



Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

AUGUST 16, 2026 + TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER



**My house shall be called
a house of prayer for all peoples.**

Isaiah 56:7

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

SAINT MATTHEW MINISTRY FAIR TODAY

Join us for our Ministry Fair today, Sunday, August 16. Come up to the Cohan-Hansom Building and explore all the wonderful ways you can live out your faith and build community at Saint Matthew. In the past year, we've added several new ministries, and this year we have a few outside Catholic ministries joining us as well.

Whether you're looking to contribute to Mass, put your faith into action by helping those in need, grow spiritually through prayer and faith formation, build meaningful friendships, share your talents, or find opportunities for your children and family, there's a place for you at Saint Matthew.

You can always discover ways to get involved on our ministries page at, bit.ly/smcministries.

Ministry Fair

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

Following both Masses

COHAN-HANSOM BUILDING

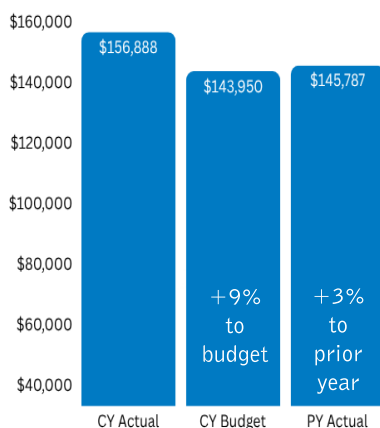
- Explore more than 40 parish ministries
- Live out your faith and embrace your parish family
- Social, Spiritual, Liturgical, and Service ministries

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

~ FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 3-9 ~

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$26,604
TUITION ASSISTANCE	\$310

YTD Summary



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



Second Collections

This Week:
Assumption of Mary (Saturday)
Room In The Inn

Next Week:
Haiti Ministry

Registered Parish Families: 1,330



LITURGY SCHEDULE (AUGUST 15-21)

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✦ For Father Tran

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Bettie Jane Jeffers

• Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

• Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

• Matthew 15:21-28

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Joan Hardebeck

• Ezekiel 24:15-23

• Matthew 19:16-22

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ Joyce Nicoletti

• Ezekiel 28:1-10

• Matthew 19:23-30

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ Marilyn Riley

• Ezekiel 34:1-11

• Matthew 20:1-16

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

Saint Bernard

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For the Puryear Family

• Ezekiel 36:23-28

• Matthew 22:1-14

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Pope St. Pius X

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Bishop Donald Hying

• Ezekiel 37:1-14

• Matthew 22:34-40

✦ **Special Intention**

✦ *May they rest in peace*

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

THEOLOGY & CULTURE NEXT SUNDAY

Join us next Sunday for our monthly faith formation series, Theology & Culture. While mental health issues continue to rise worldwide, research reveals that religious involvement correlates to stronger mental health. Why is this? For a look into how the Catholic faith improves one's mental health, join Tony Jesse along with clinical psychologist Christine Jerusik (Psy.D) in the Parish Conference Center between the Masses.



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. These programs meet between Masses on Sundays. To learn more about these engaging programs and register, visit bit.ly/smcreled. For questions, email Tony Jesse tjesse@stmatthewtn.org.



CATECHISTS NEEDED!

Catechists are needed in our **Pre-K, 1st, and 3rd grade** Religious Education Classes for the 2026-2027 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, just a willingness to share your love of the faith. All materials and support are provided. If you are interested in serving as a catechist, visit bit.ly/smccatechist26. For questions, email Tony at tjesse@stmatthewtn.org.

16th
annual

21+

WELL PLAYED

A SONGWRITERS' NIGHT

BENEFITING WATER, EDUCATION AND WELLNESS IN HAITI

Featuring:



Patrick Murphy



Ryan Larkins



Fraser Churchill



Kelley Jeanne
(Opening Act)

Saturday, September 12, 6 p.m.

Saint Matthew Courtyard

Tickets include: BBQ Sandwich, chips, beer, and wine

Scan for Tickets



bit.ly/smcswn26

Tickets include:
BBQ Sandwich,
chips, beer, and
wine

Scan for Tickets



bit.ly/smcswn26



It's official—Dr. Simpson's years of "dad joke training" have finally paid off! Congratulations to him and his wife on welcoming Paul James into the world. Overheard in the hospital:

*How do you know when a joke becomes a dad joke?
When it becomes apparent.
Dad jokes are how eye roll.*

Wishing your family every blessing... and wishing PJ the strength to survive a lifetime of dad jokes.

JOB OPENING

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

HAITI SUMMER CHALLENGE FINAL WEEK

It's your last chance to join the Haiti Summer Challenge! Students are invited to spend a day working—dog walking, babysitting, lemonade stands, car washes and more—and donate the proceeds to the Haiti Ministry. Turn in your form and donation to the school office by Friday, August 21, or in the offertory basket next weekend. Get the form at bit.ly/smshaitisc

SUPPORT OUR MANE EVENT

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 two events. In spring 2027, we will hold a carnival-style day with games, food and music for the whole family.



BECOME A LECTOR

Share the Word of God at Mass! We are looking to grow our lector team. Information and trainings sessions are next Sunday, August 23, at noon and Tuesday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m. Meet in the Parish Conference Center. Contact Patricia Smith with questions at pms56@comcast.net.

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.

VOLUNTEER WITH LUNCH BUNCH

Looking for a ministry that's equal parts service, fellowship, and fun? Consider joining the **Lunch Bunch Volunteer Team**! Volunteers help decorate tables, welcome and check guests in, distribute meals, verify Bingo cards, and assist with cleanup.

Lunch Bunch is our parish ministry for adults ages 55 and older and provides an afternoon of delicious food, fellowship, and Bingo. As a volunteer, you'll play an important role in creating a welcoming experience while building meaningful connections with our senior parishioners and fellow volunteers. For more information, visit the Lunch Bunch table at the Ministry Fair or email Veronica at vjf@themarianofamily.com.

Come serve, share a meal, and enjoy the fun!

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, register, or become a sponsor at bit.ly/svdpwalkrun26.

SEEKING ADVENTURE FOR YOUR KIDS?

Are you ready for some fun? Cub Scout Pack 287 is a group of K-5th graders who enjoy all sorts of activities, including: camping, hiking, service projects, religion, Pinewood Derby car building, learning life skills, building and racing boats, and so much more! Cub Scout Pack 287 is a FAMILY Pack, so the whole family is welcome to participate. Both boys and girls may join the pack.

There is a Parent Welcome Meeting & Fundraising Kick Off Party on Saturday, August 22, at 1 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building. The first pack meeting is Sunday, August 23, at 1 p.m. also in the C.H.B. On Saturday, as new parents get to know seasoned parents and learn about our program, kids will play fun games, enjoy snacks, and win prizes! This is an informational meeting and you will not be required to join. For more information, email Doug Kennedy at pack287@stmatthewtn.org.



ROOTED IN FAITH, CONNECTED IN MOTHERHOOD - JOIN SGC

As a new year for St. Gianna Circle begins, we'd love for you to join us for our Annual Kick-Off Mom's Mixer on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center! Whether you've been coming for years or have never attended before, this is the perfect evening to connect with other mothers in every season of life.

Come enjoy:

- Fellowship and conversation
- Door prizes
- A preview of this year's social gatherings and faith opportunities
- Light food will be provided



This evening is all about getting to know one another, reconnecting after the summer, and kicking off a wonderful year together. There are many opportunities to participate throughout the year, and you are invited to join in whatever way works best for you. No pressure. No commitments. Just a welcoming evening of faith, friendship, and fun. Learn more and RSVP at bit.ly/sgcmixer26.

TONY'S REFLECTION

GIVE US SOME CRUMBS

Every few years, a movie about exorcisms comes out. While Hollywood has sensed exorcist movies still fascinate audiences, this draw to the paranormal suggests a connection in faith. Recent studies found the vast majority of 18-29-year-olds believe someone can become demonically possessed, while this age range is also abandoning the faith at an alarming rate. But, if they experience the dark extreme, they'll inevitably move back to the light.

Sooner or later when a person concludes the devil is real, they'll flock back to God. When a person experiences demonic activity and wholeheartedly desires to rid their life of this evil, their level of faith skyrockets which, in turn, increases their humility, prayer life, and sacramental need. Why? The sheer stupefying extremity of facing the horrors of evil will cause one to go "all-in" to their faith with dramatic intensity. In this state of a heightened need for God, people will readily admit their own failings and certainly won't care what other people think. In today's Gospel reading, we witness such a scene. A Canaanite woman's daughter is being demonically tormented. The Book of Genesis identifies the Canaanites as descendants of Canaan, a son of Ham, grandfather of Noah. Genesis 9:25 portrays an unfortunate episode involving Noah and Ham. In the fallout of the incident, Noah's grandson Canaan is said to be "cursed." Therefore, the Canaanites were descendants of the cursed line of Canaan, and this woman was likely feeling the effects of this curse in a very concrete way – her daughter was subject to demonic anguish. In her time of desperate need, she wisely turned to Jesus in humility and honesty.

Notice Christ did not coddle this woman, and three times denied her plea. In fact, He referred to her and the Canaanites in general as "dogs." Today, calling someone a "dog" goes over like a lead balloon in our emotionally sensitive culture that overemphasizes self-esteem. But, more is going under the surface in this exchange. Scholars suggest that Christ is testing her while revealing her faith to others. So while it looks like He's blowing her off, He's invoking a response from her to showcase what true humility looks like to others. Her reply discloses her genuine humility and need for Divine healing. The context of this conversation boils down to her saying, "Yes, my generational line is justly cursed to the point of lowly dogs, but even we dogs will gladly eat the scraps from your Divine banquet." To which Jesus marvels at her faith.

While we might not think we have a generational curse as this Canaanite woman experienced, it behooves us to contemplate the fact that we are all under the generational curse of Adam and Eve whenever we sin. That within us we hold the superficial messages of the world and have casually dismissed God's eternal laws. With a jarring call to repentance, we can emulate her response to humbly, persistently, and reverently flock to Jesus, knowing that a mere crumb from His Holy Eucharist will restore us.

SAINT MATTHEW NEWS

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.



SAINT MATTHEW DAY OF SERVICE

Saint Matthew is excited to offer a parish-wide day of service on Saturday, September 19. We are partnering with Graceworks to run their mobile food pantry from 7-11 a.m. at Fairview Middle School. We need 50 volunteers of all ages to help serve our neighbors and operate the pantry. Volunteers are asked to serve for the entire shift.

As you sign up, please only register volunteers who can actively serve. Young children who need to remain with a parent are welcome to join, but do not need their own RSVP. Older children who can volunteer independently should be included in your total.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE FALL CAMPAIGN

The Nashville 40 Days for Life Campaign starts on Wednesday, September 23, and runs through Sunday, November 1! This is a focused, 40-day prayer vigil helping to end abortion, a tragedy taking more than 50 million lives every year and the leading cause of death in the world. Thanks to Tennessee's strong pro-life laws, the Nashville Planned Parenthood is not doing abortions any longer, however women are regularly referred to out of state abortion clinics. A special kickoff rally is September 23, at 1:30 p.m. Learn more or sign up for a time to pray at 40daysforlife.com/nashville.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you or anyone you know is struggling with food, utilities, etc., Saint Matthew supports the following two non-profits 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.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

FALL SEMESTER KICKOFF

Our RISE High School Youth Ministry and our Forge Middle School Ministry are both holding their Fall Semester Kickoff events on Sunday, September 13, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

RISE is open to all 9th to 12th graders and meets most Sundays throughout the year. RISE gathers in the Parish Conference Center. RISE also holds a teen Bible Study on Tuesday evenings.

Forge is open to all parish 6th-8th graders and generally meets once a month. Additional opportunities for the youth to gather will be communicated as they become available. For the monthly meeting, Forge gathers in the Cohan-Hansom Building.

Please note that Forge is a supplemental middle school youth ministry program offered at Saint Matthew and is **NOT** Confirmation prep. Saint Matthew School students will receive Confirmation prep through their classes at SMS. All other students needing Confirmation prep should register for Ignite (QR on page 3). Students (including SMS students) are welcome to participate in both Ignite and Forge.

In the meantime, please register your children for the appropriate youth ministry program using the QR codes below.



BUILD THE NEXT GENERATION OF DISCIPLES

Our youth ministries are growing, and we're looking for adults who are willing to share their time, talents, and faith with the young people of Saint Matthew.

No previous youth ministry experience is needed - just a heart for serving. Whether you're comfortable leading discussions, organizing activities, welcoming teens, or providing a meal, there's a place for you.

High School (RISE) Core Team

Help plan RISE nights, give talks, lead games, and/or facilitate small-group discussions for students in grades 9-12. Team meetings will equip you with everything you need to serve confidently.

Middle School (Forge) Core Team

Help create a welcoming, faith-filled environment for students in grades 6-8 by assisting with planning, games, talks, and small-group discussions.

Perhaps your gift is through the kitchen.

We're also forming a team of volunteers to provide dinner for our youth on Sunday evenings. Preparing a meal is a simple but meaningful way to support our ministry and care for our teens and volunteers. Visit bit.ly/smcygfood to help with dinners.

Interested?

Scan below to get involved or contact Michaela at mmiller@stmatthewtn.org with any questions.



TONY JESSE
Director of Religious Education
tjesse@stmatthewtn.org
615-550-5100



MICHAELA MILLER
Director of Youth Ministry
mmiller@stmatthewtn.org
615-550-5102



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

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

PASTORAL STAFF



Father Justin Raines
Pastor
frraines@stmatthewtn.org



Father Anthony Stewart
Associate Pastor
franthony@stmatthewtn.org



Bill Forte
Deacon
bforte@stmatthewtn.org



Rebecca Harding
Dir. of Music Ministry
rharding@stmatthewtn.org



Tony Jesse
Dir. of Religious Ed.
tjesse@stmatthewtn.org



Michaela Miller
Dir. of Youth Ministry
mmiller@stmatthewtn.org



Kelly Ott
Pastoral Associate
kott@stmatthewtn.org

BUSINESS STAFF



Leslie Holt
Director of Operations
lholt@stmatthewtn.org



Dr. Anthony Simpson
SMS Principal
asimpson@stmatthewtn.org



Lori Bellante
SMS Advancement Director
lbellante@stmatthewtn.org



Bill Stewart
Dir. of Finance
bstewart@stmatthewtn.org



Alex Halfmann
Dir. Comm./Stewardship
ahalfmann@stmatthewtn.org



Lisa Newman
Accounts Payable Clerk
lnewman@stmatthewtn.org



Colleen Curran
Facility Coordinator
ccurran@stmatthewtn.org

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

www.stmatthewtn.org

