

**ST. PAUL'S MAR THOMA CHURCH**  
1002 BARNES BRIDGE RD.  
MESQUITE, TX 75150

Phone: 972 613 9080

PARSONAGE ADDRESS

5906 BLUE OAK DRIVE  
GARLAND, TX 75043  
972 226 0976

**ARTICLES NEEDED!**

If you would like to submit any articles in English or Malayalam,  
please send it to: Jacobkab@hotmail.com

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WEB!**

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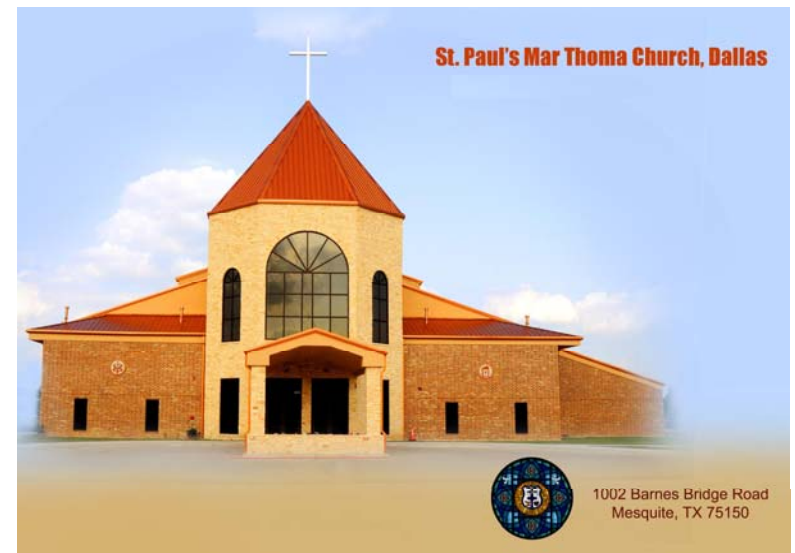


*Published by Sub-committee for Communications of St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas*

**St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church**  
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.  
Mesquite, TX 75150

# THE EPISTLE

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION**



**July 2011**





## Important Date to Remember!

### Annual Convention & 23<sup>rd</sup> Parish Day Celebration

Convention : On Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> & Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011 at 7 pm at the Church.

Holy Qurbana & Parish Day celebration on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 9 am.

Guest Speaker : Rev. George Varghese, Sehion Mar Thoma Church, Dallas.

Felicitation to the graduates also will be done.

### Medical Camp – Community Out Reach Program

On Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011 at 9 am at the Church:  
Free Medical treatment & Health Seminars.

### Sunday School V . B . S.

From Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at the Church.



## MESSAGE FROM VICAR

### SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Dearly beloved in Christ,

In the month of July the whole Church meditates upon “the Sacramental Life.”

1st Sunday is St. Thomas day. This day is set apart to remember the life and vision of St. Thomas who came to India in 52 AD, instituted the Church at Malankara and died for the Gospel. The Mar Thoma Church holds on the heritage and tradition of St. Thomas. He affirmed his faith in Christ as “My Lord and God” (St. Jn: 20:28). He was a man of deep faith, great vision and courage to die. As the Mar Thoma Christians, we are called to follow Jesus as St. Thomas followed Jesus.

On 2nd Sunday, we meditate upon “the Ordained Ministry of the Clergy.”

The Clergy are ordained in the Church for the ministry of service as Christ elected the apostles. The ordination is for the teaching of the Word of God and for the ministration of the sacraments. Ordination is a divine call to be the pastors of the people of God as Jesus is the good shepherd. Jesus said that the scripture is fulfilled in him when he read the scripture (St. Lk: 4:21). So the ordained clergy are called to preach the word of God and to live the Gospel and to become sacrament for Christ.

On 3rd Sunday, we meditate upon “the Royal Priesthood of the People of God.” Through baptism, all the believers enter into this priesthood community. This priesthood of the believers is a status and a responsibility. As the holy and the chosen people of God and as the royal priesthood, we are called to declare the praises of God who called us out of darkness into the wonderful light (1Pet:2:9).

On 4th Sunday, we meditate upon “God’s grace through sacraments”. Sacrament is defined as the visible means of receiving invisible God’s grace and this grace sanctifies our lives. Sacraments are not acts that ensure salvation because salvation is gift of God and by God’s grace. Sacraments help us to receive God’s grace and to grow in faith and in salvation. Jesus Christ is the great sacrament through whom God’s grace is revealed in the world. When we receive God’s grace, our lives also will become sacraments in the world.

On 5th Sunday, we meditate upon “the Anointing of the sick for healing.” All of us need relief and health for our body and soul through prayer, fellowship and the word of God (James :5: 14). The Church is called to be a healing community.

As the Church, let us have assurance of our calling and mission. Let us live a sacramental life so that our lives will be a blessing for others.

In Christ’s service,  
A.P.Noble achen.

Email: [revnobleap@yahoo.com](mailto:revnobleap@yahoo.com)

Ph: 469-964-7494.

## FAITH AND PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH: A Study Series.

### Liturgy of Sacraments – Continued from last issue.

#### Sacrament of Holy Ordination.

This sacrament is the continuation of the ministry of Jesus Christ and the Apostles. The Church selects and appoints suitable persons through prayer and laying on of hands. (Acts:6:6; 1Tim:3:13; Tit:1:6-8; 2Pet:4:10,11). The ordination of clergy do not replace the royal priesthood of believers but to enhance it.

#### Functions of a Minister.

1. Representing the believers,
2. Proclaiming the Word of God,
3. Administering the sacraments,
4. Shepherding the people of God &
5. Witnessing Christ and the Kingdom of God.

#### The Liturgy of Ordination:

It has two sections and it is conducted during the Holy Qurbana.

#### 1. Proclamation of Faith (Homologia).

The Bishop reads out to the candidates about the faith of the Church and good conduct.

Candidates make sign of cross in the register as adherence to the teachings. The clipping of the hair of the candidate is done as a sign of dedication. And the Bishop lifts up the candidate.

#### 2. The Service of Ordination.

Prayers for the sanctification of the Candidates and Scripture readings. (1Tim:3:1-7, 4:12-16; Titus:1:5-9; 1Pet:2:1-10; St. John:14:15-20,20:19-23). Breathing on candidates as symbol of receiving Holy Spirit (Jn:20:22). Exhortation to the people and proclamation by the Bishop. Prayer for the invocation of the Holy Spirit on the candidates. Prayer and proclamation of Ordination and thanksgiving prayer. Vesting of the newly Ordained and receiving the Holy Qurbana. Final benediction and exchange of peace.

**Next issue: Reformation – A Study.**

## *Lectionary/Worship Information*

<b>Sunday, July 3, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - English)</b> St. Thomas Day (4th Sunday after the Pentecost) My Lord and God	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa. 52:7-15	<b>Epistle:</b> 1 Thess. 1:2-9
<b>Lesson 2:</b> 2 Tim. 3:10-17	<b>Gospel:</b> John 24-29
<b>Sunday, July 10, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam )</b> 5th Sunday after the Pentecost Clergy: Minister of the Word of God	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Jer. 1:1-12	<b>Epistle:</b> Rom.15:14-18.
<b>Lesson 2:</b> 2 Tim. 4:1-8	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 4:14-22
<b>Sunday, July 17, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana—English)</b> 6th Sunday after the Pentecost The People of God: The Royal Priesthood	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> 1 Sam. 3:1-14	<b>Epistle:</b> Heb. 4:12-16
<b>Lesson 2:</b> 1 Pet. 2:1-10	<b>Gospel:</b> John 13: 12-20
<b>Sunday, July 24, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)</b> 7th Sunday after the Pentecost God's Grace through the Sacraments	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Deut. 6:4-25	<b>Epistle:</b> Rom. 6:1-11
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Eph. 1:1-12	<b>Gospel:</b> John 6:52-58
<b>Sunday, July 31, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)</b> 8th Sunday after the Pentecost Anointing of Oil – Healing of Body and Soul	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> 2 Kings 20:1-11	<b>Epistle:</b> James 5:13-19
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Acts 4:5-12	<b>Gospel:</b> Mat. 10:1-10

## BIRTHDAYS

2-Jul	Felix Cherian	Garland	19-Jul	Sion Philip	Rockwall
3-Jul	Christine Kurien	Sunnyvale	19-Jul	Susan Kurien	Sunnyvale
4-Jul	Abhigaiill Ashish	Sunnyvale	19-Jul	Susan Anish	Garland
6-Jul	Mariamamma George	McKinney	21-Jul	Leelamma James	Sunnyvale
6-Jul	Veena Joseph	Sunnyvale	23-Jul	Sosamma Mathai	Sunnyvale
7-Jul	Vincent James Bhatti	Rowlett	24-Jul	Easow Chacko	Garland
8-Jul	Reji Philip Thomas	Garland	24-Jul	Hannah Joseph	Garland
9-Jul	Alvin John	Mesquite	26-Jul	Noah John Mathews	Sunnyvale
9-Jul	Laly Kurian	Mesquite	26-Jul	Mariamamma Philip	Dallas
15-Jul	Jayne Sarah Thomas	Plano	27-Jul	Ditty Bhatti	Rowlett
15-Jul	Jobin P.Mathew	Sunnyvale	27-Jul	Suma Philip	Rockwall
15-Jul	Kevin Mathew	Mesquite	28-Jul	Gracy Varghese	Mesquite
15-Jul	Saumia S. Thomas	Mesquite	29-Jul	Aleyamma Mathew	Garland
15-Jul	Thara Joseph	Garland	29-Jul	Mariamamma Joseph	Garland
17-Jul	Christy Kurien	Sunnyvale	31-Jul	Sachin John	Mesquite
17-Jul	Aben Alex Koshy	Garland	31-Jul	Tiju Abraham	Mesquite
18-Jul	Lijin John	Garland			
19-Jul	Aliyamma Geevarghese	Garland			
19-Jul	Babu P. Simon	Garland			

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Varghese	Mesquite	24-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Koshy	Mesquite
1-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Raju Varghese	Mesquite	28-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Babu	Rockwall
10-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Oommen	Dallas	30-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Sam Koshy	Garland
11-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Anil Mathew	Sunnyvale	31-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Shiju Baby	Garland
11-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Easo	Mesquite	31-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Joy Thomas	Plano
11-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Mammen	Rockwall			
12-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Cherian P.P.	Sunnyvale			
15-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Soji Skariah	Garland			
16-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese K. Mathew	Garland			
16-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. John Yohannan	Mesquite			
21-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P . Chacko	Garland			
22-Jul	Mr. & Mrs. Sibiu Joseph	Garland			

## Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Happy is the nation who's God is the Lord.  
**Ps 33:12** *Unless America returns to her Christian roots we may need to fly the American flag at half mast.*

**What is freedom really? Is it doing whatever you want? What is holding you back from knowing the freedom God really offers you?**

In Biblical understanding, authentic freedom is in the willingness to surrender oneself to the purpose of God. It is in that experience of submission, that we know true direction in life and fulfill our potential. For instance, Andrew and Simon Peter were called by Jesus Christ towards freedom in a new life and direction when Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people" (St. Mark 1:17). For the Apostle St. Paul, salvation is synonymous with liberation, but a liberation which makes us "through love become slaves to one another" (Gal. 5:13). It is a new way of living and understanding life and freedom: not according to the flesh which leads us to selfish closing in on ourselves but, according to the Spirit of God who is love, communion and solidarity (Gal. 5:16).

Thus, true freedom requires us to be bold and courageous! It means we must overcome our fears and trust in God as we move forward. On their way to the Promised Land, the Jewish people turned against Moses (Ex.16:2). Their struggles and difficulties made them yearn for a mediocre but familiar existence. Freedom frightened them and they wanted to go back to the security of slavery, oppression and mistreatment. This is the temptation of every believer and why Jesus says "Do not be afraid"(Jn.6:20). Fear characterizes the "old self" (Eph. 4:22). The situations we may be going through and live in may be stormy; perhaps it feels sometimes that the ground under our feet is slipping. However, let us remember God is

working so that we may clothe ourselves with the “new self” and continue to hope.  
So we must continue on the journey to the promise of true freedom and life!  
May God Almighty strengthen us all to know true freedom through surrender to  
God’s will in our life!

Your brother in Christ,  
Jaisen Achen  
C- 214-604-6678  
revjathomas@yahoo.com

## **Baptism Announcement**

Anna Maria Johnkutty, daughter of Vincent Johnkutty & Julie  
was baptized on 11<sup>th</sup> June and entered into the faith commu-  
nity.

## **Marriage Announcement**

Dr. Vinu George Ipe & Siby Varghese got married on 18<sup>th</sup> June  
and became a new family. The Parish wish them a happy and  
blessed married life.

## *Church Organizational Activities*

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Regular classes at 8.45am.

### **SEVIKA SANGHAM:**

**TBD**

### **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:**

**Tuesdays** - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of  
the month

**Thursdays** - Prayer Call

**Fridays** - Prayer Fellowship -

### **YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:**

**TBD**

### **PARISH MISSION:**

**Fridays** at 7pm - Bible Study/Prayer fellowships at the Church.

**Sundays** at 9-9:30am - Intercessory Prayer

### **CHOIR:**

**Thursdays** - Malayalam Choir Practice sessions for the prior week of Malaya-  
lam Qurbana

**Saturdays** - English Choir Practice sessions for the prior week of English Qur-  
bana..