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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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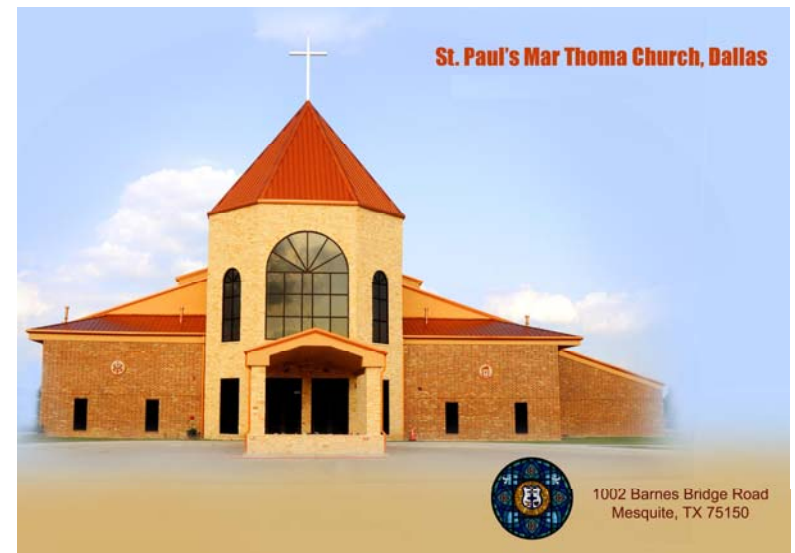


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St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church
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THE EPISTLE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



December 2014



MESSAGE FROM VICAR



Dearlly Beloved in Christ,

WE are in the Christmas Eve. Christmas is a season of celebration. Usually most of the festivals are Regional or Local. Without Caste, Language and Regional difference Christmas is celebrated everywhere in the world.

The whole world and every men join in the celebration of Christmas, because at Christ's birth the angel said " Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been bourn to you; He is the Messiah , the Lord."Luke:2;10,11.

This message was given to the shepherds in the wilderness who were guarding their folk . They were the most outcast, lonely, fear stricken and less privileged people, But were the pure in heart, So they could receive the message of Joy at the birth of the Savior of the world. They were the people who went and met the child with the mother before anyone meeting the child, They returned with joy of seeing the Savior, and with peace that the Son of peace gives to those meet him.

In these days the Christian Pilgrims from all around the world visit the Holy Land. The purpose is to see directly the place of Jesus birth, go to places where Jesus walked, and baptized. They can see the Garden of Gethsemane where he prayed, Olive Mount at where he taught his disciples "the lord's Prayer. Two of the Cisterns of water turned to vine at the marriage of Cana is still kept there. The pilgrims visit the place of Jesus arrest,trial,crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

Bethlehem and Jerusalem has become a place of business . Thousands of Pilgrims come and go. But it is not sure how many of them return their home with the Joy and Peace that can be received by meeting Jesus, who is the author and finisher of Joy and Peace.

Even Christians who celebrate Christmas do not have this Joy. The reason has to be found out. life facilities are increasing. The Joy in life is not the product of abundance. You can be happy with limited resources in life and restless with every comfort of the world.

We have to examine whether we lost Jesus on our journey, as jesus parents went back to look for Jesus on their home back from Jerusalem after attending the Festival of Jerusalem Temple, when Jesus was twelve years of age, and found after three days, We will have to return to our way to find where did we lost Jesus,

If we can join with Jesus the Prince of Peace who is the provider of every Joy, Our Christmas celebration will be meaningful and we

Lectionary/Worship Information

Sunday, December 7, 2014 Birth of John The Baptist Bible Sunday	
Lesson 1: Isa 2:10-22	Epistle: Gal 2:12-20
Lesson 2: 1Thes 4:1-12	Gospel: John 1:1-15
Sunday, December 14, 2014 Annunciation to Joseph	
Lesson 1: Zeph 3:14-20	Epistle: Phil 4:4-9
Lesson 2: Rom 1:5-16	Gospel: Mat 1:18-23
Sunday, December 21, 2014 Mar Thoma Church Day	
Lesson 1: Isa 22:20-24	Epistle: Phil 3:12-21
Lesson 2: 1 Cor 1:18-25	Gospel: John 14:1-7
Thursday, December 25, 2014—8 AM Yaldo-Feast of Nativity -Birth of our Lord End of Twenty Five Days Lent	
Lesson 1: Micah 5:1-9	Epistle: Gal 4:1-7
Lesson 2: Col 1:13-20	Gospel: Luke 2:1-14
Sunday, December 28, 2014 Joyful Expectation of Christ's Coming	
Lesson 1: Mal 3:13-4:2	Epistle: 1 Thes 4:13-8
Lesson 2: Acts 1:6-11	Gospel: Mark 13:28-37
Wednesday, December 31, 2014 God our Helper and Redeemer	
Lesson 1: 1 Sam 7:5-17	Epistle: Heb 13:7-11
Lesson 2: 1 Pet 5:6-11	Gospel: Luke 12:22-34

BIRTHDAYS

1-Dec	Sosamma Philip	Manna	19-Dec	Toby Philip	Ebenezer
1-Dec	Merril Raju	Manna	21-Dec	Joel Philip Mathew	Manna
1-Dec	Shelin S. Mathai	Shalom	21-Dec	Stephen Chacko	Agape
2-Dec	Rebecca Philip	Emmanuel	21-Dec	Annamma Varghese	Shalom
2-Dec	Chloe Priya Abraham	Agape	23-Dec	Rekha Shibu	Agape
2-Dec	A. P. Kuruvilla	Agape	24-Dec	AshleyAnn Mathai	Ebenezer
3-Dec	Leelamma Joseph	Agape	25-Dec	Annamma Abraham	Agape
3-Dec	Thomas Mathew	Agape	25-Dec	Koshy Thomas	Ebenezer
6-Dec	Alwin Philip	Manna	25-Dec	Salu Baby	Agape
6-Dec	Johan K. George	Agape	27-Dec	Philip Mammen	Emmanuel
9-Dec	Febin G. Varghese	Shalom	27-Dec	Gabrielle Mammen	Emmanuel
10-Dec	Mathew Thomas	Emmanuel	28-Dec	Liju K Thomas	Agape
10-Dec	Sheela Philip	Emmanuel	28-Dec	Roger Philip	Emmanuel
11-Dec	Lois Kurian	Shalom	30-Dec	Eben P. Simon	Agape
14-Dec	Joseph Varghese A.	Agape	30-Dec	Mathew Samuel (Stanley)	Emmanuel
14-Dec	Aleykutty Yohannan	Ebenezer	30-Dec	Sanjay Baby	Agape
14-Dec	Charles Babu	Agape	31-Dec	Benjamin Koshy Joseph	Emmanuel
15-Dec	Iffat Joseph	Agape			
17-Dec	Lijo George	Emmanuel			
18-Dec	Sheena Varghese	Manna			

can share the Joy with others that the angels declared to shepherds, " Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rest."

Wish you all a joyful Christmas.

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

8-Dec	Mr. & Mrs. Liju K Thomas	Agape
29-Dec	Mr. & Mrs. Kurien Easo	Manna
29-Dec	Mr. & Mrs. Shelby Alexander	Manna
29-Dec	Mr. & Mrs. Jojoy Koshy	Manna
30-Dec	Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Thomas	Emmnael

Organizational Activities

Church

- Diocesan Episcopa, Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius' Visit – 12/19 – 12/22.
 1. Episcopa's meeting with the Young Couple Fellowship – Saturday, 12/20 @ 10:00 am.
 2. Episcopa's meeting with the Executive Committee – Saturday, 12/20 @ 3:00 pm.
 3. First Communion (English Service) – Sunday, 12/21 @ 10:00 am.
 4. Church Christmas Carol Service – Sunday, 12/21 @ 5:30 pm.
- Church House to House Caroling
 1. Saturday, 12/13 - Agape
 2. Sunday, 12/14 - Emmanuel 2
 3. Friday, 12/19 - Shalom & Ebenezer
 4. Saturday, 12/20 - Manna
 5. Wednesday, 12/24 - Emmanuel 1
- Watch Night Service – Wednesday, 12/31. Witnessing @ 9:30 pm, Holy Qurbana @ 11:15 pm.

Sunday School

- Sports Tournament – Saturday, 12/27 @ 9:00 am
- Year End Dedication Service - Saturday, 12/27 @ 6:30 pm

Sevika Sangham & Parish Mission

- Bi-Weekly Bible study on Saturday, 12/13 @ 10:00 am.
- 2015 Elections on Sunday, 12/14.

Who gives us all richly things to enjoy
-by *Mariam Chacko*

Our Lord Jesus is always giving. Not even for a solitary instant, He never withdraws His hand. As long as there is a vessel of Grace, not yet full up to the brim, the oil will not be withheld. He is a sun that always shines. He is Manna, always falling round the camp. He is a rock in the desert that ever send out steams of life from His smitten side. The rain of His grace is always falling and the river of His bounty is always flowing. The wellspring of His love is constantly overflowing. As the king can never die, so His grace can never fail. Daily we pluck His fruits and daily His branches bend down to our hands with a fresh store of mercy. There are seven feast days in His weeks and as many as the days, so many are the banquets in His years. Who has ever returned from His door unblessed? His mercies are new every morning (Lam. 3:23) and fresh every evening. Who can know the number of His benefits or recount the list of His bounties. Every grain of sand that drops from the glass of lime is but the tardy follower of a myriad of mercies. The wings of our hours are covered with the silver of His kindness and with the gold of His affection. The river of time bears from the mountains of eternity the golden sands of His favor. Who can count the dust of Jacob and the number of the fourth part of Israel? (Num. 23:10). How will my soul extol Him, who is daily loaded as with benefits (Ps. 68:19) and who crowneth us with loving kindness (Ps. 103:4).

*O that my praise could be as ceaseless as His bounty;
O my miserable tongue, how can you be silent?
Wake up, I pray you, awake psalter and Harp."*

I myself will awake early (Ps. 108:2). Let us awake and praise our Lord Jesus who give us everything to enjoy and have an abundant life. Jesus died for us to achieve the above. We obtained salvation by His crucifixion. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believed, in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).