



# THE ANTIPHON

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

**JANUARY 2018**

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Beloved in Christ,

*Merry Christmas!*

The business of the new calendar year is upon us once again. The date for our **Annual Congregational Meeting** is set for **Sunday, January 28th**. The meeting is our annual opportunity to stop and consider where we have been, and look forward to where we are going, making some critical decisions about our leadership along that way. On that morning, we will begin with Mattins at 9:00 and then celebrate one Mass at 9:30. Please plan on being in attendance. The occasion is significant enough for us to gather together as one parish family to ask our Heavenly Father's guidance and blessing upon the year ahead. After Mass we will head over to the Great Hall for a bit of continental breakfast before returning to the Church to conduct the business of the meeting.

The Church is God's house. We convene as his People, hopefully, under his guidance, to equip ourselves to better do his will. We are called to glorify him in all that we do and to be his ambassadors to the world around us. So the business of the parish's meeting is actually his business. It is, therefore, meet and right that our meeting take place in the Church.

We are still within the **12 Days of Christmas** until Saturday's celebration of the Epiphany on the 6th. 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 hope you can be with us on the Epiphany for Mattins & Mass at 9:00am. From what many of you have told me, it has been a very good Christmas season this time around. I am very grateful to all who have given of themselves to make it so; to Susan and the choir for their contributions of music, to the adult servers and the acolytes, to all who turned out to deck the Great Hall, to the Altar Guild who saw to the decoration of the church, and to Tommye, Don and company who organized the Christmas Toast.

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 the Canon of the Mass has it.

Please pray for Karen and me as we travel from the 10th through the 19th. We are going to be a part of a Clergy Familiarization Tour to the Holy Land. All of the pilgrims will be either members of the clergy or their spouses. We have been warned, “This is not going to be a vacation.” The itinerary is packed full of visits to an amazing array of many of the places mentioned in the gospels. I was encouraged by Bishop Iker to make sure that it is indeed a pilgrimage. He was kind enough to give me a dispensation from the annual Diocesan Clergy Retreat in order to make this journey. The goal, beyond visiting the holy places in the Holy Land (*a lifelong dream of mine!*), is to become prepared to return, organize, and to lead another pilgrimage. Does that sound like something that might interest you? Stay tuned. In the mean time, please pray us safely there and home again. Our guide is Fr. David Roseberry, a very experienced Middle East traveler. He and the folks of the tour company are keeping a close watch on events there and with our safety and security in mind. While I am away, Fr. Tom will also be out of pocket, so Fr Kalimi will celebrate the weekday Masses and Fr. Crary will be our Supply Priest on Sunday the 14th.

You are a wonderful parish. It has all been very good indeed and I am most blessed to be here as your priest.

God bless you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Tom" with a small cross at the end.

JOIN US AS WE COMPLETE CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday, January 6th

9:00am - Mattins // 9:15am Low Mass

*This is a Holy Day of Obligation.*

## NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS beginning January 7th through February 11th

**MAMA MIA: LET YOUR LOVE SHRINE!**

*Instructor: Donna Wheeler, Parish Catechist*

At each Sunday Mass we burn candles at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, and each month we hold a corporate Rosary. But why? What's the genesis of devotions and shrines to Our Lady? This course will answer those questions -- and much more about our Mother Mary. We'll focus in particular on five of the many shrines devoted to Our Lady (including, of course, the shrine at Walsingham).



## THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Sunday, January 28th**

**Following the ONE Mass of the Day**

***Mattins 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 a continental breakfast. 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 three new members to the important offices of Vestry and two members to Diocesan Convention Delegation.



## PRAYERS AND SQUARES MINISTRY

The Prayers and Squares Ministry will meet Thursday, January 11th at 6:30pm. We have given over 175 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](mailto:nitahinshaw@aol.com) to make a request.

# JANUARY FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

“Chinese New Year!”

Saturday, January 13th, 7:00pm

# 新年快樂

**Happy New Year!**

xīn nián kuài lè!

In 2018, the Chinese will be celebrating the year of the Dog. We will celebrate the US and Chinese New Year at our Fellowship Supper on January 13th. Tiffany and Nick Vilay will be our hosts in the Great Hall. Bring your favorite New Year's food or Asian dish (Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese, Korean, etc.!) We'll gather at 7:00pm. Please remember, beer and wine only in the Great Hall. Please complete the sign up 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

Vegetable or Main Dish

Dessert or Main Dish



## JANUARY COMMUNITY MINISTRY

**Shelter Team:** *Captains* Donald & Susan Conley, Thomas & Cynthia Coughlin, James & Gracie Hamilton, Donna Jarecke, Danelle Harris, Madia Greaves, James Nugent, Karen Cantrell. Team meets at church 4:00pm, Sunday, January 21st.

**Sandwich Makers:** Team 1 - Donald & Susan Conley, Karen Cantrell, Richard & Dianne Couch, Lisa Crain, Jo Gordon, Margaret Rever, Jo Neese, James & Gracie Hamilton, Donna Jarecke, Madia Greaves.



**ANNUAL COAT DRIVE - THANK YOU** to all who donated coats for the children at Herbert Marcus School. A total of 106 coats were delivered with 67 donated from St Matthias and the Evangelism Team and 39 from the Outreach Committee. We do appreciate your contribution to this worthy cause.