

THE ANTIPHON

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

DECEMBER AD 2025

Dear Parish Family,

I am so excited to start the Advent Season and a new Church Year with you all! Having just celebrated Thanksgiving, I couldn't help but think that there is so much that I'm thankful for. Among the greatest things that I am thankful for is receiving the call to serve as your Rector. I was formally Instituted as Rector on November 8th. I'm so grateful to everyone who was able to make it, and especially to those who had a hand in putting it together. It was a special day that I will always remember fondly.

Among the things that made the day so special was the homily given by the Very Rev'd Father John Jordan, ssc. Fr Jordan is the Rector of St Laurence Church in Southlake, and he was my boss while I served at St Laurence as a Curate. Before that, he was my sending Rector as I went off to seminary at Nashotah House. Fr Jordan was instrumental in discerning my vocation to the priesthood, and I am deeply grateful and honored that he gave the homily at my Institution as Rector here at St Matthias'. It was an outstanding homily from a great preacher, and I thought you would all be edified by my including it in this month's Antiphon.

I wish you all a holy Advent! And since the next Antiphon will come out after Christmas Day, I wish you all a happy Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

Fr Travis Province

A sermon preached at the Institution of Fr Travis Province as Rector of St Matthias, Dallas

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

I am so honored to have been asked to preach the homily today at the institution of the 5th Rector of St Matthias. I'm so honored that I'm almost speechless... something for which the people of St Laurence have been praying for many years!

St Matthias: this is an incredible parish. Your faithfulness and your witness are well known, and so important for the wider church. St Matthias is a special place to me personally. I went to kindergarten here back in the day. There was a school here in the 1980's and as 5-year-old, I was a beneficiary of your ministry together.

This is an incredible parish and what I want to say to all of you today is that you've found yourself a pretty incredible Rector. I've been so privileged to know Fr Travis for nearly a decade. So blessed to help him discern his vocation as a priest, to send him to seminary, to have him then return and serve as my Curate at St Laurence. I can tell you without a doubt that you've got yourself a man of deep faith, a man of deep intellect, a man of deep love.

It's a big day congratulations to all of you today. We're all praying today for many blessings in the years ahead.

This morning, yes, we're celebrating Fr Travis and his new ministry here but the primary thing that we are celebrating today is that the ministry of Jesus Christ which continues in His church. The work that our Lord began in the holy land 2000 years ago, He continues here at St Matthias today. And Fr Travis being the new Rector here is a sign of that. A sign to all of us that Jesus loves us so much that He has provided for us by raising up another shepherd for all of you; a pastor to be in your midst.

St Gregory the Great, in his Book of Pastoral Rule, probably the most important work on pastoral care ever written, writes that there are two qualities that should be seen in a pastor: Compassion....and Contemplation.

The pastor, he says, "must be at every one's call by compassion, yet completely committed beyond all things to contemplation."

Being at everyone's call: that's basically the one sentence job description of a Rector! Fr Travis, you're going to be at the peoples' call. St Gregory says...that's as it should be.

St Gregory continues, “the priest must be kind and considerate to everyone, yet ascending even above himself by the loftiness of his gazing and the vehemence of his desire for the invisible.”

To unpack that, he’s saying that the contemplation of God leads to loving action. Contemplating the One who is Love leads to a life of love.

The theologian Hans Urs Von Balthasar (great name by the way) once summarized the spiritual life (or what he more descriptively referred to as “the life of love”). He described it this way: “an eternal oscillation between resting in God and acting with God’s help.”

I think of an oscillating fan: “an eternal oscillation between resting in God and acting with God’s help.”

In other words, the life of prayer motivates the life of service. We contemplate the great truths of our faith. We consider how greatly loved we are, and then we are motivated to love and serve. All Christians are called to this. And particularly the priests. And to be specific today, Fr. Travis, particularly you are called to this: to an integrated life, the integrated life of prayer and service.

To sum this all up, Mother Teresa said it this way “Prayer in action is love, love in action is service.”

In today’s Gospel reading, our Lord says “this is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:12-13)

Fr Travis, as the Rector of this parish, part of your call is to lay down your life. The call is to serve the Lord and his people here, to not hold back, but to give it your all.

A few weeks ago, there was a fire in Southlake where I live. In Southlake, they have all of these local magazines that they send for free to my house. I don’t know if they send out those things to where you live? Most of the time they go straight into the recycle bin, but this one, just a few days ago, caught my eye. It had an article about the fire. So I gave it a read and in it they interviewed one of the fire fighters who’d actually gone into the burning house and rescued some of the family during this fire.

The reporter asked the firefighter, “how’d you find the courage to run into the fire?” The firefighter’s reply was remarkable, he said “when you’re in a situation like that, you don’t think about the danger. You think about who’s inside. When you think about the people, fear loses its power.”

Now, that has to be about as close to our Lord’s teaching here as anything I’ve ever heard. When you think about others, you don’t hold back. When you prioritize others, you do what needs to be done, even if it’s tough.

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15: 13) That’s how our Lord defines ministry for His Apostles on the last night of His earthly life. He doesn’t talk about it as management. He doesn’t say to the Apostles, “ok guys, you’re going to manage some churches.” He doesn’t talk about it as performance, or as popularity. He doesn’t say, “ok guys, make everybody love you. He talks about it as friendship lived in love and sacrifice.

The call of the Rector is “lay down your life”. And Fr Travis, that doesn’t always mean something dramatic. There’s not necessarily burning houses to run into. Most of the time laying down your life means something quieter. It means standing at the altar, day by day, carrying your people’s intentions to God. It means sitting at a hospital bedside...and you don’t know what to say...maybe there are no words to say. But you’re there. You showed up. You’re present. It means navigating the administrative challenges of parish life with grace and humor. It means preaching Jesus Christ week after week, always holding Him up as the head of the church, always making Him the center of attention. It means welcoming new Christians into the church that they too may experience the joy and wisdom of the Gospel. And it means doing all of this in a collaborative way, where the priest and the lay faithful are friends. Our Lord says “I don’t call you servants...I call you my friends.” (John 15:15)

The priest and the Lay Faithful are to work together side by side for the building up of the Body of Christ. It’s a shared labor of love, where souls are nourished and the lost are saved.

This is a holy work that you begin together today. And there are two things that I’d ask you to remember in the years ahead:

Number 1. Don’t be afraid to take chances: calculated, creative risks as a parish, as you seek to be the best version of St Matthias Church that you can be. It’s ok to make mistakes as you try to build up the Body of Christ. It’s better to swing and miss than to just watch time go by.

Number 2. Never forget that you’re not alone. You have a Diocese and a Bishop to help. And far more important than that you have the whole host of heaven: Our Lord and His Saints, they are with you.

And because they are with you, we particularly ask St Matthias, the patron of this parish, who is joined with our Lord, to pray for your work together in the years ahead.

May we all be lifted up by his prayer that each and every one of us may daily follow more faithfully and joyfully in the way of Jesus Christ, and that many others may find it possible to follow Him, too. Jesus Christ: the same yesterday, today and forever. All praise to Him. AMEN.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW ONLINE PLATFORM

We are excited to share that St Matthias' is launching a new, integrated online platform through Ministry Brands/Amplify. This upgrade brings many of our parish tools together in one place, making communication and participation easier than ever.

Through Amplify, you will now have access to:

- Our refreshed parish website (*coming soon*)
- Volunteer scheduling with automatic reminders
- An online parish directory
- A mobile app
- A unified parish calendar
- Events with online registration
- Parish-wide communication including email, text, and voice messages
- Online viewing of giving and stewardship reports

Download the Mobile App

Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://mobile.myamplify.io/landing/e6rr>



Important Email Notice

Please add noreply@people.myamplify.io to your contacts to ensure messages do not go to spam.

Transition Schedule

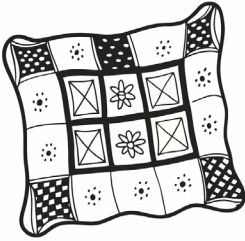
- **First week of December:** Invite emails will be sent to all parishioners.
- **December:** Transition month - we will begin using the new Amplify system while continuing to use our prior processes.
- **January:** Full transition - Amplify will become our primary system for communication, scheduling, events, and more.

Message Sources

- **Text messages** will come from 22383
- **Voice messages** will come from the main church phone number

We look forward to rolling out this improved system to better support the life and ministry of our parish. If you have any questions, issues, or concerns during this transition, please contact the Parish Office—we are happy to help.

PRAYERS & SQUARES MINISTRY



The Prayers and Squares Ministry will meet on Wednesday, December 10th for their Christmass Party. 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.

2025 QUILT RAFFLE

Tickets for the raffle will be available for purchase on Sunday, December 7th, 14th, and 21st, with the drawing to be held on Sunday, December 21st. This year's quilt is especially charming—you won't want to miss your chance to take it home! As the raffle provides the sole funding for our ministry, we are deeply grateful for your continued generosity and support.

A PERSONAL NOTE

After 14 years of founding and leading this wonderful group of ladies, I will be stepping down at the end of the year. Nancy Perrine has graciously volunteered to take over in January. She has been an important member from the very beginning, and I know she will be an excellent leader. I will continue as an active participant, just from a quieter role.

Beginning January 1, all quilt requests should be directed to Nancy at nepperrine@gmail.com or 214-929-7529.

— Nita Hinshaw



CAREGIVER/COMPANION AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know is in need of a full-time or part-time caregiver, companion, cook, or housekeeper, there is a highly experienced and capable woman available for work. She is reliable, trustworthy, and can provide excellent references.

For more information, please contact Bob Lea at 214-803-3768.



KNIT & STITCH

Our December gathering will be held on Tuesday, December 2, at 10:00am in Duncan Hall. We hope you'll join this wonderful group of women for a morning filled with laughter, conversation, and—of course—plenty of stitching, sewing, or any handwork you'd like to bring.

For our final meeting of the year, Nancy and Virginia are planning a festive Christmas-themed gathering. Instead of bringing your usual lunch, please bring a finger-food appetizer to share. Since we typically eat together anyway, this will serve as our Christmas party for the month.

Please let Virginia or Nancy know if you're able to attend. We look forward to celebrating with you!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

THE HOLY ANGELS

December 7th – December 21st

Instructor: Father Travis A. Province, Rector

Join us Sundays in between Masses at 9:10am in Duncan Hall as Fr Province offers his first Sunday course on the Holy Angels. We will learn about what angels are, what they do, how they interact with us, and how we can interact with them.

ANGLICAN ESSENTIALS

Beginning December 14th

Instructor: Father Travis A. Province, Rector

For those new to Anglicanism or for those who want a refresher on the basics of our Anglican tradition, please join us on Sundays at 6:00pm in the Admin Building. This course is required for those who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, but open to all in the parish. For more information, please contact Fr Province.





DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Theme: Christmas Favorites

Twinkling lights, joyful carols, and the comforting aroma of holiday baking... Christmas is near! Let's celebrate the season together at our December Fellowship Supper on **Saturday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m.**, at the **home of Bill & Tommye Marr**.

Our hosts, Bill & Tommye Marr, along with co-hosts Dave & Lori Luckey, invite you to bring your favorite Christmas-inspired dish to share—think festive appetizers, family holiday classics, casseroles, Christmas cookies, or anything that tastes like the season of joy!

Come enjoy a cheerful evening of fellowship, delicious food, and warm conversation as we gather to celebrate the blessings of Christmastide. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share in the spirit of the season with your parish family!



CHRISTMASS SEASON AT ST MATTHIAS'

- ★ **The Last Day of Advent**, Wednesday, December 24th
No morning Matins & Mass
12:00pm Mass
- ★ **Christmass Eve**, Wednesday, December 24th
8:30pm Festival of Music & Carols
9:00pm **Solemn Procession and Solemn High Mass**
The traditional, beautiful Great Mass of the Feast.
Let your children enjoy it as well! Nursery provided.
- ★ **Christmass Morn**, Thursday, December 25th
10:45am **Matins**
11:00am **Low Mass** A simple, said Liturgy; no music

St Matthias' Church

ANGLICAN

In the Diocese of Fort Worth, the Province of South America, THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

3460 Forest Lane, Dallas, Texas 75234

Phone: 214.358.2585

Email: office@stmatthias-dallas.org *Web Page:* www.stmatthias-dallas.org

Archbishop & Primate of the Province of South America

Archbishop ACNA

Bishop of Fort Worth

Bishop Assistant of Fort Worth

Rector

Rector Emeritus

Assisting Priest

Assisting Priest

Parish Administrator

Parish Musician

Choral Scholars

The Most Rev'd Brian Williams

The Most Rev'd Stephen Wood

The Rt Rev'd Ryan S. Reed, SSC

The Rt Rev'd Keith L. Ackerman, SSC

The Rev'd Father Travis A. Province, SSC

The Rev'd Canon Dwight D. Duncan, SSC

The Rev'd Father H. Ivor Kraft, SSC

The Rev'd Canon Ronald L. McCrary, SSC

Mrs Heather Lopez

Mr J. Richard Abrahamson

Ms Lisa Wells, Mr Erick Reich

DAILY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday through Friday:

6:45am - Matins

7:00am - Mass

Wednesday: Noon - Mass

Saturday: 9:00am - Matins

9:15am - Mass

Confessions - Noon to 12:30pm