



Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 2 - 2016

INSIDE:

- Vicar's message
- Area Prayer meetings
- Holy Communion service schedule
- Upcoming Events
- Crossword puzzle

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vicar's Message	1
Holy Communion Service	1
Area Prayer	1
Birthdays	2
Wedding Anniver-	2
Secretary's message	2
Upcoming Events	1
Crossword Puzzle	3

From Vicar's Desk

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



Dearly beloved in Christ,

God has enabled us to enter into the second month of the New Year 2016. The great lent begins on the first Sunday (Feb.07) of this month. Lent is a time for renewal. Renewing experience is not incidental, but willingness to be renewed is essential. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness to pre-

pare himself for His ministry. He sacrificed many 'worldly pleasures' to prepare himself for a ministry where He would be faithful to God. He deliberately took time to stop and experience the presence of God. This enabled him to do a ministry that constantly required him to give to others. It meant suffering and painfully dying for others. This is the same ministry that Jesus is calling each and every one of us to accept. As we are about to enter another Lent season, let us spend time preparing ourselves to have the proper relationship with God. To have a right relationship with God means that we need to have the right relationship with others. I remind you to

observe the lent and to experience the transformation in our lives. It is our practice to limit our luxuries in our lives during the lent season and to contribute the same for charity. Let us uphold the 121st Maramon convention in our prayers as it begins on 14th February, 2016 at Kerala, India. Few of our parish members are attending this convention. May God bless us all.

Yours in Christ's ministry,

Rev. Biju Simon Achen
Vicar

- Feb 5 -1030am-Fasting and Prayer @church
- Feb 7- Great Lent begins, Also Mission Sunday
- 13 - Edavaka mission Retreat @ church
- Feb 20 @11:30 AM- Yuvajana Sakyam meeting
- Feb 20 @10AM—Choir Fellowship
- Feb 27 @830 AM Holy Communion Service @Sacramento
- Feb 21@1230pm- General Body meeting (after service)
- Feb 20@0800 - MENS Bible study Hayward
- Feb 27 Saturday 2-5PM—Parish Executive committee retreat
- Feb 14-21 -121st Maramon Convention (Kerala)



Area Prayer Meetings

San Ramon Area	Feb 5/26, Friday 8:00pm	Tentative
Sacramento Area	Feb 21, Sunday 4:30 pm	Raji & Ann Abraham
Central Valley	Feb 20 Saturday 6:00pm	Philip Varghese & Reena
San Francisco Area	Feb 20, Saturday 4:00pm	Tentative
Fremont Area	Feb 20, Saturday 7:00pm	Tentative
South Bay Area	Feb 6, Saturday 7pm	Tentative

Holy Communion Service

February 7	Malayalam Holy Communion service @10 AM	San Francisco Area Assist
February 14	Malayalam Holy Communion service @10 AM	Fremont Area assist
February 21	English Holy Communion service @10 AM	San Ramon Area assist
February 28	English Holy Communion service @10 AM	Central Valley Area assist
March 6	Malayalam Holy Communion service @10 AM	South Bay Area assist
March 13	Malayalam Holy Communion service @10 AM	San Francisco Area Assist

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 Baby Jacob | 12 Jesty Thomas | 22 Sebu Koleth Thomas | 28 Santhamma John |
| 1 Smitha Philip | 13 Aaron Mathew | 25 Christine Samuel | 29 Jolly Philip |
| 1 Shaji Mathew | 13 Aju Philip | 25 Rohan Roy | 29 Rhea Varughese |
| 2 Sushama Johnson | 13 Rebecca Philip | 25 Kaela Thomas | |
| 2 Johan Raji | 14 Siby Samuel | 26 George Abraham | |
| 2 Abiya Shibu | 15 Jedediah Muthalaly | 28 Abel Thomas | |
| 3 Jennice Thomas | 16 Ritu Mathews | 28 Mithun Alexander | |
| 3 Prasad Kuruvilla | 16 Suma Mathew | 28 Akash Abraham | |
| 4 Mathew Samuel | 17 Charles Chacko | | |
| 4 Ansu George | 17 Mathew Mathai | | |
| 4 Justina Mathai | 18 George Konapozhil | 1 Stanley Samuel & Manju | |
| 5 Binil Mathews | 18 Sara John | 1 Bijou Abraham & Taji Abraham | |
| 5 Jibin Thomas | 18 Kaithara George | 2 Dinil Joy & Sheba Isac | |
| 5 Joseph George | 18 KochuThresia Varughese | 3 Mathew Jacob & Swapna Mathew | |
| 5 Judy George | 18 David Sam | 5 Sam Alex & Nisha Thomas | |
| 6 John Varghese | 19 Sushmita Sujit | 6 Reni M. Varghese & Libby Kurien | |
| 7 Divya Ninan | 20 Anita Sujit | 6 Mavunkal S. Cherian & Sosamma Cherian | |
| 7 Benjamin Thomas | 20 Bindu Alexander | 7 Santhosh Palackamannil Abraham & Pretha Thomas | |
| 7 Reena Korah | 20 Maya Mathews | 10 Kurian Thomas & Annamma Kurian | |
| 9 Rajiv Kochumman | 20 Suvin Varghese | 10 Binil Mathews & Smita Mathews | |
| 9 Anita George | 20 Linson Varghese | 12 Shibu Thomas & Annie Thomas | |
| 9 Annie Cherian | 21 Blessy Alexander | 15 Philip Alexander & Deena Alexander | |
| 11 Nisha Thomas | 21 Juli Tharakan | 19 Kaniyamparambil S. Abraham & Saly Abraham | |
| 11 Bindhu Skaria | 21 Steve Kurien | 19 Anil Raj Gopalakrishnan & Menaka Rose Chandran | |
| 11 Jibu John | 21 Daisy Jose | 24 Binesh George & Julie George | |
| 11 John David | 21 Blessy Roy | 24 K.Gheevarghese & Merykutty Varughese | |
| | | 25 Suresh Mohan & Susan Cherya | |



This is my last newsletter as the secretary of the Church, as we are planning to transfer the responsibilities this month to the newly elected secretary Mr. Anil Jacob. Let me thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you as the church Secretary. All of you supported me by properly guiding me, providing positive feedbacks and most importantly praying for me and for the church. I thank you for that.

This past year has been an exciting year learning my job and its limitations, working with various organizations, area representatives and our Executive Committee. When I look back, I feel a deep sense of gratitude to all of you for various ways and means that you sustained and encouraged me in performing my tasks and responsibilities as the Secretary of this Church. The opportunity I had to work with our Youth Fellowship members and their leaders was so privileged and memorable. Let me say that I have learned a lot from them.

I thank our Achen for his leadership and the mentoring he has given me from the beginning to end. He always knows the best way to guide and groom to achieve your best. With his leadership and support we planned and organized our first ever retreat and the ecumenical meeting/service with our sister Malayalee churches. We also started working with our nearby Junction middle school to support the needy children in the neighborhood by providing school supplies.

From the very beginning I felt that it was easy to get along and work as a team with our Trustees. We supported each other in everything we did. Our accountant Mr. Kurien Idiculla is always with lots and lots of ideas and Trustee Mr. Sujit Isaac made sure we did everything by the books. No cutting corners or by-passing, but in the right, proper, legal way. It was all a team effort working for the betterment of our church.

This 13th (Feb) we are organizing a one day retreat at our church. This is the Edavaka Mission Western regional Conference and we are expecting guests from all sister parishes, from Seattle to Arizona. Mr. Deepak Cherian is the coordinator and with the conference organizing team they are putting together a fantastic program. Please register as soon as possible for this event and keep this event in your daily prayers.

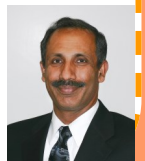
As a church we have been trying to get involved with the City of Livermore programs helping poor. This year April 23rd the city is organizing a major event and they need volunteers. Please get involved and set apart this day for helping out our brothers and sisters in need. Our work is "in progress" and we need to build on what has already been accomplished. As a church we must do more for the families and children in our community and around our church. They should be able to experience the living God through our actions. I recommend organizing a small **Christmas program**

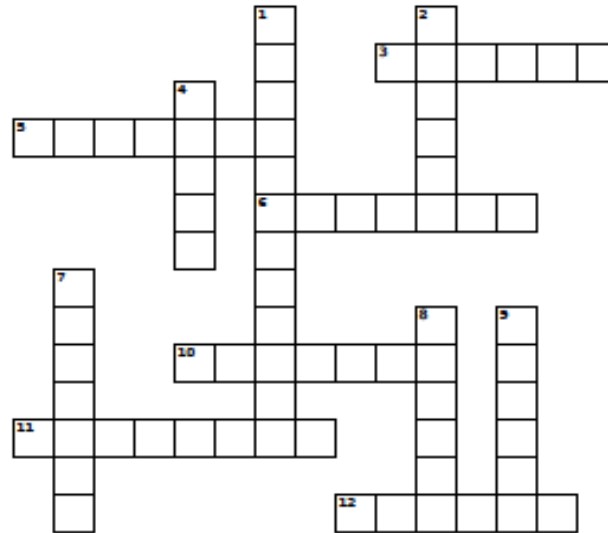
with the children in the neighborhood at our church on Christmas eve. The food and toys we provide will be well worth. The school next-door needs volunteers in medical and technology fields. We have great talent in this area and we can support the school. These are few "work in progress" items. There are lots of challenges in front of us. Let us continue to work together for the glory of God and betterment of our church.

I would like to invite all of you to engage yourselves in the daily church activities, and offer support and accompaniment to our new secretary Anil, Trustees Naveen and Shoby and others. I invite you to raise issues and concerns that would keep the church on a better course. Each one of you take ownership of the church and its activities. As a church we can do great things. I also invite you to join me in praying regularly for our church and all the elected leaders at all levels during the coming year and for our Achen, Kochamma and the children. Achen is providing great leadership and is working very hard to take care of two churches.

Thank you for the many ways you have contributed to help me. It has been an honor to serve you as the Secretary, and to have you as colleagues, friends, and well-wishers. I will miss you all!

Sincerely,
Jacob Varghis (Prasad)





Across

- 3 Job thinks that he has nothing to revive and cheer his spirit and whatever his friend offered to him also has no ___ like the white of an egg.
- 5 Job had the consolation that he had not denied the words of the __, other wise he couldn't have spoken with this assurance of comfort on the other side of death, which turns the tables between the rich man and Lazarus.
- 6 When __ criticized him about his complaints, he was saying he never complained in his prosperity as a wild donkey doesn't bray when it has grass.
- 10 The sleep of a __ is sweet, whether he eats little or much; but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep. Eccl.5:12.
- 11 "We are a mist that appears for a little while and then __." James 4:14
- 12 Job says if his anguish and __ could be weighed on the scales, it would surely outweigh the sand of the seas.

Down

- 1 Job was saying his friends are as ___ as intermittent streams. Troubles are the trials of friendship.
- 2 Job could see no end of his trouble other than death. Instead of asking God to cut him off, Job could have asked for his restoration. Name a prophet who asked God to take his life?
- 4 Jobs body was clothed with ___ and scabs.
- 7 Tema was the son of __. Gen.25:14
- 8 Job says, "The ___ of the Almighty are in me, my spirit drinks in their poison; God's terrors are marshaled against me"
- 9 Job says his days are swifter than a __'s shuttle.