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**ARTICLES NEEDED!**

If you would like to submit any articles in English or Malayalam,  
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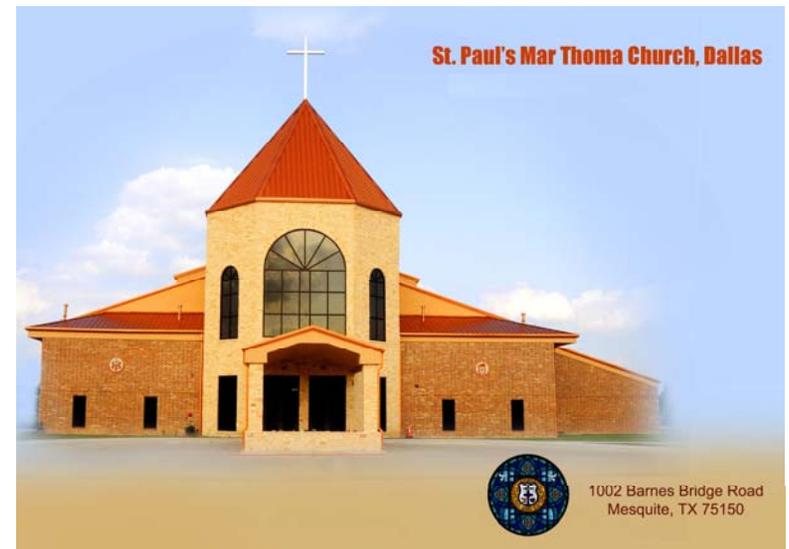


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**St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church**  
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.  
Mesquite, TX 75150

# THE EPISTLE

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION**



**March 2014**



**MESSAGE FROM VICAR**



*Dearly Beloved in Christ,*

Loving Greetings in the Loving name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

MarThoma Church is an Eastern Church in its tradition. Churches in the world is commonly divided as Eastern and Western. This distinction is based on its

Faith and Practices. MarThoma Church is not a protestant Church. It is Reformed Church emerged from the Malankara Syrian Church, Led by the champions of Malankara Reformation, Abraham Malpan and Kaithayil Geevarghes Malpan Based on the teachings of the Bible. Our church gives equal importance to Worship and to the Preaching of the Word of God.

Western Churches give very much importance to Christmas and they celebrate it about a month at December. But the Eastern Churches as ours gives much more importance to the sufferings death and resurrection of Jesus.

Lent: The MarThoma Church keep Lent for fifty days, which includes Fasting of Jesus for forty days he spent in the wilderness, His temptation at the beginning of His Public ministry and the last experience From Hosanna to Resurrection. This year the Lent begin on Second of March. It is called PETHRUTHA, MEANS BEGINNING Of Great LENT. Lent days are meant for fasting prayer and to spent more time for devotion.

The Gospel portion for the first day of Lent is St. John:2:1-11. It is the story of turning water in to wine at a wedding in a small village of Galilee. Jesus action of turning water in to wine at a humble home in Cana shows what he thought of a home. " Jesus manifested forth

his Glory" and manifestation took place within a home. Jesus gave the great message to the world that Home is the basic place where man receives Gods Glory and grow in the Grace of God.

In this miracle the Apostle John says Wherever Jesus went whenever He came to life, there come a new quality of life: colorful, attractive, and exciting, where as life without Christ is colorless, tasteless, and unattractive.

So as we enter Lent Days let us rededicate us to walk closely with Christ through reading the word of God and spent more time in prayer and to grow spiritually.

"When we put our lives into God's hands

And ask Him to direct u, Amazing results follows.: Catherine Marshall

Rev.O.C.Kurian.

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*Lectinary/Worship Information*

<b>Sunday, March 2, 2014</b> Pethrutha-Begining of Great Lent Transformation of Creation		
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Isa.44:21-28	<b>Epistle:</b> Rom.11:13-24	
<b>Lesson 2:</b> 1Tim.1:12-17	<b>Gospel:</b> John.2:1-11	
<b>Sunday, March 9, 2014</b> Cleansing Christ (2nd Sunday in Lent)		
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Zech.13:1-9	<b>Epistle:</b> Eph.2:1-10	
<b>Lesson 2:</b> 1John.1:5-10	<b>Gospel:</b> Mark.1:40-45	
<b>Sunday, March 16, 2014</b> Forgiving Christ (3rd Sunday in Lent)		
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Gen.4:8-16	<b>Epistle:</b> Rom.5:6-11	
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Acts.16:11-18	<b>Gospel:</b> Mark.2:1-12	
<b>Sunday, March 23, 2014</b> Accepting Christ (4th Sunday in Lent)		
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Hos.2:14-23	<b>Epistle:</b> Gal.6:1-5	
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Phile.1-21	<b>Gospel:</b> Matt.15:21-28	
<b>Sunday, March 30, 2014</b> Redeeming Christ (5th Sunday in Lent)		
<b>Lesson 1:</b> Exo.3:1-10	<b>Epistle:</b> Gal.5:1-12	
<b>Lesson 2:</b> Rom.8:31-39	<b>Gospel:</b> Luke.13:10-17	

## *Organizational Activities*

### Yuvajana Sakhyam

Cottage fellowship on Sunday, 03/09 @6:30 pm at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Alex Koshy & Sheena.

### Sevika Sangham

World Day of Prayer at St. Ignatious church in Carrollton on Saturday, 03/01 at 9am.

Weekly Prayer Fellowship & Meetings: 03/08 & 03/22 @ 10:00 am at Church

### Sunday School

Picnic: 03/15 @ the Sunnyvale Town Park @ 10:00 am.

South West Region Center A One Day Conference: Saturday, 03/22 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm @ Sehion Mar Thoma Church, Dallas.

Speaker: Mr. Anish Varghese.

### Youth Fellowship

Annual Retreat from 03/07 – 03/09 (Friday – Sunday) @ the Texas Star and Retreat.

Speaker: Ms. Betty Vattakunnel

### Prayer Fellowships

03/08/2014 @ the residence of Mr. John Oommen.  
03/22/2014 @ the residence of Mr. Raju Mathew

## Congratulations:

Mrs. Leelamma James is the Sevika Sangham Southwest Regional Vice President and Mrs. Jolly Babu is the Trustee for 2014 – 2017.

## *Youth Chaplain's Message*

### **Be still and be quiet**

**He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. Mark 4:39**

After long day's work like me and you Jesus was tired after meeting and healing people. We all would like to have a break from hard day's work so did Jesus who told disciples let us cross over other side and he got into a boat so did disciples who were so depended on Jesus for everything was so **relaxed in their spirituality** sat with Jesus. They were so happy and cozy about having Jesus with them and started their journey the cool breeze and setting sun made **spiritual panorama** very beautiful.

**Spiritual Serenity as a hallmark** -Jesus who was very exhausted after long day's work took a pillow and went to sleep in midst of disciples loud talk about being successful in healing people and feeling gratified about it. Being contented about their work and bloated in their spirituality with little faith in action was evident when they screamed for help. They have seen and experienced the hand of God healing and restoring people in need. To have calm mindset in Christ is what she wants to believe, even though Jesus was with them in midst of their troubles and stormy situations they had no faith that he could transform it into gentle breeze. Have we not acted in a weird manner when a situation goes out of hand? **Reaction to an action or an event will portray our spiritual Serenity.**

**Lack of Audacity in our faith leads Spiritual Chaos** will always cripple us in our spiritual movement even though disciples they had a smooth sail in the beginning but when tested in their faith journey by storms it proved that they were not consistent in their faith. They screamed loudly and called Jesus and questioned him about his concern and portrayed their fear of losing their lives. Jesus stood up and with power entrusted to him by his father he ordered the sea and the wind to **"be quiet and be still"**

It was not just the raging storm alone he put to still it was the fear and restlessness in their mind he calmed. To remain quiet and be still is a blessed state of spirituality in Christ. Authority of Jesus over all given situations is evident throughout the bible but we are like disciples who travel across the bible pages but float on our own FAITH instincts. Even though disciples started their journey with Christ but in their journey they lost the very focus of Christ with them for their storms of life raged over their faith and they screamed for help and blamed Jesus for being calm. Jesus reaming quiet got up and stilled the nature and asked disciples where your Faith is? **Let us all analyze our faith journey and be sure that in our storms of life he is always in the midst of it transforming it into gentle breeze.**

Rev. George Jacob (youth chaplain)

**South West Regional one day Retreat -**

**On March 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 @ Immanuel Mar Thoma Church Houston**

## *BIRTHDAYS*

1-Mar	Tony Easo	Mesquite	15-Mar	Mary John	Mesquite
3-Mar	Sonia Alexander	Fate	16-Mar	Rachel Philip	Rockwall
3-Mar	Shibu Chacko	Mesquite	17-Mar	Anil Mathew	Sunnyvale
4-Mar	Nisha Mary Koshy	Mesquite	18-Mar	Joseph George	Garland
6-Mar	Binu Tharian	Mesquite	20-Mar	Leena G. Panicker	Mesquite
7-Mar	Shiju Mathew	Garland	21-Mar	Anjali M. Varghese	Sunnyvale
8-Mar	Grace Varghese	Rockwall	21-Mar	Geevarghese Mathew	Garland
8-Mar	Saramma Mathewkutty	Garland	21-Mar	Justin Mathew	Rowlett
9-Mar	Alice Raju	Sunnyvale	21-Mar	Mathews Idiculla	Garland
9-Mar	Viju Varghese	Sunnyvale	23-Mar	Stanly Johns George	Mesquite
9-Mar	Shibu Mathai	Garland	23-Mar	Stephy Sunil Abraham	Garland
10-Mar	Blessy Jacob	Garland	24-Mar	Ligi Babu	Garland
10-Mar	Gracey John	Garland	24-Mar	Abraham Thomas	Mesquite
11-Mar	Minnie Mathew	Plano	25-Mar	Jamie K. Jacob	Mesquite
11-Mar	Smitha Stanly George	Rockwall	27-Mar	Alvin Manu Varghese	Garland
12-Mar	Thomas Mathew	Plano	30-Mar	Christine Koshy	Sunnyvale
12-Mar	Sarah Lilly Philip	Rockwall	30-Mar	Sheena P John	Garland
13-Mar	Crystal Rajan	Sunnyvale	31-Mar	Shelby Alexander	Sunnyvale
15-Mar	Ajith Cherian	Garland			

## **THOUGHT TO PONDER**

*-By Mariam Chacko*

In 2 Cor. 1:5 we read, "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."

It is a blessed thing that when we are most cast down, we are most lifted up by the consolations of the Spirit. Trials make more room for consolation. The humbler a man lies, the more true comfort he will always have, because he will be more fit to receive it. When the barn is full, man can live without God, he thinks. When our purse is full of money, we try to do without as much prayers. When our resources will take away, then we need God. We have to cleanse the idols out of our house, then we are compelled to honor Jehovah. "Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord!" (Ps. 130:1). There is no cry as good as the one that comes from the bottom of the mountains, no prayer half as heartily as one that comes from the depths of the soul. Hence, deep trials and afflictions, bring us close to God, and we are happier. For nearness to God is happiness. Come, dear troubled believer, do not fret over your heavy troubles, for they are the Heralds of the weighty mercies of a MIGHTY GOD.

## *WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES*

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