



THE ANTIPHON

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

JANUARY AD 2024

Merry Christmas to you all!

A new calendar year is upon us. New Years' is a traditional time for making resolutions for the coming year. And that, of course requires doing some reflecting on where we are and where we want to go. It is the same on the parish level as it is on the personal level.

It has been a while since we submitted our Time & Talent Stewardship declarations for 2024. New schedules are being prepared and we're also discovering some needs. For instance, Ushers. Would you be willing to serve as a 10:30am usher? We can use your help. Please speak to me or to Cindi Turnbull if you are willing - we could use another two person team to share the duty.

The business of the new calendar year is now upon us. The date for our **Annual Congregational Meeting** is set for **Sunday, January 21st**. On that morning, we will begin with Matins at 9:00am and then celebrate one Mass at 9:30am. Please plan on being in attendance.

Remember to continue to keep the whole **12 Days of Christmas**. The **twelfth day** is **Friday, January the 5th**. The Feast of the Epiphany is Saturday the 6th.

It is a venerable Catholic practice to leave the tree up for all twelve days of Christmas. In any event, I hope you are still plugging in the lights on your house. It is but one small way of witnessing to the world around us that we do indeed have cause to celebrate! I am very grateful to all who are giving of themselves to make this Christmas a good one. Our thanks to Dick, and to Erick and the Lisas for their contributions of music, to the adult servers, the acolytes, and ushers; and especially to Jack Stotz and Randy Hinshaw who turned out to help me deck the Great Hall. Thanks also to the Altar Guild who saw to the decoration of the church.

We will need some assistance taking the Christmas things down and storing them away for another year. We plan to do that on **Saturday, January 6th** following the Epiphany morning services - Rosary, Matins, and Mass. We'll get to the Great Hall about 10:00am. **Come lend a hand, *please*.**

If it has been quite some time since you have been able to receive the Sacrament for whatever reason, I am happy to bring it to you. Please give me a call and let's arrange to do that.

It is helpful to keep in mind that we gather to celebrate the Mass to "do" something, not necessarily to "get" something. Get something we do, but the motivation for being there is to give something. Catholic worship consists of the giving of ourselves to God; "our selves, our souls and bodies," as reasonable holy and living sacrifices, as the Canon of the Mass has it.

Let's take 2024 a day at a time, live in the present, and entrust the future to Almighty God. He is the only one up to the job!

You are a wonderful parish. Thank you all very much for all of

the kindnesses and expressions of love that you continue to give me. This year just past has been very good and I am indeed most blessed to be here as your rector. With much love -

God bless you all,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'The Rector', with a small cross or flourish at the end.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday, January 21st

Following the ONE Mass of the Day

Matins 9:00am, Solemn High Mass 9:30am

All parishioners, long-time and new, are encouraged to be at this important meeting. And those of you presently sharing in our life and considering becoming part of our parish family are most cordially invited; we do hope you will join with us in this most important meeting of the year.

Following Mass, there will be a short break for some refreshment. Then we will come into session in the church for the Meeting. At it, we will consider the state of the parish, review the year just ended and look ahead. Also, we will elect new members to the important offices of Vestry and to our Diocesan Convention Delegation.



REMINDER

If you pay your pledge by Electronic Transfer of Funds and you have changed your pledge amount from 2023, PLEASE remember to notify your bank of your new pledge amount for 2024.



PRAYERS AND SQUARES MINISTRY

The Prayers and Squares Ministry will meet Thursday, January 18th at 6:30pm. We have given over 313 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.



JANUARY COMMUNITY MINISTRY

The Conley Team is scheduled to serve at the Austin Street Center on **Sunday, January 21st**. We will gather in the Greet Hall at 1:00pm.

Shelter Team: *Captains*, Susan & Don Conley, Danelle Harris, Robert Lea, John & Laura Stotz, Randall Hinshaw.

Sandwich Makers: Amy Harwood, Nita and Randy Hinshaw, Susan McQueen, Deborah and Jim Nugent, Laura and Jack Stotz, Cindi and Ray Turnbull, Donna Wheeler, Rachel Hess.

WOMEN OF THE PARISH

Ladies, you should have received an email from Virginia Wallace about a women's gathering on Saturday morning, January 20th at 10:00 (*or 11:00 as need be*). If you don't have it, or didn't see it, please reach out to Virginia and she will fill you in.



AN ENCOURAGING WORD

The parish clergy recently received a lovely note from a man who has been sharing in our life over the past year, Terrell Regan. For those of you who may not know him, he was the elderly gentleman who lived across the street from the church and every Sunday “motored” across Forest Lane in his motorized wheel-chair and parked it in the back of the nave, epistle-side, so as not to get in the way of others. At times you could hear the “beep-beep” of his oxygen tank. At Communion Time, he would “drive up” to the altar rail at the end of the line and raise himself from his chair as best he could to receive Our Lord in as close to the posture of kneeling as he was able.

This is the note he sent the Clergy. We share it with you because it is testimony to the importance and radiance of what we do in this place and who we are ... and the significance of that for all of us who enter and abide in this holy place. May it bless and help you in your life as a disciple of Christ as it will help us in our service of Him. And, of your charity, remember Terrell in your prayers as he heads home to Our Lord.

GENTLEMEN :

5 Dec /23

I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT
DUE TO MY PORTABLE OXYGEN SUPPLY NO
LONGER LASTING THROUGH THE SERVICE,
AND GRADUAL LOSS OF EYESIGHT I WILL
NO LONGER BE SEEING YOU ON SUNDAY
MORNING. MY FAMILY HAS DECIDED TO
MOVE ME TO AUSTIN NOW THAT I AM ON
HOSPICE & IN MY FINAL DAYS.

BUT ALL OF THIS IS NOT BAD NEWS,
MY YEAR WITH YOU HAS HELPED
PREPARE ME TO BE WITH OUR LORD.

GOD BLESS

TERRELL REAGAN

BEGIN YOUR NEW YEAR ARIGHT AT GOD'S ALTAR,
CONSECRATING YOURSELF AND YOUR DAYS TO HIM.

★ The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
Monday, January 1st

9:40am Matins

10:00am Low Mass

★ The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Saturday, January 6th

8:40am Rosary

9:00am Matins

9:20am Low Mass

After Mass we can use your help in taking down our
Christmass decorations.

