



THE ANTIPHON

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

NOVEMBER AD 2023

Beloved in Christ,

It is Stewardship Season at Saint Matthias'. The stewardship of our lives is a matter that needs our careful deliberate attention. I trust that you have been giving it that. I hope the handbook we sent you has aided you in your consideration. It is now time for us to make our declarations. You will receive both a Time & Talent Form and a Stewardship of Money Card to be returned to the Church at Mass on November 5th. The Solemnity of All Saints' is a perfect time to take care of this matter. We and the Church throughout the world will be engaged in giving thanks to God for all of those who have gone before us in the Faith, giving of their time, talents, and treasure for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

At the High Mass each Sunday the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward at the Offertory. At both Sunday Masses we also take up a collection of money and bring it forward and offer it to God. That activity is an expression of this whole business of the stewardship of our lives. We take from what the Father has given us and we offer it back to Him. And He gives himself back to us in a wonderful exchange. And the result is - He in us and we in Him. As the alms basins are presented at the altar the celebrant says on our behalf, **"All things come of**

thee, O Lord” to which you should add, **“And of thine own have we given thee.”** This sentence comes from First Book of Chronicles, Chapter 29, verse 14 from the mouth of King David. It is a way of being intentional about giving to God.

Once, in a conversation with one of our people on this very subject, I made a suggestion to him that he later said that he found to be helpful. I suggested to him that, even though he met his financial commitment by the vehicle of a check in the mail, on Sundays at Mass he ought to put his hand into his pocket and physically put some money in the plate as a way of tangibly connecting (if only symbolically) himself to the offering being made at the altar.

While on pilgrimage in Spain last month I attended Mass when ever I could. The custom there, for the taking up of the offering, is very low-key, but nonetheless, deliberate. At the offertory, a designated person would circulate through the congregation with a bag. From what I could see and hear (a single Euro is a coin), most everyone dropped something into the bag as it came around. But the celebrant didn’t wait for the collection process to finish, nor was there any fanfare about presenting the bag when it was. It just happened. And when the collector was done, the bag was just set forward somewhere safe up front near the altar. It seemed very odd to me, and like a missed opportunity. I very much prefer the way in which we do it, the carrying forward and presentation of our offerings is a tangible way for all of us present to connect with what is taking place at the altar. It is a visible physical acknowledgment of the relationship between what we have and where it came from.

A Stewardship suggestion was made to me very recently, that I am happy to pass on to you. It is this, instead of simply sticking with those Time & Talent commitments that we customarily make year after year, consider setting yourself a “*stretch objective*”. If you just can’t, you can’t, and we understand; nevertheless, I want to challenge you. For 2024, consider taking on something more in the way of a ministry in the parish than you have in the past. Our needs remain constant and we can use your assistance. Now is the time to step up. Will you?

I am immensely grateful that our parish is a daily Mass parish. It is a vital part of what makes this parish the beautiful thing that it is. It allows me to exercise the ministry that I have been called to in a marvelous way. And it allows our parish community to exercise fully its ministry as a part of the Mystical Body of Christ. It really does make a huge difference to begin each day at the altar.

This daily schedule does ensure that consistency can be maintained, and that is precisely the point! The parish offers the sacrifice of the Mass each day. So, as this is a time when we are considering our commitments to the life of our parish, I want to suggest another one to you. Would you be willing to take on the discipline of attendance at one of our daily services? Will you take part this way in the offering we bring daily before the Throne of Grace? And the coffee pot is put on in the Admin building before Mass. After Mass there is usually a chance to visit a bit before the business of the day takes over. Come join us!

November rounds out the Christian Year with the Feast of Christ the King, and the beginning of the next with the start of

Advent. We begin this month giving thanks for those who have gone before us in the Faith and we end it acknowledging and celebrating the sovereignty of our Lord. All things do indeed come of thee, O Lord. And of thine own do we give thee!

God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Chris" followed by a small cross symbol.

The 41st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fort Worth will take place on Friday and Saturday the 10th and 11th of November at All Saints' Church in Fort Worth. The theme of the Convention this year is "Where two or three are gathered in my name." Our old friend, the Venerable Thomas Hightower, SSC, the Archdeacon of the Diocese of Fort Worth will be the preacher at the Convention Mass on Friday evening at 5:00 pm at All Saints'. The business session of the convention takes place at the church on Saturday beginning at 8:30 am. Consequently, Mass will not be celebrated on Saturday morning at St. Matthias, but Mattins will be read at 9:00 am. Please pray for our diocese, our parish delegates - Donna Wheeler and Randy Hinshaw and our clergy.



Thanksgiving is November 23rd. Matins will be read at 9:40am and a Sung Mass will be celebrated at 10:00am. Before you enjoy your turkey, plan on gathering with the parish family to return thanks for the bounty we have received from our Heavenly Father. Friday the 24th, Matins and Mass will begin at 9:00am.



NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SCHOOL CLASS

COURSE 2

November 5 – December 17, 2023

“A LION, A BEAR, AND A SNAKE WENT INTO A BAR...”

Instructor: Robert C. Lea, Parish Catechist

This course will explore the nature of the literary device known as “parable” as found in the Bible. Simply put, the parable is an “attention grabber” used to arouse curiosity in an audience and encourage further enquiry into the message that is being presented by the speaker. The parable takes many forms. It can be an extended narrative (such as The Prodigal Son), but it can also be a one-line “zinger” or a two-line “parallelism” that presents a contrast or comparison. Whatever form it takes, the goal is to implant a memorable lesson in the mind of the listener. Jesus used images drawn from the every-day life of the Jewish people to enforce the central theme of his preaching: the coming of the Kingdom of God. Ultimately, however, these parables reveal the mystery of Jesus himself. *Extra Credit:* For anyone who can tell the class where in the Bible we can find the parable of the lion, the bear and the snake!



Daylight
Saving
Time
Ends -
Fall back

REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR
CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR
SATURDAY EVENING,
NOVEMBER 4th



ALL SOULS' DAY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

There will be a **Requiem Mass** celebrated at 7:00am at which we will pray for the faithful departed of the parish and also for those whom you have submitted through the form in the Sunday bulletin. Of your charity, please plan to be with us and join in interceding for those who have gone before us in the Faith.



NOVEMBER FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Our Fellowship Supper is scheduled for **Saturday, November 11th** at 6:00pm in the Great Hall hosted by Richard & Dianne Couch along with co-hosts David & Rene Murray. The theme is "*Fall Favorites*". Join us for an evening of fellowship, food and fun. Sign up on 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



PRAYERS AND SQUARES MINISTRY

The Prayers and Squares Ministry will meet **Thursday, November 16th** at 6:30pm in Duncan Hall. Please join us. We have given over 309 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.



FALL BLOOD DRIVE

Our Fall Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, November 4th in the Great Hall from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Please plan to come and donate ‘a pint or maybe two’ if you’re up to it. As always, we will be serving breakfast in the Great Hall “pre-/post-” donation. Sign up sheets are in the Great Hall or contact Don Conley for additional information.



VETERANS’ DAY - CALL FOR PHOTOS

Our annual Veterans’ Day celebration is coming up soon! On Sunday, November 12th, we’ll join together to remember and thank those who served our country in the various branches of the armed forces. There is sure to be good food -- and fabulous

table decorations. And, of course, we'll have our slideshow featuring photos of St Matthias' members who are veterans, as well as members of our families who are either veterans or actively serving in the military.

Now is the time to submit photos for the show. If you've never had a loved one included in the show, now's the time! Even if you've submitted photos in the past, feel free to add more.

How can you include veterans in the show? It's easy. Simply email photos to Donna Wheeler at wheeldi@msn.com. Or, let Donna know you have hard copy photos that you'd like to have scanned and included.

What's the deadline? Photos must be submitted no later than Saturday, November 4th.



OUTREACH MINISTRY UPDATE

Upcoming event: St Matthias' Annual Coat Drive for Herbert Marcus School is scheduled for the weekend of Saturday, December 2nd. Coats do not need to be new but must be in good condition. Any child size coat up to an adult size coat is needed. Donations \$\$ are welcome. Make check payable to St Matthias' and write on memo line "*Coat Drive*". If you have any questions, please contact Bob Priest, our Marcus Coordinator at 972-234-1031.