



Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 + TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER



The Lord is kind and
merciful, slow to anger
and rich in compassion.

Psalm 103:8

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 | 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.
First Friday | 8:30 - 9:30 a.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

OCIA MEET & GREET ON TUESDAY

Are you or someone you know longing to know the Catholic faith more deeply, exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic, or seeking to enter into full communion with the Church? Join us for an OCIA Meet and Greet on Tuesday, September 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Center. It is a no-pressure opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and meet those involved in the OCIA journey.

Invite someone who may be interested and join us! Questions? Email tjesse@stmatthewtn.org. If you are ready to start the OCIA journey, fill out the interest form through the QR code.



LITURGY SCHEDULE (SEPTEMBER 12-18)

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ Souls in Purgatory

8:30 a.m. Mass

✠ For the People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Scott McRae

• Sirach 27:30—28:7

• Romans 14:7-9

• Matthew 18:21-35

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Jack Mills

• Numbers 21:4b-9

• Philippians 2:6-11

• John 3:13-17

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Monte and Felinto de Oliveira Families

• 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a

• John 19:25-27

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Saints Cornelius and Cyprian

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ Jack Mills

• 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13

• Luke 7:31-35

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ For All Those Serving in our Liturgical Ministries

• 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

• Luke 7:36-50

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Brent Stremel

• 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

• Luke 8:1-3

✠ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*

OKTOBERFEST

Festival

Music by
Joe Pouliot
& The
Rhythm Kings



FREE
ENTRY

FREE
FOOD

BEER &
WINE

9.19.2026. 6 P.M.

RSVP

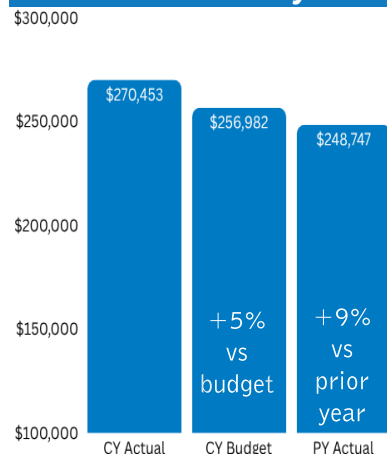


STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

~ FOR THE WEEK OF AUG 31 - SEPT 6 ~

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$28,569
BUILDING MAINT. & FACILITIES	\$567

YTD Summary



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



Second Collections

This Week:

Catholic University of America

Next Week:

Feast of Saint Matthew

Registered Parish Families: 1,339

WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

Join the Saint Matthew Women's Club for a social afternoon as they kick off a new year with new leadership. This casual afternoon is a great opportunity to meet new friends, catch up with old ones, enjoy a special moment of prayer together as women, and learn about the plans for the year.

The kickoff is today, Sunday, Sept. 13, at noon in the Parish Conference Center. Light refreshments will be served. Babies in laps are welcome. Can't make today, but want to stay in the loop, email womensclub@stmatthewtn.org.

EMHC TRAINING

Serve the Church as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. EMHC training is being held for **all current and interested ministers**. Attendance at one session is mandatory for those who wish to continue or begin serving as an EMHC. Times are:

- Thursday, September 17 | 6:30 p.m. | Church
- Sunday, September 27 | Noon | Church

If you cannot attend either session, please contact Kelly Ott at kott@stmatthewtn.org to make other arrangements.

HALFWAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is hosting a halfway to Saint Patrick's Day celebration on Thursday, Sept. 17, on the patio at Rippy's on Highway 100 at 6 p.m. Wear Green!

MEN'S SCHOLA SINGING

The Men's Schola is singing next Sunday, Sept. 20, at 8:30 a.m. Mass. The schola sings traditional hymns of the Church primarily in Latin. Join us for this beautiful celebration of the Mass.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

All men are invited to join the Knights of Columbus on Monday, Sept. 14. Come for faith formation at 6:30 p.m., the meeting at 7 p.m. in the Saint Henry Parish Office, and food, drinks, and fraternity afterward around 8 p.m. Council 12012 proudly serves men of both Saint Matthew and Saint Henry. Email kofc12012@gmail.com for more information.

NEW PARISHIONER RECEPTION

New to Saint Matthew—or just looking to get more connected?



RSVP

Join us for a warm and welcoming reception to the Saint Matthew community. Enjoy light refreshments and learn more about our vibrant parish. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends and get involved in the life of the church. We can't wait to see you there!

Sunday, Sept. 20, 9:30 a.m., Parish Conference Center

FEAST OF SAINT MATTHEW - SEPT. 21

Let's celebrate the feast of Saint Matthew together as a community. Join us for a special Mass at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 21, and then enjoy a free dinner in the Cohan-Hansom Building. Scan to RSVP.



Theology & CULTURE

Sunday, Sept. 27
9:45-10:45 a.m.
Parish Conference Center

*Technology, AI, and Catholicism:
Exploring Magnifica Humanitas*

Led by Tommy Killackey

LOVE TO COOK?

Our Youth Ministry team is looking for volunteers willing to cook dinner for our youth on Sunday evenings. Providing a home-cooked meal is a simple but meaningful way to support our teens and volunteers. Cooking volunteers will work with the Director of Youth Ministry to plan a menu, and the church will cover the cost of food.



Community Sunday Signup

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE
COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS ON
SUNDAY, OCT. 4

QUESTIONS?
CCURRAN@STMATTHEWTON.ORG



Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

Saint Matthew School students are settling into the school year, and just reached the halfway point of the first quarter. Although the school year is still young, our students have accomplished so much. This week, our students collected food for the St. Vincent de Paul Society (see pic on pg. 5). All grades brought in different items on Wednesday morning, and our National Junior Honor Society and Student Council members helped to collect and sort the items. The volume of items brought in by our families was truly astounding, and I know the SVdP Society was so appreciative of our help. Moments like this remind me of how we are all called to help our neighbors and serve others. The students at SMS continuously receive this message, and practice it on a daily basis. This will certainly not be the last act of service by our SMS students this year. They are already preparing class collections and other service opportunities for the months ahead. Please continue to pray for our students, as we will continue to pray for you, our parishioners.

Saint Matthew Market
ATTENTION VENDORS
SCAN HERE TO APPLY!

QR CODE

HANDMADE ITEMS • ART • JEWELRY • FOOD • SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1

533 SNEED RD. W FRANKLIN, TN

JOIN US FOR
MANE EVENT
SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL
HAVANA
October 3, 2026 *Nights*

PRESENTING SPONSOR
MID-TENN FORD
615-259-2050
www.midtennfordtrucks.com

Tickets Sponsorships Event Details

GET YOUR MANE EVENT TICKETS NOW

Get your tickets for Mane Event: Havana Nights! This is SMS' largest fundraiser. Tickets include dinner, drinks, music, and live and silent auctions. Football games will be streaming too. Don't miss out on the experiences and get your tickets now!

Please join us to learn more about Saint Matthew School and what it means to live out our motto of
+Seeking Knowledge + Modeling Christ + Serving Others+

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

OPEN HOUSE

QR CODE

SMS
Saint Matthew School
Apple Distinguished School

2026 NICHIE BEST SCHOOLS WINNER WILLIAMSON COUNTY BEST SCHOOLS

REGISTER AT WWW.STMATTHEWTN.ORG/SCHOOL

MINISTRY NEWS

CUB SCOUTS

It's not too late to sign your kid up for Cub Scouts! Join the scouts this afternoon at 1 p.m. in the Cohan-Hansom Building for their pack meeting. Pack 287 is a family pack for K–5th graders, welcoming both boys and girls based here at Saint Matthew. Our scouts enjoy all kinds of activities, including camping, hiking, service projects, religion, Pinewood Derby car building, learning life skills, building and racing boats, and so much more! The whole family is welcome to participate. Register at bit.ly/pack287. For more information, email Doug Kennedy at pack287@stmatthewtn.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE

Our Knights of Columbus council is partnering with the Red Cross to host a blood drive on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Saint Henry dining hall. Pre-register at redcross.org.

SVDP THANK YOU

The Saint Matthew St. Vincent de Paul Society extends a heartfelt thank-you to the entire SMS community for their generosity during this week's food drive. Thank you, especially to the parents, for being exemplary Good Samaritans! Because of your generosity and Christian love, our pantry is well stocked with nourishing food for the poor and hungry families we encounter through our ministry. We interview each family in person and tailor every food box to the needs of each Neighbor in Need, ensuring no food is wasted.



SVdP FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK/RUN



8TH ANNUAL
FRIENDS OF THE POOR
5K WALK/RUN

All proceeds benefit our neighbors in need including,
FOOD, RENT, UTILITIES, MEDICINE, ETC...

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26

8 A.M. REGISTRATION OPENS
9 A.M. RACE START



Scan to register, sign up as a sponsor, and learn more about this great community event, or visit:

Donation:

- \$20 Adults (16+)
- \$10 Kids
- \$50 Family Friendly Rate

Location:

St. Cecilia Academy Track
4210 Harding Pike

www.bit.ly/svdwalkrun26

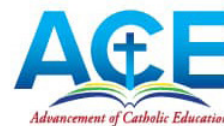
The Saint Matthew Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society invites you to their 8th annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run on Saturday, Sept. 26. Enjoy a refreshing morning strolling the beautiful Dominican campus while also helping your brothers and sisters in need. This family-friendly event offers a great opportunity to have fun with your kids while teaching them to help others. Scan the QR code above to learn more, register, or become a sponsor.

Need Assistance? Call our SVdP hotline at 615-550-5130. All calls are handled completely anonymously.

ACE DINNER

Featuring the Pearls of Wisdom Auction

WEDNESDAY | SEPT. 30, 2026 | 6:00-9:00PM



DioceseofNashville.com/ACE

TONY'S REFLECTION

FORGIVENESS OVER VENGEANCE

The classic film "The Count of Monte Cristo" depicts the destructive nature of vengeance. In this story, a young man named Edmond Dantès is set up by conspirators and unjustly thrown in jail. While in prison, the natural desire for justice turns inward, and he becomes consumed with revenge. He escapes years later and finds a hidden treasure. He uses his new wealth to plan retribution against the men who betrayed him. However, the Count's vengeance inflicts collateral damage on innocent children, causing him to question his right to play God. Realizing that human justice must be tempered with mercy, he halts his dark plot to restore peace in his life.

In this story, there is an important distinction between justice and revenge. Justice seeks to bring peace in society and salvation to souls. Justice ultimately belongs to God. Revenge aims to quench one's distaste of the other. Revenge is rooted in harming the one who caused injury to you. Revenge can quickly segue into retaliation. In the matter of vengeance, we must consider the mind of the avenger. If his intention is directed chiefly to the evil of the person, rather than a side effect in restoring justice, his vengeance falls into the trappings of sin. The intention is everything. Vengeance in its true sense belongs to God, not to the human person. St. Paul implores it in Romans 12, "Vengeance is mine, says the Lord." Vengeance in a Biblical sense has a meaning: a plea for divine justice and a righteous demand for reparation when a grave injury is placed upon a person. When a human being seizes vengeance for themselves – acting as judge, jury, and executioner driven by wounded pride – they are usurping what belongs to God alone and placing their disordered wrath above divine wisdom.

In our Gospel reading, a debt is owed to a king, and another debt is owed to the king's servant. The king forgives the servant's astronomically large debt, but the servant doesn't forgive a lesser debt owed to him by one of his workers. The message of the Gospel should strike us: the offenses done to us by others in this life can be serious. However, it pales in comparison with the debt of sin we owe to God - so great as to be incomprehensible from our standpoint. Therefore, having experienced the lavish forgiveness of God, we should be willing to excuse the minor offenses of our fellow humans, and in this way become God-like, since forgiveness is a divine attribute.

Yes, in our petty human pride, letting go of past injuries inflicted on us is challenging. To forgive, you must reach the mental capacity in which you can confidently affirm, "I release you from the debt that you owe me and give it into God's hands."

Let God handle justice. Certainly, you can participate in assisting divine judgment, but so long as you let God play the lead role and not put your personal feelings into the larger equation. At the end, Edmond Dantès reflects on the limits of human vengeance and the necessity of divine patience and professes the wise words, "Wait and hope."

FAITH & COMMUNITY

SAINT MATTHEW DAY OF SERVICE

All spots have been filled for our Day of Service with Graceworks on Saturday, Sept. 19. To join the waitlist, please email Alex Halfmann at ahalfmann@stmatthewtn.org. If you have previously registered and can no longer make it, please cancel your registration online and email Alex so we can ensure we have all 50 spots filled. Thank you!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The 40 Days for Life campaign is a focused 40-day prayer vigil for an end to abortion. While Planned Parenthood locations in Tennessee no longer perform abortions due to state pro-life laws, they continue to refer women to out-of-state abortion providers. Your prayers can help save precious preborn lives. The campaign begins on Wednesday, Sept. 23. See special campaign events and register for a timeslot to pray at 40daysforlife.com/nashville.



LAITY THEOLOGY PROGRAM

Seek God through prayer, study, and a tradition of Benedictine hospitality. The Saint Meinrad Graduate Theology Program invites you to learn about its MA and certificates in theology during an online Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 6:30 pm, or an in-person Open House on Saturday, Oct. 10. Discover how theological study can enrich your faith and your service to the Church. Learn more at www.saintmeinrad.edu/openhouse.



POST-MASTER'S SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Do you feel called to accompany others in their journey of faith? Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology's Post-Master's Certificate in Spiritual Direction prepares more experienced students to serve as spiritual directors through theological study, formation, and supervised practice rooted in the Benedictine tradition. A new certificate cohort is forming now. Learn more and register by Oct. 1 to save your spot at www.saintmeinrad.edu/SD.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

FORGE KICK-OFF!



SEPT 13

5:30 - 7:30 PM
on SPORTS FIELD

What to Expect:

- ✓ Games
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Info about the year

ABOUT OUR FORGE NIGHTS

Forge nights combine faith, fellowship, and fun. Middle school students pray, play, eat, and grow their faith together through games, presentations, and small group discussions. Hope to see your middle schooler there!

✉ forge@stmatthewtn.org

REGISTER HERE



RISE
SAINT MATTHEW YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth KICK-OFF

FOOD - FAITH - FELLOWSHIP

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13** IN THE PCC
5:30-7:30PM

ALL 9-12TH GRADERS WELCOME

REGISTER

REGISTER FOR FORGE KICKOFF

All 6-8th graders are invited to join our Forge Middle School Ministry program for their 2026-2027 kickoff this evening, Sunday, Sept. 13, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Middle schoolers will enjoy a night of messy games, food, and fun with friends! Be sure to wear clothes and shoes you can get dirty/wet in. Don't forget a towel for pick up! Register via the QR code in the above graphic! The location is now the athletic field.

RISE
SAINT MATTHEW YOUTH MINISTRY

BIBLE STUDY

BEGINNING

September 16th

Wednesdays
6-7 p.m. Adoration & Confession
7 p.m. Mass
7:30-8:30 p.m. Pizza and Bible Study

*Come to as much or as little as you can.
All 9-12th graders welcome!*

Register for RISE

2026-2027 Registrations

RISE

Contact
mmiller@stmatthewtn.org

Forge

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.



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

