

# MAR THOMA CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



## NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2015

www.marthomasf.org

### FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" St. Matthew 4:4

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the name of Christ Jesus!

Our church is entering into an important liturgical season this month. The Great Lent (Valiya Nombu) begins on February 15. The Great lent or the fifty days of lent is observed as a preparation for our Lord's death on the cross and His resurrection. Fasting and Prayer are an integral part of the great lent. Jesus Christ taught us "Except by prayer and fasting ", it is not possible to gain victory over Satan - St. Matthew 17:21. The change that occurs in our life is what gives meaning to the Great lent. It's a time of self-discipline, in which we deepen our union with our Lord Jesus while remembering His suffering, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. It is also a time of meditating on the salvific act of our God Almighty through His son Jesus. I wish and pray that the Lent observation may lead us all to the holiness of God and help us to lead a life worthy of His calling. This is a time to set apart our time for meditating the cross and the sacrificial love of our Lord towards us. Please plan, participate, and pray for a meaningful lent season. Let us continue our dedicated journey with Christ. On a personal note I want to thank our outgoing parish executive committee 2014 for their outstanding service to the church. Their dedication, commitment, and teamwork strengthened our witnessing in our community. I also welcome our new executive parish committee for the year 2015.

Praise be to the Lord.

Your's in Christ,

Rev. Biju P. Simon Achen

### Worship Schedule

<b>Feb 1</b>	- Holy Communion Service in Malayalam (10:00 am) <b>Medical Mission Sunday</b>
<b>Feb 8</b>	- Holy Communion Service in Malayalam (10:00 am) <b>Maramon Convention Starts</b>
<b>Feb 15</b>	- Holy Communion Service in English (10:00 am) <b>Great Lent/Valiya Nombu Starts</b>
<b>Feb 22</b>	- Holy Communion Service in English (10:00 am)

### Ministry Meetings Schedule

<b>All Sundays</b>	- Sunday School (9:00am) - Weekly Bible Study (9:15am)
<b>Feb 1</b>	- Parish Annual General Body (After Church)
<b>Feb 7</b>	- Edavaka Mission Fasting Prayer (10:30am) - Sevika Sangham Prayer Meeting (2:30pm)
<b>Feb 14</b>	- Western Region Edavaka Mission Conference, Los Angeles
<b>Feb 21</b>	- Men's Bible Study (8:00am) - Youth Fellowship Neighborhood Mission Outreach(City Impact) - Sacramento Area Prayer Meeting (4:00pm) - Central Valley Area Prayer Meeting (7:00pm)
<b>Feb 22</b>	- Choir Audition (After Church)
<b>Feb 27</b>	- San Ramon Area Prayer Meeting (8:00pm)
<b>Feb 28</b>	- San Francisco Area Prayer Meeting (4:00pm) - Fremont Area Prayer Meeting (7:00pm)

### LECTIONARY

Date	Gospel	Epistle	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson
<b>Feb 1</b>	John 5:1-9	2 Cor 12:1-10	Job 42:1-12	Rev 22:1-5
<b>Feb 8</b>	Luke 18:31-34	Eph 1:3-14	Gen 1:24-31	Acts 10:9-16
<b>Feb 15</b>	John 2:1-11	2 Cor 5:16-21	Gen 45:1-15	Eph 2:11-22
<b>Feb 22</b>	Math 8:1-4	Rom 15:7-13	2 King 5:1-10	Heb 13:7-17

### Significant Liturgical Dates

<b>Feb 15</b>	Pethrutha: Beginning of Great Lent-Lent : A time of reconciliation
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### Birthdays

1 Baby Jacob	9 Annie Cherian	20 Anita Sujit
1 Smitha Philip	11 Nisha Thomas	20 Bindu Alexander
1 Shaji Mathew	11 Bindhu Skaria	20 Maya Mathews
2 Sushama Johnson	11 Jibu John	20 Suvin Varghese
2 Johan Raji	11 John David	20 Linson Varghese
2 Sheeba Soney	12 Jesty Thomas	21 Blessy Alexander
2 Abiya Shibu	13 Aaron Mathew	21 Juli Tharakan
3 Jennice Thomas	13 Aju Philip	21 Steve Kurien
3 Prasad Kuruvilla	13 Rebecca Philip	21 Daisy Jose
4 Mathew Samuel	14 Siby Samuel	21 Blessy Roy
4 Ansu George	15 Jedediah Muthalaly	22 Sebu Koleth Thomas
4 Justina Mathai	16 Ritu Mathews	25 Christine Samuel
5 Binil Mathews	16 Suma Mathew	25 Rohan Roy
5 Jibin Thomas	17 Charles Chacko	25 Kaela Thomas
5 Joseph George	17 Mathew Mathai	26 George Abraham
5 Judy George	18 George Konapozhil	28 Abel Thomas
6 John Varghese	18 Sara John	28 Mithun Alexander
7 Divya Ninan	18 Kaithara George	28 Akash Abraham
7 Benjamin Thomas	18 KochuThresia Varughese	28 Santhamma John
7 Reena Korah	18 David Sam	29 Jolly Philip
9 Rajiv Kochumman	19 Sushmita Sujit	29 Rhea Varughese

### Wedding Anniversaries

1 Stanley Samuel & Manju Mathew
1 Bijou Abraham & Taji Abraham
3 Mathew Jacob & Swapna Mathew
5 Sam Alex & Nisha Thomas
6 Reni M. Varghese & Libby Kurien
6 Mavunkal S. Cherian & Sosamma Cherian
7 Santhosh Palackamannil Abraham & Pretha Thomas
10 Binil Mathews & Smita Mathews
10 Kurian Thomas & Annamma Kurian
12 Shibu Thomas & Annie Thomas
15 Philip Alexander & Deena Alexander
19 Kaniyamparambil S. Abraham & Saly Abraham
24 K.Gheevarghese & Merykutty Varughese
24 Binesh George & Julie George

## SECRETARY'S NOTE

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our lord and savior Jesus Christ.

As per the Church calendar, the Great Lent which remembers the fasting, passion, suffering, death & resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, will begin on Feb 15th. This is a special time for meditation, devotion and spiritual discipline. Let us take this opportunity to reflect on our life and clean things that hinder our relationship with God and among ourselves.

Let me take this opportunity to thank God for His blessings and mercies during the past two years to serve you as the secretary of this church. I would like to thank you for giving me this great opportunity to serve you and I enjoyed every bit of it. This gave me an opportunity to know and interact with a lot of great people. I would like to thank every member of our parish who helped me in carrying out my responsibilities. I express my gratitude to all the families for your encouragement, prayers and support. My special thanks to Biju Achen for his guidance and support during the past year.

The new office bearers for 2015 will take charge after the annual General Body meeting. I would like to thank the excellent service done by the 2014 office bearers and the executive committee. My special thanks to all the sub-committee leaders and members for their service. I would like to thank Sam who worked several late nights to publish the newsletters on time every month, Pushpa for the crossword and Melba, Mary Aunty & Maya for the contents.

I wish the very best to our incoming secretary, Jacob Varghis, other office bearers and committee members and pray for God's blessings upon them to carry out their responsibilities this new year.

Let us continue to work and grow together to see the glory of God.

- Soney Jones, Secretary

## February Crossword—Ezra Ch 4-6

### Across

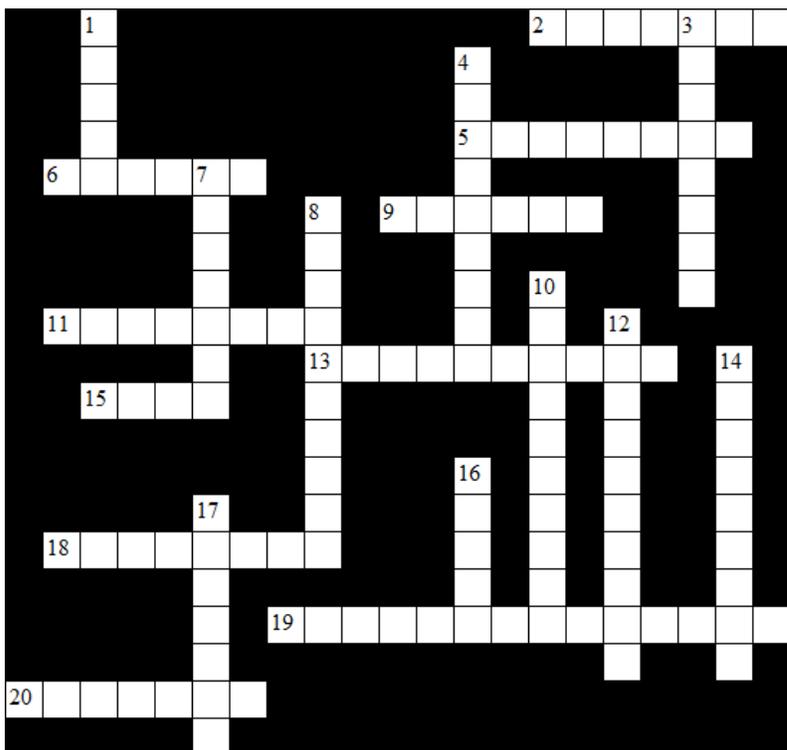
2. The enemies of Judah are the people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva..., that the king of Assyria brought to settle them in the towns of \_\_\_ to replace the Israelites that he carried into exile. 2Kings 17:24
5. After the dedication of the temple, the exiles who were delivered from the bondage in Babylon celebrated the \_\_\_.
6. The work of the temple of God was ceased for a time, through power and insolence of the enemies, until the second year of the reign of \_\_\_ king of Persia. [There was also a king called Darius the Mede]
9. At the beginning of the reign of \_\_\_ the enemies lodged an accusation against the people of Judah.
11. \_\_\_ governor of Trans-Euphrates came to disturb the work of the temple, but the eye of God was watching over the Jews, so the work didn't get stopped. "Our eye upon God, watching His eye upon us, will keep us to our duty and encourage us in it when the difficulties are ever so discouraging."
13. The enemies discouraged the people of Judah to go on building the temple and hired \_\_\_ to work against them from the reign of Cyrus down to Darius the King of Persia.
15. "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this houses remains a \_\_\_?" Hag. 1:4
18. Judah and \_\_\_ refused the help of their enemies to rebuild the temple.
19. The gold and silver articles, which \_\_\_ carried to Babylon was returned to place it in the temple.
20. Who built the temple of God at the first time?

### Down

1. A scroll was found in the province of \_\_\_ and the decree of Cyrus to rebuild the temple was written on it.
3. During the reign of Artaxerxes, the enemies sent a letter saying if the city was rebuilt and the walls are restored the royal \_\_\_ will suffer and the king will be left with nothing in the Euphrates.
4. Trans-\_\_\_ is where Judah and Jerusalem were located. The Samaritans lived there.
7. The Israelites who had returned from the exile ate the passover meal, together with all who had separated themselves from the \_\_\_ practices of their Gentile neighbors in order to seek the Lord.
8. The priests, Levites and the rest of the exiles celebrated the \_\_\_ of the house of God with Joy.
10. For seven days, Israelites also celebrated the Feast of \_\_\_ bread with joy.
12. The enemies went to the Jews in Jerusalem as soon as they received the letter from \_\_\_ to stop the work of the temple. [He didn't have the knowledge of the God of Israel which his predecessor had. Also enemies stated lies. Temple work began in 536 B.C. Stopped on 534 B.C.]
14. During the second year of the reign of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Haggai and \_\_\_, then Zerubbabel and Jeshua started to rebuild the halted work. [Hag. & Zech. 1:1]
16. The temple was completed in the \_\_\_ year of the reign of King Darius. [Resumed the work on 520 B.C and finished on 516 B.C.]
17. King Darius issued an order to search the decree of Cyrus in the archives stored at \_\_\_.

### Sunday Service Assisting & Cleaning Schedule

<b>Feb 1</b>	Fremont / San Francisco
<b>Feb 8</b>	San Ramon
<b>Feb 15</b>	Central Valley / Sacramento
<b>Feb 22</b>	San Jose



## LIVING OUT LOVE



It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. Psalm 18:32

What we are today is God's gift to us. What we become tomorrow is our choice. Our daily life can take a toll on our spirit if it is not aligned with God. We need the power of the living spirit to fill our hearts with joy. From the abundance in our heart alone can flow a gentle word of kindness, a gift of giving, and a will to serve the LORD in all that we do. Our days are numbered. Let us resolve to make each day count as a prayer before the LORD. Seek and intercede for each other. It is the will of God to be united in prayer.

— M&M

