



Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

JULY 19, 2026 + SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

**“The righteous will shine
like the sun in the kingdom
of their Father.”**

Matthew 13:43

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 Anthony Stewart

DEACON:

Bill Forte

PARISH SPOTLIGHT

JOIN US FOR THE PARISH PICNIC NOON TO 3 P.M.

Today is one of our favorite (non-liturgical) days of the year as our parish family gathers for the Saint Matthew Parish Picnic! Whether you've been at Saint Matthew for decades or are attending your first parish event, we invite you to join us for an afternoon of great food, fellowship, games, and fun.

As you enjoy the picnic, we encourage you to introduce yourself to someone you don't know, wear a name tag, and help make everyone feel welcome. For many parishioners, today's picnic is their first opportunity to connect with others outside of Mass.

Be sure to stop by the GraceWorks table to learn about our Day of Service in conjunction with the Feast of Saint Matthew. This year, we are partnering with GraceWorks to operate their Mobile Food Pantry on September 19. We hope to have 50 parishioners of all ages join us for this meaningful day of service. Stop by to learn more and sign up!

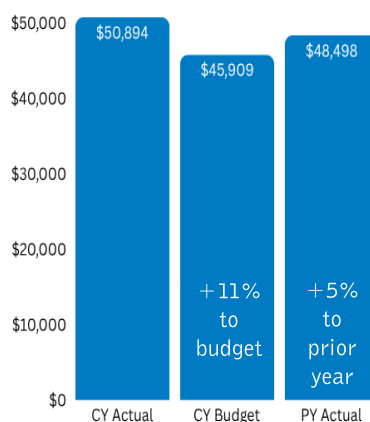


STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

~ FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 6-12 ~

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$27,265
PETER'S PENCE	\$240

YTD Summary



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



Second Collections

This Week:

Haiti Ministry

Next Week:

Family Service Ministry

Registered Parish Families: 1,324



LITURGY SCHEDULE (JULY 18- JULY 24)

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ Gabrielle Brault

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Gabrielle Brault

• Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

• Romans 8:26-27

• Matthew 13:24-43

MONDAY, JULY 20

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Daniel & Annie Kenny

• Micah 6:1-4, 6-8

• Matthew 12:38-42

TUESDAY, JULY 21

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Donnie Ray & Bettie Jane Jeffers

• Micah 7:14-15, 18-20

• Matthew 12:46-50

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

Saint Mary Magdalene

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ Gabrielle Brault

• Song of Songs 3:1-4b

• John 20:1-2, 11-18

THURSDAY, JULY 23

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Gabrielle Brault

• Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13

• Matthew 13:10-17

FRIDAY, JULY 24

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Vincent Phillips

• Jeremiah 3:14-17

• Matthew 13:18-23

✦ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*

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

COME PRAY THE ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL

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.

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

Join the Passion of Christ Prayer Group next Sunday, July 26, at 3 p.m. in the chapel to pray the Way of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and learn more about our Lord's Passion. This ministry's mission is to pray for our fellow Catholic brothers and sisters who have left the Church.

As St. Mother Teresa once said, "When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then; when you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now."

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GATHERING

Join our Prayer Shawl Ministry as they gather to knit and crochet shawls for those in need of comfort and prayer. Their next meeting is Monday, July 27, at 1 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. Whether you're experienced or just want to learn, all are welcome—yarn is provided!

Have a finished shawl? Bring it with you or drop it by the church office to be blessed and shared with someone facing illness, grief, or hardship. To get involved or request a shawl, contact Mary at maryestarr25@gmail.com.

FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION

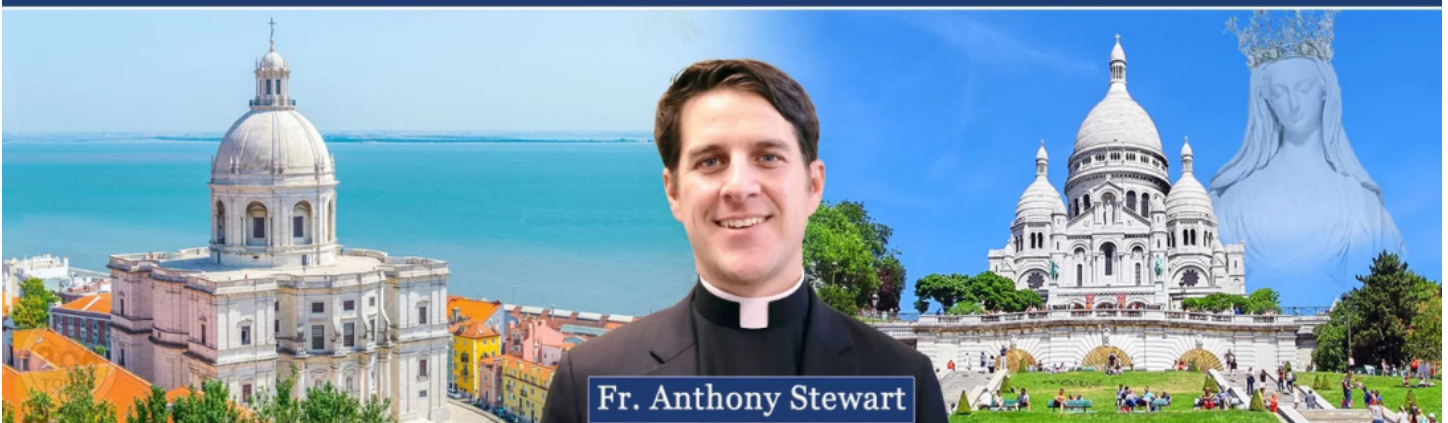
Registration is now open for the Saint Matthew 2026–2027 fall sports season. Students in our Religious Education programs are also welcome to participate in all eligible sports except for cheerleading and swimming.

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.

PORTUGAL, SPAIN & FRANCE



Fr. Anthony Stewart

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

206tours.com/cms/frstewart/

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.



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

USED UNIFORM SALE

JULY 28
7:30-10 am
DROP OFF

JULY 29
8 am-1 p.m.
SALE

Scan for DROP OFF appt. 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 22, and July 29.



The banner has a dark blue background with white and yellow text. On the left is the Saint Matthew School logo featuring a lion's head. The text "FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL" is in large, white, block letters. Below it, "Monday, August 10" is in yellow. The background is decorated with faint, hand-drawn style elements like "FUN", "CLASS", "ABC", "EARN", and "WELCOME".

ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Monday, August 10



The banner features a tropical theme with a brown woven background, green palm fronds, and two large yellow and red hibiscus flowers. The text "SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL" is at the top in yellow. Below it, "HAVANA" is in large, blue, block letters with yellow lights. Underneath, "October 3, 2026" is in yellow and "Nights" is in a white script font. A yellow banner at the bottom contains the text "SAVE THE DATE" in blue.

SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL
HAVANA
October 3, 2026 *Nights*
SAVE THE DATE

MINISTRY NEWS

SAINT MATTHEW MINISTRY FAIR

Today's Parish Picnic reminds us how vibrant our parish family is. Now it's time to take the next step. Join us for our Ministry Fair on Sunday, August 16, and explore the many ways you can serve the Lord, grow in your Catholic faith, and become more connected to life at Saint Matthew.



SONGWRITERS' NIGHT - SEPTEMBER 12

Mark your calendars for our 16th annual Songwriters' Night on Saturday, Sept. 12! Join us for an evening of music under the stars featuring Patrick Murphy and friends. This special event helps support our brothers and sisters at Our Lady of Miracles Church and School in Gobert, Haiti.

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/svdppwalkrun26.

Haiti Happenings

Our Lady of Miracles
celebrated their feast
day on July 9th!



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

IS IT WHEAT OR WEEDS?

Oftentimes, people are scandalized by the behavior of other Catholics, even members of the hierarchy. Many use the presence of hypocrites within the Church as an excuse for leaving or having a loose association with faith in general. I've never fully grasped the logic of this reasoning; it is analogous to refusing to attend a workout session because not all the participants exert themselves, and many are out of shape themselves. How does the laziness of others mean that you shouldn't try to get in shape?

Today, Jesus speaks to us about such a scenario and informs us that in His Church there exists both wheat and weeds; saints and sinners. Some would probably prefer a parable in which the farmer planted all the good seeds on one side of the field, and the enemy planted all the weeds on the other side, so they were separate, and there was a visible distinction between them. But that's not the case. In fact, Jesus' parable illustrates how the weeds and wheat are packaged together.

In those moments we become disenchanted and scandalized by the presence of corruption in the Church, this parable serves as a reminder that God warned us such was the case. The manifestation of evil throughout God's people is a consistent theme throughout salvation history. God's chosen people, Israel, contained some of the most crooked kings and key figures in their royal lineage. Jacob deceived his father on his deathbed. Judah had an illicit affair with his daughter-in-law. Moses was a murderer. It was the high priest, Aaron, who initiated the golden calf apostasy. David was a liar, an adulterer, and orchestrated the murder of an innocent man, and on it goes. Given this, we should not conclude that, since the visible Church is not pure, the visible Church is not the manifestation of the kingdom of God.

The presence of "weeds" does not prevent the Church from being holy when we recite the creed at Mass. The Church's holiness in the sacraments and her teaching is God's divine medicine for all. Here, God's power and wisdom can assuredly work through corrupt outlets. A bad priest does not prevent the sacraments from working, much like an unhealthy doctor can still prescribe healthy medicine that heals. St. Augustine articulated that the grace comes from God alone. It is a long-standing staple that God writes straight with crooked lines in which holiness emerges despite layers of depravity.

We should also keep in mind that, although in this life we may complain about God's tolerance of "weeds" in the Church, at the final judgment, we may find that we ourselves were "weeds" for whose conversion to "wheat" the Son of Man was patiently waiting. In the haze of human sin, we can't pick out the weeds from the wheat. In the early stages of growth, weeds can resemble wheat. Only when it is fully matured can man distinguish it from wheat. Let us strive to allow Christ to make us into "wheat" as we reverently consume Him in the "wheat" of the Holy Bread and Body in the Eucharist.

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.



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.



TOGETHER IN HOLINESS™
CONFERENCE SERIES

GRAB EARLY BIRD TICKETS BY JULY 27
QUALITY TIME | DYNAMIC SPEAKERS | CHILDCARE | MASS + ADORATION + CONFESSION

SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 | NASHVILLE, TN

COMMUNITY EVENTS



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

NEED MORE PICNIC?

Father Tien Tran invites the Saint Matthew community to join him and his new parish family at Saint Patrick Parish in McEwen for the 172nd Annual Irish Picnic on Friday, July 24, and Saturday, July 25. We are grateful for Father Tran's years of ministry among us and his continued friendship with our parish family. This beloved Middle Tennessee tradition features famous barbecue, live music, dancing, games, and family fun. Come enjoy a wonderful celebration and support our friends at Saint Patrick Parish! Learn more at irishpicnic.com.



STUFF GALORE SALE

Don't miss the final days of the Ladies of Charity's Stuff Galore Summer Sale, July 23–25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2216 State St. in Nashville. Shop furniture, home décor, books, toys, kitchenware, and more. Proceeds go towards emergency assistance.



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

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SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

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

www.stmatthewtn.org

