Saint Matthew CATHOLIC CHURCH

OCTOBER 25, 2026 + THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEEPENING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH TOGETHER



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:

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(615) 646-0378
www.stmatthewtn.org
@stmatthewtn

PASTOR:

Father Justin Raines

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Father Anthony Stewart

DEACON:

Bill Forte



LITURGY SCHEDULE OCTOBER 24-30

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

For Gina Miller

8:30 a.m. Mass

For the People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. Mass

Gabrielle Brault

- Exodus 22:20-26
- 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
- Matthew 22:34-40

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

8:00 a.m. Mass

John Cicon

- Ephesians 4:32–5:8
- Luke 13:10-17

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

8:00 a.m. Mass

Gabrielle Brault

- Ephesians 5:21-33
- Luke 13:18-21

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Sts. Simon and Jude

7:00 p.m. Mass

Elizabeth Sweeney

- Ephesians 2:19-22
- Luke 6:12-16

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

Saint Teresa of Jesus

8:00 a.m. Mass

John Grasso

- Ephesians 6:10-20
- Luke 13:31-35

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

8:00 a.m. Mass

Philip Wagner

- Philippians 1:1-11
- Luke 14:1-6

Special Intention

May they rest in peace

To Reserve Mass Intentions, Visit bit.ly/smcmassintention

PARISH SPOTLIGHT

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: COLUMBARIUM SURVEY

Saint Matthew is exploring the possibility of developing a columbarium on parish property, providing a sacred, permanent resting place for cremated remains where families can visit, pray and remember their loved ones.

If you haven't completed the feasibility survey yet, we need your feedback! At least 33% of registered families must respond, and every response brings us closer to that goal. Please note, completing the survey does not commit you to purchasing a niche.

Scan the code below or stop by the narthex table to complete a paper survey before you leave. It is just three questions and takes less than one minute. Thank you for helping guide this important decision for our parish!



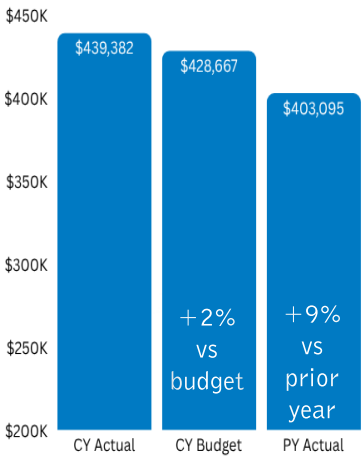
PRAY THE RESPECT LIFE MONTH NOVENA

The Respect Life Month Novena runs through Friday, Oct. 30. Join our Respect for Life Ministry as they pray the novena along with the Rosary for the Unborn each day at noon in the chapel. You can also pray along at home and it's not too late to start. Find the prayers at bit.ly/smcrlmn.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

~ FOR THE WEEK OF OCT 12-18 ~	
REGULAR COLLECTIONS	$21,532
HAITI MINISTRY	$1,063
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY	$130

YTD Summary



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

Second Collections

This Week:

Charity and Outreach
Women's Club

Next Week:

Building Maint. & Facility Improvements
All Saints; All Souls

Registered Parish Families: 1,352

PASSION OF CHRIST PRAYER GROUP

The Saint Matthew Passion of Christ Prayer Group invites you to join them today, 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.



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, available in the narthex until October 31. It is displayed as we come together in prayer at the Mass of Remembrance.

BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS WREATH SALES

Enjoy the beauty and fragrance of evergreen wreaths while supporting our Saint Matthew Boy Scouts! Order wreaths for your home or give them as a thoughtful gift for coworkers, friends, and family. It's an easy way to check one more thing off your holiday to-do list while supporting our scouts. Contact troop226@stmatthewtn.org if alternate pickup is needed, or to ship wreaths, scan below.



TRICK-OR-TREAT AT NHC PLACE

Join our Family Service Ministry for a special trick-or-treating event at NHC Place at the Trace on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. All ages are welcome, and families are asked to change before heading over. Bring your buckets, spread joy to the residents. Let us know you are coming by RSVPing at bit.ly/smcfsmtot26.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING RITI

Thank you for donating warm winter coats and other men's winter clothing for the guests staying with us through our Room In The Inn Ministry! The guests are always so appreciative when they pick these up.

Get involved with RITI! Consider volunteering to help prepare meals, welcome guests, or assist with overnight hosting. Scan the QR code below to learn more about these and other opportunities.

As our clothing drive concludes today, please contact the Church office before bringing in any additional donations. Keep an eye on the bulletin for other needs that may arise throughout the winter season. Thank you for your continued support!

Principal's Pen



Dr. Simpson

The fall weather is upon us, and Saint Matthew students have completed their first quarter of the 2026-2027 school year! Everyone on campus is feeling refreshed after a week off of school due to Fall Break. Our students and teachers were ready to get the second quarter started off on the right foot.

This week, our eighth graders participated in an overnight service retreat at Camp Marymount. They spent time in prayer, built community around a bonfire, and performed service by helping clean up and make needed improvements around the camp. The retreat is a wonderful opportunity for our eighth graders to strengthen their leadership skills, grow in faith, and put Christ's love into action by serving our neighbors.

We have many great events coming up at SMS. Come learn more about the wonderful things happening in our hallways at our upcoming open house. If you are a veteran, please let us know so we can pray specifically for you, and join us for a special celebration. The entire parish is in our prayers!

SMS COMMUNITY EVENTS

SAINT MATTHEW MARKET

Come explore dozens of local small businesses at the Saint Matthew Market! Discover unique gifts, handmade treasures, and delicious treats, including offerings from several Saint Matthew families.

Join us next Sunday, Nov. 1! Shop early for the best selection, with a special shopping hour just for the Saint Matthew community between Masses. The market opens to the public from noon to 3 p.m.

The event is hosted by our SMS Haiti Ministry. Vendor fees and concession proceeds support our sister parish and school of Our Lady of Miracles.







UPCOMING EVENTS

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOXES

Make Thanksgiving special for a family in need. Pack a food box for our Saint Vincent de Paul Society to distribute to families they've helped this year. Our goal is 35 boxes from the church. Details below.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION



Spend some quiet time with Jesus during our First Friday Adoration on Friday, November 6. 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/smcffanov26 to help us ensure someone is present with the Lord at all times.

HIHO GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Diocese of Nashville Catholic School's Office is hosting their annual HIHO Golf Classic from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5, at the President's Reserve at Hermitage Golf Course on Old Hickory Blvd. Proceeds benefit the HIHO program, which helps students with intellectual disabilities or developmental delays receive a full Catholic education at partner schools, including Saint Matthew school. To sign up, visit bit.ly/HIHO2026. Email questions to Ed Warner at ewarnerj@bellsouth.net.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Stay up to date with the latest news and information from Saint Matthew! Join our email list to receive our newsletters, updates on upcoming events, and more. Scan or visit bit.ly/smcemailsignup.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES UPDATE: WE'VE PASSED $150,000!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries! Saint Matthew parishioners have contributed more than $150,000 toward our $173,000 parish goal. Your generosity supports vital ministries throughout Middle Tennessee, including seminarian education, youth and young adult formation, and outreach to those in need. Every gift makes a difference in our community.

We are also working toward our goal of 225 participating parish families. As we celebrate Priesthood Sunday, November 7–8, our second collection will support the Seminarian Education Fund, and pledge cards will be available in the pew that weekend. If you have previously supported seminarian education, you should have received a mailing from the Diocese this week. Please take a moment to complete the enclosed card and return it by mail or place it in the collection basket at church. Gifts to seminarian education also count toward our BAAM goals. We encourage you to consider a monthly gift, but every gift—even a one-time contribution—helps us reach our goals and invest in the future of our Church.



To make your gift today to the Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries, scan the QR code or visit dioceseofnashville.com/appeal/. Thank you for supporting this mission!

TONY'S REFLECTION

The Greatest Commandment Is The Hardest

Jesus keeps dodging his opponents' dubious traps. This week, a cunning lawyer asked Him which of the 613 commandments is the greatest. Without batting an eye, Jesus responded that it is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, while adding that the second greatest commandment is to love the other as yourself. Here, Jesus asserts that the 613 commandments in the Old Testament are distilled into two prescriptions – love God and love your neighbor.

The linking of loving the other underneath loving God illuminates how they flow together. We can't love our neighbor if we can't love God first. And we can't love God, whom we can't see, if we don't love our neighbor, whom we can see. Precisely because our neighbor is an image of God, we must love them as all human love flows from loving God.

Catholicism has long taught that love is not reducible to a feeling or warm sentimentality. Rather, as St. Thomas Aquinas put it in concrete terms, "Love is to will the good of the other." As Scott Hahn is fond of saying, "Love without suffering is vain, emotional platitudes. What proves that love is genuine is one's ability to suffer for the other." Therefore, embedded in the formula of love is that the self must endure a trial to will the good of the other. Now, we can't "will the good" of God because God is goodness itself. Therefore, to love God doesn't involve willing His good; it encompasses giving God your will. This entails giving God everything you possess – particularly your thoughts and actions. Yes, to love is a mentally grappling endeavor that at times hurts. St. Teresa of Calcutta announced, "For love to be real it must hurt." Jesus indicated that in love the self would suffer in willing the good of the other. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for the beloved." Almost every time the word "love" surfaces in the Bible, it is associated with self-sacrifice or suffering. Therefore, where there is no sacrifice, there is no love. As the song by Nazareth declares rather pointedly, "Love Hurts."

Psychology reveals we often treat others kindly primarily so that the other, in turn, will treat us favorably. This formula is a fake version of love however, for such moves are tantamount to a strategic self-interest move such as "I scratch your back, you scratch my back." As Bishop Barron puts it, "Truly to love is to move outside of the black hole of one's egotism, to resist the centripetal force that compels one to assume the attitude of self-protection." To love is to have difficult conversations with loved ones when they've gone astray, similar to the painful encounters invoked at an intervention with an addict. However, such arduous experiences paradoxically allow the person's faith to grow. God's love tests the mettle within our soul. Indeed, the Christian pedigree is one of hardship, suffering, and martyrdom. Because it is the greatest commandment, it needs to be the hardest. Love is a total gift of self-sacrifice to God and the other. While the greatest commandment is not the easiest commandment, it will get you closest to God.

FAITH & COMMUNITY

FINAL WEEK OF 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.

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.

QUEEN OF FAMILIES MASS

Bishop Spalding will celebrate the annual Queen of Families Mass on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 12 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. The Queen of Families Mass is for those who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth, or other child loss before or after birth. All are welcome to join in prayer and support. For more details, visit nashvillefaithformation.com.

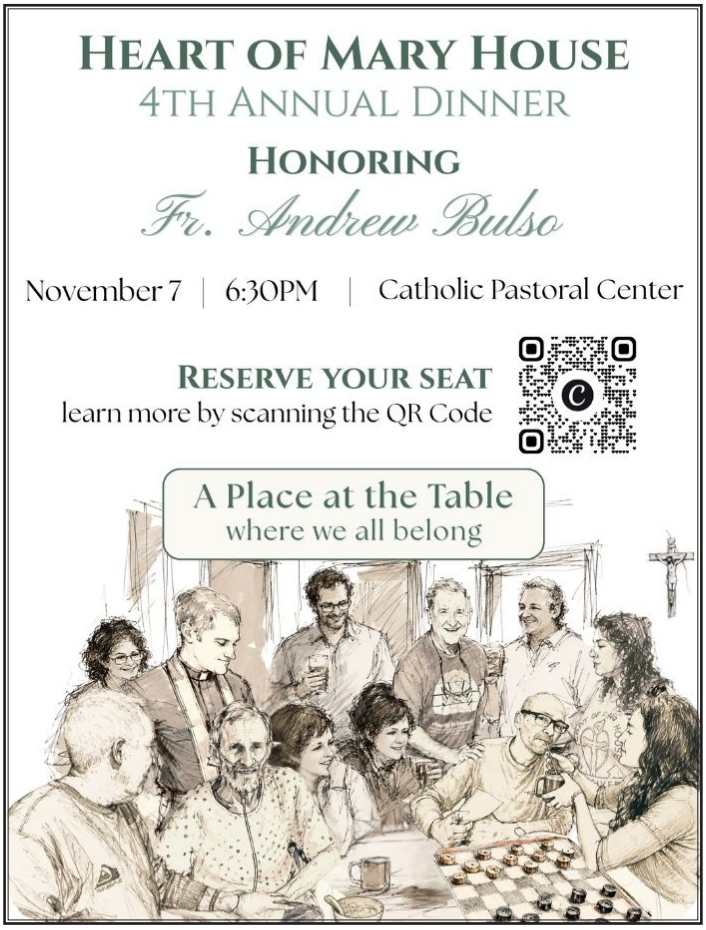
CAMP MARYMOUNT SUMMER CAMPS

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.

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.





YOUTH MINISTRIES



FORGE: SUFFERING WITH THE SAINTS

Forge is gathering next weekend with guest speaker Father Grossheim. Drop off is at the Cohan-Hansom Building and pickup is at the gym. Please RSVP your middle schoolers at bit.ly/forgenov26.



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.

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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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