

THE MAR THOMA CHURCH OF DALLAS FARMERS BRANCH

CHURCH

11550 LUNA ROAD
DALLAS, TX 75234
TEL: (972) 830.9300



PARSONAGE

3621 CANYON OAKS
CARROLLTON, TX 75007
TEL: (972) 939.0699

Items to be included in the lifestimes should be submitted to the Secretary by the 3rd Sunday of each month. If information is incorrectly printed, please contact the Vicar and Secretary to make the corrections. Please feel free to contact the Vicar or Secretary with any questions or comments. Your feedback is appreciated.

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MAR THOMA LIFE TIMES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MAR THOMA CHURCH OF DALLAS, FB

DECEMBER 2011



The Mar Thoma Church of Dallas
Farmers Branch

11550 Luna Road, Dallas, TX 75234
972.830.9300
www.mtcdallasfb.org





Worship



Schedule



<p>Dec 4 <i>Visitation of Of Mary to Elizabeth Bearers of Good News</i></p> <p>Area: Irving North</p>	<p>9:00 AM: Sunday School 9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (MALAYALAM)</p> <p>Christmas Caroling</p> 	<p>1st Lesson: Gen. 33: 1-17 2nd Lesson: 2 Cor 1: 3-11 Epistle: 1 Thes. 3: 6-13 Gospel: St. Luke 1: 39-45</p>
<p>Dec 11 <i>Birth Of John The Baptist</i></p> <p>Second Sunday Before X mas</p> <p>Area: Irving South</p>	<p>9:00 AM: Sunday School 9.15 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (ENGLISH)</p> <p>Christmas Caroling</p> 	<p>1st Lesson: Isa. 55: 6-13 2nd Lesson: Acts 11: 19-26 Epistle: Heb 4: 1-13 Gospel: St. Luke 1: 57-66</p>
<p>Dec 18 <i>Annunciation to Joseph Sunday before X Mas</i></p> <p>Area: Plano</p>	<p>9:00 AM: Sunday School 9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (MALAYALAM)</p>	<p>1st Lesson: Isa 11: 1-10 2nd Lesson: 1 John 5: 1 -12 Epistle: Rom. 1: 1-16 Gospel: Mat. 1: 18- 23</p>
<p>Dec 25 <i>Birth of Our Savior</i></p> <p><i>End of 25 days fast</i></p> <p>Area: Carr. East</p>	<p>8.00 AM: Holy Qurbana (ENGLISH)</p> <p>MARY CHRISTMAS</p> 	<p>1st Lesson: Isa. 9: 1-8 2nd Lesson: Gal 4: 1-7 Epistle: Heb 1: 1-12 Gospel: St. Luke 2: 1-14</p>
<p>JAN 1st, 2012 Year Ending Watch Night Service <i>God who is always with us</i></p> <p>Area: Carr. North</p>	<p>10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (MALAYALAM)</p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR</p> 	<p>1st Lesson: Exo. 33: 12-23 2nd Lesson: Heb. 13: 7-21 Epistle: 1 Pet. 5: 6-11 Gospel: St. Luke 12: 22-34</p>

DEC. PRAYER MEETING SCHEDULE



Area	Date	Residence of	Time
Carrollton East	12-03 12-10 12-17 12-24	United Christmas Caroling House Caroling House Caroling Christmas Carol	6:30 6:30 6:30 6.00
Carrollton North	12-03 12-10 12-17 12-24	United Christmas Caroling House Caroling House Caroling Christmas Carol	6:30 6:30 6:30 6.00
Carrollton West	12-03 12-10 12-17 12-24	United Christmas Caroling House Caroling House Caroling Christmas Carol,	6:30 6:30 6:30 6.00
Coppell	12-03 12-10 12-17 12-24	United Christmas Caroling Sanjay J Cherian Philip Thomas(Xmas Get together) Christmas Carol,	6:30 7.00 7:00 6.00
Dallas/ Mesquite	12-03 12-10 12-18(Sun) 12-24	United Christmas Caroling House Caroling House Caroling Christmas Carol	6:30 5:00 5:00 6.00
Fort Worth & Mid Cities	12-03 12-10 12-17 12-24	United Christmas Caroling House Caroling House Caroling Christmas Carol,	6:30 6.30 6:30 6.00
Garland	12-03 12-10 12-17 12-24	United Christmas Caroling House Caroling House Caroling Christmas Carol,	6:30 5.00 5:00 6.00
Irving North	12-03 12-10 12-17 12-24	United Christmas Caroling House Caroling House Caroling Christmas Carol	6:30 6.30 6:00 6.00
Irving South	12-03 12-10 12-17 12-24	United Christmas Caroling Rev. P V Thomas House Caroling Christmas Carol,	6:30 7.00 6:30 6.00
Plano	12-03 12-10 12-17 12-18	United Christmas Caroling House Caroling House Caroling Achenkunju Chandy	6:30 4.00 4:00 6.00

Report for MARTHOMA FEST 2011

Marthoma Fest was hosted on October 1st, 2011 at 2:30pm at church grounds. To grow in faith and share our faith in God with the world around us. In order to achieve our mission “Charity for Humanity” welcoming all parishioners. Our service to outreach as community of faith. Fest with a reason was declared open at 2:30pm all group of ages were there to witness the love and affection. As the Theme resembles “Charity for Humanity” every member exercised the right as true missionary and open heartedly and generously contributed to this noble cause as we were supporting local American Mission, Snehatheeram and MCRD projects.

The evening raised close to \$22 thousand. Raffle was \$8,345.00 and the donations were \$4531.00, Other Organizations \$2077.00, Bake sale was \$271.00 and the total income was 21419.00 with an expense of \$8500.00 for the opportunity. A fundraiser for the evening was nothing but the big crowd-puller. It drew about 800 people, majority of whom donated small amounts. The purpose of this event was to gather all and make them to understand about His mission and our call to participate in the same as the community by sharing our resources with them. The average per family was \$50.00 the goal is to generate \$25000.00 after expenses.

The evening of skit, dances, and Melodious Christian songs by JUBAL Christian Band increased the number and thus the Masala Dosa Skillet at Mayuri Indian Restaurant got heat up too. Children of all ages enjoyed the Pony Ride, Fun Train, Dunk Booth and the stalls by the various church organizations.

To truly make this fundraising possible, it's essential to have almighty's mercy for the fundraising constantly throughout our fundraiser. We as individuals observe that we are to achieving our goal, the harder we were asking more to kind donors will certainly it was a group achievement with fundraising goals. Each committee member significantly made the difference on the proceeds.

Acquiring complete involvement from our group is extremely important. I encouraged every group members to truly work hard and raise as much funds as possible to meet our targets and will be attained with bonus mighty God's blessing. For all an exceptional leadership and blessings from our President and Vicar Rev. Minoy Kuruvilla I say “Thank You”

Signed and Prepared by Convener MAR THOMA FEST 2011.

THOMAS SKARIAH

Convener - Marthoma Fest 2011.

VICAR & YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

The Christmas season is here and people around us react to the advent season differently. Some are suffering with "Christmas blue", because their sole thinking is on Christmas as a event not on Christ. Christmas is not about presents but about His presence. You may or may not have family nearby, but your Father is close at hand and your faith is more important than your feelings. He set us free from the chains we can never remove ourselves. He is our hope.

Today, how strange that our culture has turned Christmas inside out, making it a frenzy of materialism, greed, indebtedness and exhaustion. Today we worry about celebrating Christmas, but not Jesus Christ. **Christmas, to Jesus, meant selflessness.** Though "in the form of God (HE) did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant" (Phili.2:6-7) **Christmas, to Jesus meant Service.** He came not to be catered to but to minister to others (Mk.10:45). He wasn't as interested in being given to, as in giving. He gave Himself, and in giving Himself, He gave His all.

Christmas, to Jesus, meant Submission. In claiming to be "sent" from heaven. He implied His obedience to the Sender-----His Father.

And **Christmas, to Jesus meant Sacrifice.** His birth set a stage for Calvary.

God's people must reverse the trends of the culture and begin seeing our Lord's birth as He saw it. Can in this modern world we can think a way in which we can be a selfless, submissive, sacrificing servant today? If so, we got a divine corner on Christmas. Let's celebrate Christmas this year with both a backward glance and a forward look, changing ourselves by reminding that why it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Baby Jesus, rapped in cloth was a gift for you and me. God when shared Himself with His own He was happy, angles started singing and Joy spread around. Does this Christmas will help us to bring joy to our surrounding. Let's celebrate this season in His spirit.

Wish you all a blessed Christmas and prosperous new year ahead.

Minoyatchan.

Message from Youth Chaplain-Why candy canes for Christmas?!

Of all the beautiful traditions of Christmas, few are so ancient in meaning and so rich in symbolism as the Candy Cane. From the beginning of the tradition of the Christmas Tree, it was customary to decorate the tree with symbols of the newborn Christ. Candles represented the Light of the World, the Star recalled that first Christmas night, and the shepherd's crook (staff) symbolized the humble shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem who were first to receive the news, "Unto You is Born a Savior." Christmas tree decorations in Europe, from which our tradition comes, were customarily made of food, principally cookies and candy. This symbolically expresses thanks for "Our Daily Bread" as well as providing a Christmas treat for the children. Thus, the shepherd's crook becomes a candy cane. As time went on, many ornaments took a more permanent nature but the Candy Cane retains the original use and meaning of Christmas Tree ornaments. Candy Canes on the Christmas tree symbolize the Shepherds in the fields on that first Christmas night, shepherds who heard the angel chorus and came to worship at the crib of the newborn King. They are also sign of our thanks to God for the food he has given us all during the year, and not least of all, they are an inexpensive and delightful Christmas treat for the family.

“What are we announcing with our worship? Are we expecting the mall to tell our story of the birth of Christ? If we worship with our lives, worship like the shepherds and wise men, with the fullness of worship, we witness the true story.

As we reflect upon the meaning of Christmas, the actions of the shepherd tell us the story of true worship. The shepherds were considered the least among their community, despised, poor and oppressed. Yet, it was to them that the angels made the announcement of Christ's birth. They worshipped fully and witnessed to others. The presence of Christ remains an open invitation to all despite our weaknesses and whatever “labels” society has placed on us. Worship hinges on the reality that we are all accepted and loved and ushers a response of humility and devotion. This is the church's story and not the mall's story of Christmas! It is the story of Jesus Christ coming into the world to bring salvation to all. Will you accept Jesus Christ and the eternal gift He has offered us through His blood?! As followers of Jesus, our options are clear. We can inhabit the story of a corrupt world, or we can enter the story of God through Christ. We can create new possibilities of what worship looks like. Christmas, the true Christmas, is worship!

Merry Christmas!

May God strengthen us to worship him in truth and spirit this Christmas season!

Prayers and Love, Your brother in Christ, **Jaisen** Achen 214.604.6678



December BIRTHDAYS.....



Date	Name	Prayer Group
1	Mannil R Titus	Carrollton East
	Susy Abraham	Irving North
2	Mary Parampottil	Coppell
	Isaac KULANGARA Tom	Fort Worth Mid Cities
3	Tara S Thomas	Plano
4	Dr. Joseph Kurian	Other Area
	Sali Abraham	Carrollton East
5	Oommen B Kurien	Carrollton West
	Aleyamma Mathews	Carrollton East
6	Varghese Ninan	Plano
	Abraham Varghese Thomas	Irving North
7	Dennis Thankachan	Carrollton North
	Julie Panachakunnel	Carrollton East
8	Mariamamma Koshy	Coppell
	Nisha M Eapen	Irving North
9	Thomas Kunnathu John	Irving North
	Rev. Thomas P Varkey	Irving South
10	Thresiamma Varughese	Irving South
	Srish Sawkar	Coppell
11	Jebin Mathew	Irving South
	Jay Benjamin	Carrollton East
12	Eunice Samuel	Carrollton East
	Rozil Mathew	Carrollton North
13	Reji L Thomas	Garland
	Sheeba Eapen	Carrollton East
14	Biju T Zachariah	Plano
	Abraham John	Carrollton North
15	Tony Philip	Carrollton West
	Dr. Molly Cherian	Carrollton West
16	Anceslo Idicula	Garland
	Shawn Jacob	Carrollton North
17	Jayna Marie Philipose	Garland
	Mariamamma Abraham	Carrollton North
18	Gigi Jacob	Carrollton West
	Susan Philip	Irving South
19	Sherin Mathew	Carrollton East
	Sean Samuel Mathew	Coppell
20	Suja S Mathew	Coppell
	Soju Kurien	Coppell
21	Sonish G. Varughese	Irving South
	Troy Parampottil Issac	Garland
22	Nishita Sojan	Plano
	Abel Mathew	Garland
23	Alumkal S Abraham	Carrollton North
	Hannah M Thomas	Carrollton North
24	Santhosh Samuel	Carrollton West
	Kristen Rebecca Idichandy	Garland
25	David Joseph	Garland
	Mathri T Kunnel	Garland
26	Rachel Varghese	Fort Worth Mid Cities
	Eapen Varghese	Carrollton West
27	Christina M Mathew	Irving South
	Jayan Varkey	Carrollton North
28	Alice Mathew	Irving South

Christmas and New Year Programs



Dec 24th Saturday: Christmas Eve program (6– 9 PM)

Songs by Church Choir and prayer groups



Dec 25th Sunday 8:00 AM
Christmas Service (English)
Christmas Breakfast after the service.



Dec 31st Saturday:
Watch Night Service
Witnessing from 10:00 PM
Holy Qurbana (English), choir dedication
Candle light service.



Jan 1st, 2012, Sunday:
Holy Communion (Malayalam)
at 10.15 AM



Dec. Wedding Anniversaries



Date	Name	Prayer Group
5	T M Varghese & Nirmala Varghese	Carrollton East
11	Abraham P & Renney Varughese	Dallas / Mesquite
14	Thomas M. Mathew & Saly Thomas	Plano
	Joji George & Mariamma Joji	Irving North
15	Sabu & Netra Oommen	Irving North
	Troy P Philip & Dency Troy	Fort Worth Mid Cities
16	Cherian & Ligimol Mathew	Carrollton East
	Thomas Abraham & Aiamma Thomas	Carrollton East
17	Samuel & Lissy Yohannan	Carrollton North
18	George Mathews & Smitha Koshy	Plano
20	Cherian Illampallil & Sally John	Coppell
21	Tinu Thomas Chacko & Anitha Tinu	Irving North
24	Dr. Sanjay Philip Oommen & Dr. Sindhu Philip	Irving North
25	K C Geeverghese & Saramma Verghese	Plano
	Cecil Pokudiyil Cherian & Mareena Cherian	Coppell
26	Dr. Roy Mathew & Aswathi Mathew	Coppell
	George V Samuel & Annie G Samuel	Carrollton West
	Binoy Varghese & Ashby Thomas	Plano
	K K Raju & Vijaya Raju	Garland
	Biju K Jacob & Siby Jacob	Dallas / Mesquite
27	Bipin G & Achama Thomas	Plano
	P K Kuruvilla & Lancy Kuruvilla	Irving South
	Dr. George John & Dr. Sindhu Abraham	Plano
29	Bino Thomas & Reena Mathew	Irving South
	Dr. Pradeep P & Anna Mammen	Plano
30	Abey Mathew & Lissy Abey	Fort Worth Mid Cities
31	Anil & Saramma Jacob	Coppell

December BIRTHDAYS.....



Date	Name	Prayer Group
16	Rahul Mathew Varkey	Carrollton North
	Mattackal George John	Fort Worth Mid Cities
	Jacob Chacko	Carrollton West
	Jijo Jacob	Coppell
	Ljoy Philipose	Garland
17	Jason John	Coppell
	P V Thomas	Carrollton West
18	Vinson Thomas	Garland
	Shana Elizabeth Skariah	Irving South
	Ashley George	Irving North
	Jenny Allen	Fort Worth Mid Cities
19	C V Thomas	Carrollton East
	Leelamma Chacko	Carrollton North
	Nilam Kurian	Carrollton North
20	Toby Philip	Carrollton West
	Noel Abey James	Carrollton East
	Binks N Chacko	Irving North
	Zubin A Thomas	Plano
21	Aaron Abraham John	Garland
	Ashley George	Carrollton West
	Marayamma Philipose	Carrollton West
23	Shaji David	Plano
	Sara T Varghese	Fort Worth Mid Cities
	Deepa Titus	Carrollton East
	Christina Thomas	Carrollton East
	Thomas Mathew	Carrollton East
24	Anu B Abraham	Dallas / Mesquite
	Subin Mathew	Carrollton East
25	Philip P Kochiyil	Plano
	Leah Ann George	Dallas / Mesquite
	Annie Thankachan	Carrollton North
	Saju Abraham	Carrollton North
	Sherin Elizabeth Varughese	Carrollton East
	Chris Stanley James	Carrollton North
	John Jesson	Garland
Ramani Samuel	Other Area	
26	Julia Annmarie John	Irving North
	Diana Elizabeth Daniel	Irving North
	Daisy R Mathew	Irving South
	Kurien Ninan	Carrollton North
	Dr. Pradeep P Mammen	Plano
27	Solomon Abraham	Garland
	Liezy Varghese	Coppell
28	Alexis Ann Troy	Fort Worth Mid Cities
	Annamma Philip	Fort Worth Mid Cities
	George K Joseph	Garland
	Jaymon John	Carrollton North
29	Shaly Rajan Varughese	Irving South
	Panzy Thomas	Carrollton North
	Shiney E Idichandy	Garland
30	Joshua C Kurian	Plano
	P M Abraham	Garland
	Prasanth John Princely	Carrollton North
	Abin E Abraham	Coppell
31	Jasmin S. John	Coppell
	Jijo Jacob	Dallas / Mesquite
	Shibu Zachariah	Plano
31	Ajitha George	Plano
	Mareena Thomas Cherian	Coppell
	Teena Sara Maliakal	Carrollton North
	Ayan Tharian Issac	Garland
	Soji Samuel	Carrollton East

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Hosted by the St. Marks Mar Thoma Youth Fellowship of Tampa, Florida.

Date January 5-2, 2012

Theme: Deal or No Deal based on Joshua 24: 15

NEIGHBORHOOD MISSION 2011
Reaching out to the **LEAST, LOST, LAST, and LONELY**

Supporting the
DALLAS
MEN'S & WOMEN'S
SHELTER
--We Need Your Help--



Please Bring **NEW** or **GENTLY USED** (*washed*)
Jackets, sweaters, new socks, all winter clothing.
(A Project sponsored by Parish Mission
and Union Gospel Mission Dallas)
Next two weeks collection boxes will be provided
at Church Lobby.

We are planning to deliver the items on December **10**

 **FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**

FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF 2011 FAMILY RETREAT

All participants of family Retreat 2011
are requested to attend this follow up
meeting on December 10, Saturday from
10.00 AM to 12.30. PM
Lunch will be provided



*Thanks for all the Sup-
port and Prayers that
Kept us going through
the year 2011.*

2011 Office Bearers &
Executive Committee Members

Thank you ...

Youth Fellowship New Year Revival Convention 2012

MEETINGS (Venue Farmers Branch, MTC)

Dec. 30, Friday & Jan. 1st Sunday.
6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Renowned Preacher Rev. Tyrone Gordon, United Method-
ist Church, Dallas

WORKSHOPS

December 31st Saturday 10 AM—4 PM

JOIN FOR WORSHIP, PRAYER AND BLESSED WORD

Lock in program at MTCFB on Dec 16 & 17 from 7 PM—10 AM

Christmas Party at Jason Achen's place (23rd Dec. 7 PM)



Address Change

Binoy & Ashby Thomas

2505 Hammock Lake Dr Little Elm, TX 75068

Renil Samuel, 2811 Seven Shield, Lewisville

TX 75056. Phone# 972-934-0781



**MTCFB YOUTH
FELLOWSHIP
TOY DRIVE**

**THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP IS
COLLECTING TOYS/GENTLY
USED clothing items
FOR AGES: Newborn -16yrs old
FOR: both male and female!
A box will be designated
specifically for the kids!
LAST DAY TO DONATE
DEC. 18TH**