon of delicious food, games, fellowship, and fun for the whole family, with lunch, bingo, and indoor seating in our air-conditioned gym. **Please RSVP by Tuesday** to help us prepare, and consider bringing a homemade or store-bought dessert to share. As you arrive, please respect all parking signs so everyone can enjoy a safe and welcoming day. More picnic information is on the back of the bulletin.

FOCUS MISSIONARY

Saint Matthew parishioner and SMS alumnus **Ciro Albamont** is serving as a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary this year at Georgia College & State University. Through discipleship, Bible studies, and personal mentorship, **Ciro** will accompany college students in their faith journeys and help them grow in their relationship with Christ.

Like all FOCUS missionaries, **Ciro** relies on the prayers and financial support of mission partners to make his ministry possible. To learn more about his mission or become a supporter, visit focus.org/missionaries/ciro-albamont/.

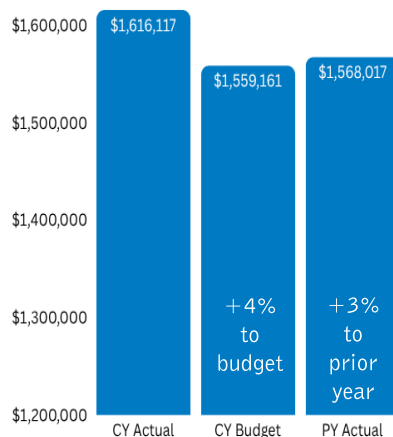


STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

~ **FOR JUNE 29-30** ~

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$21,073
BUILDING MAINTENANCE & FACILITY IMPROVEMENT	\$824

YTD Summary



stmatthewtn.org/church/giving



Second Collections

This Week:
Peter's Pence

Next Week:
Haiti Ministry

Registered Parish Families: 1,319

THEOLOGY & CULTURE JULY 12



FORGE BOWLING OUTING

Middle school students are invited to join Forge for a fun night of bowling on Wednesday, July 15, from 6–8 p.m. at Franklin Entertainment Center! The cost is \$15 per person, which includes two hours of bowling and shoe rental. Bring a friend and enjoy a great evening of fun and fellowship. Please scan to RSVP.



FAMILY SERVICE MINISTRY EVENTS

Crafting at NHC Place at the Trace - July 23

Join the Saint Matthew Family Service Ministry for an afternoon of crafting with the residents of NHC Place at the Trace on Thursday, July 23, from 1:30–2:30 p.m. Craft supplies and snacks will be provided, and all ages are welcome! Learn more and RSVP at bit.ly/smcfsmcraft26.

Fire Station Tour - Aug. 1

Show our local firefighters some appreciation by joining us for a tour of Williamson County Fire Station #4 on Saturday, August 1, from 9–10:30 a.m. Families are invited to bring a store-bought or homemade snack or treat to share with our first responders. Please wear sturdy shoes. This is a wonderful opportunity to thank those who serve our community while enjoying a behind-the-scenes tour of the station. RSVP at bit.ly/smcfsmfire26.

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.

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.



SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL NEWS

SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Limited openings are still available for the 2026–2027 school year in select grades. If you're still considering a Catholic education for your family, we'd love the opportunity to welcome you, schedule a tour, and share what makes Saint Matthew School such a special place.

At the same time, applications are now being accepted for the 2027–2028 school year for students in Pre-K 3 through Grade 8. 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 for the 2027–2028 school year. 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.

UNIFORM DATES

Max and Alice uniform store will hold a pop-up store in the Parish Conference Center on Thursday, July 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stop by to try on and order uniform pieces for the coming school year.

The annual used uniform sale is Wednesday, July 29.

The graphic features a plaid background. At the top center is a gold circle with the SMS logo and the text "USED UNIFORM SALE". Below this are two overlapping circles: a dark blue one on the left for "JULY 28 7:30-10 am DROP OFF" and a white one on the right for "JULY 29 8 am-1 p.m. SALE". Each circle contains a QR code. At the bottom, text reads "Scan for DROP OFF appt." and "Scan for SALE appt."



SUMMER LIBRARY DATES

The SMS Library will be open for students to check out books from 9 a.m. to noon on the following Wednesdays: July 15, July 22, and July 29.

PORTUGAL, SPAIN & FRANCE

The advertisement shows a collage of European architecture, including a cathedral dome and the Sagrada Família. In the center is a photo of Fr. Anthony Stewart. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text "Aug. 19 - Sept. 1, 2026", "9, 10, or 14 day options available", and the website "206tours.com/cms/frstewart/".

formed®

Pick of the Week: July 12



The Pope Versus Technology

Artificial Intelligence promises greater efficiency, easier access to information, and solutions to many everyday problems. But what happens when efficiency becomes the standard by which we measure human worth? Taylor Kemp and Dr. Scott Hefelfinger examine the Church's response to AI and the technocratic mindset behind it. They explore how technology shapes our habits, weakens our capacity for patient thought, and can tempt us to treat people as problems to be optimized rather than persons made for relationship and communion.

How can Catholics evaluate new technologies without rejecting their benefits or embracing them uncritically? This conversation invites us to pause, examine our use of AI, and ask whether our tools are truly helping us become more human.

Watch this episode and other great content for free on FORMED.org. Use our parish code, 37069, to create your free account.

WORLD YOUTH DAY

Join the Diocese of Nashville for World Youth Day August 1-10, 2027, in Seoul, South Korea. Experience an unforgettable pilgrimage encountering Christ with the Holy Father and young people from around the world. Cost is \$4,699, and pilgrims must be 18 years of age and have graduated high school by August 1, 2027. Register today: nashvillefaithformation.com/wyd. Verso Ministries is hosting a virtual sneak peak for the event on Tuesday, July 14, at bit.ly/wyd2027sneakpeak.

SAVE THE DATE

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 a parish community, Saint Matthew has raised \$74,638, or 43% of our \$173,000 goal. Thus far, 99 Saint Matthew families have contributed toward the campaign, or 44% of our 225 family goal. 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.



TONY'S REFLECTION

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Today, Jesus addresses those pressing questions – why don't people hear God's message? Why aren't more people becoming committed disciples of Christ? Why are so many in a state of indifference to the faith? Rather than give us the answer directly, He gives us clues so we can seek after the answer to which He'll provide. Our Lord typically used parables to reveal and conceal divine mysteries. While we might not have the spiritual "ears" to fully hear the meaning of this parable, Jesus dutifully explained the parable to the often intellectually slow disciples (and us).

In examining the parable, we can identify three impediments that parallel three sources. The path represents the devil. The rocky ground signifies the flesh, and the thorns embody the world. These three images and their corresponding sources are the primary reason people showcase a yawn of indifference to the Catholic faith.

Jesus goes to the source of these barriers to show us the primary cause of a soul that falls into a lukewarm state is the devil, the flesh, and the world. The Bible continuously reveals that the three obstacles to spiritual advancement come from the world, the flesh – also described as the passions, and the devil. As well, the apostle James declares, "This wisdom is not such as it comes down from above but is earthly [world], unspiritual [flesh], and devilish [devil]" (James 3:15)

To grasp the solution to our problem, let's dissect the problem with its corresponding solution.

- The First Impediment: The path
- The Source: The devil (represented by birds)
- The Solution: Scripture, prayer, the sacraments
- The Second Impediment: Rocky ground
- The Source: The flesh
- The Solution: Receiving Grace and developing the virtues.
- The Third Impediment: Thorns
- The Source: The world – the totality of false ideas of the world (there's a lot)

The Solution: The totality of Jesus's teaching in the Church. "For whatever is born of God [the Church] overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith" (1 John 5:4).

Oftentimes we'll inevitably fall back to earthly solutions to why evangelization efforts falter – we need more outreach, better communication, etc. Today, Jesus reminds us to address their internal obstacles first, then God's word will begin to grow. After these distractions are identified, then removed with precision, people will begin to be able to hear the Word. Recall in the parable, that the good soil is the one who hears God's word and understands it. How does he understand it? The path, the rocks, and thorns have all been cleared out so it's easier to grasp God's teaching.

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



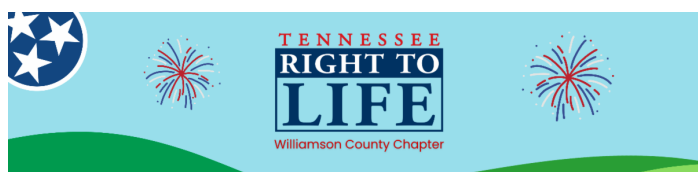
REGISTER
HERE!

For more information, please visit
togetherinholiness.org/nashville

PRESENTED BY



COMMUNITY EVENTS



July Gather for LIFE

Tuesday, July 14

6:00 p.m.

**Williamson County
Public Library**
(first floor meeting room)

**1314 Columbia Ave
Franklin, TN 37064**



**Special
Guest**

**Stacy
Dunn**

President of TN Right to Life

JOIN US in building a culture of
Life in Tennessee!

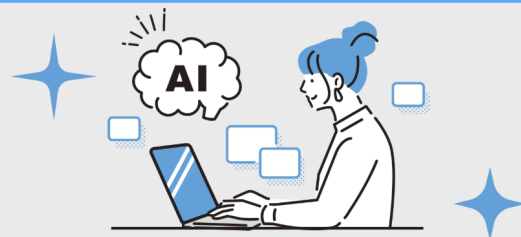
Please RSVP!
A light supper will be provided.



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



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church and CAC, Catholic Athletes for Christ, invite you to spend an evening with former Notre Dame Football student-athletes Nick and Xavier Lezynski (Nick currently serves as Co-Defensive Coordinator for Vanderbilt Football) as they share how the lessons of discipline, perseverance, and sacrifice learned on the playing field can shape a life of faith. In a culture increasingly focused on self, this dynamic presentation challenges listeners to break that mold through the pursuit of virtue, service to others, and competitiveness for the ultimate victory—life in Heaven. Through powerful stories and practical insights, discover how to strengthen your Catholic faith and develop the habits needed to remain steadfast in today's world.

Wednesday, July 22nd • St. Catherine of Siena
4:30 PM: Eucharistic Adoration • 5:00 PM: Mass
5:45 PM: CAC Presentation

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
3019 Cayce Lane, Columbia, TN 38401
Phone: (931) 388-3803

COUNCIL 12012 PRESENTS

Trivia Knight

**FOOD
DRINK
TRIVIA**

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

**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

SUNDAY, JULY 19 12-3 PM



FOOD • GAMES • MUSIC • FUN

DUNK TANK

water
balloons

FOAMBOREE PARTY

Dessert Contest

Bingo

MINI GOLF

BoUnCy
Houses

...and more!



Sponsor



RSVP



Picnic Website
Volunteer & more

PREMIERE SPONSORS



Family Sponsors

Curran Homes Girl Scout Troop #3214 Dan & Katherine Bolson
Craig & Georgann DeMille Matthew & Anne Margaret Weishaar

Event Sponsors



HerVoiceWorks Council #12012
Hiller
Plumbing • Heating • Cooling • Electrical



Jeff & Melissa Briner
Barney & Beth Schulte

Friends of the Picnic



Jim & Angelia Brunner
The Leindecker Family

bit.ly/smcpicnic26