



Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

JULY 26, 2026 + SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

“The KINGDOM of HEAVEN
is like a TREASURE buried
in a field...”

Matthew 13:44

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

RELIGIOUS ED & IGNITE REGISTRATION OPEN

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. To learn more about these engaging programs and register, visit bit.ly/smcreled. For questions, email tjesse@stmatthewtn.org.



CATECHISTS NEEDED!

We are in need of catechists for our upcoming faith formation classes for the 26-27 year. Serving as a catechist is a meaningful way to nurture the faith of our children and help them grow in their relationship with Christ. You do not need to be a theologian. All materials and support are provided. What matters most is your willingness to share your love of the faith.

If you are interested in serving as a catechist, please fill out a brief form at bit.ly/smccatechist26. For questions, email Tony at tjesse@stmatthewtn.org.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS FORMING NOW!

Saint Matthew Children's Choirs are forming now for the 26-27 school year! The Little Light Choir is open to Saint Matthew students and parish members in grades K-2. The Liturgy Choir is open to Saint Matthew students and parish members in grades 3-8.

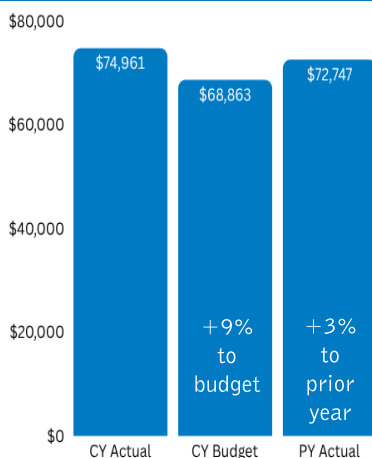
Contact Rebecca Harding at rharding@stmatthewtn.org (Little Light) or Laura Holderman at lholderman@stmatthewtn.org (Liturgy) with any questions. Find additional details and register at bit.ly/smcchildrenschoirs.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

~ FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 13-19 ~

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$23,927
HAITI MINISTRY	\$1,554

YTD Summary



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



Second Collections

This Week:

Family Service Ministry

Next Week:

Building Maint. & Facility Improvements

Registered Parish Families: 1,327



LITURGY SCHEDULE (JULY 25- JULY 31)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ For the People of the Parish

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ Joseph Thin Nguyen

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Clara Lucia

• 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

• Romans 8:28-30

• Matthew 13:44-52

MONDAY, JULY 27

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Fr. Raines

• Jeremiah 13:1-11

• Matthew 13:31-35

TUESDAY, JULY 28

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Joan Hardebeck

• Jeremiah 14:17-22

• Matthew 13:36-43

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ Thomas Shaughnessy

• Jeremiah 15:10, 16-214b

• John 11:19-27

THURSDAY, JULY 30

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Roger Smith

• Jeremiah 18:1-6

• Matthew 13:47-53

FRIDAY, JULY 31

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Joan Hardebeck

• Jeremiah 26:1-9

• Matthew 13:54-58

✦ **Special Intention**

✦ *May they rest in peace*

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

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

Join the Passion of Christ Prayer Group today, 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.



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 are 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.

WELCOME RECEPTION - AUGUST 9

Join us on Sunday, August 9, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building for a reception to welcome Father Anthony and the new teachers and staff members at Saint Matthew School. Please extend a warm Saint Matthew welcome to:

Tina Arrington (Student Support)
Dina Harrison (Middle School Math)
Makenzie Magness (PreK Aide)
Taylor Pourchot (Art)
Rachael Scott (4th Grade)
Hannah Sweeney (PreK Aide)
Cristina Wilson (2nd Grade)

FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION DEADLINE

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.

FSM FIRE STATION TOUR

Join the Family Service Ministry for a tour of Williamson Co. Fire Station #4 on Saturday, Aug. 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.

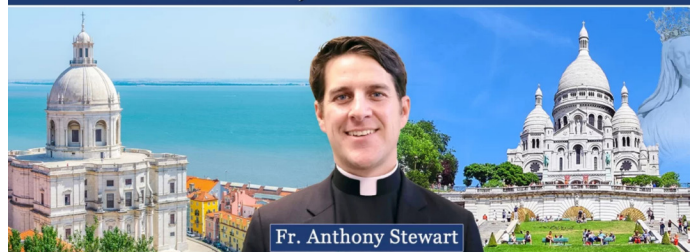


Take a pilgrimage with Father Anthony

There is still time to join Father Anthony on an unforgettable pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain, Lourdes, and other great cities this August, but departure is now less than a month away.

Space is still available, so don't wait—reserve your place today and experience this once-in-a-lifetime journey of faith.

PORTUGAL, SPAIN & FRANCE



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 stmatthewtn.org/school/admissions/. Contact Holly Ledieu at hledieu@stmatthewtn.org or 615-550-5112 with any questions.

FREE MONEY FROM KROGER

Attention Kroger shoppers! Please sign up for a Kroger card, or link your existing Kroger card to Saint Matthew School. A percentage of your total bill is donated back to Saint Matthew and benefits the Haiti ministry. It only takes a minute to sign up and link your phone number, and it is free money benefitting our sister parish. Thank you in advance! Sign up at bit.ly/smskroger and be sure to choose "Saint Matthew Church" or "DK325" to enroll.

JOB OPENING

Saint Matthew School is looking for a Social Media and Marketing Manager. Learn more and apply at bit.ly/smcemployment.



FINAL SMS SUMMER LIBRARY DAY

The final day for the SMS Library this summer is on Wednesday, July 29. The library will be open for students to check out books from 9 a.m. to noon.

HAITI SUMMER CHALLENGE REMINDER

Attention students! A reminder that the Haiti Summer Challenge will end on August 21. All students are encouraged and welcome to participate! Do a day of work this summer and donate the proceeds to the Haiti ministry. Ideas include dog walking, lemonade stands, bake sales, babysitting, a carwash and more - the sky is the limit on ideas! Get a group together for even more fun - think sports teams, scout troops, neighbors, and more. This activity is open to students from all schools.

The link to the form to turn in your money can be found here: bit.ly/smshaitisc. Please print the form and turn it in with your donation.

Donations are due to the school office by Friday, August 21 for SMS students.

For Religious Ed students or students from other schools, please turn in forms and money to the church office or place them in the offertory in an envelope marked 'Haiti Summer Challenge' by Sunday, August 23.

MINISTRY NEWS

SAINT MATTHEW MINISTRY FAIR

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. All are invited!



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/svdpwalkrun26.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is a Catholic fraternal organization dedicated to faith, fellowship, charitable service, and celebrating Irish heritage. The local Division will now be meeting at Saint Matthew on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center, with Father Anthony serving as chaplain. Catholic men interested in learning more are welcome to attend.



TONY'S REFLECTION

WHERE IS THE KINGDOM?

For a recent family movie night, we watched "National Treasure" with Nicolas Cage. My kids were fascinated by the thrill of going on an action-packed adventure to find hidden treasure. The characters in the film were willing to risk everything, including their life, just to lay eyes on a lost treasure. These kinds of stories seem to resonate with us. Why? Deep down, we are chasing something greater and more mysterious than our current condition. This drive is signified by the hunt for a secret, ancient treasure. In today's readings, Jesus presents us with three parables that show our faith through a similar lens – God's Kingdom is veiled among us, and its value is inestimable.

The first parable tells us that the Kingdom is not obvious. If God's Kingdom is like "buried treasure," there's no billboard saying, "TRUE CHURCH, THE KINGDOM, EXIT 1 MILE." Those speeding by on the highway of life will never find it. That is, to be merely focused on keeping up with the latest jargon and trends in the secular world, one becomes oblivious to God's treasure. Therefore, you can't just be fixated on common things and expect the Kingdom to fall right in front of your face. The hidden nature of the Kingdom implies you must go out and painstakingly seek it over time. Then, you have to dig through some rough layers – purging out your old ways... then, suddenly, you hit something. Can it be? Is it? Yes! Your next move is to sell everything you have to buy the field with this treasure. Why? Because you can only receive this treasure once you relinquish your earthly prizes. But once you realize the beauty of God's Kingdom, you'll do anything to get it, and all counterfeits will appear as mere rubbish.

The second of these parables is similar to the first. Again, the Kingdom is not obvious. There are many competitors, perhaps even "fake pearls" or pearls of low quality. It takes some discernment—indeed wisdom, like Solomon asked for—to tell the true and valuable pearl from all the look-alikes. The third parable tells us that the Kingdom, for all its value, will also be a "mixed bag" full of the good and bad.

"The Kingdom" in the Gospel of Matthew is, in one sense, nothing but Jesus Himself: the King. However, since the Church is the Body of Christ and united to him, what is said about the Kingdom applies also to the Church, both Triumphant (in heaven) and Militant (on earth). These parables of a Kingdom hidden, starting small, growing slowly, hard to find, mixed with weeds and bad fish, is a description of the Church Militant on earth—perhaps even our local parish.

It takes wisdom to recognize that the Church Militant is, for all its wounds, the Kingdom of Heaven come to earth. This wisdom can only come from God, granted by Him to those who love Him. If we are docile to the teachings of Jesus, He will illuminate to us the wisdom of the Kingdom. Then, with a sense of holy urgency, we'll go "all in" on living for the kingdom.

FAITH FORMATION

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.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Spend some quiet time with Jesus during our First Friday Adoration on Friday, August 7. Adoration begins after 8 a.m. Mass and ends with benediction on Saturday at 8 a.m. Sign up for a time slot at bit.ly/smcffaug26 to help us ensure someone is present with the Lord at all times.



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





Thank You for a Wonderful Parish Picnic!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's Saint Matthew Parish Picnic. It was a joy to see our parish family gathered together for an afternoon of food, fellowship, fun, and community.

Events like this don't happen without many hands working together. We are especially grateful to:

- The **Men's Club**, for arriving shortly after sunrise to smoke hundreds of pounds of chicken, prepare homemade potato salad, and serve a delicious meal.
- The **Family Service Ministry**, for keeping the food lines running smoothly and ensuring everyone was served with a smile.
- Our **Cheerleaders and Girl Scouts**, for brightening so many children's faces with face painting and temporary tattoos.
- **RISE** and **Saint Joseph's Men**, for braving the heat to keep the outdoor activities running all afternoon.
- The **dozens of volunteers** who helped set up, clean up, supervised activities, made bingo fun and engaging, and stepped up wherever help was needed.
- Our **parish staff**, whose flexibility, teamwork, and behind-the-scenes efforts helped make the day a success from start to finish.
- **Susan Beem**, for serving on the Parish Picnic Planning Committee, helping bring the event together.
- Our generous **sponsors** and **donors**, whose support allowed us to offer the Parish Picnic free of charge for our entire parish community.

Most importantly, **THANK YOU** for being part of our Saint Matthew family. We hope you had a wonderful afternoon and made a few new friends along the way.

As we begin planning for next year, we'd love to hear your thoughts. Scan the QR code to complete a brief Parish Picnic Survey and help us make next year's celebration even better!



PREMIERE SPONSORS



Friends of the Picnic



Jeff & Melissa Briner
Barney & Beth Schulte

Jim & Angelia Brunner
The Leindecker Family

Family & Ministry Sponsors

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



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,
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www.stmatthewtn.org

