



# THE ANTIPHON

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

SEPTEMBER AD 2023

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Beloved in Christ,

**“Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \* whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way.”** (Psalm 84:4, 1979 BCP). Psalm 84 is about returning to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is important because it is the location of the House of the Lord. The great Old Testament image for the People of God is the Exodus, the journey from slavery into the Promised Land, where Jerusalem would be founded, the place where God would cause his name to dwell. If you read the Gospels you will discover that our Lord is always traveling. Preaching, teaching, and healing, he too is always on the move. The Christian life is not meant to be static, but dynamic. The journey is a well-established biblical theme. The destination we are called to is none other than the House of the Father. That house is not to be found in the earthly Jerusalem, but in the heavenly one. Until our arrival there, everything prior is the journey. Ultimately, how we get there is accomplished by being shaped into the likeness of Jesus. How we have strength for the trip is by feeding on Him. *“Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \* whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way.”*

**September is here** and so we are about to start the next stage, and we are concerned with our equipment for the journey. Inserted in this issue of the Antiphon you will find an outline

of our Christian Education offerings for 2023 - 2024. I hope you will take advantage of all that is on offer.

**This Sunday, 9/3 we return to our Fall Sunday Mass schedule** of 8:00am and 10:30am. Matins is also read each Sunday beginning at 7:40am. As always, if you arrive and we have already begun, please come in quietly and join us. Just as a reminder, I am asking the 10:30am ushers to ring the bell at 10:25am to call us all to worship.

**Sunday Morning Christian Education** will resume on Sunday, September 17th, BUT as a way of priming the pump, on the 10th plan on joining us at 9:10am (*Christian Ed time*) in the Great Hall for a report and presentation on Bob & Robyn Priest's latest True Awakening Mission Trip to Northern Malawi. The diocese of Northern Malawi has been the Companion Diocese of Fort Worth for over two decades. You won't want to miss it!

Then on Sunday, the 17th, our Rector Emeritus will be teaching the first adult course of our new Christian Ed year entitled - **Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.** This is an excellent opportunity for you to introduce someone new to our parish. Who do you know that you can invite? You will want to get in on all of this.

**My heart is still set on the pilgrim's way - and soon my feet will be too.** On the afternoon of the 26th, I will be boarding a flight to Madrid, Spain. From Madrid, I will travel by train to Zamora. From there I will catch a local bus to the little pueblo of Granja de Moreruela. From Granja de Moreruela, I will make my way northwest, on the route known as the *Camino*

*Sanabres*, to the shrine of Saint James the Apostle in the Galician city of Santiago de Compostela. Along that way, I intend to visit the magnificent cathedral in Ourense and the monastery at Oseira. The Monastery of Santa Maria (*XIth cent.*) at Oseira is the oldest Cistercian Monastery in Spain. While Santiago is not heaven, the journey there by foot along the pilgrim way is most definitely significant, both spiritually as well as physically. The physical pilgrimage is a metaphor for our life's journey - 234 miles to be covered along this way. So now you know why Psalm 84 leaps out at me! God willing, I will be arriving back home on the 14th of October, to be back at the altar on the 15th. I beg your prayers as I continue to make my preparations and as I undertake this journey. Please know that I intend to make this pilgrimage to these two shrines, praying for our parish (more about that in a moment), and all the while carrying you all with me - That's a lot to put in one backpack!

And while I am away, Fathers Duncan and, Kraft, will cover the Sunday services and Frs. Kalimi and Province (*whom you might have met on a Friday last Lent*) will cover the daily Masses. Please say a prayer of thanks for all of these men, I certainly do!

Tuesday the 17th of this month we will get our Evening Classes underway. Donna Wheeler will continue her Old Testament Bible Study. Then, when I get back from my pilgrimage, my Tuesday class will begin mid-October. If you have not taken the **Basic Christianity** course, I want to encourage you to consider getting in on it this time around. Come give it a try. Bring a friend or even two!

**The something more for my prayers and for yours** - Shortly after I had set my travel plans for this Fall, Arlene Dagadu, our marvelous parish administrator, told me she had something that she wanted to talk to me about. Arlene shared with me, that after much prayer, and prompted by the Lord, she had discerned that the time for her retirement from Saint Matthias' had come. At the end of October she will have been with us for close to 26 years. What a blessing her ministry among us has been and continues to be! We agreed that she would finish her time with us in October. Previously, she had planned to be away at the end of October to attend a family celebration. So it is settled, Arlene will be with us in the office until the middle of next month, and then on vacation until the end.

Preliminary work has already begun toward finding her successor. We will soon be posting the job opening and starting the search. Our hope is to be able to fill the position this month, thus allowing for there to be a period of transition and training. Arlene assured me, "Father, God has already lined up my successor, now you just need to find her." Who can argue with a faithful statement like that?

So, in accord with that faith, I ask you to commit all of this to your prayers - our journey, hers and ours, continues into a time of transition. Give thanks to God for the blessing that Arlene is. Stay tuned, expect a letter from our Rector's Warden very shortly with more information.

As you can see, it is time to get moving. Heaven awaits!

God bless you all,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'The Canon' followed by a small cross symbol.

## SEPTEMBER FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Summer isn't finished and it's still Too Hot to Trot!! Hosts Cindi and Ray Turnbull invite you all to Fellowship Supper on **Saturday, September 9th at 6:00pm** in the Great Hall. Bring a dish to help keep you cool on these hot days. 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**

Dessert or Main Dish

Vegetable or Main Dish

Salad or Main Dish



## TRUE AWAKENING MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION

On **Sunday, September 10th**, Bob and Robyn Priest will give us a report on their May mission trip to our sister Diocese in Northern Malawi. We will have this special event at 9:10am, between Masses. The report will include a brief description of the ongoing work, as well as some special projects completed in 2022. We will discuss the annual visit, what we do, where we go and why an annual visit is necessary. There will be door prizes, so please come.

## REAL OPTIONS 9TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

Please join us for the Real Options Banquet on Thursday, September 14th in Plano for a powerful night of celebrating life with Real Options, an organization our parish supports financially.

You will hear a moving testimony from Rebekah Hogan of how she changed her mind after beginning a chemical abortion and be amazed as her beautiful story unfolds.

Seating begins at 6:30pm | Dinner and Program at 7:00pm

Plano Event Center  
2000 East Spring Creek Parkway  
Plano, TX, 75074

Dinner is complimentary with an opportunity to make a financial gift.

Adults only, please.

Please RSVP to Tiffany Wright **no later than Thursday, September 7th** via text 214.537.9671 or email **twwright13@gmail.com**. Of course, an in-person RSVP works too.



## SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY MINISTRY

The Martin Team is scheduled to prepare the meal for Austin Street Center on **Sunday, September 17th**. *The Team will begin meal preparation immediately following Solemn Mass and sandwiches need to be at the church by 12 Noon.*

**Shelter Team:** *Captains* Kenneth & Jacqueline Martin, Danelle Harris, Penelope Kidd, Nancy Gaines, Bill Kirkland, James Nugent, Randall Hinshaw.

**Sandwich Makers:** William & Kimberly Belcher, Karen Cantrell, Nancy Gaines, Randall & Nita Hinshaw, Jacqueline Martin, David & Rene Murray, Robert & Robyn Priest, Penelope Kidd.



## PRAYERS AND SQUARES MINISTRY

The Prayers and Squares Ministry meets **Thursday, September 21st** 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.

## OUTREACH MINISTRY

**North Dallas Shared Ministries:** September is our time to “*Stock the NDSM Pantry*”. Containers are in the narthex for you to drop off paper sacks and dry food items. Please pick up a list of the items that are needed. There is also a basket in which to drop your donation/check. Your support is greatly appreciated. No clothing is being collected at this time.

