



THE ANTIPHON

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

FEBRUARY AD 2026

Annual Meeting - Rector's Address

I'd like to begin by saying that it's a great honor and privilege to stand here in front of you all today to give my first Rector's Address here at St Matthias'. I feel called to take a few moments to reflect with you all on where we are as a parish – both the good things and the challenges about where we are. Also, particularly because this is my first Rector's Address, I wish to share some thoughts with you all on where I feel God is leading us – what life in our parish may be like in the coming years.

2025 was a historic year for our parish. Significant steps forward were taken, and we can say that last year began a new chapter for our community of faith. Among those things was the calling of a new Rector.

I know I've said it before, and I'll say again, what a joy and honor it has been for me to be called to serve as the 5th Rector of St Matthias'. God has been so good in calling me to a parish with such genuinely warm and welcoming people, and a place where the Catholic faith which was "once handed down" is held high. I believe very much in what we do here at St Matthias', and I'm excited to labor alongside you all as we seek to expand the Kingdom of Heaven.

In my first Rector's Letter, I mentioned the fact that when I accepted the call to serve here, I felt confident that this is where the Lord wants me to be. I truly believe Jesus called me here. Likewise, God has called each one of you to be here at this parish and at this moment in the life of this parish. With everything that's going on

in the world today, all of us have some role to play in building up God's Kingdom at this outpost of Christ's Catholic Church on Forest Lane.

It's true that at the moment, life in this parish is not what it was some years ago. We do have our challenges and obstacles to face. For example, we don't have the numbers that we used to in years past, and it can be easy to feel tired, or stretched thin, or even discouraged sometimes. Different ministries and events have lost momentum or gone dormant. And like all other churches, we're also competing for people's time and attention in a fast moving and rapidly changing time and place. I could go on.

But the truth is, every church, every Christian community, has challenges that it must face. And today in many places, it might seem as if the world is gaining ground while the Church is losing ground.

In the face of these challenges, I encourage you to take the advice which we find so often in the scriptures: "Don't be afraid." As we see in stories throughout the Bible and in the lives of the saints, God often performs His greatest works in times when people believe themselves to be at a low point, or during moments of uncertainty.

We might think of the calling of the Apostles (including St Matthias) who, after being called by Christ, left everything they had to follow Him. They had no idea what was ahead of them, but they still chose to step out in faith and follow Jesus. It was risky, even dangerous, and they would encounter profound low points and great trials on their way; but through it all, even though they stumbled at times, they endured and remained faithful until the end. And we can now see how God rewarded their faithfulness and endurance by accomplishing things which were and are greater than the Apostles could have ever imagined when they first said "Yes" to following Jesus.

That same Apostolic faith, witness, and practice which conquered the world through the power of the Gospel is present here at St

Matthias' Church. Throughout the history of this parish, like those faithful Christians who came before us, we have experienced high and low points; and I am proud to stand as the Rector of a parish full of people who have remained faithful through it all. Like our patron, St Matthias, this parish has remained faithful and stepped up when it mattered most.

And now we have arrived at a time for us to step up again. While I haven't been here long, I can say with conviction that this is not a parish in decline. God is moving in ways which I believe are laying the ground for us to play a pivotal role in this Catholic revival which is spreading throughout the world, especially among young people.

I'll say more about that in a moment, but first I want to talk about the wonderful things which God is doing in our midst even now. One thing I would like to mention is something that we have all noticed and enjoyed, which is the investment in the beautification of our campus. Even before I was a candidate to become Rector of this parish, I remember coming here to fill in at Daily Mass, and I saw the painting and landscaping work and more that was being done. We are blessed with a beautiful place to worship the Lord and learn about the faith and gather for fellowship. And these efforts to make the beauty of this place shine have not gone unnoticed. From visitors to priests and even the Bishop – so many have offered compliments to us about our campus.

And this work is not yet done. I'm excited to announce to you all that a project is in the works to refurbish our Great Hall. After a number of very generous gifts were received for this purpose, it seemed clear that God was opening a door for us to breathe new life into a beloved space which has served our community so well. Work will begin soon, and we are hoping to have the Great Hall open again by Easter, as this is not a total remodel, but it is a substantial cosmetic project.

This, of course, means that we will not be able to have our traditional suppers in the Great Hall during Fridays in Lent, and this is regrettable. But then again, Lent is a time of sacrifice – a time

of giving up something in order to gain something greater. We can certainly find other ways to get together during Lent, but I can say what we will gain is going to be wonderful. When the project is done, we will have gained a refreshed space that will be warm and bright and welcoming – a space for us to comfortably gather as a parish family, and a place which will likely make visitors even more eager to join our family. I am excited, and we will be sharing more details soon, including details on our Friday Lenten Devotions.

Another important step forward was taken when work began on a new website. Thanks to the fantastic work of our parish administrator, Heather Lopez, we have a new website and a new online platform which has given us all kinds of new tools to equip us for the future from managing volunteers, to engaging with visitors in more effective ways and much more. Work on the website and social media will be ongoing in the next few months, so keep an eye out for more changes. This is an important step forward for us as a parish. People these days increasingly use websites and social media to draw conclusions about churches which they are thinking about visiting, and the work we are doing will help us in our efforts to evangelize the greater Dallas area. Again, I'm very grateful to Heather and others for their efforts in helping us give a good first impression to those who are looking for a new home church.

Another major step forward for us came with the establishment of the St Matthias' Foundation. Many thanks to Fr Duncan and Bob Lea and others who helped make this a reality. This foundation is a testament to the many blessings which people have received through this parish's ministry in the past, and it is also an expression of trust in God's providence for us in the future. This foundation demonstrates the belief that this parish is not only a blessing to people now, but that it will continue to be a blessing for generations to come.

I could easily go on all afternoon about more specific things which are happening in the parish which are a cause for encouragement and even celebration. All things considered, I firmly believe that

from here on, ours is a parish which is moving forward.

Ours is a parish with limitless potential, too, especially in a time when the darkness of secularism is being rolled back and more people than ever in recent times are seeking Christ. And people are seeking something more than what basic American Christianity has to offer. People are seeking something ancient, solid, beautiful, and true in these chaotic times. And this moment is a tremendous opportunity for us to draw people into what we do here at St Matthias'. People are looking for truth, tradition, beauty, community, and authenticity. All of these things, and more, we have in spades at St Matthias', as we hold high the ancient Christian faith as we have received it in our beautiful English Catholic tradition.

We have what many people, especially young people today, are looking for: faithful Christian teaching and reverent, ancient worship, all set in a beautiful space in the midst of a community of warm, welcoming people who follow Christ's commandment to love one another. We have so much to offer, and I have no doubt that each of you will play an important role as we build up and grow our community. And that's not to say that we want growth and expansion for its own sake, but it is through the growth and revitalization of our parish that we will be able to work in more and more ways to share the love of Christ with a world that is hurting and lost.

In working towards this reality of growth for our parish, we should keep in mind the advice which was given by my mentor, Fr John Jordan: that is, we should not be afraid to dream and to take chances. Taking calculated risks and trying new things, is part of the process of sharing who we are with people and bringing them into the fold.

So now, I'd like to lay out something of a loose vision for the coming months and years. I know we won't be able to do all these things tomorrow or even a year from now, but if we work hard and hold on to the love that we have for God and one another, "all things are possible," as our Lord said. I encourage you all to think and

dream and pray about these aspects of the life of our parish, as we collaborate to find things that work for us as a community.

First, events. As we seek to draw more people from the greater Dallas area to our community, I'd like us to start thinking about ways to draw people to our parish in big and not so big ways. Over the coming years, my hope is that we will steadily increase the number of events which would draw people to us. This could mean bringing back small-to-medium sized events like a barbecue which we open to the community, or trying something bigger like bringing back our Easter Festival. We should also think about trying new things like establishing a fall festival or Oktoberfest celebration of some kind.

Second, ministries. In the coming year, I'd like for us to start thinking of ways to revitalize core internal ministries of our parish, such as the men's group and the women's group. I'd also like to pay special attention to revitalizing our kids and youth ministries. I know these things will take time, but there's nothing wrong with starting small and going from there. In the next few years, I believe it is possible for us to realize a vision of having our parish well established as a place for families and people of all ages to gather together in a thriving community of faith.

I'd also love to see us find new ways to minister to our community. Going out and loving and serving our neighbors is a core piece of the life of any parish, and while I know we do some wonderful things now and have done lots of good work in the past, I want to encourage you all to think of more ways for us to get out and serve others out of love for Christ and our neighbors. Again, there's nothing wrong with starting small and then building from there.

Finally, I look forward to the coming years in which we will continue to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, and doing so in ways which would be easily recognizable to the Christians who came before us – especially our Christian forebears in the British Isles. As Anglo-Catholics, we have a rich theological and

liturgical tradition, and we also have what is arguably the greatest sacred music tradition in the world. In the coming years, I want to encourage investment in our music ministry. This is not only to enhance our worship even more, but it will also be aimed at our renewed efforts toward evangelism. If we can continue to invest in our music ministry, we will be able to put on musical events which we can advertise to the Dallas area, whether those events may be a Choral Evensong or a performance of a Bach Cantata or something else. In a world which is changing so much and filled with so much ugliness, our musical and liturgical life offers beauty to a world which desperately needs it.

As I wrap up, I want to encourage you all to not grow weary in well doing. Again, there is so much that is good and beautiful about our parish, and I am inspired and encouraged by you all every day. I see in this parish a desire and readiness to dive into this new chapter with evangelistic zeal, and I see God's hand in preparing the way for us. So, continue to love one another and pray for one another and lift one another up. And in the coming year, I invite you all to pray with me for the growth of this parish. I look forward to working alongside you all in the coming year, and I look forward to seeing what God will accomplish here at our parish through our ministry together. In all things, may we give glory and honor to Jesus Christ. May our Lady, Mary, and our Patron, Matthias, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr Travis Province

PRAYERS & SQUARES MINISTRY

The Prayers and Squares Ministry will meet Thursday, February 19th at 4:30pm. We have given over 300 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 nepperrine@gmail.com to make a request.



February Fellowship Supper

Theme: Sts Cyril and Methodius (Valentine's)

Love is in the air - and in the kitchen? Join your St Matthias friends for a fun and festive covered dish dinner filled with great food, warm laughter, and joyful fellowship rooted in Christ's love.

Bob and Robyn Priest together with co-hosts, Doug and Candy Grady and Rose Hultgren invite you to the Priests home at *3226 Catamore Lane, Dallas, TX 75229 at 6:00PM on Saturday, February 14th*, for this evening of good conversation and plenty of smiles.

Bring your favorite dish to share. We will provide soft drinks and wine but BYOB if you want anything else. Singles, couples, friends are all welcome - there's a seat for everyone (maybe on the floor).

Come hungry and help us celebrate the love God calls us to share with one another every day. "Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Cor 16:14)

If your last name begins with **Bring either**

A through H

Salad or Main Dish

I through P

Dessert or Main Dish

Q through Z

Vegetable or Main Dish



ST. OLAF CHOIR

ANTON ARMSTRONG • CONDUCTOR



Monday, February 9
7:30 P.M.

Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center
2301 Flora Street, Dallas, TX 75201

\$35–75 adults • \$10 students



TICKETS: dallasymphony.org
OR 214-849-4376

ST. OLAF CHOIR

ANTON ARMSTRONG, CONDUCTOR

JEAN PARISH, DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS FOR MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS

The St. Olaf Choir, the widely-acclaimed ensemble and long-time creative influence behind the a cappella choral tradition, has toured annually since 1912, when it was founded by F. Melius Christiansen. The 1920 tour to the major music centers of the East Coast sowed seeds of the ensemble's national reputation and established its unaccompanied style of singing as a significant force in American choral music.

Anton Armstrong has served as conductor of the St. Olaf Choir since 1990. A 1978 bachelor of music graduate of St. Olaf College (where he was a member of the choir he now leads), Armstrong later earned a master of music degree in choral music from the University of Illinois and a doctor of musical arts degree in choral conducting from Michigan State University. He returned to St. Olaf after 10 years on the faculty at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Armstrong is well aware of the St. Olaf Choir's history and its place in American choral tradition. His D.M.A. thesis was devoted to "Celebrating 75 Years of Musical Excellence: The Evolution of the St. Olaf Choir."

Under the adept direction of Olaf C. Christiansen '25 (who succeeded his father in 1941), Kenneth Jennings '50 (who led the ensemble from 1968 to 1990), and Armstrong '78, the St. Olaf Choir has inspired and entertained audiences around the world. The St. Olaf Choir has performed under such notable conductors as Sir Neville Marriner, Osmo Vänskä, Neeme Järvi, Sir David Willcocks, Helmuth Rilling, the late Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, and Robert Shaw, and it continues to make frequent appearances with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

The St. Olaf Choir is acclaimed internationally, the result of 15 tours to Europe, Asia,



Anton Armstrong '78

and the Pacific Rim. In 1988, the ensemble was one of only five choirs in the world invited to participate in the Seoul Olympic Arts Festival in South Korea. In 1993, the choir completed a 21-day concert tour to New Zealand and Australia. In 2001 it embarked on a 21-day concert tour to France, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. In 2005, the

St. Olaf Choir joined the St. Olaf Band and the St. Olaf Orchestra on a 21-day concert tour of Norway to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Norway's independence. In June 2009, the St. Olaf Choir made its first concert tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland. In June 2013, the St. Olaf Choir re-created the 1913 Norwegian tour that was the first international trip under F. Melius Christiansen. In June 2017, the St. Olaf Choir embarked on a tour to South Korea and Japan, its first trip to Asia since the 1988 Seoul Olympic Arts Festival in South Korea. In 2024, the St. Olaf Choir traveled to South Africa for a three week concert tour.

A television broadcast of the St. Olaf Choir's 2013 performance in the 950-year-old Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway, won two regional Emmy® awards. Produced by Twin Cities Public Television, PBS aired the one-hour television special, *Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir*, as part of its 2013 holiday programming. In December 2025, PBS aired a 60-minute presentation of The St. Olaf Christmas Festival: Our Hope for Years to Come, on public television stations nationwide.

The choir's growing discography features more than 25 recordings, including *Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir, Norge Mitt Norge, The Spirituals of William L. Dawson, Advance Australia Fair; Repertoire for Mixed Voices, Vol. I and II*; and the popular three volume series *Great Hymns of Faith*.

St Matthias' Church

ANGLICAN

In the Diocese of Fort Worth, the Province of South America, THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

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Archbishop & Primate of the Province of South America

Archbishop ACNA

Bishop of Fort Worth

Bishop Assistant of Fort Worth

Rector

Rector Emeritus

Assisting Priest

Assisting Priest

Parish Administrator

Parish Musician

Choral Scholars

The Most Rev'd Brian Williams

The Most Rev'd Stephen Wood

The Rt Rev'd Ryan S. Reed, SSC

The Rt Rev'd Keith L. Ackerman, SSC

The Rev'd Father Travis A. Province, SSC

The Rev'd Canon Dwight D. Duncan, SSC

The Rev'd Father H. Ivor Kraft, SSC

The Rev'd Canon Ronald L. McCrary, SSC

Mrs Heather Lopez

Mr J. Richard Abrahamson

Ms Lisa Wells, Mr Erick Reich

DAILY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday through Friday:

6:45am - Matins

7:00am - Mass

Wednesday: Noon - Mass

Saturday: 9:00am - Matins

9:15am - Mass

Confessions - Noon to 12:30pm