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**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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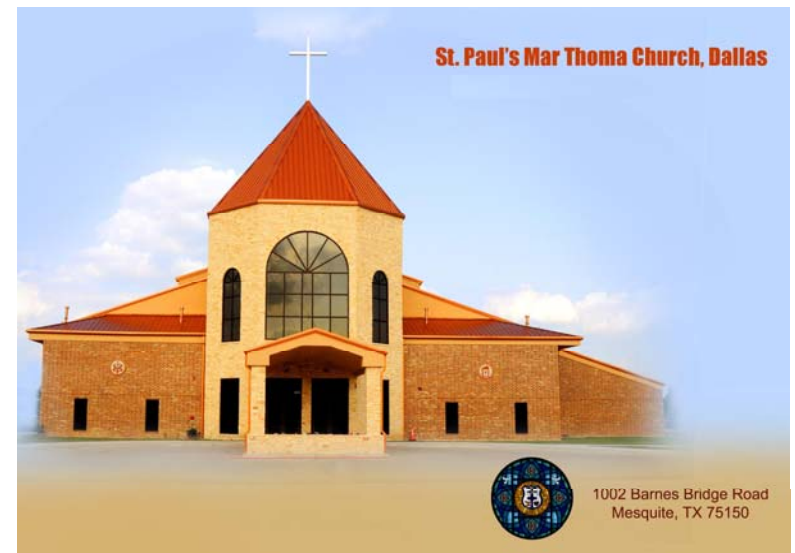


*Published by Sub-committee for Communications of St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas*

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

# THE EPISTLE

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION**



**March 2013**



**MESSAGE FROM VICAR**



*Dearly Beloved in Christ,*

We are in the period of Lent days. There are forty days in Lent prior to the Passion week. These forty days Christians fast and spent more time in prayer. It is in remembrance of the forty days Jesus fasted and prayed in the wilderness after his baptism in Jordan river by the hands of John the Baptist. Jesus spent in prayer and fasting for forty days as a preparation for His public ministry. It was after hearing a voice from heaven, "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased." After receiving this approval from above Jesus spent forty days for prayer and fasting. Just think about it. If the son of God did it for the success of his ministry, what about us we ordinary men.

Lent days are meant for Repentance, confession moderation and spiritual discipline. As a part of spiritual discipline, we fast. Fasting may be, taking food only once a day, or leave one time food of each day. Most people avoid non-vegetarian food and takes only vegetarian. Observance of Lent is not mere the discipline of food alone. It is time for us to evaluate our spiritual life in the light of the Word of God, and with the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ at the beginning of his ministry in the sermon on the mount said "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God".

So the purpose of Lent is to feel the need of a holy life and to surrender our life to have a closer life with Jesus our Lord.

Martin Luther King has contributed greatly to the purpose of uplifting the life of the Afro- Americans. He was a great advocate of the 'Ahimsa' policy of Mahatma Gandhi. On 1958 September 10, he was shopping at a book shop. A black lady named Iysoloa appeared there. 'Are you the Martin Luther King', the woman asked? He said, 'Yes.' 'I was looking for you.' At once she stabbed him with a knife which she hid with her. A great mob gathered there and hospitalized him. By this time the lady was arrested by the police. When Luther received his ability to talk he told the people stood around him that the woman is innocent. She did this by the compulsion of somebody else. The woman would have lost her mental balance. She should be forgiven and set free from the prison.

Wish you all a blessed Lent days and meaningful passion week. May God Bless all of us.

Yours in Christ's Love,  
 Rev. O. C. Kurian.  
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Prayer Schedule - March			
10-Mar	Sunday	Mr. Reji Philip (Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
11-Mar	Monday	Mr. John Oommen - Intercessory Prayer/Sandhya Namaskaram	7:00 PM
12-Mar	Tuesday	Mr. Kurien Easo (Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
13-Mar	Wednesday	Mr. Varghese George (Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
14-Mar	Thursday	Mr. N V Abraham (Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
15-Mar	Friday	Mr Chacko T Oommen - Fasting Prayer	10:00 AM
15-Mar	Friday	Church (Edavaka Mission Prayer/Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
17-Mar	Sunday	Malayalam Divine Worship Service	10:15 AM
18-Mar	Monday	TBD - Intercessory Prayer /Sandhya Namaskaram	7:00 PM
19-Mar	Tuesday	Mr. Chacko T Oommen (Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
20-Mar	Wednesday	Mr. Joy Jacob (Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
21-Mar	Thursday	Mr. P. P Cherian (Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
22-Mar	Friday	Church (Edavaka Mission Prayer/Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
23-Mar	Saturday	Church (Sandhya Namaskaram )- Rt. Rev Dr. Abraham Mar Paulose Episcopa	7:00 PM
24-Mar	Sunday	Hosanna Service & Holy Qurbana ( Rt. Rev Dr. Abraham Mar Paulose Episcopa )	10:15 AM
25-Mar	Monday	Church (Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
26-Mar	Tuesday	Church (Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
27-Mar	Wednesday	Church (Sandhya Namaskaram )	7:00 PM
28-Mar	Thursday	Maundy Thursday Service - Holy Qurbana	7:00 PM
29-Mar	Friday	Good Friday Service	9:00 AM
30-Mar	Saturday	Church	7:00 PM
31-Mar	Sunday	Easter Sunday Service	8:00 AM

*Lectionary/Worship Information*

***Youth Chaplain's Message***

**Lent is a season with a reason**

<b>Sunday, March 10, 2013 - (Holy Qurbana - English 10:15 AM)</b> Worshipping Community: Agent of Redemption 5th Sunday in Lent	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa. 6:1-8	<b>Epistle:</b> 2 Cor. 1:1-11
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Acts 16:19-34	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke 13:10-17
<b>Sunday, March 17, 2013 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam 10:15 AM)</b> Kyrie Eleison - Prayer that Renews Life	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Exo. 17:8-16	<b>Epistle:</b> Phil. 1:3-11
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Acts 20:28-38	<b>Gospel:</b> Mark 10:46-52
<b>Sunday, March 24, 2013 - (Holy Qurbana - English 10:15 AM)</b> Messiah—The Prince of Peace	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Zech. 9:9-17	<b>Epistle:</b> Philemon 2:5-1
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Col. 1:15-23	<b>Gospel:</b> Matt. 21:1-11
<b>Sunday, March 31, 2013 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam 10:15 AM)</b> Easter Sunday "Resurrection: Proclamation of Hope"	
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa. 52:7-15	<b>Epistle:</b> 1 Cor. 15:1-19
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Rev. 21:1-8	<b>Gospel:</b> Matt. 28:1-10

Lent is more than a season which speaks a reason to us a time to contemplate and to be conscious about our way of actions, thoughts and deeds. It is the time when we think, thank and glorify Jesus who becomes the fulfillment of given promise to mankind where he assumes the role of the High priest, the sacrificial goat, and the bearer of sins. Through the final sacrifice HE has opened the door of mercy and his blood as ransom for our sins. For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats really to take away sins. That's why Christ said as he came into this world, O God, the blood of bulls and goats cannot satisfy you, so you have made ready this body of mine for me to lay as a sacrifice upon the altar (Heb 10:4,5)

Lent is a time when Christian community needs to redefine and think how to make it more contextual in their given society. We are called to be salt of this earth and light of this world and how are we going to be the change factor adding taste and brightness to the world.

Lent is not just a seasonal ritual to abstain from food and other worldly activities. It calls for a time to get our faith into action not only during the lent season but to make it a mind factor ready to be broken just as Christ did on the Cross. He prepared himself mentally and spiritually which was evident at the time of the Last Supper with his disciples when he took bread in his hands, broke it and gave to his disciples Conscientious them about the Cross and brokenness.

January 2013 began with a Revival Spirit emphasized on The Transformation of Heart and supported the mission activities in India and Dallas. The leadership Conference at Staten Island MTC proved that youths of our time are willing to be factor of change. The urge to lead and guide is evident in all four churches year plans. This year's first DAY MEET was held at Sehion Mar Thoma church and the next DAY MEET will be hosted by St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church on 22nd Feb2013. It is a gathering for all four parishes to connect with youths at the larger level. Youths have already planned to have meditation for the lent season and to raise funds to help and support the unseen brothers or sisters by observing lent in right perspective. Requesting your support and wishing the best to all new office bearers, youth advisors who have taken charge. I would like to thank all office bearers who have served and given their best to lead THE CHURCH. Let us be a REASON FOR THIS LENT.

Rev. George Jacob  
Youth Chaplain

## Bible Quiz

*By Miriam Chacko*

1. And on the \_\_\_\_ day God ended His work and rested.
2. And all the days of Methuselah were \_\_\_\_\_ years.
3. Water prevailed on the earth \_\_\_\_ days, during Noah's flood.
4. When Abraham was \_\_\_\_ years old his son Issac was born.
5. Jacob served Laban for \_\_\_\_ years in order to marry Rachel.
6. Moses was \_\_\_\_ years old and Aaron his brother was \_\_\_\_ years old when they stood before Pharaoh to speak of the liberation of children of Israel.
7. There are \_\_\_\_ books in the Old Testament and \_\_\_\_ books in the New Testament.
8. Joseph's brothers sold him for \_\_\_\_\_ shekels of silver.
9. The Israelites were in Egypt for \_\_\_\_ years.
10. Jesse, father of King David had \_\_\_\_ sons and David was \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers;

1. Gen. 2:2; 2. Gen. 5:27; 3. Gen 7:24; 4. Gen 21:5; 5. Gen. 29:19; 6. Exo. 7:7;
7. 39 & 27; 8. Gen. 37:28; 9. 430; 10. 1 Sam. 17:12-14

## *BIRTHDAYS*

1-Mar	Patrick Marthummotil	Sunnyvale	15-Mar	Mary John	Mesquite
1-Mar	Tony Easo	Mesquite	16-Mar	Rachel Philip	Rockwall
3-Mar	Sonia Alexander	Fate	17-Mar	Anil Mathew	Sunnyvale
3-Mar	Shibu Chacko	Mesquite	18-Mar	Joseph George	Garland
4-Mar	Nisha Mary Koshy	Mesquite	20-Mar	Leena G. Panicker	Mesquite
6-Mar	Binu Tharian	Mesquite	21-Mar	Anjali M. Varghese	Sunnyvale
7-Mar	Shiju Mathai	Garland	21-Mar	Geevarghese Mathew	Garland
8-Mar	Grace Varghese	Rockwall	21-Mar	Justin Mathew	Rowlett
8-Mar	Saramma Mathewkutty	Mesquite	21-Mar	Mathews Idiculla	Garland
9-Mar	Alice Raju	Mesquite	23-Mar	Stanly Johns George	Mesquite
9-Mar	Viju Varghese	Sunnyvale	23-Mar	Stephy Sunil Abraham	Garland
9-Mar	Shibu Mathai	Garland	24-Mar	Ligi Babu Simon	Garland
10-Mar	Blessy Jacob	Garland	24-Mar	Abraham Thomas	Mesquite
10-Mar	Gracykutty Thomas	Garland	25-Mar	Jamie K. Jacob	Mesquite
11-Mar	Minnie Mathew	Plano	30-Mar	Sheena P John	Garland
11-Mar	Smitha Stanly George	Mesquite	31-Mar	Shelby Alexander	Sunnyvale
12-Mar	Thomas Mathew	Plano			
12-Mar	Sarah Lilly Philip	Rockwall			
13-Mar	Crystal Rajan	Sunnyvale			
15-Mar	Ajith Cherian	Garland			

## *WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES*

2-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. Raju Mathew	Rowlett
3-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. Sunil K. Abraham	Garland
5-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. Chandy Jacob	Mesquite
9-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. John Oommen	Garland
15-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. Phil Mathew	Sunnyvale
30-Mar	Mr. & Mrs. Bassy Philip	Grand Prairie