



Saint Matthew

CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 + TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER



“Follow Me”

Matthew 9:9

The Calling of Saint Matthew, Caravaggio, 1600

NORMAL WEEKLY 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.

*6 p.m. Mass Mon. for Feast of Saint Matthew

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

NEW PARISHIONER RECEPTION

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

Join us for a warm and welcoming reception to the Saint Matthew community. Enjoy light refreshments and learn more about our vibrant parish. Mingle with our priests and a few ministry leaders. 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

LITURGY SCHEDULE

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ Mary Dabrowiak

8:30 a.m. Mass

✦ For All Catechists Who Teach the Catholic Faith to Others

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of the Parish
• Isaiah 55:6-9
• Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
• Matthew 20:1-16a

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Solemnity of Saint Matthew

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of the Parish

6:00 p.m. Mass

✦ For Founding Members of Saint Matthew
• Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13
• 1 John 5:1-5
• Matthew 9:9-13

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Jack Mills

• Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13
• Luke 8:19-21

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina

7:00 p.m. Mass

✦ Phil Walsh

• Proverbs 30:5-9
• Luke 9:1-6

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Souls in Purgatory

• Ecclesiastes 1:2-11
• Luke 9:7-9

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

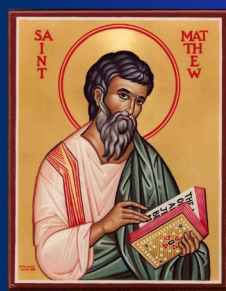
8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Jimmy Lawson

• Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
• Luke 9:18-22

✦ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*



Feast of Saint Matthew



Monday, September 21

Mass at 6 p.m.
FREE Community Dinner follows

RSVP



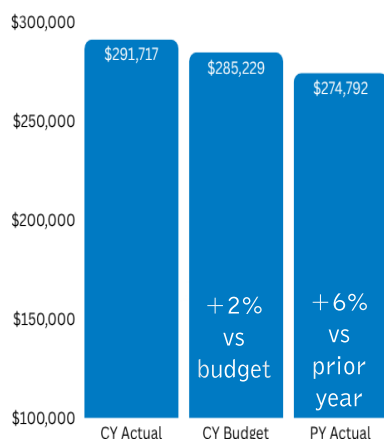
8 a.m. Mass will be celebrated in the church as an all-school Mass

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

~ FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 7-13 ~

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$21,239
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA	\$90

YTD Summary



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



Second Collections

This Week:

Feast of Saint Matthew

Next Week:

St. Vincent de Paul

Registered Parish Families: 1,341

FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK/RUN SATURDAY





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



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

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



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



Location:
St. Cecilia Academy Track
4210 Harding Pike

www.bit.ly/svdpwalkrun26

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 anonymously.

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. Thank you for helping feed our youth!



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



SERVE THE CHURCH AS AN EMHC

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion training is being held for all current and interested ministers. Attendance is required for anyone who wishes to continue or begin serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. The next training session is Sunday, Sept. 27, at noon in the church.

You only need to attend one session. If you attended last week's training, you do not need to attend this session. If you cannot attend either session and would like to serve as an EMHC, please contact Kelly Ott at kott@stmatthewtn.org to make other arrangements.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Spend some quiet time with Jesus during our First Friday Adoration on Friday, October 2. 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/smceffaot26 to help us ensure someone is present with the Lord at all times.



SIGN UP TO HELP AT A COMMUNITY SUNDAY



Community Sunday Signup



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

QUESTIONS?
CCURRAN@STMATTHEWTN.ORG






Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

We have had another great week here at Saint Matthew School, and we are officially through the first half of the first quarter! Our students are settled into their routines and hard at work with their learning.

This week, our teachers had the opportunity to continue their own learning through a diocesan in-service. A portion of our teachers went to Saint Henry for math and English professional development, while the other half went to Holy Rosary for professional development focused on Catholicity in the classroom. Opportunities like these are so valuable for our teachers. They have the chance to spend time with other teachers from across the Diocese of Nashville, discuss different strategies and approaches, and continue growing in their own knowledge and skills. This ongoing learning positively impacts the students in our building.

I am so thankful that our teachers are lifelong learners, which is one of the many reasons they are such amazing teachers. As we look ahead to next week, we are excited to celebrate the Feast of Saint Matthew!

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
Ford
615-259-2050
www.midtenfordtrucks.com

Tickets
Sponsorships
Event Details

QR CODE

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 NICHÉ BEST SCHOOLS
2024 WILLIAMSBURG BEST SCHOOLS

REGISTER AT WWW.STMATTHEWTN.ORG/SCHOOL

MINISTRY NEWS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE

Our Knights of Columbus council is partnering with the Red Cross to host a blood drive today, Sunday, Sept. 20, until 12:30 p.m. in the Saint Henry dining hall. Walk-ins are welcome or save your spot below.

**American Red Cross**

Give a life-saving donation



SAINT HENRY SCHOOL DINING HALL
SEPTEMBER 20
8:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.
HOSTED BY
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
SIGN UP FOR YOUR BLOOD DRIVE APPOINTMENT**

CALLING ALL MEN: THAT MAN IS YOU!

That Man Is You! has returned to Saint Matthew for another year! This dynamic men's program addresses the pressures and temptations men face in today's culture, particularly in their roles as husbands and fathers. Through a combination of current social and medical science, Church teaching, and the wisdom of the saints, TMIY helps men develop the vision of becoming men fully alive.

Open to all men, the group is now meeting weekly on Saturday mornings at 7 a.m. in the Parish Conference Center. Scan the QR code to learn more and fill out an interest form. For questions, contact Aaron Frankovic at aaron.frankovic@gmail.com.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE STARTS WEDNESDAY

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 time slot to pray at 40daysforlife.com/nashville.



PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

Join the Passion of Christ Prayer Group next Sunday, Sept. 27, 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.

SVDP THANK YOU

Thank you to all our Religious Education families who contributed to our Saint Vincent de Paul food drive last weekend. We are so grateful for your generosity and support of SVdP. It is beautiful to see our Religious Education and Saint Matthew School families come together for one shared food drive and put our faith into action. Thank you for teaching our children that faith is not only something we learn—it is something we live.

JOIN SAINT JOSEPH'S MEN

Saint Joseph's Men is a parish ministry enabling men to become better disciples, husbands, fathers, and members of our parish through the inspiration and model of Saint Joseph. Saint Joseph's Men meets Thursday nights and explores ways to learn and live out the faith. Visit bit.ly/smestjosephsmen.



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

CELEBRATING THE CATECHISTS

Today is "Catechetical Sunday" as the Church celebrates the important role of catechists. The ancient role of the catechist dates back to St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, where the apostle refers to "teachers." These "teachers" he references play a prominent role in the Church's mission to save souls.

A catechist is tasked with forming the intellect of young minds toward the true, the good, and the beautiful. Helping shape the intellect is no small matter, for when the mind grasps the faith, the faith will necessarily begin to take off. St. Paul preached, "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (cf. CCC 74). The prophet Hosea made it clear that the reason people are spiritually desolate is that they have no knowledge of God. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). In fact, the personal encounter with Christ we crave will happen best as one gains knowledge of Christ, as you cannot love what you do not know. The brain is like an important muscle. If you don't use it the right way, you lose it. Therefore, the catechist who works to implant Jesus's teaching into people's minds is involved in a high-stakes mission built to positively affect others' spiritual journey, all while helping their own.

The Greek word for "catechist" means "to echo." To serve as an echo is to repeat God's teaching so it reverberates in one's mind and implants God's wisdom into their psyche. The term "catechism" is used to denote a textual framework designed to present the faith in a concise and orderly way, often in a question-answer format evoking oral instruction, as "faith cometh by hearing" (Romans 10:17). Traditional Catholicism doesn't present a dumbed-down Christianity incapable of answering the pressing questions of today's youth. Therefore, it behooves the catechist to make sure his or her mind is ordered toward the divine.

The role of a catechist is not glitzy. It is, at times, challenging and often goes without deserved recognition. But, like a workout program, the perceived heartaches and spiritual strains end up forming a healthy, well-crafted soul. As Jesus teaches, it is always in the selfless giving to others that we are immersed in God's graces.

The majority of catechists are parents, echoing the Church's assessment that "parents are the primary educators" of their children. Those who extend this teaching office to others receive an important job within the mystical body of Christ. Graced with this mission, one encounters a resurgence of the faith, for no longer do they stand aloof, walking in a ho-hum manner void of any drive. Doing a highly important spiritual mission of the Church will elicit meaning, purpose, and reinvigoration to move with a holy urgency. Throughout the centuries, in the absence of priests, the faith has been kept alive thanks to the army of catechists who have spent and even sacrificed their lives to transfer the faith to others. Let us give our appreciation to our catechists. Their work with our youth goes a long way in shaping the future of the Church.

FAITH & COMMUNITY

FULTON SHEEN BEATIFICATION

On Thursday, Sept. 24, the Church celebrates the Beatification of Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. One of America's most beloved Catholic evangelists, Archbishop Sheen used television, radio, preaching, and writing to bring the Gospel to millions and called people to a deeper love of Jesus Christ, the Eucharist, and Our Blessed Mother.

Beatification is an important step toward canonization. Following Beatification, Archbishop Sheen will be given the title Blessed. His Beatification is a joyful opportunity for Catholics to give thanks for his life and witness and to ask that his example inspire us to share Christ with others. Learn more about Fulton Sheen, events surrounding his beatification, livestream information, and prayers related to him and his cause at celebratesheen.com.

All are invited to pray the following prayer:

Prayer for Canonization

Heavenly Father, source of all holiness, You raise up within the Church in every age men and women who serve with heroic love and dedication. You have blessed Your Church through the life and ministry of Your faithful servant, **Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen**. He has written and spoken well of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, and was a true instrument of the Holy Spirit in touching the hearts of countless people.

If it be according to Your Will, for the honor and glory of the Most Holy Trinity and for the salvation of souls, we ask You to move the Church to proclaim him a saint. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Venerable Fulton Sheen, Pray For Us

RELAY FOR LIFE

Father Ryan will host the 18th Annual Relay For Life on Saturday, Sept. 26, beginning at noon in Giacosa Stadium. This is the #1 student-run Relay For Life in the nation, having raised more than \$2 million for cancer research and support. The event runs through 8 p.m. with games, activities, music and celebration, all beginning with the Survivor Walk. More information is available at fatherryan.org/relayforlife

RISE YOUTH MINISTRY

NOT GETTING WEEKLY RISE EMAILS!

Parents, are you receiving the weekly RISE emails? These emails include information about upcoming events, weekly topics, and everything you need to know about RISE. Our email list has recently been updated to only include families who have registered for RISE this year. If your child is participating in RISE but you are no longer receiving the weekly emails, please make sure you have completed this year's RISE registration. You can register using the link below and share it with other families who may be interested in RISE.

THIS WEEK AT RISE

About tonight's RISE Night: Ever wonder how we can actually know that God exists? Join us at RISE for "1 to 1" as we explore how the world around us, our own experiences, Scripture, and the Church help us discover who God is. We'll kick things off with a fun game, dive into the big questions in small groups, and end the night with prayer and reflection.

Teen Bible Study: Our Teen Bible Study is back up and running. All teens are invited to this intimate and faith-filled Bible study. Come early if your schedule allows for a more fruitful night.



2026-2027
Youth Ministry
Registrations

Contact
mmiller@stmatthewtn.org

RISE (H.S.) Forge (M.S.)



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

HIGH SCHOOL FALL RETREAT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



Filius Dei Sum
I Am a Child of God
Soy hijo/a de Dios

HIGH SCHOOL
FALL RETREAT

At Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center
Featuring Speaker Alex Gotay, also known as Dr. G

En el Campamento Juvenil Católico y Centro de Retiros Gasper River
Con la participación del orador Alex Gotay, también conocido como Dr. G.

Hosted in partnership with

OCTOBER
OCTUBRE
23-25

Saint Matthew is partnering with several other youth groups for our 2026 Fall Retreat: *Filius Dei Sum*, or *I am a Child of God*. The cost is \$150 per child. Financial assistance is available by contacting Michaela. Scan the QR code for more details and to register.



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

