

ST. PAUL'S MAR THOMA CHURCH
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MESQUITE, TX 75150

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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

**WE'RE ON THE
WEB!**

WWW.STPAULSMTC.ORG

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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
2425 Gus Thomasson Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



March 2010



Prayer Meetings

AGAPE

LEADER: JOHN OOMMEN

March 13, 2010 at 7pm—Residence of Mr. & Mrs. John Oommen

EBENEZER

LEADER: JOHN K. MATHEW

TBD

EMMANUEL

LEADER: GEORGE MAMMEN

TBD

MANNA

LEADER: ANNIE THOMAS

TBD

SHALOM

LEADER: ABRAHAM KOSHY

TBD



Church Dedication Day

**1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150**

March 20, 2010—3 PM
Dedication Ceremony followed by Public Meeting

March 21, 2010—9AM
First Holy Communion along with First Communicants



MESSAGE FROM VICAR

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

We are passing through the great Lent period started on 14th Feb and ends on the 4th of April. Lent is our participation in sufferings of Christ. It is for our sanctification through prayer, studying the word of God and self denial. The Gospel readings for meditation in Sunday worship services during the Lent period help us to receive healing, transformation, redemption and renewal through Jesus Christ. Lent is the time to meditate up on the cross of Jesus. Jesus revealed that salvation is through sufferings and resurrection is through death. St. Paul says that he will boast about the cross of Jesus (Galatians 6:14) and he will preach on the crucified Christ (1 Corinthians 1:23) St. Paul boasted about the cross because he knew:

- i) Person on the cross- Son of God
- ii) Purpose of the Cross- Divine forgiveness of sins
- iii) Power of the Cross- Transformation of the World
- iv) Promise of the Cross- resurrection of the Dead.

So during this Lent period, let us meditate upon the cross, take up the cross, follow Jesus and enter into the hope of resurrection.

May God bless us and strengthen us to participate in God's Salvific act for the world.

Yours in Christ's Service,
Noble Achen
revnobleap@yahoo.com

Laity Duties

	Worship Service Assistant	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Prayer
March 7 <i>Manna</i>				
March 14 <i>Shalom</i>				
March 21 <i>Agape</i>				
March 28 <i>Ebenezer</i>				

Faith and Practices of the Church: A Study Series
Sin, Salvation, and Kingdom of God

Q1. What is sin and what are its results?

God created human beings in his image and likeness to be stewards of God's Creation, and to have fellowship with the Creator God. Sin is human fall from God's purpose. In Genesis 3 we read symbolic presentation about how the first man and first women committed sin and what happened to them due to sin.

- i) Sin is shrinking of our sky.
Adam and Eve lived under a broad sky in the paradise of Eden. But due to sin, their sky became so small and they had to hide themselves behind the trees. Fear, guilty feelings, and inferiority complex are its results. They lost transparency in relations and attitude and thus they got feeling of nakedness.
- ii) Sin is forgetting the past.
It is forgetting God's blessings they experienced in the past and God's purpose about their life.
- iii) Sin is bondage to the devil.
Their greed and pride were the results of this bondage.
- iv) Sin is stepping down from paradise.
It means they lost relationships with the creator and eternity. Sufferings, death, judgment, are results of this fall.

Q2. What is Salvation and how can we receive it?

Salvation is redemption from the punishment of sin. The Law given through Moses could not justify anybody because no one can live perfectly according to the Law. God became man in Jesus to reveal the meaning and purpose of human life. Through Jesus, God opened a new way for our salvation. On the cross, God's love for the humankind and human sin meet together. God's justice through judgment was revealed on the cross. Crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus gives assurance of our salvation.

- i) Salvation is God's gift (Ephesians 2:8)(Revelations 7:10)
It is by God's grace, not on our merits. We have to receive it through child like faith. Our sacraments are visible expressions of receiving the invisible grace of God. Our rituals cannot give salvation. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross is the baptism for the remission of our sins! (Luke 12:50)
- ii) Jesus is the only way of salvation (Acts 4:12).
He is the way, truth, and life (John 14:6). Salvation means integrity, peace and wholeness. The love and forgiveness revealed in Jesus can give this wholeness.
- iii) Salvation is our participation in God's love and forgiveness.
It means we are transformed through Christ to transform the world. We are loved by God to love others. We are forgiven by God to forgive others salvation is coming back to relationships with God and with our fellow beings.
- iv) Salvation is a continuing process.
Every time we are in the process of salvation. It has three steps: i) Justification; ii) sanctification and iii) glorification. When we repent and confess our sins. God will justify us. Then the Holy Spirit will help us to grow in sanctification. We will be glorified when Christ receives us into eternity. That means salvation has three states- past, present and future. We are saved, we are growing in salvation, and we will be saved.

Lectioary/Worship Information

Sunday, March 7, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - English) Jesus Who honors Faith - (4th Sunday in Lent)	
Lesson 1: Isaiah 45:1-8	Epistle: Galatians 2:11-21
Lesson 2: Acts 16:6-15	Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28
Sunday, March 14, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) Christ's Victory over the evil power (5th Sunday in Lent)	
Lesson 1: Isaiah 59:12-21	Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-20
Lesson 2: Romans 8:31-39	Gospel: Luke 13:10-17
Sunday, March 21, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana) Faith proclamation that removes darkness (36th Sunday)	
Lesson 1: Isaiah 42:1-9	Epistle: 1 Peter 3:8-22
Lesson 2: Acts 12:1-11	Gospel: Mark 10:46-52
Sunday, March 28, 2010 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam) Hosanna - Jesus Realization of Hope (Theological Seminary Day)	
Lesson 1: Zechariah 9:9-17	Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
Lesson 2: Colossians 1:15-23	Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

Newly Elected Office Bearers of Our Organizations

Choir

Choir Leader (Malayalam)—*John Thomas*
 Choir Leader (English)—*Anisha Mathew*
 Secretary (Malayalam)—*Ligy Skariah*
 Secretary (English)—*Princey Varghese*

Yuvajana Sakhyam

Vice President—*Edison John*
 Secretary—*Liju Thomas*
 Lady Secretary—*Asha Thomas*
 Treasurer—*Sam Koshy*
 Auditors—*Thomas Mathew and Shiju Baby*

BIRTHDAYS

1-Mar	Patrick Marthummotil	Sunnyvale	17-Mar	Anil Mathew	Sunnyvale
1-Mar	Tony Easo	Mesquite	18-Mar	Joseph George	Garland
3-Mar	Sonia Alexander	Garland	20-Mar	Leena G Panicker	Mesquite
4-Mar	Nisha Mary Koshy	Mesquite	21-Mar	Geevarghese Mathew	Garland
6-Mar	Binu Tharian	Mesquite	21-Mar	Mathews Idiculla	Garland
7-Mar	Shiju Mathew	Garland	21-Mar	Justin Mathew	Rowlett
8-Mar	Samma Mathewkutty	Mesquite	21-Mar	Anjali M Varghese	Rowlett
8-Mar	Grace Varghese	Mansfield	23-Mar	Stanly J. George	Mesquite
9-Mar	Alice Raju	Mesquite	24-Mar	Ligi Babu	Garland
9-Mar	Viju Varghese	Rowlett	25-Mar	Jamie K. Jacob	Mesquite
10-Mar	Gracykutty Thomas	Garland	31-Mar	Shelby Alexander	Garland
10-Mar	Blessy Jacob	Garland			
11-Mar	Minnie Mathew	Plano			
11-Mar	Smitha Mathew	Mesquite			
12-Mar	Thomas Mathew	Plano			
13-Mar	Crystal Kurien	Sunnyvale			
15-Mar	Mary John	Mesquite			
15-Mar	Ajit Cherian	Garland			
15-Mar	Alice Koshy	Garland			
16-Mar	Rachel Philip	Rockwall			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2-Mar	Mrs.& Mr.Raju Mathew	Rowlett
3-Mar	Mrs.& Mr.Sunil K. Abraham	Garland
5-Mar	Mrs.& Mr.Chandy Jacob	Mesquite
9-Mar	Mrs.& Mr.John Oommen	Garland
10-Mar	Mrs.& Mr.Alexander Varghese	Garland
16-Mar	Mrs.& Mr.Phil Mathew	Sunnyvale
30-Mar	Mrs.& Mr.Bassy Philip	Mesquite

Q3. What is Kingdom of God and how can we inherit it?

Kingdom of God is where God's will is done perfectly. The Bible starts with the paradise of Eden and ends with the new heaven and new earth (Genesis 2:8) (Revelations 21:1-5) The kingdom of God has three aspects- past, present, and future. Jesus said that it was prepared from the very beginning of the creation (Matthew 25:34) Jesus said to his disciples that kingdom of God is among themselves at present. (Luke 10:24, 12:32;17:21) Also Jesus taught the disciples to pray for the coming of God's kingdom (Matthew 6:10)

We can inherit the Kingdom of God when we receive it in faith like a child (Matthew 18: 1-4) Jesus asked his disciples to be like children because a child has unconditional trust, freedom from bondages and possibility to enter the kingdom of God. (Mark 1:15). We should be born of Holy Spirit to inherit it (John 3:5). As the church, we are commissioned to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God (Matthew 24:14; Luke 10:19). Church is to be a channel and symbol of God's kingdom. The Values of God's Kingdom such as love, forgiveness, justice, and truth are to be revealed through our life. The church is called to participate in God's mission of establishing his kingdom.

Next Issue: Study about Marriage and Family

കരുണയിൻ ഉറവിടം

കരുണയിൻ ഉറവിടമേ...
സ്നേഹത്തിൻ നിറകുടമേ...(2)

കഴിഞ്ഞ ദിനങ്ങളിൽ കാത്ത കൃപയ്ക്കായ്
കരങ്ങളെ കൂപ്പുന്നു നാമാ
കൈകളിൽ വഹിച്ചു, കണ്ണീരൊപ്പിയ
കരുണാമയനെ, ജഗദീശാ... (കരുണയിൻ)

രോഗശയ്യയിൽ കൂടെയിരുന്നു
അപകട വേളയിൽ കൂടെ നടന്നു
കാലുകൾ കുഴഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ തോളിലങ്ങേറ്റിയ
കനിവുള്ള ഇടയാ, മനുവേലേ... (കരുണയിൻ)

പുതിയൊരു വർഷം ഏകീടുകാ നീ
പുതിയതാം കൃപകൾ പൊന്നു നാമാ
ഓരോ ദിനവും, ഓരോ നിമിഷവും
നന്ദി കരേറ്റുവാൻ കൃപയരുളൂ... (കരുണയിൻ)

- സാം മേലേത്ത്

Youth Chaplain's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



What is prayer? Is it just talking to God? Or is there more to it?

Prayer, is one of the most blessed privileges that God has granted humanity. In fact, its depth and potential is beyond measure as it is the channel between the earthly and divine, the mortal and immortal. However, we often misunderstand the power of prayer and assume it to be just a "listing of our wants or needs" to God. Thus, we don't effectually communicate and our prayers are seemingly fruitless.

Therefore, prayer must move beyond communication to the experience of *communion*. Communion, is essentially a mysterious union between humanity and the divine (God) in prayer. It is the depth of relationship where true communication takes place. That is, prayer becomes more the revelation of God and His plans, as well as, of the self than simply a wanton list of our desires. It is in this experience that the voice and will of God may be greater discerned (Ex.33:11, Matt. 26:39). Prayer is also the faith proclamation and witness of the believer of *complete dependence* upon God. It is the *humility* and supplication to express praise and gratitude to God for His numerous blessings. Additionally, it is the awareness and *obedience* to confess our weaknesses before the Almighty One. And, it is *wisdom* to realize that in our lives all credit begins and belongs to God, without whom we have and are nothing.

It is in and through this relationship of prayer that God works in humanity. Let us remember Moses who cried out to the Lord in prayer on behalf of rebellious Israel

in Numbers 14:13-19. God had made His decision in Numbers 14:12 to destroy Israel. However, after the humble prayers of Moses God responded in Num. 14:20, "I have pardoned them as you have requested". Throughout this Lenten season, may we grow in the true understanding of prayer and witness the miraculous power of God in our lives more and more!

Your Brother in Christ,

Jaisen Achen
972-495-5393
214-604-6678
revjathomas@yahoo.com
www.mtcministry.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.