



THE ANTIPHON

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

JULY / AUGUST 2023

Beloved in Christ,

This past week we crossed through the celestial event known as the Summer Solstice - the longest day of the year. Summer is now officially upon us, as if I had to tell you that! Our parish schedule is usually packed pretty full of activity from September to mid-June, the parochial academic term. It is really nice now to have a chance to slow down just a bit and to savor Sunday morning worship. I have noticed that many of you are traveling and taking vacations of one sort or another. Please be careful as you do and remember to pray for us at home as we will pray for you while away.

We are just about finished with a significant restoration project in the Admin building. Last summer we had a broken pipe that flooded the crawlspace underneath the building. We are putting the finishing touches on the replacement of the south portico of the building. The southern solar exposure had taken its toll on the doors and its frame. So much so, that it really wasn't possible to use that door for fear that it would fall apart! Happily, that has now been addressed with a total rebuild. The project did have the effect though, of causing quite a bit of dust. And dust seems to get everywhere when even a little sheet-rock gets disturbed. **Here's my appeal** - I'm looking for a volunteer or volunteers to come and give the atrium of

our Admin building a really thorough dusting. It is not heavy lifting, but it would involve using a step-stool to get the top shelves. Any takers? We do have air conditioning! Give Arlene a call if you are willing to tackle this project.

I want to challenge you to continue to look for opportunities to invite someone to come to church with you.

There is no question that our neighborhoods are full of folks who do not know what they are missing; a vital relationship with Our Lord and his Church. There is universal agreement that the most effective method of evangelism is a person-to-person connection. And you and I are called to be ambassadors for Christ. That can happen simply by asking someone if they go to church. If they say “No,” then there is your opportunity to make an invitation. But if you don’t ask the question, it will not happen. And if you do make the overture, the worst that can happen is that they will turn you down - but, even then, you will have made the offer, and in the process, you will have discovered that you can.

The first of the new season’s Fellowship Suppers at the Stotz’s home was also very fine. And by the way, a good time **was** had by all. In July we will be gathering the second Saturday of the month (the 8th) for our Fellowship Supper in the Great Hall - Yet another opportunity for you to invite someone new into our parish’s life. Don’t miss it! In August we have been invited to Penny & Vernon’s new place. I’ve been asked to bless their domicile, so we’ll take care of that as we gather for some fellowship.

I confess that I missed being at the St. Michael's Conference this time around. I am gratified to know that the Conference is in good hands and that something I was able to launch will go on. I have heard that it was a very good week. They ended up with 55 conferees, which is a good size for the conference, given the facilities of Camp Crucis. There are good things going on at Crucis in general. I certainly want to encourage any of our kids to get in on Camp if possible.

When was the last time that you made a sacramental Confession? I never look forward to making mine, but I have never ever regretted doing it! Saint Paul admonishes us to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (*Philippians 2:12*) A large part of that work has to do with our standing in brutal honesty before God. Ask yourself - "*Do I really give to God all that He has coming to Him?*" And, "*Do I really treat all others as I would have them treat me?*" If, on careful reflection, you find that you have not lived up to this (*And, I hasten to add - there is always room for improvement!*) - You should do something about it! Now that things have calmed down for the summer, please know that I am available on most Saturdays at noon to hear Confessions. If that doesn't work for you, then by all means, please give me a call and let's set an appointment to take care of this. And if not with me, then with Fr. Ivor, or with Fr. Duncan - both of them are wise confessors - you won't hurt my feelings if you don't come to me. If you haven't made a confession in some time, or ever - I can furnish you with some guidance as to how to go about preparing to make one.

In July, the only major feast days are those of Saint Mary Magdalene on Saturday the 22nd and that of Saint James the

Apostle, a.k.a. “Santiago” on Tuesday the 25th. Santiago is near and dear to my heart, as you well know, and that day is also St. Christopher’s day. Well, it *was* his day, before the Vatican set out to cancel him. Saint Christopher is known as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. How can you unilaterally cancel one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers? Preposterous! Their gift shops still sell his medals - it seems there is still a market. Hmm?!? For the past few years on the Sunday closest to Santiago’s feast, I have invited the local chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino to come to the Great Hall for what has come to be called *Santiagofest*. This year it will be on Sunday the 23rd. Stay tuned to the Sunday bulletin for more info about Santiagofest in a couple of weeks.

Another lesser feast in July is, of course, St Swithin’s day. St. Swithin was a beloved ninth-century bishop of Winchester, England, who requested that he be buried in the churchyard—some say to be close to the common people, whom he loved; some say so that he could enjoy God’s gift of rain for all eternity. When he died in 862, his request was honored. About 100 years later, however, it was deemed unseemly that so holy a man should rest in a common grave. On July 15, the saint’s feast day, the people attempted to enshrine his remains in his church. Legend has it, however, that St. Swithin caused torrential rains to fall for 40 days, until the intended transfer was abandoned. This is the source of a very old Scottish weather proverb regarding rain on July 15: “*St. Swithin’s Day if thou dost rain, / For forty days it will remain.*”

In any event, please remember to enlist the aid of these powerful intercessors, to move us to penitence, to motivate our generous outreach, and to stimulate our personal dedication to the

spread of the Gospel in the building up of the Church. And that's just July, stay tuned!

God bless you all,



SUMMER - BETH MOORE BIBLE STUDY

Our summer Beth Moore Bible study entitled: *“Now that Faith Has Come - A Study of Galatians”* is in progress. We began June 20th and this seven week course will continue to meet every Tuesday through August 8th at 6:00pm in Duncan Hall with the exception of Tuesday, July 4th, Independence Day. Margaret Neinast is organizing dinners for us once again, so come hungry.



PRAYERS AND SQUARES MINISTRY

In **July**, the Prayers and Squares Ministry will meet **Thursday, July 20th**. In **August**, they will meet **Thursday, August 17th**. Meetings begin at 6:30pm in Duncan Hall. The Ministry has given over 290 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.



JULY FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Saturday, July 8th at 6:00pm in the Great Hall
Hosted by the Tuesday Evening Old Testament Class
Theme: *Independence Day*

Please join us as we celebrate Independence Day. Sure, we know that Fellowship Supper is after our national holiday, but we think the celebration should continue. (Besides, we can get decorations on sale!)

Bring the kids. Bring a friend/neighbor/relative. Bring your favorite Independence Day food to share. If you're so inclined, dress as you would on the fourth of July (or even at the end of an alien invasion). See you there!

Please make your reservation by completing the form in the Sunday bulletin.

If your last name begins with

A through H

I through P

Q through Z

Bring either

Salad or Main Dish

Dessert or Main Dish

Vegetable or Main Dish

AUGUST FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

In August, hosts Penelope & Vernon Kidd invite us to join them in their new abode on **Saturday, August 12th at 6:00pm.** The new address is 4833 W. Lawther Drive, Apt. #403, Dallas 75214. Details to follow on the theme, etc.



JULY COMMUNITY MINISTRY

The Team is scheduled to serve at the Austin Street Center on **Sunday, July 16th.**

Shelter Team: *Captains* Donald & Susan Conley, Ida Perryman, Nancy Perrine, Danelle Harris, Robert Lea, Donna Jarecke, Van & Margaret Neinast, and Randall Hinshaw.

Sandwich Makers: Richard & Dianne Couch, Canon Dwight Duncan, Donna Jarecke, Robert Lea, Donald & Susan Conley, Robert & Robyn Priest, Van & Margaret Neinast, Raymond & Cynthia Turnbull.



AUGUST COMMUNITY MINISTRY

The Team is scheduled to serve at the Austin Street Center on **Sunday, August 20th.**

Shelter Team: *Captains* Raymond & Cynthia Turnbull, Danelle Harris, Bill Kirkland, Aimee Hinshaw, Jillian Hinshaw, Randall Hinshaw, Patrick & Megan McGehee.

Sandwich Makers: Kathryn Magruder, David & Lori Luckey, Patrick & Megan McGehee, James & Deborah Nugent, Susan McQueen, Donna Wheeler, Amy White, Aimee Hinshaw.

