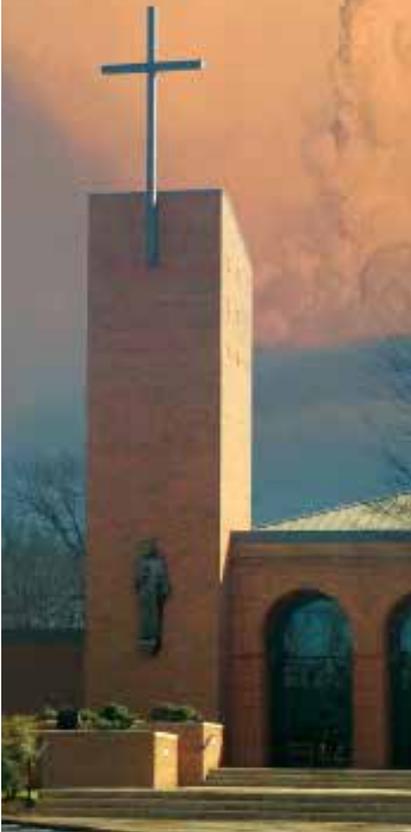




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WE WILL EMBRACE YOU  
+ WE WILL INSPIRE YOU +  
WE WILL STAY WITH YOU ALWAYS



## FATHER'S CORNER

# Preparing For Lent

The season of Lent is only a few short weeks away. Ash Wednesday is March 1, and on that day our forty-day journey through the desert with Christ begins.

“What are you giving up for Lent?” is a common question we hear in Catholic circles and among Christians in other denominations who observe this important liturgical season.



**I have always thought that this is the wrong way to approach Lent. We should not ask ourselves what we are giving up but rather what do we hope to gain this Lenten season.**



The answer to that question should be the same for all of us, regardless of our vocation or where we are in our spiritual journey. Lent is about walking closely with Christ, and by walking closely with Him we grow in our love for Him and through Him in our love for one another. In order to do that, it means that we have to make sacrifices in other areas in our life, and so yes, we still need to give certain things up during this forty-day journey.

Fasting from certain types of foods is a popular choice for people who are seeking to do some kind of penance. Fasting reminds us that our true hunger is for God, and so fasting is a good practice during Lent. However, if fasting from certain foods makes you difficult to get along with, then by all means, eat a Snickers or drink a glass of wine from time to time. We can also fast from things that are not food, such as television or social media, which gives us more time in silence so as to hear the voice of God speaking to us. Consider recording your favorite shows and watching them when Lent is over, or posting a message to your friends on Facebook telling them you will be back in forty days.

By going without certain things during Lent, and with the help of God’s grace, we gain so much more. Ask yourselves the question, “What do I hope to gain during the Lenten season?” and then let go of those things that will allow that to happen. +



### Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of the *Levi* in 2017! It is hard to believe that the Lenten season is already upon us. Don't expect a slow down here at the church. There are plenty of upcoming events and projects to get involved in. There are quite a few stories in this edition about stewardship and ministry involvement. We are very blessed to have so many of you involved in the church. It can't be stated enough how needed and appreciated you are at the parish. It takes all of your contributions of time, talent, and treasure to build this into a loving community that brings each other closer to Christ.

This season of Lent, I would like to extend a personal invitation to you to explore your faith in a meaningful way here at St. Matthew. We have organized a Time & Talent Workshop after all the Masses on the weekend of March 11 & 12. This workshop is an invitation to become more involved at the parish. The workshop is not just a simple listing and explanation of our ministries. We have invited the leaders of our most active ministries to tell you about their story and what being involved has meant to them. You also have a great testimony from a St. Matthew parishioner, Gina Marsden, on what being involved has meant to her on pages 4 & 5. I invite you to take a look at her story and see if it connects with you. It is one of the mysteries of life that when we give it seems to benefit us more than the ones we are giving to.

I also want to highlight that 2018 will be the 40th Anniversary of St. Matthew Catholic Church. In preparation of the historic anniversary, I am looking for early stories from the history of our parish. I would love to collect enough stories and history to complete a historic edition of the *Levi*. I need your help! If you are interested in helping out please contact me to get involved.

+ [Graham Honeycutt](#), Director of Communications & Stewardship

### Welcome New Parish Members

The following joined St. Matthew between November 23, 2016 and January 23, 2017. As a parish community, please reach out to each and make them welcome.

[Brad & Claire Bolfig](#), [Eddie & Britney Bussell](#), [Bob & Anna Marie Dale](#), [Ronnie & Kay Huey](#), [Erin Kavanaugh](#), [Matthew & Sara Mangrum](#), [Kevin & Kate McGinniss](#), [Kevin & Raquel Spellman](#), [Brian & Shannon Stephens](#), [Mark & Diane Thompson](#), [Steve & Gwen Valiquette](#), and [Rose Marie Winkelman](#)

## The Levi

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**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stmatthewchurchandschool](http://www.facebook.com/stmatthewchurchandschool)

**Phone:** 615-646-0378

### ABOUT THE LEVI

Our aim is to be the voice of Saint Matthew Church and School. We want to share the stories of the Parish. To learn the story of Levi and how it relates to St. Matthew, read Mark 2:14 and Luke 5:27-31. *The Levi* is published every other month. If you know a volunteer you believe should be recognized in the future, please contact Graham Honeycutt at 615-550-5131 or [ghoneycutt@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:ghoneycutt@stmatthewtn.org)



Nick Weishaar with his parents



Patrick Clements gets Eagle badge

## Boy Scouts

**Nick Weishaar and Patrick Clements**, of Boy Scout Troop 226, have each earned the highest advancement award the Boy Scouts of America offers to Scouts, the Eagle Scout Award. The Scouts were presented with their Eagle badges in separate ceremonies in November and December. Both scouts are graduates of St. Matthew School and members at St. Matthew Church.

To achieve this honor, a scout must earn at least 21 merit badges and successfully complete a community service project. Both Nick's and Patrick's projects benefited St. Matthew. Nick planned, coordinated, and constructed an outdoor classroom for the school and religious education program. Patrick redesigned the Church's nativity scene to simplify and streamline its setup, and created a detailed instruction manual and accompanying instructional video. Both scouts started their scouting careers through St. Matthew's Cub Scout Pack 287.

As a member of Troop 226, Nick earned 24 merit badges, logged over 50 nights camping, completed over 40 hours of community service, and completed a 12-day backpacking trek at the Philmont Scout reservation in New Mexico. Nick is a sophomore at Father Ryan High School where he is a member of the cross country team and is manager for the basketball team. He is the son of Anne Margaret and Matthew Weishaar.

As a member of Troop 226, Patrick completed 24 merit badges, logged over 60 nights camping, completed over 80 hours of community service, and completed a 12-day backpacking trek at the Philmont Scout reservation in New Mexico. Patrick is a senior at Father Ryan High School where he is a member of the wrestling team. He is the son of Mary and Marvin Clements.

Nationally, less than 2 percent of all scouts achieve the rank of Eagle. Boy Scout Troop 226 is chartered by St. Matthew and is open to all boys age 11-18. For more information about Troop 226 contact Sean DeCoster at [troop226@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:troop226@stmatthewtn.org).

+ [Sean DeCoster](#), St. Matthew Boy Scouts

## Women's Club & MOPS Social

**On December 12**, Women's Club and MOPS joined together for a wonderful Christmas gathering. The evening started with a Rosary and the Joyful Mysteries in the Chapel. We then gathered for fellowship, food, and an ornament exchange. Fun was had by all! + [Stacy Brunner](#), Women's Club



## GriefShare Welcomes All

**I found GriefShare** through a friend whom I had met at another grief support group. That one was ending and she asked if I'd like to go to another one the next month. I figured I needed all the help I could get. My father had passed away only about a month before. Even before he got sick with cancer, I had told myself that I would look for a grief support group after he passed. Being an only child and the fact that my mother had passed several years before, I was now the only one left from our little family of three.

I have been to other grief support groups, but GriefShare was really the best one I attended. It's quite an in-depth look at yourself and your relationship with Jesus Christ. I was brought up in a strong Christian home and we went to church regularly. As with many things, church got to be routine, and a lot of times I was just going through the motions. However, after experiencing the deep losses of both my parents, I found myself to be in a place where I wanted a deeper, more meaningful relationship with my Lord and Savior. GriefShare was just what I needed. It's based on the Bible, and it's also a non-denominational program. Being Protestant, I was glad that GriefShare welcomes all that are grieving, not just those of a particular denomination.

The next series of GriefShare starts on April 6 at 6:30 p.m. If you have experienced losing a loved one recently or even if it's been sometime ago, we welcome you to come join us.

+ [Michelle Roberts](#), GriefShare Member

**“Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”**

**Psalms 55:22**



## Volunteering, Helping Out, and Lending a Hand Is What She Does

**I prefer to stay behind the scenes,** but I was recently asked about volunteering in general and what role it plays in my life. The question took me by surprise and I had to think about it for a couple of days. I came to a few conclusions that my mom and grandmother were great role models, I am called to do it, and I make it a priority. Volunteering is a labor of love that truly benefits me and I feel that I receive more than I give.

I've been a member of St. Matthew Catholic Church since 1994. Currently, I serve on the St. Matthew School Board and the Parish Pastoral Council, am a member of the Martha Ministry, Eucharistic Ministry, Art & Environment Committee and coordinate efforts for the Art For Inspiration Fine Art Show. How I got involved in each is its own story. It goes to show that you never know what might speak to you or spark your interest.

Shortly after joining the parish, I joined the Martha Ministry, which is responsible for laundering and ironing the altar linens and cleaning the holy water receptacles. This ministry holds a strong sentimental attachment for me. When I was a little girl, I spent many summers with my grandparents in their small town, just 45 minutes from my home. Being the youngest of six kids, I treasured all the individual attention! My grandmother was part of the Altar Society which typically took care of the altar, along with cleaning and decorating the church. She would take me with her when it was her assigned week. In those days, there were no tea lights, so it was my job to scrape the wax out of the votive cups. I loved it! When I'm ironing a basketful of purificators, I find my thoughts often turn to my grandmother and I imagine she is smiling down on me. I hope I make her proud.

I was introduced to the Art & Environment Committee when I walked by an empty classroom in the school's early

years, and the members were there preparing for the Advent Wreath Workshop. I was acquainted with some of the women and offered my help. Sixteen years later, I am still part of this extraordinary group of women. Members have come and gone over the years, but I've met some of my dearest friends from working on this committee. It is more than just a group that decorates the church for feasts and holidays and hosts the Art Show. The women on this committee span generations. When I started, I was one of the youngest members. It was comforting to seek advice from the seasoned members. A few years have passed since I joined, and now I am part of the middle-aged group. I continue to seek counsel from our wise members, but I can give advice to the new "youngsters" about potty training or middle school madness, and commiserate when their children leave for college. We share in each other's joys and sorrows!

Having empty-nested a few years ago, I thought my life would slip into a slower gear. However, there was something else in store for me. My husband nominated me for the St. Matthew School Board. He thought with more time on my hands, I should give back to the school that gave so much to us. The school has long been our passion even before it was built. Having only 5 classes and a little over 100 students at its opening, the school relied heavily on volunteers. I performed a variety of roles at the school, which eventually led to a part-time job in the library and science lab for 5 years. I have served 4 years as the School Board Representative to the Parish Pastoral Council, and this year I also serve as Secretary. My tenure will end after this school year. I am very grateful for the experience, for getting to serve with old friends, and meeting the wonderful new parents that embody the same enthusiasm for St. Matthew that I feel.





Like most mothers, my mom has impacted my life in many ways, but I am always humbled when I ponder her dedication to the church. When I was a very young girl, my mom was the organist at our church. The organ was located in a room adjacent to the sanctuary and was only partially concealed from the congregation. When my mom played the organ, my five siblings and I sat in the room with her. We were six kids only 9 years apart. How in the world did she concentrate when we stirred up trouble? My mom began teaching at a small Catholic school when I was 8 years old. With less time to dedicate to the organ, she relinquished those duties, but picked up new ones at school. She became a Eucharistic minister and she even learned to play the guitar so she could play and sing at school Masses. My mom is now 83 years old, uses a cane and has a variety of infirmities, but she is not stopping. She belongs to a different church than the one I grew up in and is an active member of the Altar Society, where she helps clean and decorate the church. I have actually tagged along with her when a visit coincides with her duties. She is also a teacher's aid for the first grade Religious Education class; a perfect fit for her having taught first grade for 20 years. I pray that I will be able to serve St. Matthew when I am her age.

Life is busy for all of us! Family, work, school, extracurricular activities, aging parents and even social media. We are all pulled in many different directions. Keeping busy is a good thing for me, and it keeps my thoughts focused on others and gives me less time to dwell on my own troubles or to become self-absorbed. I say a little prayer each morning, "God, use me for Your will today." I have had the opportunity to volunteer quite a bit and I am truly blessed to be able to do so.



I invite you to carve out time to volunteer, make it a priority and stay committed. Be a role model for your children, as my mom and grandmother were to me. There are over 50 ministries at St. Matthew. Some require meeting attendance and others don't. Some can even be done from home. There are weekday and weekend opportunities. I promise it will make a difference in your life. Have you heard of the 80/20 rule? 20% of an organization does 80% of the work. Let's try to increase that 20% at St. Matthew! Like Father Mark said in a recent homily, "the greatest gift we can give God is ourselves." Find a ministry (or two) that speaks to you and give of yourself.

+ Gina Marsden, St. Matthew Parishioner





Youth Group Christmas Dance

## Tough Catholic Truths

**In my many years as the Youth Minister,** I am always amazed and blessed at the challenges, excitement, blessings and friendships that are experienced in our youth group gatherings. This year has challenged our teens in ways that I have never seen before, especially with the influx of social media and the news. The core team and I decided that we need to take a step back from our traditional gatherings and help our teens who have been struggling with their faith, or teens that are not quite sure how to defend their faith.

Most teens are afraid to take a stand on certain issues for fear they will be isolated from their peers, or they may lose what they perceive as being cool. The issues that teens are discussing at their schools, hang out places, or text messages may be facts that are not from reliable sources. They may only be reading the popular media posts which go against the culture that are teens are living in.

The core team and I realize that the teens have many questions about their faith. We asked them to write their questions down anonymously. This enables them to ask what they for whatever reasons have been nervous to ask a parent, a priest, a teacher and so on. Their questions were amazing and honestly a few are quite challenging for us.

Our goal for this semester is to give your teens tips for understanding the truth about our faith and to give them tips on how live out their faith in the current cultural climate. We will use reliable sources and check and recheck the validity and trustworthiness of them. We are not trying to show the teens how much we know, but we want them not to live in fear of the truth. This is not our work, but this is God’s work, and in that we are confident. Please pray for the core team and the teens that they will experience the heart of Jesus through our gatherings.

+ **Leslie Robertson**, Director of Youth Ministry



Parent Volunteers at Christmas Dance



Life Teen Greedy Grinch



DOVE Book Study

Join DOVE, the high school girls small group led by Page Derrick and Samantha Siedlecki! This semester, beginning Thursday, February 9, DOVE will begin gathering weekly from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The following gatherings will be on the first Wednesday of each month and then Thursdays the remaining weeks in the month. Our gathering will be centered around fellowship and a book study using the book “Emotional Virtue,” by Sarah Swafford. Swafford offers a practical road map to drama-free relationships and lives. So often you are told what not to do, but this book tells you what to do in all of your relationships to avoid and not participate in drama. The cost is \$10 and includes the book and all additional materials. Please contact Leslie Robertson at [lrobertson@stmatthewtn.org](mailto:lrobertson@stmatthewtn.org) to register and to be added to the DOVE GroupMe to stay up to date on DOVE details. + **Page Derrick & Samantha Siedlecki**, Youth Ministry



## Vespers With The Music of Taizé

St. Matthew Parish will be offering Vespers with the music of Taizé on Sunday evenings throughout the Lenten season. Our first Vespers will be on the first Sunday of Lent, Sunday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. We will meet every Sunday in Lent and will conclude with our final Vespers on Palm Sunday, April 9.

Vespers is one of the services of the Divine Office (Liturgy of the Hours). Dating from ancient times, the Divine Office has been a part of a devout religious life, particularly in the monastic orders. It is through the Liturgy of the Hours that Christians fulfill the Lord's instruction to pray without ceasing, offering praise to God and praying for the salvation of the world. The penitential season of Lent is a particularly appropriate time to participate in Vespers, as we focus on our own need for grace and pray for our salvation.

The music at our service is from the community of Taizé, an international, ecumenical community in Taizé, France. The community consists of Catholics and Protestants, and their union is a very real sign of the reconciliation between the multiple Christian denominations. The songs are short and repetitive, thus having a meditative nature. Similar to contemplative prayer, this practice of prayer allows the reality of God to permeate one's being through openness of mind and spirit. Silence is also a part of our service. One cannot hear others when one is speaking; likewise, it is difficult to hear God when we are verbally praying. It is during these moments of silence that we listen to hear God's response as part of our prayer dialogue.

Please join us for Vespers with Taizé music. This service provides a wonderful way to calm our minds, open our hearts and allow God, through the actions of the Holy Spirit, to stir our souls.

Sunday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.

+ [Joel Bolen](#), Director of Music Ministries

## Handbell Choir Visits Brookdale

When the suggestion was made that our Tuesday morning handbell choir play at a nursing home sometime, it was received with much enthusiasm. After all, isn't that what Catholics do? We go to church for Mass and other activities, but we also reach out into our communities and try to be an example of Jesus. This was the perfect opportunity to do just that.

On Tuesday, January 10, we headed over to Brookdale Nursing Home to play a few songs for the residents there. While the task of setting up a hand bell operation somewhere other than the church seemed daunting, as soon as we played the first practice note, residents began to file into our playing area and that setup was a distant memory. What a delight it was to have such a rapt audience for a small practice session, and the residents kept coming.

We moved our tables as close to the wall as we could to make room for those folks with walkers and the performance began. Joel acted as emcee, as he explained the way a hand bell choir works. It's quite simple, as we each just play two notes. However, sometimes we play four, which is not as simple! He explained different techniques used and engaged the crowd. They loved him and they loved us. We played several Christmas songs, with a bit of explanation before each. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the music and the activity that was a bit out of the ordinary. How many times does a handbell choir go to a nursing home?

As we left, some residents stayed in the room to watch us tear down the equipment. All of the folks asked us to return and told us how much they enjoyed our playing. The fact of the matter is that we enjoyed playing for them as much as they enjoyed having us. We all agreed that it was a win/win situation and we promised to return. We certainly saw Jesus in the residents at Brookdale, and we hope they saw Jesus in us as well.

We can't wait for our next field trip. We have already started preparing a new repertoire of pieces to play. We are always looking for new members to join us. If you would like to join us as a member of the St. Matthew Tuesday morning handbell choir, we would welcome you with open arms, or with bells on, if you will.

+ [Nancy Hippensteel](#), St. Matthew Parishioner



## New Faces in Religious Education

**There are two new faces** in the St. Matthew Religious Education (RE) Kindergarten classroom, but they are not kindergarteners! Both Mary Anne O'Brien and Michelle Renaldi are new RE instructors this year, but neither one is new to St. Matthew.

O'Brien, a nurse, has four children who attend St. Matthew School, and she has been a church member for 15 years. Renaldi, who is a preschool teacher with two girls at St. Matthew, has been a member for over 20 years. However, for both instructors, this year marks their first as RE teachers.

O'Brien said that she discussed becoming a RE teacher many times with Marguerite Wilson, and she promised Sister Lauren she would do it when the time was right.

"When you make a promise to a Sister, you don't break it," O'Brien said.

When current RE Director Erin Stracener asked, the time was right. Stracener also asked O'Brien who in the church community would be the best co-instructor, and Renaldi immediately came to mind.

"It was divine intervention," O'Brien said. "We are so well-suited for each other when it comes to teaching these children."

For Renaldi, working with youngsters is second nature.

"There is not a lot of difference between Sunday school and the preschool work I do, and they are both fun and challenging," Renaldi said. "Children have a thirst for knowledge, they don't hold back their questions, and they want to know what's in the Bible; I love that aspect of it."

O'Brien, who recently earned her K-6 teaching certificate, said that she was excited to practice her skills in a classroom.

"The biggest surprise to me is that teaching RE is not as time consuming as I thought, but I am still amazed at how much preparation is needed," O'Brien said. "It is nice to give back to the church in a different capacity than I have done in the past."

Each week the kindergarteners, aged 5 and 6, are taught a

lesson intentionally designed by their teachers to include active-learning and hands-on activities.

Both Renaldi and O'Brien described a recent class visit to the sanctuary where the students were able to see the altar and other important locations up-close for the first time. The students were also able to hold and touch one of the large candles lit during Mass so they could appreciate its size.

"The visit helped expose them to what is going on in church at a level they can understand," Renaldi said. "The more involved the kids are, the more they understand religion."

According to O'Brien, they base kindergarten lessons on the church calendar. This approach both helps students get the most out of classes and better connects them to what their parents are doing. She recalled the class's first lesson being on the Holy Trinity.

"It's among the most difficult concepts in our faith," O'Brien said. "I kept asking myself: how do we teach something so abstract to kindergarteners?"

O'Brien said one student had an amazing epiphany during the lesson, and related the Trinity to his family of four people coming together as one family.

"We get to see the light bulbs go on when they understand a concept," O'Brien said. "I marvel each week at how intelligent these kids are, especially when it comes to abstract thought."

According to Renaldi, another important aspect of the kindergarten class is developing discussion topics that provide students with familiarity.

"They hear about the birth of Jesus and the events when he was older leading up to his resurrection, but they rarely hear about Jesus the boy," Renaldi said. "So, we talked about his childhood and his first miracle of turning water to wine at a wedding; when they are reminded Jesus was once a youngster like them, it helps students relate to him."

Both RE kindergarten teachers hope that parents will become more involved in the church. To facilitate this involvement, O'Brien said that each weekly lesson ends with a "difficult" question students take home for further discussion with their families.

"Parents have to think about priorities while realizing that their children are watching them, learning from their example, and mirroring them," O'Brien said. "We want parents to be more involved in the parish and to show their kids how important that involvement is."

+ [Matthew J. Traum](#), Levi Advisory Board for Religious Education



## Catholic Schools Week

**Last week marked** the annual celebration of Catholic Schools. St. Matthew celebrated in its own unique way, based on traditions started many years ago. The theme “Communities of Faith, Knowledge & Service” is at the center of St. Matthew School’s mission and motto. We celebrate our students, teachers & staff, parents, alumni and community in the following ways.

To kick off Catholic Schools Week, three students spoke at weekend Masses about their experience at St. Matthew. Thanks to Alena Kenley, Meg Adams and Christian Ratterman for representing our students with poise and enthusiasm and sharing their testimony.

On Monday, students were relieved of homework! On Tuesday, the 6th grade held a Business Fair with proceeds going to our sister school in Haiti. The “White Out” basketball games were held in the gym, where school spirit was quite evident. On Wednesday, the 4th graders attended the All Schools Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center, followed by a special lunch at the Corner Pub. Parents received a special picture from Mr. Forbes in the mail! On Thursday, the Home & School treated all church and school staff to a delicious lunch. At 2:00 p.m., all students gathered in the gym for special activities. Finally, Friday brought the Variety Show and the winners of the Penny Drive. Also, winners of the essay contest were awarded prizes.

St. Matthew School has plenty to celebrate. Our oldest alumni have completed college and graduate schools and are out serving their communities. We are so proud of each and every one of them!



Have you ever thought about sending your children to St. Matthew School? Would you like to find out more about what makes the school so special? If the answer to either of these is yes, please join us on Sunday, February 12, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. for an Open House. Guests will hear from Mr. Tim Forbes, tour the school and meet with teachers. The focus will be on elementary grades Pre-Kindergarten through 3rd grade, but all parents are welcome.

Following is an excerpt from a note written by a current parent about their experience at St. Matthew School.

**“Beyond providing an excellent education, SMS is a community that fosters and promotes Catholic values and growth of character, and reinforces what we value as important at home. Each person I encounter from teachers, to administrators, to other SMS parents, shares a love and passion for this school and its students. This feeling is palpable when you walk the halls, stop in a classroom, or spend time in the lunchroom. I feel blessed everyday when my children wake up excited to go to school, eager to learn, and come home happy and fulfilled.”**

+ Charlene Garrett, SMS Advancement Director

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



#### ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST TWO YEARS

- 4 salutatorians
- 1 St. Cecilia Girl
- 50% of middle school students identified by Duke University for the Duke TIPS Scholar Program
- 17 middle school students received State Recognition
- 4 middle school students received Grand Recognition
- Students partner with 10 church and 7 community organizations to serve others



WWW.STMATTHEWTN.ORG/SCHOOL (615) 662-4044 PRE-K-8TH ADVANCED



## February 2017

### 1 WEDNESDAY

5:00 PM Finance Board  
6:00 PM Adoration

### 2 THURSDAY

6:30 PM SMS Parent Meeting  
7:00 PM Men's Club Meeting

### 3 FRIDAY

8:30 AM First Friday Adoration

### 4 SATURDAY

9:00 AM Quilting Group  
4:00 PM Confessions  
Blessing of Throats: After Mass  
**6:30 PM Mane Event**

### 5 SUNDAY

Religious Education  
9:15 AM Life Teen  
Rosary for Our Country: After  
8:30 Mass  
8:00 PM AA

### 6 MONDAY

6:30 PM Gospel of St. Matthew  
Study

### 7 TUESDAY

6:00 PM Room in the Inn  
6:45 PM RCIA

### 8 WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM Adoration

### 9 THURSDAY

9:00 AM Gospel of St. Matthew  
Study  
6:30 PM Natural Family  
Planning Class  
7:00 PM MOPS

### 10 FRIDAY

No events scheduled

### 11 SATURDAY

Food Drive  
9:00 AM Quilting Group  
4:00 PM Confessions

### 12 SUNDAY

Food Drive  
Religious Education  
9:15 AM Life Teen  
Rosary for Our Country: After  
8:30 Mass  
8:00 PM AA

### 13 MONDAY

5:30 PM School Board Meeting  
6:30 PM Gospel of St. Matthew  
Study  
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul

### 14 TUESDAY

9:00 AM Gospel of St. Matthew  
Study  
10:00 AM Art & Environment  
Committee  
6:30 PM Caritas Meeting  
6:45 PM RCIA

### 15 WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM Coffee with the  
Principal  
6:00 PM Adoration

### 16 THURSDAY

6:00 PM Room in the Inn

### 17 FRIDAY

Diocesan Professional  
Development - No School

### 18 SATURDAY

9:00 AM Quilting Group  
4:00 PM Confessions  
Blood Pressure Check

### 19 SUNDAY

9:15 AM Life Teen  
Rosary for Our Country: After  
8:30 Mass  
9:30 AM Blood Pressure Check  
9:45 AM Religious Education  
Teacher In-Service  
8:00 PM AA

### 20 TUESDAY

**President's Day - SMS &  
Church Office Closed**

6:30 PM Gospel of St. Matthew  
Study

### 21 TUESDAY

9:00 AM Gospel of St. Matthew  
Study  
6:45 PM RCIA

### 22 WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM Adoration

### 23 THURSDAY

12:00 PM Lunch Bunch & Bingo  
5:30 PM Confirmation Practice  
6:30 PM Natural Family  
Planning Class  
7:00 PM MOPS

### 24 FRIDAY

No events scheduled

### 25 SATURDAY

9:00 AM Quilting Group  
9:00 AM Religious Education  
First Communion Breakfast,  
Retreat & Parent Meeting  
4:00 PM Confessions  
**6:15 PM Father Daughter  
Dance**

### 26 SUNDAY

Religious Education  
9:15 AM Life Teen  
Rosary for Our Country: After  
8:30 Mass  
2:30 PM Confirmation  
8:00 PM AA

### 27 MONDAY

6:30 PM Gospel of St. Matthew  
Study  
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul

### 28 TUESDAY

9:00 AM Gospel of St. Matthew  
Study  
6:45 PM RCIA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mane Event

**Saturday, February 4**

This wonderful evening is held annually and is focused on fellowship and raising funds for St. Matthew School. It includes an auction, dinner, beverages, and live entertainment. All information, including tickets, are available online at [www.bidcoz.com/stmatthew/me2017](http://www.bidcoz.com/stmatthew/me2017).

### President's Day

**Tuesday, February 20**

St. Matthew School and Church Offices will be closed in observance of the President's Day Holiday.



## March 2017

### 1 WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday - Masses at 8 AM & 7 PM, and Liturgy of the Word at Noon  
6:00 PM Adoration

### 2 THURSDAY

7:00 PM Men's Club Meeting

### 3 FRIDAY

8:30 AM First Friday Adoration  
6:15 PM Men's Club Fish Fry

### 4 SATURDAY

9:00 AM Quilting Group  
4:00 PM Confessions  
Community Weekend  
6:30 PM Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet

### 5 SUNDAY

8:00 AM Blood Drive  
Religious Education  
Community Weekend  
9:15 AM Life Teen  
Rosary for Our Country: After 8:30 Mass  
7:00 PM Vespers  
8:00 PM AA

### 6 MONDAY

6:30 PM Gospel of St. Matthew Study

### 7 TUESDAY

9:00 AM Gospel of St. Matthew Study  
6:00 PM Room in the Inn  
6:45 PM RCIA

### 8 WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM Adoration

### 9 THURSDAY

6:30 PM Natural Family Planning Class  
7:00 PM MOPS

### 10 FRIDAY

No events scheduled

### 11 SATURDAY

9:00 AM Quilting Group  
4:00 PM Confessions  
**Time & Talent Workshop: After Mass**

### 12 SUNDAY

**Time & Talent Workshop: After All Masses**  
Religious Education  
9:15 AM Life Teen  
Rosary for Our Country: After 8:30 Mass  
7:00 PM Vespers  
8:00 PM AA

### 13 MONDAY

6:30 PM Gospel of St. Matthew Study  
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul

### 14 TUESDAY

9:00 AM Gospel of St. Matthew Study  
10:00 AM Art & Environment Committee  
6:30 PM Caritas Meeting  
6:45 PM RCIA

### 15 WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM Coffee with the Principal  
6:00 PM Adoration

### 16 THURSDAY

6:00 PM Room in the Inn

### 17 FRIDAY

No events scheduled

### 18 SATURDAY

9:00 AM Quilting Group  
4:00 PM Confessions  
Blood Pressure Check

### 19 SUNDAY

9:15 AM Life Teen  
Rosary for Our Country: After 8:30 Mass  
9:30 AM Blood Pressure Check  
7:00 PM Vespers  
8:00 PM AA

### 20 MONDAY

SMS Spring Break

### 21 TUESDAY

SMS Spring Break

### 22 WEDNESDAY

SMS Spring Break  
6:00 PM Adoration

### 23 THURSDAY

SMS Spring Break  
12:00 PM Lunch Bunch & Bingo  
7:00 PM MOPS

### 24 FRIDAY

SMS Spring Break

### 25 SATURDAY

9:00 AM Quilting Group  
4:00 PM Confessions

### 26 SUNDAY

9:15 AM Life Teen  
Rosary for Our Country: After 8:30 Mass  
9:45 AM Baptism Class  
7:00 PM Vespers  
8:00 PM AA

### 27 MONDAY

6:30 PM Gospel of St. Matthew Study  
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul

### 28 TUESDAY

6:30 PM Gospel of St. Matthew Study  
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul

### 29 WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM Adoration  
**Lenten Penance Service**

### 30 THURSDAY

No events scheduled

### 31 FRIDAY

6:15 PM Men's Club Fish Fry

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**  
Sunday, March 5

**Time & Talent Workshops**  
Saturday & Sunday, March 11 & 12

**Lenten Penance Service**  
Wednesday, March 29



**Saint Matthew  
Catholic Church**

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## Men's Club Fish Fry's

**Friday, March 3 & March 31**

Are you looking for a great meal to have on Fridays during Lent? Look no further than the Lenten Fish Fry put on by the St. Matthew Men's Club. The fry cooks of the Men's Club are at it again to bring you fish, family, and fun. In addition to our delicious catfish, hush puppies, fries, coleslaw, and pasta, we will be serving fish tacos and farm fresh salad. This is a fundraiser for the Men's Club, and we would appreciate your support as we serve the many ministries at St. Matthew. Take-out starts at 6:00 p.m. with the sit-down dinner following the Stations of the Cross at about 6:30 p.m. Bring out your family and join us for some fish!



## Father-Daughter Sweetheart Dance

**Saturday, February 25**

The St. Matthew Father-Daughter Sweetheart Dance is on Saturday, February 25, from 6:15 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the St. Matthew School Gym. You are invited to a night of dinner, dancing and games. If the father is not able to attend, then another gentleman may accompany the child. The ages welcome are Pre-K through Grade 8 and the attire is as fancy as you like. The suggested donation for the event is \$25 per couple and \$30 per family. Please RSVP by February 20 at [www.stmatthewtn.org/church/fatherdaughterdance](http://www.stmatthewtn.org/church/fatherdaughterdance). Please contact Gina Scott at [gina@techrt.com](mailto:gina@techrt.com) with any questions.



## Family Weekend

**April 21-23**

St. Matthew Family Weekend is scheduled for April 21 - 23 at Tims Ford State Park in Winchester, Tenn. This is a wonderful way to get away with your family for fun with some other St. Matthew families. There are 17 cabins available for rent, and the cost per cabin is \$310 for the weekend. 16 cabins have 2 bedrooms with 2 double beds, and 1 of the cabins is handicapped accessible with 1 bedroom with 2 double beds and 1 bedroom with 1 double bed. Please visit [www.stmatthewtn.org/church/family-weekend](http://www.stmatthewtn.org/church/family-weekend) to reserve your cabin. The deadline to register is Friday, February 17. Please contact George Adams at [dmdga@yahoo.com](mailto:dmdga@yahoo.com) with any questions.