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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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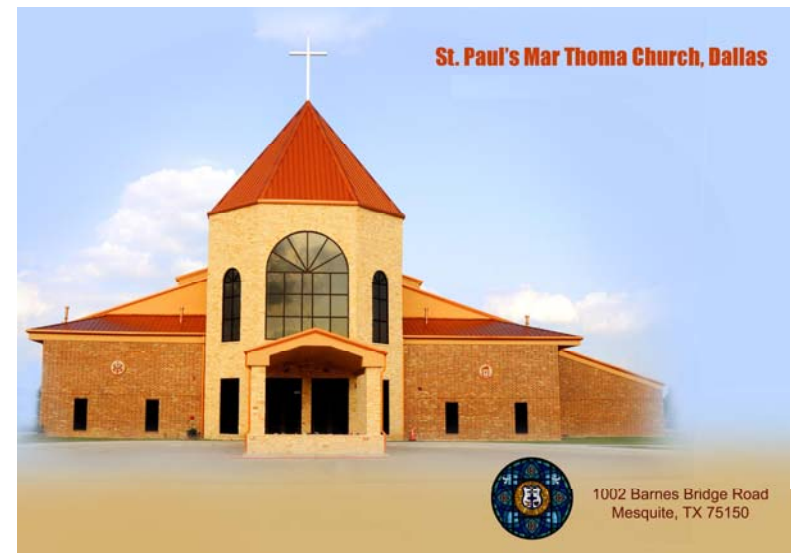


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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
1002 Barnes Bridge Rd.
Mesquite, TX 75150

THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



April 2014



Prayers and Sandhya Namaskaram

Sunday, March 30th	: Ebenezer Prayer—Abey Thoma
Monday, March 31st	: EdisonK John
Tuesday, April 1st	: JohnkuttyMathai
Wednesday, April 2nd	: TBD
Thursday, April 3rd	: TBD
Friday, April 4th	: St. Paul's MTC
Saturday, April 5th	: Jacob Abraham
Sunday, April 6th	: Rajith
Monday, April 7th	: A.P.Kuruville
Tuesday, April 8th	: Rev.George Jacob
Wednesday, April 8th	: Baby Mathai
Thursday, April 9th	: MathewkuttyGeevarghese
Friday, April 10th	: At Church
Saturday, April 11th	: Yuvajana Sakhyam Cottage Prayer
Sunday, April 12th	: Emmanuel Prayer—P.S.Philip
Passion Week:	
Monday, April 13th	: St. Paul's MTC
Tuesday, April 14th	: St. Paul's MTC
Wednesday, April 15th	: St. Paul's MTC
Maundy Thursday, April 16th	:M.T.D worship and Holy Qurbana

Regional updates

- 1) Regional Men's Retreat Hosted by Carrollton MTC Dallas
June 7th**
- 2) Southwest Regional Youth Fellowship Tournament July25th–
27th—Hosted by Oklahoma Mar Thoma Church**
- 3) Regional Woman's Retreat August8th–10th
Theme: Wholly Yours, Mathew-9:22**
- 4) South west Regional Retreat Location: MTC Farmer's Branch.
Nov.21st to 23rd
Theme: How I met my Father**

Lectionary/Worship Information—Contd.

Friday, April 18, 2014 - (Good Friday Service - English -9:00 AM)	
Good Friday—Part 1	
Salvation Through Christ	
Lesson 1: Isaiah 53:1-12	Lesson 3: Matt 26:47-75
Lesson 2: 1 Pet 1:1-25	
Good Friday—Part 2—Malayalam	
Lesson 1: Zech 13:1-9	Lesson 3: Matt 27:1-44
Lesson 2: Gal 3:1-22	
Good Friday—Part 3—Malayalam	
Lesson 1: Num 21:1-9	Lesson 3: Mat 27:57-61
Lesson 2: Heb 3:1-19	

Sunday, April 20, 2014	
Easter Sunday,	
Resurrection : Celebrating New life in Christ(End of Great Lent)	
Lesson 1: Isa.60:1-22	Epistle: 1Cor.15:20-28
Lesson 2: 1Cor.15:42-58	Gospel: Luke.24:1-12
Sunday, April 27, 2014	
New Sunday-Affirmation of Christ as Lord and God	
First Sunday after Easter	
Lesson 1: Exo.3:13-17	Epistle: Col.1:15-23
Lesson 2: Col.3:1-11	Gospel: John.20:24-29

MESSAGE FROM VICAR



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Loving Greetings in the Majestic name of our Risen Lord.

Academic year of 2013- 2014 is coming to close by the month of April. After completing this year many of our children are planning about their future studies. Education period of our children is very important. In America there is a splendid opportunity for studies. It is possible after studying one year in a stream and to change it. But sometimes changing from one stream to another may end up nowhere. If someone begin to enjoy the college days without giving due seriousness to studies may bring failure in life, and when you see your friends in high positions only you will recognize the importance of studies. Still you can come with good score and can achieve success if you have determination.

Parents at home should communicate good and accepted values. Our Children should be allowed freedom to some extent, for that when they are away from parents and becomes independent,, they will be able to manage it properly. They should be careful in finding their friends who can help to grow or can lead to destruction. Parents should not force them to take certain professional courses which they are not interested. But should guide and allow them to have their own choice on their aptitude.

By the month of April we are completing the Lent days. Lent is the season to develop greater spiritual discipline. It is a time of repentance and renewal. We repent of our sins more out of fear of God's wrath. Several prayers of the Lent , Passion Week and Liturgies of special occasions, such as prayers for the sick and Burial Service focuses on Eternal Punishment, Hell, Fire etc. But nowadays we all are immunized to all these.

In the Song of Songs 2:15 Solomon the wise king of Israel says "Catch the foxes, the little foxes, that destroy our vineyards for our vineyards are in blossom". It is written in the Palestinian setting, "At Spring Season everywhere there is a fragrance of flowers." The vineyard is in blossom, and tender grapes appear on the vine branches. it is at this time the foxes who live in burrows and holes below the vine plants come out to eat the grapes. The gardener keeps on chasing them. But their young ones who often escape the watchful eyes of the gardener, do greater harm to the vine by digging up the plant and destroying the tender shoots. So, the gardener has to take extra effort to eliminate this little foxes.

Lectioary/Worship Information

This agricultural example has a valuable lesson to teach us in our spiritual life. We may be cautious enough to stay away from major sins, the so called deadly sins. But, there are several, apparently insignificant sins and weaknesses which we take for granted, but those can stunt our spiritual growth. Each one has to take time for a detailed spiritual checkup that can lead us to a successful Christian life.

By meditating on the life, passion, crucifixion and the Death of Christ, let us dedicate our life for a life of Victory over the power of sin.

Wish you all a Happy Easter.

Rev.O.C.Kurian.
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 Ph: 469-964-7494

Sunday, April 4, 2014 Restoring Christ	
Lesson 1: Job 42:10-17	Epistle: Eph.2:1-10
Lesson 2: Phil.2:5-11	Gospel: Mark 10:46-52
Sunday, April 13, 2014 Hosanna Christ the King of Peace (Theological Seminary Day)	
Lesson 1: Zech.9:1-12	Epistle: Col.1:15-23
Lesson 2: Heb.5:1-10	Gospel: Mark.11:1-11
Monday, April 14, 2014 - (Evening Worship 7:00 PM)	
Lesson 1: Lev 2:1-16	Lesson 3: Matt.21:23-46
Lesson 2: Acts 13:26-43	Gospel: Matt 22:1-14
Tuesday, April 15, 2014 - (Evening Worship 7:00 PM)	
Lesson 1: Isa 52:1-15	Lesson 3: Matt.22:34-23:12
Lesson 2: Acts 13:44-52	Gospel: Matt 23:13-22
Wednesday, April 16, 2014 - (Evening Worship 7:00 PM)	
Lesson 1: Isa 28:14-29	Lesson 3: Matt.24:29-51
Lesson 2: Col 1:9-22	Gospel: Matt 25:1-13
Thursday, April 17, 2014 Maundy Thursday Passover: Remembrance of Salvation	
Lesson 1: Exo 12:1-17	Lesson 4: Matt.26:1-16
Lesson 2: Heb 9:1-15	Gospel: Matt 26:17-30
Lesson 3: 1 Cor 11:23-34	

Organizational Activities

Church

Passion Week Programs:

Palm Sunday Worship – 04/13/2014

Evening Service @ Church from 04/14 – 04/17/2014. Service starts @ 7:00 PM.

Good Friday Worship on 04/18/2014 starting @ 9:00 am. 1st part service in English, 2nd & 3rd part in Malayalam.

Easter Sunday Worship on 04/20/14 starting @ 9:00 am.

Sevika Sangham

Sevika Sangham South West Center meeting @ St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas on Saturday, 04/12 @ 10:00 am.

Sevika Sangham Weekly Prayer Fellowship & Meeting on Saturday, 04/26 @ 10:00 am at Church

Sunday School

Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, 04/20.

Diocesan Exam preparation starts on Saturday, 04/12.

Youth Chaplain's Message

EASTER-POWER OF RESURRECTED CHRIST IN OUR LIVES
But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. 1 Jn- 4:4

Feeling religious down in our heart for being told from pulpit that it's a lent or Easter season. But it is also a time to have a retrospective thought pattern about our spiritual attitude we foster even when we partake in Death Resurrection and second coming of savior Jesus Christ. Do we really internalize the pain and sacrifice of our Lord or are we traditionally spiritually activated once in a year.

Let us travel across the road and see ourselves where do we stand at this time of our activated spirituality.

Face in the crowd - Simon who was a bystander watched all that was happening the way Christ dragged the heavy cross became part of history when he took upon Cross that he was called for. Are we bystanders or just a face in the crowd who tend to watch the passion of Christ or are we ready to be a cross bearer. If we are attending, partaking or following lent or Easter if it out of compulsion, tradition obligation or reputation then this Experience of lent and Easter will be just an external gratification without inward change. **We end up us 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.**

Close to cross but far from the blood

Disciples, the called out community observed crucified Christ from far they, so were soldiers who touched Jesus and even cross but was never touched by Christ because they were blinded by authority and enjoyed the pain and helplessness of Crucified Christ. All they did was played (religious) games at cross and shared the booty. **Crowds** with religious blinkers viewed it for fun mixed with infused anger towards Christ, participated in this event but with different wave length of religion of righteousness missed the experience of being loved. **Religious and self-righteousness Pharisees and Sadducees** came together and we can call it an unholy nexus to see that the common threat was excommunicated. Here we could see. Are we much better than them? They all missed Christ even though they were so close to Christ. *Do we miss Jesus in our Churches, homes and in our work places? Did they miss Christ due to their religiosity?*

Redemption in Cross -However the two people who stood near to cross were touched was not so righteous as per our standard but one of the thief on the cross found that being of Jesus and cross communicated to him for he viewed

Christ closer to him in his experience and prayed and Jesus assured him a place with him in paradise. The other being a centurion who proclaimed that Jesus is Son of God experienced the joy of salvation

Easter a feeling of Resurrection in ones being It's deep sense of faith within us to understand the blessings of being under the cross and to feel the pain and sacrifice and assurance of being justified and purified by the blood of Christ. To understand the seeking love of Christ that went after disciples who were behind closed door due to hopelessness, fear and uncertainty risen Christ empowered them with Holy Spirit with mission. The women at the tomb were directed with mission to say about risen Christ. Disciples on the way back to Emmaus were kindled through fellowship at table when he broke bread and shared with them and in their failures and despair they found risen Christ.

Easter is an experience of faith. It is not an out of the world experience but a daily feeling me and you have within us that in me I have living Christ in my sickness, poverty , pain and fear I have hope in my CHRIST THAT HAS OVERCOME ALL THE DEATH FORCES SO THAT I WILL HAVE VICTORY FOR I AM HIS CHILD.

Wishing you all a redemptive and empowering Easter

Rev. George Jacob
Youth Chaplain

BIRTHDAYS

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1-Apr	Mr. & Mrs. Edison K. John	Garland
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