

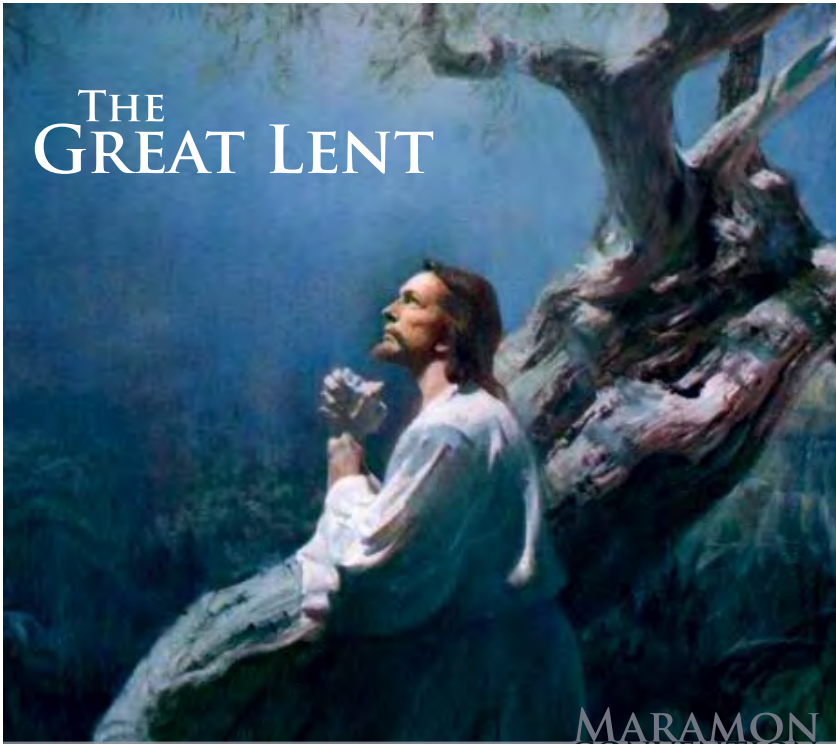


MAR THOMA LIFE TIMES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MAR THOMA CHURCH OF DALLAS, FB

FEBRUARY 2008

Dare to be different



THE GREAT LENT

MARAMON
CONVENTION



The Mar Thoma Church of Dallas
Farmers Branch

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 3

*Beginning of Great Lent—
Transformation and
Healing Through Christ—
Medical Mission Sunday*

9:00 AM: Sunday School
9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study
10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana
(Malayalam)

1st Lesson:
Hosea 6:1-11
2nd Lesson:
Acts 3:1-10
Epistle:
Jam 5:13-20
Gospel:
St. John 2:1-11

Area: Dallas/ Mesquite

February 10

*Cleansing Power of Lord
Jesus (2nd Sunday in
Lent) (113th Maramon
Convention begins)*

9:00 AM: Sunday School
9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study
10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana
(English)

1st Lesson:
Zech 13:1-9
2nd Lesson:
Hen 10:1-18
Epistle:
1 John 1:5-10
Gospel:
St. Mark 1:40-45

Area: Garland

February 17

*Liberating Faith (3rd
Sunday in Lent)
Maramon Convention
ends*

9:00 AM: Sunday School
9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study
10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana
(Malayalam)

1st Lesson:
1 King 17:17-24
2nd Lesson:
Acts 9:23-25
Epistle:
Col 1:1-14
Gospel:
St. Mark 2:1-12

Area: Irving

February 24

*Lord who hears the cry
(4th Sunday in Lent)*

9:00 AM: Sunday School
9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study
10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana
(English)

1st Lesson:
Joel 2:12-21
2nd Lesson:
Acts 10:34-48
Epistle:
Phil 4:4-9
Gospel:
St. Mat 15:21-28

Area: Plano

March 2

*Christ who gives new
value to human
Personality (5th Sunday
in Lent)*

9:00 AM: Sunday School
9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study
10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana
(Malayalam)

1st Lesson:
Judges 4:4-16
2nd Lesson:
Acts 17:22-31
Epistle:
Gal 3:1-29
Gospel:
St. Luke 13:10-17

Area: Carrollton - East

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

We are beginning our great lent this month. It is the time for prayer, fasting and meditating upon the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. During this Lenten season we remember Jesus' fasting days. Those 40 days in the wilderness were devoted to praying, fasting, and undergoing the harshest kinds of temptation. But the 40 days can also be understood as a period of intense preparation, a time for Jesus to make room in him for all those he would meet in the course of his public ministry, for all those who would draw near to him, come to him, plead with him, ask him for mercy and healing and help. Lent is the time to empty ourselves to our pettiness, our prejudice, our anxiety, our fear. It is an opportunity to make room, not only for God, but for those who come our way. How open is our door to those who come to us? Is there room enough in our hearts and our homes for those in need?



The meditation of Cross is very important in this season. Cross can be defined in many ways; it is God's self sacrificing love towards human being. It is the symbol of innocent suffering. But I would like to emphasize that cross is an intersection of two relationships, the manifestation of vertical love from God to human being and the manifestation of horizontal love between human being and human being. The love of God is only meaningful when we love each other. Pope Benedict XVI's first Encyclical Letter, God is Love is helpful to us here. It says: if in my life I fail completely to heed others, solely out of a desire to be devout and to perform my "religious duties," then my relationship with God will also grow arid. It becomes merely "proper" but loveless. Only my readiness to encounter my neighbor and to show him love makes me sensitive to God as well. Only if I serve my neighbor can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much he loves me ... Love of God and love of neighbor are thus inseparable, they form a single commandment ... No longer is it a question, then, of a "commandment" imposed from without calling for the impossible, but ... a love which by its very nature must then be shared with others.

As we begin our Lenten observance this year, we would do well to fix our eyes on Jesus, to enter with him into the spirit of those of his fasting days, The observation of lent is the preparation for the celebration of the Easter mysteries.

Handwritten signature of Rev. Vinoy Daniel in cursive script.

Rev. Vinoy Daniel

2008 ORGANIZATION OFFICE BEARERS

CHOIR

President: Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Secretary: Shaji Mathew
Treasurer: Molly Mathew
Director: M. J. Andrews
Asst Director: Laila Alexander

SEVIKA SANGHAM

President: Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Vice President: Saramma Mathew
Secretary: Annamma Mathew
Joint-Secretary: Jiji Andrews
Treasurer: Anju B. George
Accountant: Leelamma Chacko

SUNDAY SCHOOL

President: Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Superintendent: Nirmala Philip
Asst Superintendent: TBD
Secretary: TBD
Treasurer: TBD

PARISH MISSION

President: Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Vice President: Babu C. Mathew
Secretary: George Varghese
Treasurer: Skariah T. Philip
Accountant: Mariamma Daniel

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

President: Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Youth Chaplain: Rev. Ninu Chandy
Vice President: Thara Mathews
Secretary: Nancy Mathew
Joint-Secretary: Stephanie Jacob
Treasurer: Rintu Varghese
Youth Advisors: Leny Phillipose

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

President; Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Vice President: Mathew Samuel
Secretary: Zachariah Mathew
Lady-Secretary: Divya Sara Thomas
Treasurer: Cecil Cherian

BIRTHS

Congratulations:

- George Varghese & Subi M Philip (Dallas/ Mesquite) are blessed with a baby girl, Leya Ann George on Dec. 25, 2007
- Sanjay J Cheriyan & Bindu Annie Cheriyan (Coppell) are blessed with a baby girl, Joanna Susan Cheriyan on Jan 04, 2008
- Anwar Achan Kunju & Ginu Varghese (Irving) are blessed with a baby girl, Anjali Achan Kunju on Jan 07, 2008
- Tony and Bindhu Issac of the Garland Prayer Group are blessed with a baby boy, Ayan Tharian Issac on December 31, 2007

WEDDING

George Jacob & Sheela Mani, of 636 Calli Ct. Irving, Texas were united through holy matrimony on December 29, 2007 at Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Farmers Branch.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of:

- John Chacko (85) Grand Father of Mrs. Annie Varghese (Plano) passed away on Jan 03 2008 at Kottayam
- Annamma Chandy (57) sister of Mrs. Sali Abraham (Carrollton East) passed away on Jan 04, 2008 at Chennai , India.
- T.J. Thomas (76) father of Mr. George Thomas (Dallas/ Mesquite) passed away on Dec 06, 2007 at Manganam, Kottayam
- Mrs. Saramma Samuel (93), mother of Aleyamma John (Garland), went home to be with the Lord on January 6, 2008.
- T. K. Abraham (75), father of James T. Abraham (Garland) passed away on Jan 18, 2008 at Ummannor, Kottarakara, Kerala.
- Mrs. Saramma Sunny (64) sister of Mrs. Sosamma Skaria (Dallas/ Mesquite) passed away on Dec 22, 2007 at Vallamkulam, Kerala

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Aleyamma George	Dallas / Mesquite
	Molly Mathew	Coppell
	Neetha G Samuel	Carrollton West
	Sony Raju	Garland
	Susy Joseph	Other Area
2	Abey Mathew	Irving
	Joel S Kovoor	Plano
	Tom Mathai	Garland
3	Jacob Mammen	Plano
	Susan Mathew	Dallas / Mesquite
4	Cecil Pokudiyil Cherian	Coppell
	Jaison John	Carrollton West
	Mini Abraham	Garland
5	Chacko Jacob	Coppell
	Thomas K Mathews	Plano
6	Deenamma George	Carrollton West
7	Babukutty C. Skaria	Irving
	Evin Daniel	Parsonage
	John Itticheria	Dallas / Mesquite
	Philip Thomas	Carrollton West
8	Stemmon V Charly	Carrollton East
9	Mariamamma Philipose	Garland
	O. C. Abraham	Coppell
	Saramma Varughese	Irving
10	George Skariah	Carrollton East
	Merlin John	Irving
	Reeni Mathew	Irving
11	Alexy Jacob Troy	Irving
	Jacob Chacko Varghese	Irving
	Mini Varghese	Carrollton North
13	Jaison Ninan	Carrollton West
	Molly Thomas	Carrollton West
	Stanley Somar	Carrollton East
14	Dr. Gigi Mathew	Garland
	Jibin Mathew Abey	Irving
	Rohan G Varkey	Coppell
	Sujan George	Carrollton East
15	Alexander Varghese	Coppell
	Biju K. Mathew	Coppell
	Cyril Varughese	Irving
	Ponnachen K Thomas	Carrollton East

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

16	Nigil Thomas Thaimuriyil	Irving
	Nivin Mathew	Dallas / Mesquite
	Rubin Philip	Coppell
	Sara Chacko	Carrollton West
	Sosamma Thomas	Coppell
17	Johan S Koor	Plano
	Justin Joseph	Coppell
	Maher Adam Ismael	Coppell
	Mary Oommen	Other Area
	Nissi A Chacko	Garland
	Suja Thomas	Garland
18	Alex K Chacko	Carrollton West
	Bijo K Abraham	Dallas / Mesquite
	Jason Jacob	Dallas / Mesquite
	Laila O Thomas	Carrollton North
	Sheena R Abraham	Coppell
19	Shaun C Alexander	Garland
	Viji Thomas	Irving
20	Salina S George	Carrollton East
	Tania Sara Bijili	Carrollton East
21	Mariamamma Thaimuriyil	Irving
	Nathan Varghese	Carrollton North
	Sharon Abraham	Garland
22	Ashwin V Alexander	Coppell
	Iype Chacko	Other Area
	Lejoy Mathew	Garland
	Libin Mathew Abey	Irving
	Raju George	Dallas / Mesquite
	Susy Philip	Irving
23	Nisha Skariah	Irving
	Sumitha Rachel Cherian	Irving
	Sunoj J Mathew	Irving
	Wesley S. Mathews	Coppell
24	George Varghese	Coppell
25	Biji Chacko	Coppell
	Lauren A. Thomas	Carrollton West
	Liju John	Dallas / Mesquite
	Oommen Varghese	Carrollton East
	Ricky Abraham	Irving
28	Christian Biju Varghese	Coppell
	Reena Abraham	Carrollton North
	Stephen C Mathew	Carrollton East
29	Dr. Sumna Kuruvilla	Other Area

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1	2/1/1993	Mr. Abraham Kunnathuparampil & Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	Irving
	2/1/1999	Mr. Bijili & Mrs. Anju George	Carrollton East
	2/1/1993	Mr. George & Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas	Irving
	2/1/2001	Mr. Suresh Kuriakose & Mrs. Aleena Kurien	Irving
2	2/2/1989	Mr. Baby Samuel & Mrs. Achamma Baby	Carrollton East
3	2/3/1972	Mr. Abraham & Mrs. Marykutty Jose	Coppell
5	2/5/1990	Mr. Thomas & Mrs. Mariamma Thaimuriyil	Irving
	2/5/1994	Mr. Mathew Chanda Pillai & Mrs. Susan John	Plano
8	2/8/1975	Mr. K. S. Mathew & Mrs. Sosamma Skariah	Dallas / Mesquite
11			
	2/11/1985	Mr. Jacob Mathai & Mrs. Lizy Jacob	Carrollton North
12			
	2/12/1968	Mr. Abraham & Mrs. Annamma John	Carrollton North
	2/12/1979	Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Thresiamma Varughese	Irving
16			
	2/12/1976	Mr. P. T. & Mrs. Kunjamma Mathew	Carrollton North
16	2/16/1967	Mr. O. C. & Mrs. Manorama Abraham	Coppell
17	2/17/1977	Mr. Varghese Kuzhuvilil & Mrs. Rachel Varghese	Irving
18		2/18/1980	Mr. Varghese Titus & Mrs. Mary Varghese
19	2/19/1977	Mr. Varghese & Mrs. Elizabeth John	Coppell
21	2/21/1974	Dr. Varghese & Mrs. Ramani Samuel	Other Area
	2/21/2000	Mr. Sanjay & Mrs. Bindu Cherian	Coppell
22	2/22/1979	Mr. Cherian & Mrs. Lila Alexander	Garland
23	2/23/1989	Mr. Regimon & Mrs. Elcey Ninan	Carrollton West
24	2/24/1986	Mr. John & Mrs. Rachel Thomas	Carrollton East
25	2/25/1989	Mr. John & Mrs. Jaya Joseph	Garland
28	2/28/1987	Mr. Mathew Pappy & Dr. Gigi Mathew	Garland

MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH CHAPLAIN

I believe in One Baptism...

The sacrament of Holy Baptism is instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ. Hence it is an indispensable sacrament to all Christian church. At the same time, the practices of the same have made scars in the life of the church in many ways. People of God, young and old, have been skeptical about the efficacy of infant baptism and many of them have been wrongly driven by the advocates of adult baptism with out giving much thought to it. Though I wrote about this extensively in *The Messenger* and in parish bulletins, again I thought of writing it for the edification of the church. **In this issue, I will concentrate on what is Christian baptism, and whether there is any form of baptismal rites prevailed before Christian baptism.**

Does the practice of baptism existed in pre-Christian era? Scholars have different opinions regarding the practice existed before Christian form of baptism. Christian baptism may have the antecedent of the ritual purification ceremony existed in the Jewish monastic sects. Some others think that the antecedent to the Christian baptism existed in the initiation rites of mystery cults (for example, there was a practice called *taurobolium* where the person to be initiated into the particular cult has made to sit in a pit and the blood of a bull [Taurus] was poured over the his head, thereby initiating the person into the cult - *indebted to Rev. Dr. M.V. Abraham - New Testament Studies*).

Were there any references to proxy baptism in the Bible? There were cases where proxy baptism was done. This was done on behalf of some one who died before baptism. St.Paul asks, "If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?" (1 Cor. 15.29) This practice may have stopped when infant baptism became the common practice.

Generally speaking, baptism is an act of initiating a person into a particular sect through a form of ritual. Hence it is obvious to note that there were different forms of baptism existed even before the practice of baptism in the Christian church.

What is Christian baptism? Baptism is the outward act of an inner experience. Baptism is initially identification with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Mark 10.38; Luke 12.50). St.Paul agrees that baptism is 'to be buried in Christ and rise again with Christ' (Rom 6.3-5; Col 2.12). Through baptism we have put on Christ, - "For as many of you were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal 3.27). It is putting off our old nature and putting the new nature. "You have put off the old nature with its practices, and have out on the new nature" (Col 3. 9'10; Eph 4. 22-24) Baptism initiates newness in us and we need to grow into the fullness or maturity of that experience. The experience of newness through baptism is only a deposit or first installment, and we need to grow in it (2 Cor 1.22; 5.5).

Whatever be the antecedent, **there is a definite purpose for Christian baptism based on Christian faith.** Let us make an earnest effort to learn and study, and not be carried away by the wrong teachings.

**Rev. Ninu Chandy
Youth Chaplain**

YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S NEWS

- Bible Study for FB Youth Fellowship on 1st & 3rd Fridays
- Counseling Sessions
- House Visits
- Campus Ministry - every month
- Mentoring

Church Organizations News

Parish Mission:

As a part of the "Mission In Parish" program, Parish Mission is recognizing and participating Prayer Groups and Organizations in 2008. Each month is set apart for each prayer group and organization. Parish Mission is prayerfully requesting all the prayer groups and organizations to participate in house visits, Bible study, Intercessory Prayer, Witnessing, Area prayer meetings and other related activities of the Parish Mission

Sevika Sangham:

Sixth Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on March 8, 2008 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Carrollton.

Address Changes

Thomas Abraham
2522 Trinity Mills Rd. #407
Carrollton, TX: 75006
972-416-5929

James Abraham
1705 Metrocrest Drive #165
Carrollton, TX: 75006
972-478-5838

George Varghese
1109 Hidden Ridge #1033
Irving, TX: 75038
817-891-1774

PRAYER MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Area</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Residence of</u>	<u>Time</u>
Carrollton East	2-02	House visit	TBD
	2-10 (Sun)	Rachel P. Daniel	6:30
	2-17 (Sun)	Sunny Abraham	7:00
	2-23	Bijili George	7:00
Carrollton North	2-03 (Sun)	Jiny James	6:30
	2-10 (Sun)	Thomas V. Thomas	6:30
	2-16	Abraham John	6:30
	2-24 (Sun)	John K. Varghese	6:30
Carrollton West	2-02	TBD	TBD
	2-09	Babu Varghese	6:30
	2-16	TBD	TBD
	2-23	P. V. Thomas	6:30
Coppell	2-02	TBD	TBD
	2-09	Chacko Jacob	7:00
	2-16	TBD	TBD
	2-24 (Sun)	Varghese T. John	6:30
Dallas/ Mesquite	2-02	Abraham Mathew	7:00
	2-09	TBD	TBD
	2-16	Mathew T. George	7:00
	2-23	Bijo K. Abraham	7:00
Garland	2-02	Brigith Thomas	7:00
	2-09	Philipose M.	7:00
	2-16	Regi L. Thomas	7:00
	2-23	Cherian Alexander	7:00
Irving	2-02	M. A. Philip	6:30
	2-09	Zachariah Mathew	6:30
	2-16	Varghese Kuzhivelil	6:30
	2-23	Thomas Philip	6:30
Plano	2-02	Thomas Mathew	6:30
	2-09	TBD	TBD
	2-16	TBD	TBD
	2-23	Shaji David	6:30

Please visit <http://www.freewebs.com/planoprayergroup>