

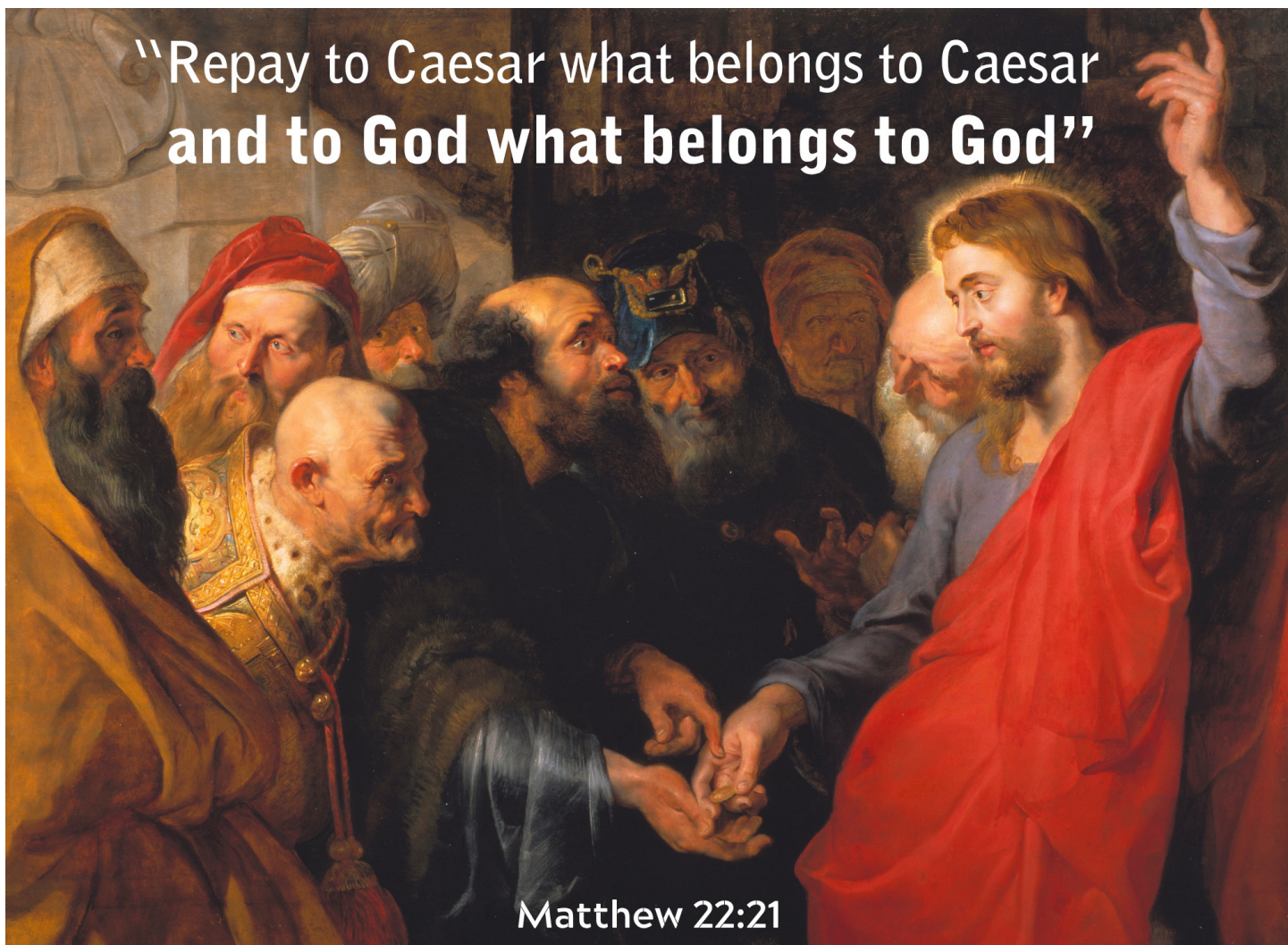


Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

OCTOBER 18, 2026 + TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER

“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God”



Matthew 22:21

The Tribute Money, Peter Rubens, Circa 1612

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

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: COLUMBARIUM SURVEY

Saint Matthew is exploring the possibility of developing a columbarium on parish property as an option for parishioners and their families who wish to have a Catholic burial place for cremated remains. A columbarium would provide a permanent, sacred place of rest and remembrance where families can visit, pray and honor those who have passed away.

At least 33% of registered families must complete this feasibility survey. Your feedback is important, and every response brings us closer to reaching that goal.

Please scan the QR code below or stop by the table in the narthex to complete a paper survey before you leave today. The survey consists of just three questions and takes less than one minute. Thank you for helping guide this important decision for our parish.



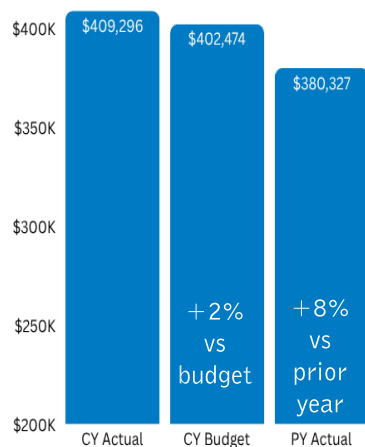
PLEASE TAKE OUR
**COLUMBARIUM
SURVEY**

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

~ FOR THE WEEK OF OCT 5-11 ~

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$25,421
SEMINARIAN EDUCATION	\$480

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
World Mission Sunday
Next Week:
Charity and Outreach

Registered Parish Families: 1,351



LITURGY SCHEDULE OCTOBER 17-23

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

✠ James Olenick

8:30 a.m. Mass

✠ Bill Huffaker

11:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For the People of the Parish

• Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

• 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

• Matthew 22:15-21

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

Sts. John de Brébeuf & Isaac Jogues

8:00 a.m. Mass

✠ Bob Soroachak

• Ephesians 2:1-10

• Luke 12:13-21

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Alan Robinson

• Ephesians 2:12-22

• Luke 12:35-38

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

7:00 p.m. Mass

✠ Bettie Jane Jeffers

• Ephesians 3:2-12

• Luke 12:39-48

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

Saint Teresa of Jesus

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For Bob Armour

• Ephesians 3:14-21

• Luke 12:49-53

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

8:00 a.m. Mass

✦ For the Roberts Family

• Ephesians 4:1-6

• Luke 12:54-59

✦ **Special Intention**

✠ *May they rest in peace*

TO RESERVE MASS INTENTIONS,

VISIT BIT.LY/SMCMASSENTENTION

COME PRAY THE ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL
FOLLOWING 8 A.M. WEEKDAY MASSES

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, Oct. 19, 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.

RESPECT LIFE NOVENA STARTS OCT. 22

October is Respect Life Month. Saint Matthew is joining thousands of Catholics in praying for the protection of human life—from conception to natural death with the Respect Life Month Novena from Oct. 22-30. Join us as we pray the novena along with the Rosary for the Unborn each day at noon in the chapel beginning on Thursday, Oct. 22. You can also pray along at home. Find the prayers at bit.ly/smerlmn.

GET INVOLVED WITH ROOM IN THE INN

Our Room In The Inn Ministry is gearing up for the winter season, and you can help make a difference for men experiencing homelessness in Nashville. Warm winter coats are the greatest need, but all items listed are appreciated. Please **only donate men's warm winter clothing**, and be sure all clothing is clean before donating.

We also need volunteers to help make this ministry possible! Scan the QR code below to learn more and get involved with this great ministry. Thank you for helping us share Christ's love with our neighbors.

Winter COAT DRIVE
MEN'S CLOTHING ONLY PLEASE

ROOM IN THE INN

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- ✓ Warm Winter Coats (new & gently used)
- ✓ Athletic Shoes (new & gently used)
- ✓ Blue Jeans and Belts (new & gently used)
- ✓ Sweatpants/Hoodies/Sweatshirts (new & gently used)
- ✓ Winter Hats & Gloves (new & gently used)
- ✓ See Amazon Wish List for additional items
- ✓ Volunteers

Donations accepted
October 14-26 in the Narthex.

Questions?
Rhea Forte 615-828-5950
Mary Peters 615-308-1930

Volunteer with RITI

TRUNK OR TREAT

CANDY, FUN & SPOOKY GOOD TIMES!

DATE: Sunday, October 25
TIME: 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
LOCATION: Saint Matthew Catholic Church

BRING YOUR BAG AND COME JOIN THE FUN!

Sponsored by
ST. GIANNA CIRCLE

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE - NOV. 2

On All Souls' Day, we will gather for our Mass of Remembrance at 7 p.m. to prayerfully remember those we have lost and commend them to God's loving care. If you have lost a loved one this past year (between November 2025 and the present), please email bereavement@stmatthewtn.org to have their name included in the Mass.

You are also invited to honor loved ones who have died at any time by adding their names to our Book of Remembrance. The book will be available in the narthex until October 31. During the Mass of Remembrance, it will be displayed as we come together in prayer and remembrance.

READY TO DISCOVER THE SAINT MATTHEW DIFFERENCE?

Seeking Knowledge + Modeling Christ +
Serving Others

**COFFEE
WITH THE
PRINCIPAL**




**Wednesday
OCTOBER 21
8:15am**

**WE SAVED
YOU A
SEAT!**



Register online
www.stmatthewtn.org/school/admissions
Zoom and in-person options available.



SAINT MATTHEW SCHOOL

**VOTED BEST
PRE-K & MIDDLE SCHOOL
IN NASHVILLE!**

We are honored to be recognized in Nashville Scene's 38th annual Best of Nashville issue as the

- #1 Best Pre-K School
- #1 Best Middle School
- and #2 Best Elementary School!

Thank you to our students, families, faculty, and community for your continued support!




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




Saint Matthew School
Apple Distinguished School






**Calling all Veterans:
You're Invited!**

We are excited to honor our parish veterans at a special Veterans Day celebration, hosted by our Saint Matthew fifth graders.

Join us so we can celebrate and thank you for your service. Following a performance, our veterans and their family members are invited to join us for refreshments in the Parish Conference Center. The event is **Monday, Nov. 9, 2026, at 8:15 a.m.** in the SMS gym. Doors open at 8 a.m.

Please RSVP by Friday, Nov. 6. You can also submit names of veterans who are unable to join us and we will pray for them.




bit.ly/smsvetday26

CATHOLIC NEWS AND NOTES

PRAYER FOR POPE LEO

Please keep our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, in your prayers. On Tuesday, he underwent surgery, during which lung cancer was discovered and a portion of his lung was removed. Join us in praying for the Holy Father as he faces this health challenge.

Lord Jesus, we entrust to You our Holy Father, Pope Leo, as he recovers from lung surgery. Grant him the grace of serenity, and guide those who care for him, that they may act with wisdom and attentiveness. Grant him a swift and complete recovery, freeing him from all suffering. Mary, Comforter of the Afflicted, protect him under your mantle and be at his side at every moment. Amen.

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

The Saint Matthew Passion of Christ Prayer Group invites you to join them on Sunday, Oct. 25, 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.

LADIES OF CHARITY FALL SALE

The Ladies of Charity of Nashville will continue its Fall/Winter Clothing Sale through Saturday, Oct. 31, at the Ladies of Charity Thrift Shop, 2216 State St., in Nashville. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. All proceeds support rent and food assistance in the Emergency Assistance Office.

CAMP MARYMOUNT SUMMER CAMPS

Registration for Summer 2027 is officially open, and we cannot wait to welcome returning and new campers back for another summer of faith, friendship, adventure, and time outdoors. Space can fill quickly, so families should reserve their camper's spot soon! Learn more at campmarymount.com/summer-camp.

SEARCH RETREATS

SEARCH is a weekend retreat held at Camp Marymount that invites high school juniors and seniors to deepen their faith, encounter Jesus Christ and grow in their relationship with Him. Through prayer, reflection and fellowship with other teens, participants are encouraged to discover God's presence in their lives. Retreats dates are Nov. 20-22, Jan. 15-17, Feb. 12-14, and Apr. 23-25. Learn more and register at nashvillefaithformation.com/search.



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

WHOSE IMAGE IS ON IT?

G. K. Chesterton once said, "Those who say you can't talk about politics and religion are removing the two most intriguing things worth talking about." This Sunday's readings concern, in part, the interaction of religion and politics in the rule of God vs. the rule of men. The Scriptures affirm ultimate control of human history is in the hands of God. Governments rise and fall by God's permission, with no authority but that given from above (John 19:11; Romans 13:1). In effect, God says to every ruler what He tells King Cyrus in today's First Reading: "I have called you ... though you knew me not."

Whatever political intentions Cyrus had in mind, his actions were ultimately part of God's providential plan to restore the Jews to their homeland (see Ezra 1:1-4). Throughout salvation history, God has used foreign rulers for the sake of His chosen people. Pharaoh's heart was hardened to reveal God's power. Invading armies were used to punish Israel's sins. It is often difficult to perceive any method to the madness of world politics, but God can work through any means.

The political jousting continues in the Gospel reading. Here, the Jewish leaders try to dupe Jesus in a political dilemma, much like TV interviewers try to entrap politicians they don't like with a no-win political question. In this case, the Herodians and Pharisees set up a trap for Jesus in which they perceived no right answer to their question about paying taxes to Caesar. If Jesus says, "It is right to pay taxes," they will spread news that Jesus supports this tyrannical Roman regime. On the other hand, if Jesus says, "It is wrong to pay taxes," they will immediately report him to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate for punishment.

But Jesus was more than a match for their shenanigans. The meaning of his response, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar," can be understood like this: "If you are going to participate in the Roman currency system and benefit from it, you must also be willing to play by its rules." Both the Pharisees and the Sadducees benefited from the Roman tax system as it allowed them to tax Jewish subjects for the "support" of the Temple. Moreover, Jesus hints that taxation is a byproduct of Israel's sins. Had they not turned their back on God, they would not be subject to Roman rule and Roman tax.

We owe the government a concern for the common good and obedience to laws—unless they conflict with God's commandments as interpreted by the Church (see Acts 5:29). Jesus is having us reflect on something deeper – the coin bears Caesar's image so they can give his coins back to him. But every human is stamped with God's image. Therefore, we owe God something much greater—all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, offered as a living sacrifice of love. Yet, for all that, the goal of human existence is not the perfect earthly society that politics try to create. The goal of human existence is union with God the Father, Son, and Spirit. And only Jesus Christ is "stamped" with the "face of the Father."

FAITH & COMMUNITY

DIOCESAN RED MASS

Bishop Spalding will celebrate the Red Mass for legal professionals on Friday, Oct. 23, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. All are welcome. For more details, visit nashvillefaithformation.com.

MAGNIFICAT MEAL

Magnificat is a Catholic ministry encouraging women to grow in holiness through faith-sharing, prayer, and openness to the Holy Spirit. The Nashville chapter hosts special meals featuring prayer, fellowship, and inspiring Catholic speakers. The next Nashville meal is Saturday, Oct. 24, featuring speaker Christine Watkins. For more information and registration, visit bit.ly/magnash.

VOLUNTEER AT PUMPKINFEST

Join Tennessee Right to Life of Williamson County at PumpkinFest on Oct. 24–25 to share a pro-life message of love for mothers and babies. Volunteers are needed at the booth on the lawn of St. Philip Catholic Church. Questions? Text Erin Moore at 615-456-1275.

TOTUS TUUS MISSIONARY APPLICATION

Do you know a young adult who would make a great Totus Tuus missionary next summer? Totus Tuus Nashville is currently seeking missionaries for 2027. Applicants must be 18+ years old, practicing the Catholic faith, and available to serve from May 28 - July 23, 2027. Applications may be found at www.nashvillefaithformation.com/totus-tuus.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The 40 Days for Life campaign is a focused 40-day prayer vigil for an end to abortion, and is happening now. 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 runs through Sunday, Nov. 1. See special campaign events and register for a time slot to pray at 40daysforlife.com/nashville.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

THIS WEEK WITH RISE

RISE night tonight: We hope you are fresh and revitalized after a relaxing fall break. Join us tonight for another evening of faith, fellowship, and fun as we continue growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ. We'll explore our Catholic faith, connect with friends through engaging activities and small-group discussions, and take time to reflect on how we can live out our faith in everyday life. Gather at 5:30 in the Parish Conference Center. Dinner is provided.

Bible Study is Back: Our Teen Bible study resumes this Wednesday. Join us at 7:30 p.m. for an in-depth discussion. Come early for Mass, Adoration, and Confession if you are able.

FORGE: SUFFERING WITH THE SAINTS

FORGE MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY MEETING



NOVEMBER 1
5:30 - 7:30 PM



SHARE A MEAL, PLAY SOME GAMES, AND GROW IN YOUR FAITH
TOPIC: *Suffering with the Saints*

Bring a new member and get a candy!

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 which can be found by visiting bit.ly/smcrise2627.



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



Together for Haiti
A Night of Hope and Healing
benefiting Visitation Hospital Foundation

 **Pig Roast Dinner** ★ **Live Music** ★ **Paddle-Raise**
Free to Attend ★ **21+ Only**

 **Tuesday, 27**
October 2026

 **Camp Marymount**
1318 Fairview Blvd E
Fairview, TN 37062

 **5:30 PM to**
7:30 PM





FREE TO ATTEND
WITH RSVP
Program followed by
live entertainment
featuring
John Angotti

RSVP at www.visitationhospital.org/events

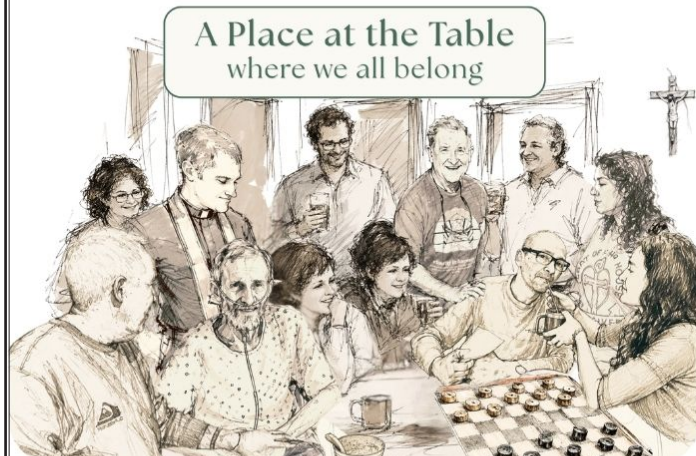
HEART OF MARY HOUSE
4TH ANNUAL DINNER
HONORING
Fr. Andrew Bulso

November 7 | 6:30PM | Catholic Pastoral Center

RESERVE YOUR SEAT
learn more by scanning the QR Code



A Place at the Table
where we all belong





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

CHURCH: 615-646-0378

SCHOOL: 615-662-4044

PASTORAL STAFF



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frraines@stmatthewtn.org



Father Anthony Stewart
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Eternal Life



CATHOLIC GUIDANCE FOR END-OF-LIFE PREPARATION

How do we prepare for the end of life in a way that reflects our Catholic faith—and how can we help our loved ones do the same?

Join Saint Matthew for a three-part series exploring the spiritual, practical, and financial aspects of end-of-life preparation guided by our faith.

Discover:

- Catholic teaching on end-of-life decisions
- Burial vs cremation and other FAQs
- The Anointing of the Sick and Funeral Mass
- Funeral and end-of-life planning
- Estate planning and leaving a legacy
- Sharing your intentions with loved ones

For adults of all ages and stages of life—whether preparing for yourself, caring for aging parents, or helping a loved one.



**Learn more
and RSVP at**
bit.ly/smceternallife

Sunday Nov. 8, 15 & 22 | 9:45–10:45 a.m. | Parish Conference Center