

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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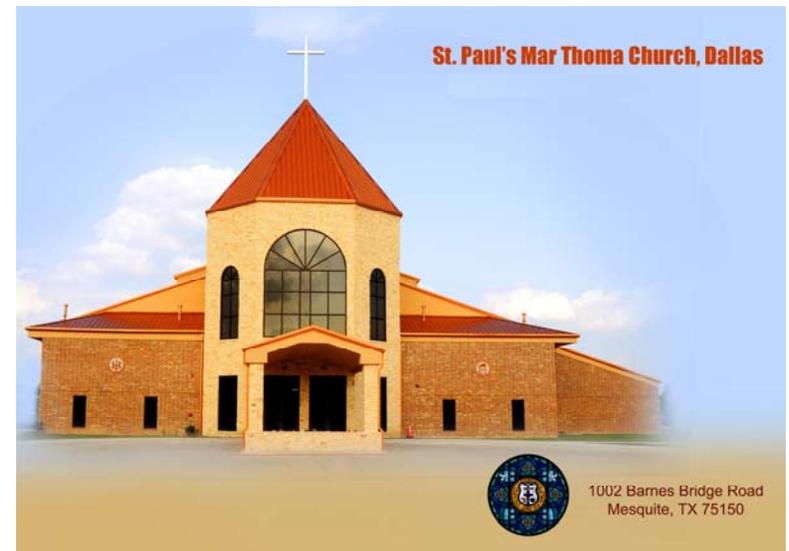


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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



April 2015



MESSAGE FROM VICAR



Dearlly Beloved in Christ,

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of Christian Faith. The Christian Church is centered on the resurrection of Jesus. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the most important event in Christian Theology. The resurrection is the triumphant and glorious victory for every believer. Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose on the third day, according to the scriptures, and he is coming again to receive the faithful.

The historical evidence of Jesus crucifixion, the burial in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, the empty tomb, the post resurrection appears mentioned by apostle Paul in 1 Cori:15: 3-5,Paul says, "For what I received I passed on to you, as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, and to the twelve". This reveals the fact that Jesus was raised on the third day of his death. One of the leading Jewish Theologians, the late Pinchas Lapide who taught at the Hebrew University in Israel declared himself convinced on the basis of the evidence that the God of Israel raised Jesus of Nazareth from the dead.

The significance of the resurrection of Jesus lies in the fact that it is not just any imaginary story, but Jesus of Nazareth whose crucifixion was instigated by the Jewish leadership because of his blasphemous claims to divine authority. If this man has been raised from the dead then the God whom he allegedly blasphemed has clearly vindicated his claims.

Thus in an age of religious relativism and pluralism the resurrection of Jesus constitutes a solid rock on which Christians can take a stand for God's decisive self revelation in Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus reveals the truth that God is always on victory over evil powers. It gives us the message that truth cannot be buried, it will be resurrected.

I am completing the Church appointed three years ministry at St Paul's . With the co-operation of everyone only we could do the ministry according to God's will, for the blessings of its members. We are leaving for Kerala on 27 th April.

Thanks to all for the love and goodwill extended to us in our ministry and to our family. Let us remember in prayers.

Wish you all a Happy Easter and pray that the hope resurrection will enable you to face our tomorrows. graciously.

Rev.O.C.Kurian.
Email: revockurian@hotmail.com
Ph: 469-964-7494

BIRTHDAYS

1-Apr	Jane Mathew	Mesquite	12-Apr	Sunil K. Abraham	Garland
1-Apr	Abel Chacko	Garland	14-Apr	Mariamamma Thomas	Garland
2-Apr	Thomas K. George (Toy)	Garland	14-Apr	Rubin Thomas	Mesquite
3-Apr	Alice Thomas Mathew	Mesquite	18-Apr	Omana Cherian	Sunnyvale
3-Apr	John Oommen	Garland	20-Apr	Jolly Babu	Garland
3-Apr	Linda Mathew	Mesquite	20-Apr	Lillykutty Thomas	Mesquite
3-Apr	Shibin Mathewkutty	Garland	20-Apr	Manu Varghese	Garland
5-Apr	Lee Mathew	Garland	20-Apr	Sally Koshy	Mesquite
5-Apr	Joshua Mathew	Plano	21-Apr	Jully Joseph	Garland
5-Apr	Stephanie Jacob	Mesquite	21-Apr	Raju Varghese	Sunnyvale
6-Apr	Jaya George	Sunnyvale	22-Apr	Suja Thomas	Mesquite
6-Apr	Jaya James	Sunnyvale	22-Apr	Tom Thomas	Garland
6-Apr	Jonathan Cherian	Garland	23-Apr	Varghese K. Mathew	
7-Apr	Jacob Skariah	Garland	25-Apr	Kushy Lal	Mesquite
7-Apr	Kezia Thomas	Forney	25-Apr	Saji P. George	Sunnyvale
8-Apr	Anisha Sarah Mathew	Sunnyvale	27-Apr	Grace George	Mesquite
9-Apr	Joann Simon	Garland	28-Apr	Anish Mathew Thomas	Garland
10-Apr	Ashwin A Varghese	Sunnyvale	28-Apr	Asish Mathew	Sunnyvale
10-Apr	Hansa Abraham	Sunnyvale	28-Apr	Joselin Mathew	Rowlett
10-Apr	Jini Ann Abraham	Sunnyvale	28-Apr	Mohan Philip	Rockwall
10-Apr	Nidhin Thomas	Garland	29-Apr	George Mammen(Sunil)	Rockwall
11-Apr	Alen Sam Koshy	Garland	30-Apr	Kripa Thomas	Sunnyvale
			30-Apr	Abigail Thomas	Sunnyvale

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Edison K. John	Sunnyvale
6-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. George C.George	McKinney
15-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Abraham(Suresh)	Mesquite
25-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Samuel	Sunnyvale
27-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Simon P . P	Garland
30-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Skariah P.M.	Garland

Lectionary/Worship Information

Sunday, April 5, 2015 Resurrection: Celebrating the Joy of Salvation	
Lesson 1: Exodus 14:5-31	Epistle: 1 Thes. 4:13-18
Lesson 2: Col. 3:1-11	Gospel: Mat. 28:1-10
Sunday, April 12, 2015 New Sunday - Encounter with the Risen Lord (1st Sunday after Easter)	
Lesson 1: Gen. 32:22-32	Epistle: 1 Thes. 1:3-12
Lesson 2: Acts. 9:1-18	Gospel: John 20:24-29
Sunday, April 19, 2015 Identifying Risen Lord in the Work Place (2nd Sunday after Easter)	
Lesson 1: Ruth 2:1-18	Epistle: Acts 16:6-15
Lesson 2: Acts 19:36-43	Gospel: John 21:1-14
Sunday, April 26, 2015 Community formation around resurrection experience (3rd Sunday after Easter)	
Lesson 1: Isa. 25:1-9	Epistle: Acts 2:43-47
Lesson 2: Acts 4:32-37	Gospel: Luke 24:13-25

VBS

June 22—28

Early Registration \$20—Ends April 12

REGISTER NOW!!

Youth Chaplain's Message

EASTER -DEFINES OUR OWNERSHIP IN CHRIST

Easter speaks to us the risen perspective of pain and death of humanity that has been overcome on cross. Resurrection in given time transcends a new path with stretched out arms and new definition of love. The Cross in every age has won victories over human troubles and in faith journey at the same time the victory and defeat is within believers who are ultimately stuck in their defeating attitudes.

Easter can not be experienced if we have poverty of understanding outstretched arms and blistered kiss in our spiritual righteousness. Faith Journey is all about how we have served and proved to be blessing for others. A.W.Tozer suggest that their was a time Christian Religion transforming people but today we have people transforming religion. Cross is evident gift of Romans to Jesus, who rejected to be blended with new religiosity to accept societal and cultural approval to mix kingdom values and trends.

Easter is not just an annual event for Christians but a daily hope and power to look on and draw power from the Risen Christ. Jesus when on cross drew power from heavenly father and in His death he was obedient to HIS Heavenly Father. **IN HIS DEATH WE HAVE LIFE AND LIFE IN ABUNDANCE.** You and me are among the millions who are experiencing the power of risen Christ in our faith journey at our work, sickness and shortcomings.

The experience the Resurrection can only be experienced until and unless we come to His feet with perfume of sincere dedication and participating in His death just as Mary did openly confessing the Lordship of Jesus in her life spreading the fragrance of her FAITH.

The power of Resurrection in midst of Blistered Kiss was only possible because Jesus did not dismiss the Judas despite of his attitude but counted him among the Twelve. He transformed the Blistered Kiss into Kiss of Peace on the cross. As Christians we may encounter Blistered Kiss in our relations or even traded for better favors by others, manipulate our feelings and exploit our goodness but remember the power of Resurrection will keep you going in your faith experiences.

The assurance of Resurrection was for few but for many ran away from cross the word of Passerby was not encouraging but proved the distorted mind of society who wants to exhibit the power of high handedness over the Theology of Cross and to profess easy faith without Cross. The seven words uttered towards cross defined the man on the cross. But the fact is that many a times **We end up as superficial believers that touch cross, but seldom allow cross touch us.** Easter can only be meaningful if we are able to see and believe risen Christ in our life situations and every time you overcome life negating forces you and I have **resurrection experiences in our faith and that's what I call lingering taste of Easter.**

So let us be like Mary Magdalene who came to tomb with heavy heart and little faith to find that stone had be rolled away from the tomb ran to tell the disciples that the master is not to been seen explains her selfless love and dedication. Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved went into the tomb taught them that empty tomb is filled with radiance of redeeming love and embodiment of forgiving nature of God the Father.

We are called to understand the nature of Resurrection not only in faith perspective but also in relation to our attitude and faith community to go in search of the lost ones just as Jesus did seeking the faint hearted disciples who were afraid to move on in their life. Resurrected Christ imparts us with Holy spirit to overcome failures so that we can understand **CROSS IS NOT A MERE VICTORY SYMBOL BUT A SYMBOL OF OUR OWNERSHIP IN CHRIST.**

Wishing you all Empowered and Blessed Easter

Prayer Meetings

Agape prayer fellowship- Saturday 04/18, 7:00 PM
at the residence of Mr. Baby George (Shaji)
4910 Jon Boat Dr, Garland TX 75043. (972) 878-3590

Monday Prayer: April 6th- 7:00pm at Church

Fasting prayer: Friday, April 10th- 10:00am at the residence of Mr. Abraham Mepuratthu

In His Footsteps

By Mariam Chacko

God has chosen us as a peculiar people to stand out from the rest of the world. We should be a living proof of His love and power. Jesus called us to bear the image of Him (1 Peter 2:9). God does not want His believers to go through poverty and sickness. He came to this world so that we should have abundant life. All good and perfect gift is from above (James 1:17).

We read in the scripture about the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. When God send those plagues among the Egyptians, children of Israel were not affected. Here the Almighty God on showed His care and protection towards His own. We can see a significant event of darkness over Egypt but God's children had light (Exodus 10:23). What a thrilling example of God's concern for His chosen people! God wants us to glorify him. When medical science fails to cure diseases, a believer gets healing from God through ardent prayers. We should not hold back. We must put the word of God to work in our life and dare to receive the rich blessings that belong to those who believe. We must paint spiritual warning signs for our adversaries (devil). Our signs must say as below:

“Off Limits. According to God's word, I don't belong to you anymore. My family and wealth doesn't belong to you. My money and ministry does not belong to you. I am a citizen of a different kingdom. Now back off devil in Jesus' name.”

Does that not sound a little peculiar? Good. That what God has called us to be!

Church Events

April 18th: **Sevika Sangham South West Center A-** 9:30 AM to 1 PM

Yuvajana Sakhyam Meeting – April 11, 7:30 PM

Every 2nd Friday evening 7:30 to 9:00 Young Family Fellowship Church Service: