

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

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



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MESSAGE FROM VICAR

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

By God's grace, our new sanctuary has become a reality. It was our dream and prayer. We should be thankful to all those who supported and labored to make it a reality.

Why we need a sanctuary

Worship of God started from the beginning of creation of human beings (Genesis 4:26). Noah and Abraham built an altar (Genesis 8:20;12:7). God asked Moses to build a sanctuary for God to dwell among the people (Exodus 25:8). God asked King Solomon to build the Jerusalem Temple to bless the nation. (2 Chronicles 7:12-14). Jesus followed the custom of worshipping God at the temple (Luke2:42;4:16). The early church was a worshipping community (Acts 2:46) Our Mar Thoma church became a global church because its members built sanctuaries where ever they reached. The sanctuary is a place where the people of God came together to worship God.

What is sanctuary?

It can be understood in three ways:

- i) a place where people worship God (1Kings 8:20)
- ii) human body in which the Holy Spirit dwells (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- iii) The body of Christ, the church (1 Timothy 3:15)

Everyone who has breath has to worship God (Psalms 150:6). Jesus said that worship should be in truth and in spirit (John 4:24). Since Jesus is the truth and spirit we should worship God in Christ. As the royal priesthood, we are called to offer sacrifice to God.

The Sacrifices that we have to offer to God are praise (Psalms 50:23) , faith (Philippians 2:17), our body (Romans12:1) good works and fellowship (Hebrews 13:16).

Our sanctuary is a symbol. It is divided into two parts- Madbaha (altar) and congregational hall which symbolize the heaven and the earth respectively. Due to human sin we lost entry into heaven. But when Jesus died on the cross, the separation was removed. The curtain used in our sanctuary is a symbol of the body of Christ through which we can enter into heaven (Hebrews 10: 19)

How to come into the sanctuary?

- i) Come in with gratitude and thanksgiving (Psalms 50:14)
- ii) Come with praise and adoration (Psalms 106:1)
- iii) Come with repentance and humbleness (Psalms 66:18)
- iv) Come in Unity and reconciliation (Matthew 5:23,24)

We are looking for eternity where we can worship Christ forever (Revelations 7:15). The church is called out community to worship God. It is also a sent out community to witness Christ. That means we worship to witness and witness to

Prayer Meetings

AGAPE

LEADER: JOHN OOMMEN

April 10, 2010 at 7pm—Residence of Late Mr. Abraham Chacko.

EBENEZER

LEADER: JOHN K. MATHEW

April 24, 2010 at 7pm—Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Easo

EMMANUEL

LEADER: GEORGE MAMMEN

April 11, 2010 at 6pm—Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Raju Chacko

MANNA

LEADER: ANNIE THOMAS

April 17, 2010 at 7pm—Residence of Mr. & Mrs. James Mepurathu

SHALOM

LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY

April 18, 2010 at 6:30pm—Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Koshy



Birth Announcements

We proudly announce the birth of the following babies.

Anupa and Sam Koshy welcomed a baby boy, Alex

Sara and Liju Thomas welcomed a baby boy, Nevin

worship. Let our worship in the new sanctuary be a sacrifice that is pleasing to God so that God may bless this land.

Yours in Christ Service
 Noble Achen
 revnobleap@yahoo.com



Baptized

We welcome Jayden, son of Mr. & Mrs. Bincent Jacob to our St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church family as he was baptized on March 21, 2010.

Laity Duties

	Worship Service Assistant	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Prayer
April 4 <i>Emmanuel</i>				
April 11 <i>Manna</i>				
April 18 <i>Shalom</i>				
April 25 <i>Agape</i>				

Special Services

Maundy Thursday
 Service at 7 PM—Malayalam

Good Friday
 Service at 8:30 AM—English
 Service at 10 AM—Malayalam

Easter Sunday
 Service at 8 AM—English

Faith and Practices of the Church- Study Series: Marriage and Family.

What is Marriage?

Marriage is a relation of a man and woman which is recognized by custom or law and involves certain rights and duties both in the case of the parties entering the union and in case of the children born of it. Marriage is often of two types:

- i) monogamy- a man married with a single female
- ii) polygamy- a man married with more than one female.

Marriage is the most wide spread institution of human society and it has been a backbone for the human civilization right from ancient period to the contemporary society.

What is Family?

Family is a group of persons united by ties of marriage, blood, or adoption, constituting a single household. Interacting and communicating with each other in respective social rules of husband and wife, mother and father, son and daughter, brother and sister, and creating and maintaining a common culture. Family is of two types:

- i) Joint family
- ii) Nuclear Family

Nuclear family consists of husband, wife, and children. Joint families have certain characteristics:

- i) Common origin and common parentage
- ii) Common property holdings like a joint company which possess a common property. Earnings of all members are collected together and utilized by the head of the family.
- iii) common residence for large family
- iv) Supreme head of the family who controls and directs all family affairs as an absolute monarch.

What is Christian understanding of Family?

- i) Marriage and family are ideas of God who instituted them (Genesis 1:26-28). So it is a great gift of God. It is God who makes the man and woman together to form a new family.
- ii) Marriage is a sacrament, a visible means of experiencing invisible grace of God.
- iii) Family is the heaven on the earth. God instituted the first family in the Paradise of Eden. Due to human sin, we lost the paradise. Heaven is a place where righteousness, peace and happiness prevails (Romans 14:17)
- iv) God has special purpose about marriage and family. Sin is falling from God’s purpose about human life. A Christian home is a place where each one lives for others and all live for God.

What is the importance of Family?

- i) Family is the basic unit of the society, and the foundation of the society.
- ii) Home is the place where relationships become reality man is a social being living through relationships.
- iii) It is through the family the human values and culture are transmitted to the generations. The word of famous thinkers reveal the importance of family:

John Bowring: “A happy family is an earlier heaven.”

George Eliot: “Few are born to do great works of the world, but the work that all can do is to make a small home circle brighter and brighter.”

Lectionary/ Worship Information

Sunday, April 4, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - English) Resurrection : Foundation of Christian Faith	
Lesson 1: 2 Kings 4: 27-37	Epistle: Colossians 3:1-11
Lesson 2: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-20	Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10
Sunday, April 11, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) New Sunday - Faith Proclamation of Apostle Thoams	
Lesson 1: Zephaniah 3:14-20	Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28
Lesson 2: 1 Corinthians 15:1-19	Gospel: John 20:19-29
Sunday, April 18, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana—English) Transforming Vision of Resurrection (2nd Sunday after Easter)	
Lesson 1: Exodus 13:17-22	Epistle: Jude 1:17-25
Lesson 2: Acts 4:32-37	Gospel: Luke 24:13-32
Sunday, April 25, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) Restoring Jesus (3rd Sunday after Easter)	
Lesson 1: 1 King 19:1-18	Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:9-18
Lesson 2: Acts 8:9-25	Gospel: John 21:15-19

Events to Remember

April 3, Saturday @ 10am

Center Sevika Sangham meeting at St. Paul’s Mar Thoma Church

April 9, Friday @ 7pm

Center Parish Mission Meeting at Carrollton MTC

April 17, Saturday @ 7pm

Diocesan Assembly meeting at Atlanta MTC

BIRTHDAYS

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

Pope John Paul II : “ Every effort to make a society sensitive to the importance of the family is a great service to humanity.”

Plautus: “That man will never be unwelcome to others who make himself agreeable to his own family.”

Jean Rees- “One of the great similarities between Christianity and marriage is that for Christians both get better as they get older.”

FAMILY= Father And Mother I Love You

Righteousness of God

- By Mariam Chacko

When we study the scripture, we see that it is written about God’s righteousness. We are all righteous through faith in Jesus Christ, the Solid Rock. Let me share with you a few of what the Bible quotes about the above. Just look at the kinds of benefits the word of God says that righteousness will bring:

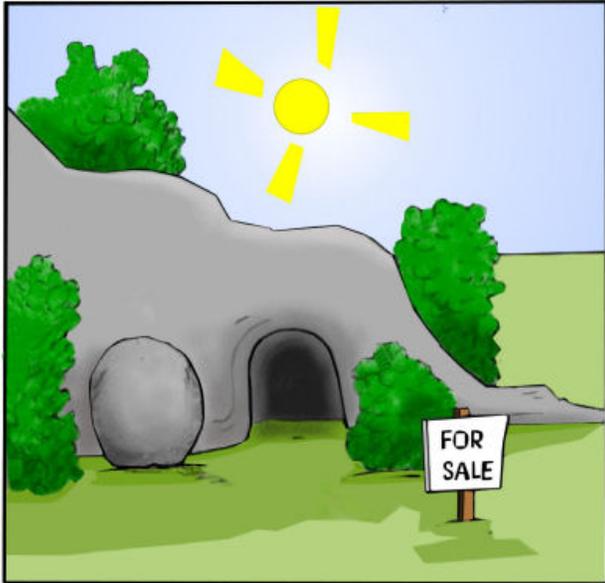
1. The righteous shall flourish like the Palm Tree (Ps. 92:12)
2. When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth. (Prov. 11:10)
3. The seed of the righteous shall be delivered. (Prov. 11:21)
4. The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers. (1 Peter 3:12)
5. For Thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous, with favour wilt Thou compass him as with a shield. (Ps. 5:12)
6. The righteous cry and the Lord heareth, and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps 34:17)
7. I have been young, and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. (Ps. 37:25)
8. The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever. (Ps 37:29)
9. The Lord loveth the righteous. (Ps 146:8)
10. Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Ps. 1:6)

Let us ponder the above and strengthen our faith to meet all the challenges that comes in the journey of our life.

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



FOR SALE - Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale.. resident was resurrected.

What is the significance of Easter now? What is so powerful about it?

Happy Easter!

The Easter message is the most powerful message of hope amongst despair, strength among weakness, and life over death. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb not only signifies victory over sin but, redefines the fulfillment of life as beyond the temporal (earthly) existence. In the same manner, Christ enables his disciples and faithful to see that true wholeness in life may never be attained through this world alone. Although, this a time of great joy for the women who followed Jesus and the disciples it was a time of despair for the soldiers who guarded the tomb and the Pharisees who condemned him. That is, true hope and life in God prevails over struggles and pain however, despair prevails over those whose hope is all but God.

"The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: He has risen...'"
(Mt. 28:5-7)

Also, it is important to note that the hope of resurrection is also the call to witness and mission. We read that not only were the women privileged to see the empty where Jesus lay but, also instructed to immediately tell others. They were to wit-

ness first to his disciples or amongst their brothers. The power of the resurrection is so great that it transforms us to be witnesses to the truth of Jesus. We are called to tell of His power, presence and life to all (starting with those close to us) in the face of sorrow, despair, weakness, failure and even death. It is this empowering hope that makes us true partakers of His resurrection even today. May God Almighty strengthen us all to experience the power of His resurrection in our lives so that we too are empowered to witness His love!

Your brother in Christ,
Jaisen Achen
H- 972-495-5393
C- 214-604-6678
revjathomas@yahoo.com

Church Organizational Activities

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Regular classes at 8.45am.

SEVIKA SANGHAM:

TBD

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Tuesdays - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas

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:

Sundays - Practice sessions after Holy Qurbana.

SPECIAL PRAYER:

Fridays from 9.30 to 11.30am - The residence of Mrs. & Mr. Jaisy & Raju George, 922 Dandelion Dr, Mesquite, TX.