



Hopefully, you've been following the adventures of the 3 Wise Men - Balthasar, Gaspar and Melchior, on our Facebook page as they continue traveling to St. Matthias.

St. Matthias' Episcopal Church

Worship God, Be
Transformed by Christ,
Change the World

January 2024

What's Happening

Fr. Dexter Lesieur



2023 was a year of highs and lows for St. Matthias. We continued our tradition of being involved in our community impacting so many lives with our efforts. We lost two of our family, Erica and Harry. They were both a very big parts of our church and will be sorely missed. We held a Celebration of Life service for Harry Trupp last month. He made a tremendous impact at St. Matthias. I want to thank everyone who helped with the service and reception.

Karen was selected as our next Bishop's Warden. She has lots of Warden experience and new ideas for outreach and Parish life.

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Come One! Come All! Bring a Friend!

St. Matthias will be hosting our first Loteria Afternoon party on Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 (or so) p.m. in the Parish Hall. What, you may ask, is Loteria? It is Mexican Bingo. You have cards, markers (beans, beer bottle caps), snacks, prizes, and a whole lot of fun. All you have to do is be willing to show up, learn some new Spanish words and have a great time. There is NO CHARGE for this fun-filled afternoon! All we ask is that you bring one (or several) unwrapped "white elephant prizes", and a snack to share for the common table. None of the above need to be elaborate. We are gathering together with friends for fun and fellowship. Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and join us for an entertaining afternoon!



Annual Meeting

We'll be holding our annual meeting January 7th, after our worship service. We vote on our 2024 budget, review last year's accomplishments and plans for 2024. We'll be having a pot luck with tamales.

Home Blessings

Father Dexter and Jo Ann will be available on Epiphany, January 6th, to bless your homes. "Chalking the door," as it is known, is seen as invoking Christ's blessing not only on the physical house but on the people who live there and those who visit. There is a long tradition of blessing homes, especially on the Epiphany, which falls on Jan. 6 each year. Traditionally, the chalking is done above the lintel and takes this form: 20+C+M+B+24 - The letters are the abbreviation for the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" – "Christ bless this house. The + signs represent the cross, and 20-24 is the year.



After several months of an intensive training and studying, Jo Ann was certified by Community of Hope International as St. Matthias's first Lay Chaplain. She plans to focus on parishioner visits and senior visitations.

Coming up next month

Next month we will hold our Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast after our Sunday worship service Feb 19th. Our community "Ashes to Go" on February 22nd, 5pm followed by Evening Prayer at 6pm.

Bible Study

Bible Study will start up again this month. On January 14 at 9:00 am we will have our weekly Bible Study before the Sunday service.

We had a great Consecration Sunday. Thank you everyone who turned in their pledge cards. If you haven't turned in your pledge cards, please do so as soon as possible. We use them for planning our annual budget. After the service we made tamales and ate pombasas for Tamalada Sunday. Everyone was able to take home the many different kinds of tamales.



Phyllis celebrates her 90th birthday

Our oldest parishioner, Phyllis Soret turned 90 last month. She's been involved in many church activities. She was our treasurer for many years, serves on our Altar Guild, and is our music director choosing our Sunday and special worship hymns. When we have a hymn without an accompanying vocal, Phyllis leads of singing efforts. When she's not at a worship service, her voice is definitely missed.

A beautifully decorated birthday party was held in our Parish Hall. There was lots of food and fun. Her family graciously donated all the wonderful decorations to the church for future events.



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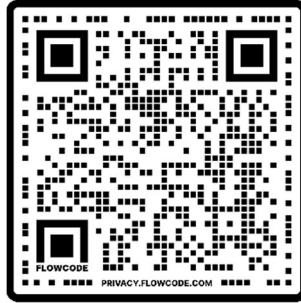
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GIVING LINKS

We've added an online giving link on our St. Matthias Web Site and Facebook pages. Your support is greatly appreciated.

<https://www.fellowshiponegiving.com/App/Form/d9b59938-5252-4e7f-8828-75939fd5be8c>

On the back of our contact cards is this QR code. When scanned these are the links you can access



VISIT US ELSEWHERE

- Donations: [Fellowship Giving](#)
- Website: [St. Matthias' Episcopal Church](#)
- YouTube: [St. Matthias Devine](#)
- Facebook: [St. Matthias' Episcopal Church, Devine, TX](#)

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Years' Day Open House 2-6 at Lesieur's	2 Amber Veselovec (BD)	3 EP 6:00 pm	4	5	6 Epiphany Blessing of the Homes
7 HE 10:30 am Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon	8	9	10 EP 6:00 pm	11	12	13
14 Bible Study 9 am HE 10:30 am	15	16	17 EP 6:00 pm	18	19 Olive Lesieur (BD)	20
21 Bible Study 9 am HE 10:30 am Noisy Offering	22	23	24 EP 6:00 pm	25	26	27 Lotteria 2-4 pm
28 Bible Study 9 am HE 10:30 am	29	30	31 EP 6:00 pm			

Legend: Legend: HE = Eucharist, EP = Evening Prayer, BD = Birthday, A=Anniversary