

THE ANTIPHON

The Parish Newsletter of
St Matthias' Church, Dallas, Texas

APRIL 2019

Beloved in Christ,

I trust you are keeping a good Lent. If you have not been in the swing of the season - it is certainly not too late to start! We have two more Lenten Suppers - Fr Ivor has agreed to take the spot on the lineup that Bishop Iker had been scheduled for. Let me encourage you to engage while there is still time. Now more than ever we should make the effort to strengthen our life together. Above all else - come and participate! Your presence will encourage those around you.

I want to inform you of one more opportunity during Holy Week. It takes place at 10:30 in the morning on Holy Tuesday at Saint Vincent's Cathedral in Bedford. This year that is the 16th. What I am referring to is the **Annual Diocesan Chrism Mass**, *a.k.a.* the Mass of Collegiality. Normally, the clergy of our diocese gather with our bishop in order to renew our ordination vows and concelebrate the Mass with him. This year Bishop Wantland will be standing in for Bishop Iker who is in Houston undergoing intensive cancer treatment. Please continue to intercede for our bishop and his family. May God give him strength and a return to health.

At the Chrism Mass, the bishop will consecrate the Holy Oils to be used by the diocesan clergy throughout the coming year. He will also consecrate additional hosts to be taken by each of the parish priests back to his parish. This additional host is called the *fermentum*. It is broken on Maundy Thursday at the parish Mass and included with the hosts distributed then as a sign of our communion and unity with our bishop. If you are able to make it, I encourage you to do so. The Mass of Collegiality

is a powerful service. And there is just nothing quite like a Mass with a full choir of all of the diocesan clergy singing with gusto!

I want to encourage you, if it is at all possible, to be with us for the Great Vigil of Easter. It truly is the Mass from which all other Masses come. And rightly so it is also the parish's principal celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord. But let us also not forget that Easter is an entire season of 50 days duration. So, by special arrangement, and because I have connections, we are going to be having an Easter Egg hunt on the Second Sunday of Easter following the Solemn Mass. The Paschal Rabbit, a.k.a. "The P.R.," and I are old and dear friends. He has agreed to pay us a visit here on the 28th of April in order to keep our focus on the Great Vigil and to allow us to have some seasonal fun! (*As you well know, all of the candy will be on sale after April 21st, so it's a win-win*). You too can help by bringing candy-filled plastic eggs by the church during Easter week. The event will afford us all an excuse to invite someone we know (*with children, hopefully!*) to come experience an Eastertide Sunday with us. Most folks make plans for Easter Sunday, but the Sunday after is frequently wide open. Everybody knows children like a good egg hunt. In case you haven't figured it out, we do need to be about some apostolic fishing. (*See St. Mark 1:17*)

Holy Week awaits us. And we don't get to Easter without passing through Holy Week. So, see you in Church!

God bless you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. John" with a small cross at the end.

NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS beginning April 7th through May 19th

MYSTERIES OF THE MASS

Instructor: Father Thomas Hightower, Assisting Priest

The Mysteries of the Mass will briefly consider the origins and growth of some of the symbolism of the Mass and how that will deepen our participation in that great Mystery.



PRAYERS AND SQUARES MINISTRY

The Prayers and Squares Ministry meets Thursday, April 11th at 6:30pm in the Education Center. We have given over 200 quilts and many prayers to those in need. If you know someone who would benefit from extra prayers and support, please consider a quilt for them. Contact nitahinshaw@aol.com to make a request.



ANNUAL SPRING FLING - SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Spring Fling is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th at 9:00am (following Matins and Mass which will begin at 8:00am.) A light continental breakfast and a light lunch will be provided. We expect to wrap up early in the afternoon. You may sign up in the Great Hall when the lists are posted. We hope you will consider helping out to make our buildings and grounds ready for the joyful Easter Season. Many hands make the work light. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Ray Turnbull, People's Warden.

APRIL COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Shelter Team: *Captains* Raymond & Cynthia Turnbull, Danelle Harris, Timothy, Amy and Abigail Harwood, Patrick & Megan McGehee, David & Dixie Turnbull. Team meets at church 4:00pm, Sunday, April 21st.

Sandwich Makers: Team 4 - Patricia Goodwin, Patrick & Megan McGehee, James & Deborah Nugent, Susan McQueen, David & Dixie Turnbull, Donna Wheeler, Amy White, Niesa Page, Raymond & Cynthia Turnbull.



SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Mark your calendars now for the 7th Annual Second Sunday of Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, April 28th** following Solemn High Mass. Gather up those children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors and join us for egg hunting and treats!



TRUE AWAKENING UPDATE

We want to express our sincere appreciation to St. Matthias and the Outreach Committee and Vestry for designating **True Awakening** as the recipient of the Lenten Offering this year. We have had the honor of being the recipient for the last few years and want you all to know that we do not take this for granted, but are delighted that once again you have shown your support in this way. We would like to update you as to exactly what **True Awakening** is doing these days...

- We have feeding programs for the children of the following charity schools in the Diocese of Northern Malawi (our sister Diocese):
 - o **Msomba School** - Eight years ago, we began feeding 625 children their morning meal and then shortly thereafter we added a weekly meal of rice and beans. Although to us this is a very sparse meal, we were told that this meal is very special in Malawi, since rice isn't plentiful there. Rice and Beans would only be served on major holidays or weddings – it is considered a feast!
 - o **Chilambwe School** - This program started six years ago. We started feeding their 600+ children porridge at that time and it has continued since then.
 - o **Lubagha School** - This program began in late 2014 and we have now visited the school for four years. We start out and drive for three hours each way to get to this remote area of Malawi.
 - o **Chikoma School** - This program began in September 2017 and we visited the school for the first time when we visited in May 2018. The school currently has an enrollment of approximately 500 students.
- In 2019, we will be building 50 desks for the children at Lubagha School, and we plan to continue the desk project over the next few years until all the 6-8 grade children have desks. We will be taking the beautiful bed covers which are currently being made by the St. Matthias' Women for the boarders (all girls) at Msomba School. We will also be taking "Days for Girls" kits that assist girls with their cycles.

A charity school is one in an area where a government school would not be built, so the local community donates the land, the church builds the building and the government will then provide the teachers, if they can be found in the area. The children who attend these schools are extremely poor.

Thanks again for all your support that makes this possible.

Bob & Robyn Priest

THE IMPACT OF KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

“I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance.”
(Revelation 2:19)

Lives Are Changed Forever



Prison is a dark, hopeless place. Prisoners often live their lives without friends, without family, staring at the prison bars and feeling guilt and anger burning in their hearts.

Spouses, parents and relatives of the incarcerated often “do time” right along with their loved ones, feeling alone and guilty.

Through the work of over 30,000 volunteers, Kairos Prison Ministry brings the light, love and friendship of Jesus Christ into their lives.

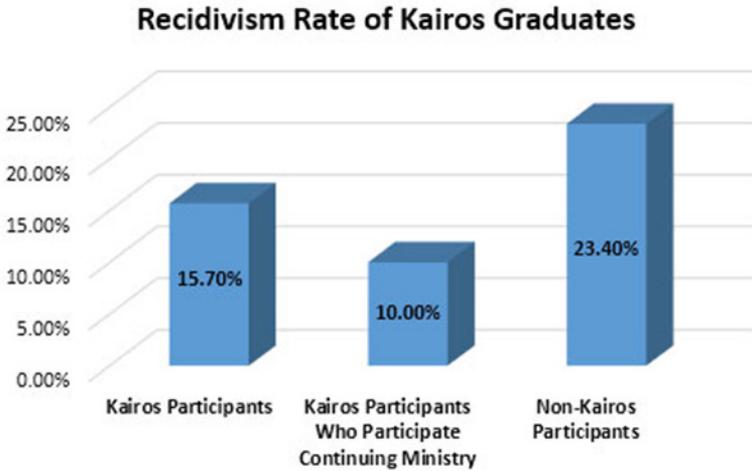
They know they are forgiven, and they know they are loved. It is truly a life changing, and often life saving experience.

Inside the Prison

Wardens where Kairos programs are held report improvements in the whole prison living environment, due to the positive influence of residents involved with the Kairos Inside Program.

The more Kairos Weekends that are held, and the more prisoners that are brought to Christ, the more the prison environment improves. The next Kairos weekend will be in May, so talk to Tiffany Wright or Nick Vilay about how to get involved.

Kairos graduates' recidivism rates can be reduced by 50%



Reduction in recidivism rates reduces the cost of further imprisonment (approximately \$30,000 per prison annually).

Communities are Safer

The local communities become safer, as parolees and former prisoners make positive life choices from the foundation of ongoing Christian Prayer and Share weekly meetings.

Life after Kairos

- † Incarcerated participants who are released re-enter the outside world with a God-centered perspective and focus on becoming productive citizens.
- † The next generation experiences a change in the family members coming out of prison, who begin to model a lifestyle without crime. The cycle of crime can be broken.
- † Female family members find support, strength and encouragement.

- † Youthful offenders acquire new God-centered values and change their direction in life.
- † Families are reunited with a hope for the future.

More information can be found at the Kairos display in the Education Building. If you have questions, or wish to get involved, contact Tiffany Wright (twwright13@gmail.com | 214.537.9671) or Nick Vilay (nickvilay@icloud.com | 903.368.2429).

