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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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WEB!**

**WWW.STPAULSMTC.ORG**

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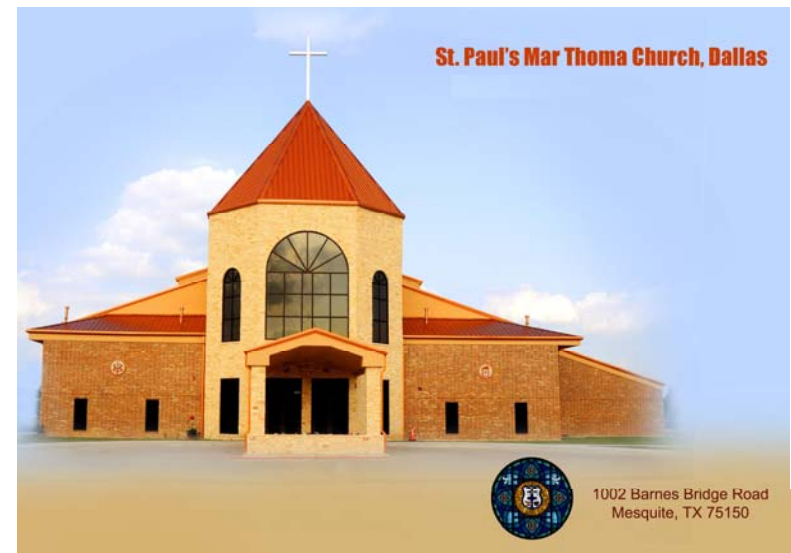


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**St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church**  
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.  
Mesquite, TX 75150

# THE EPISTLE

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION**



**January 2011**



**“Forsake me not, O Lord” (Psalm 38:21)**  
**Mariam Chacko**

Frequently we pray to God, not to forsake us in the trial of trouble, sickness, and temptations; but we forget to pray at all times. There is no moment of our lives, however holy, in which we can do without HIS constant upholding. A little child needs his/her mother's hand while learning to walk, same way we need a continued aid from our Heavenly Father. Let it be then our daily prayer, do not forsake me Father your child, lest he/she fall by the hand of the enemy. Shepherd, do not forsake your lamb; lest he wander from the safety of the fold. Great Husbandman, do not forsake your plant, lest it wither and die. Do not forsake me in your joys, lest they absorb my heart. Do not forsake me in my sorrows, lest I murmur against you. Do not forsake me in the day of repentance, lest I lose the hope of pardon and fall into despair. Do not forsake me, in the day of my strongest faith, lest faith degenerate into presumption. Do not forsake me, for my path is dangerous and full of snares, and I can't do without your guidance. The hen does not forsake her brood; will you then cover me evermore with your feathers and permit me to find my refuge under your mighty wings? Forsake me not, O Lord now and at any moment of my life. Leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation (Psalm 27:9).

*Lectionary/Worship Information*

**Sunday, January 2, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - English)**

Outside Kerala Mission Sunday

The Gospel for all the People

**Lesson 1:** Isaiah 61:1-11

**Epistle:** 2 Tim 2:1-10

**Lesson 2:** Acts 20:17-26

**Gospel:** Matt 16:9-18

**Sunday, January 9, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam )**

Temperance Sunday

Experience of New Life.

**Lesson 1:** Daniel 1:1-13

**Epistle:** Romans 13:8-14

**Lesson 2:** Rev 3:1-6

**Gospel:** John 15:1-18

**Sunday, January 16, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana—English)**

Faith that Transcends Prosperity

**Lesson 1:** Genesis 13:1-18

**Epistle:** Phil 3:7-16

**Lesson 2:** 1 Tim 6:3-12

**Gospel:** Mark 10:17-22

**Saturday, January 23, 2011 - (Holy Qurbana - Malayalam)**

Ecumenism Sunday

**Lesson 1:** Isaiah 60:1-9

**Epistle:** Eph 4:1-8

**Lesson 2:** Rev 7:9-17

**Gospel:** John 17:20-26



**MESSAGE FROM VICAR**

VALUE OF THE TIME.  
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Dearly beloved in Christ,

The year 2010 became part of history and we have entered in to a new year with expectations and hope. We are assured that we are in the mighty hands of Jesus the Lord of history.As we leave years behind,we are approaching towards the end of our life.So let us think about the value of TIME.Next to GRACE, time is the most precious gift of God,yet much of both we waste.Words of some great philosophers remind us the value of time.

Ralph W.Sockman says:  
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“Time is the deposit each one has in the bank of God and no one knows the balance.”

St.Augustine of Hippo says:  
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“Time is a three fold present: the present as we experience it,the past as a present memory and future as a present expectation.”

There is a common saying: “Time and Tide do not wait for anybody.”

It is also true to say that nobody can touch the same river twice because the water that we touch is the last of what has passed and the first of that which comes.Like Moses,let us also pray to the Lord to give us a heart of wisdom to number our days (Psa 90:12).

We live in deeds,not years;in thoughts,not breaths;in feelings,not in figures on a dial.It is important to add life to years rather than adding years to life.

Henry Van Dyke says:  
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“Time is too slow for those who wait,  
too swift for those who fear,  
too long for those who grieve,  
too short for those who rejoice;  
but for those who love,time is eternity.”

Time is for man`s advancement and improvement for his greater worth, greater happiness and better life.

St.Paul says:  
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“Be wise through using time properly”(Eph:5:16).

The famous Irish saying is as follows:  
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“ Take time to work –it is the price of success,  
take time to think – it is the source of power,  
take time to play – it is the secret of perpetual youth,  
take time to read – it is the foundation of wisdom,  
take time to be friendly – it is the road to happiness,  
take time to dream – it is hitching your wagon to a star,

take time to love and to be loved – it is the privilege of Gods,  
take time to laugh – it is the music of the soul.”

Let us meditate up on the value of time and use the time with wisdom because we are accountable to God for every thing that we received from God. May God bless and guide us in the new year in His grace and mercy. In Christ`s service,  
A.P.Noble achen.  
Email: [revnobleap@yahoo.com](mailto:revnobleap@yahoo.com)

FAITH AND PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH: A Study Series.

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Identity of the Mar Thoma Church.

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It can be explained mainly in three statements:

1. We are St. Thomas Christians having the tradition of St. Thomas the apostle of Jesus Christ.
2. We are one of the Lesser Eastern Churches which was established in the Eastern part of the World.

We are Reformed Church. Main emphasis of Reformation :Christ only, Scripture only and Grace only for Salvation.

Characteristics of Eastern Churches and Basic Faith.

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1. Faith is based on its Worship and Liturgy.
2. God is transcendent, infinite, uncreated and is a mystery who cannot be defined fully in human language.
3. God is Triune God - three persons in one Godhead and mutual indwelling of three persons.
4. Church is the faith community and person is located within the community. Family is the basic community. Community is more important than individuals while the Western Churches are more individualistic.
5. Sacraments are means of receiving God`s grace through which salvation is possible.
6. Jesus Christ is fully human and fully divine.
7. Salvation is not an one time redemption, but is a growing experience in faith.
8. Mission of the Church is witnessing to God`s activities rather than converting to the Church.
9. Eschatological understanding is that God will fulfill the history according to God`s purpose and it is not an apocalyptic drama.

**BIRTHDAYS**

2-Jan	Mathew P . Samuel	Garland	28-Jan	Tiji Sunil	Garland
3-Jan	Ashish Thomas	Garland	30-Jan	Jerry James	Sunnyvale
6-Jan	Christian Abey	Wylie	31-Jan	Mini Easo	Mesquite
8-Jan	Lydia Thomas	Garland			
9-Jan	Aswin Sam Koshy	Garland			
10-Jan	Mini Abey	Wylie			
11-Jan	Rajith K M	Mesquite			
12-Jan	Ligy Skariah	Garland			
18-Jan	Anieamma Thomas	Rockwall			
18-Jan	Mathew Thomas	Garland			
18-Jan	Pearl Rajan	Sunnyvale			
20-Jan	Jordan Mathew	Plano			
20-Jan	Justin Mathew	Plano			
21-Jan	Jeff Thomas	Plano			
22-Jan	Nirmala Rajan	Sunnyvale			
23-Jan	Jaimie Mathew	Sunnyvale			
24-Jan	Ivey Abraham	Mesquite			
26-Jan	Mariam Chacko	Mesquite			
26-Jan	Thomas Easo	Mesquite			
27-Jan	Andrew George	Sunnyvale			

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

6-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Babu John	Mesquite
8-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Manu GeeVarghese	Garland
9-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Thomas	Plano
13-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. George Ipe	Garland
13-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Philip P.S.	Rockwall
14-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham N.V.	Mesquite
15-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. John K John	Mesquite
20-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Sunny K John	Sunnyvale
22-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. M.M.Mathai	Sunnyvale
22-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Rajankunju C	Sunnyvale
26-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Binu Tharian	Mesquite
26-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Mepurath	Mesquite
27-Jan	Mr. & Mrs. Oommen Koshy	Sunnyvale

## *Church Organizational Activities*

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Regular classes at 8.45am.

### **SEVIKA SANGHAM:**

**TBD**

### **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:**

**Tuesdays** - Bible Study with Rev. Jaisen Thomas on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month

**Thursdays** - Prayer Call

**Fridays** - Prayer Fellowship -

### **YUVAJANA SAKHYAM:**

PRAYER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR.REJI THOMAS & BINDU  
4010 RED PINE DR. GARLAND , TX -75043 ON SATURDAY JANUARY 08, 2010 -  
6:30 PM.

### **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.

The Bible is the witness of a faith community and it is both human and divine book at the same time. Contextual interpretation of the Bible makes it significant instead of infallibility of the Bible and its literal interpretation.

### **Main Features of the Mar Thoma Church.**

1. Mar Thoma Church gives equal importance to the three pillars of Spirituality- (a) Tradition, (b) Scripture and (c) personal experience. Tradition of Liturgy, Teaching of the Bible and Renewal of life are equally emphasized.
2. It is a mission oriented Church. Spreading of the Gospel is our goal. The laity has an important role in the mission of the Church and all the members are considered as evangelists. The whole Church is the Royal priesthood of Christ.
3. Mar Thoma Church is known for its social outreach. It runs education institutions, orphanages, destitute homes, hospitals, rehabilitation for the disabled, social development programs and mission fields.
4. It is an independent Church with democratic administration based on its constitution and representative bodies. It has an ecumenical orientation and world wide communication with other Churches and ecumenical movements.

### **Mar Thoma Church Today.(Based on the Sabha Diary-2011)**

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1. Bishops including Metropolitans	- 10.
2. Parishes & Congregations	- 1166.
3. Clergy	- 946.
4. Members (Apprx.)	- 900,000.
5. Representative Assembly	- 1431.
6. Dioceses	- 12.
7. Mission fields	- 60.
8. Evangelists	- 200.
9. Schools	- 145.
10. Colleges	- 12.
11. Theological Institutions	- 7.
12. Hospitals	- 8.
13. Destitute Homes	- 14.
14. Social Welfare Institutions	- 45.
15. Technical Institutions	- 4.
16. Study Centers	- 3.
17. Camp Centers	- 8.
18. Publications	- 7.
19. Ashrams	- 7.
20. Organizations	- 8.

Next issue : Study about the Liturgy.

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PARISH :  
Office Bearers For the Year 2011

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**Sunday School**  
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Superintendent : Mr. Justin Mathew.  
Asst. Superintendent : Mrs. Jolly Babu.  
Secretary : Mrs. Janet Mohan.  
Treasurer : Mr. Jeffrey John.

**Yuvajana Sakhyam**  
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Vice President : Mr. Edison K. John.  
Secretary : Mr. Liju Thomas.  
Treasurer : Mr. Siby Joseph.

**Parish Mission**  
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Vice President : Mr. Mathew Samuel.  
Secretary : Mr. Chacko T. Oommen.  
Treasurer : Mr. Thomas George.

**Sevika Sangham**  
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Vice President : Mrs. Leelamma James.  
Secretary : Mrs. Jolly Babu.  
Treasurer : Mrs. Gracy Mathew.

**Choir**  
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Leaders (Eng.) : Mr. John Thomas.  
(Mal.) : Mrs. Janet Mohan.  
Secretary : Mrs. Ligi Skariah.  
Treasurer : Mr. Zachariah Thomas.

**Youth Fellowship**  
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Vice President : Miss. Jane Mathew.  
Secretary : Miss. Hanah John.  
Joint Secretary : Miss. Kripa Thomas.  
Treasurer : Mr. Ribu Koshy.  
Accountant : Miss. Reema Thomas.

**Young Couples Fellowship**  
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Conveners : Mr. Jonathan Jones Mathew & Mrs. Smitha Jones.

**Senior Citizens Fellowship**  
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Convener : Mr. Ipe George.  
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# A Promise

*New Year arrives with the promise of unlimited possibilities. It brings new hope and new expectations. The past years have shown us how the Lord saved us from difficulties and how miraculously our seemingly impossible needs were fulfilled. The light of these experiences should show us the path in the New Year. May God make your New Year a happy one! Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes; Not by making your path easy, But by making you sturdy to travel any path; Not by taking hardships from you, But by taking fear from your heart; Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows; Not by making your life always pleasant, But by showing you when people and their causes Need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help.*

*May God bless you to do a blessed and fruitful ministry. God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.*



*A New Year Wish  
Mar Theodosius*