



Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 - 2016

INSIDE:

- Vicar's message
- Area Prayer meetings
- Holy Communion Service schedule

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Vicar's Message 1
- Holy Communion Service 1
- Area Prayer 1
- Birthdays 2
- Wedding Anniversaries 2
- Secretary's message 2

From Vicar's Desk

Dearest Beloved in Christ,



The year 2015 became part of history and we have stepped into the New Year 2016. We welcome the New Year with new hope. We don't know what is going to happen tomorrow. We are not sure about the path we have to walk. But one thing we are sure is that God, the Lord of history knows everything and we are in the mighty hands of our Lord. Therefore, let us not be anxious because God is caring for us. The Christmas celebration reminded us that God became human in Jesus Christ to be with us as Emmanuel.

There is no need of fear because Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

The year 2015 closed before us with some parting experiences. Our former Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Zachariah's Mar Theophilus Suffragan Metropolitan Thirumeni after completing 35 years of blessed Episcopal leadership and 77 years of ministry to the body of Christ left us to eternal home. We as a parish mourn the sudden demise of our spiritual leader. Our church conducted a prayer meeting on Dec. 28, 2015. Scripture exhort us to continue remembering those who led us in the Lord (Heb.13:7). Thirumeni's words are such an encouragement for all of us. Thirumeni once wrote, "If you are bound in a community by love and care for the humanity that is the greatest security". At this hour of the pain of bereavement let us pray that all those

who journeyed with him may also be reassured with the very same words. As we move on in this New Year it is my hope and prayer that each and every member of our 'church Family' may experience that challenge to think on everything that is pleasing to God and live and act accordingly in every possible manner.

WISH YOU ALL A VERY BLESSED NEW YEAR - 2016!!!

Yours in Christ Service,
Biju P Simon Achen

Area Prayer Meetings

San Ramon Area	January 8, Friday 8:00pm	Thomas Philip & Sally
Sacramento Area	January 16, Saturday 4:00 pm	Tentative
Central Valley	January 31st, Saturday 5:00pm	Reuben John & Sheena
San Francisco Area	January 23rd, Saturday 5:30pm	Mathew Thomas & Bobby
Fremont Area	January 23rd, Saturday 7:00pm	Tentative

Holy Communion Service

January 1st (watchnight)	Malayalam HC service @12 AM	Executive Committee assist
January 3rd	Malayalam HC service @10 AM	San Francisco Area Assist
January 10th	Malayalam HC service @10 AM	Fremont Area Assist
January 17th	English HC service @10 AM	San Ramon Area assist
January 24th	English HC Service @ 10AM	Central Valley Area assist
January 31st	English HC Service @10 AM	South Bay/Sac Area assist

1	Juby Kuriakose	19	Jacob Philip
3	Kalpana Jacob	19	Joel Mathew
4	Mathew Simon	20	Rekha George
6	Deepak Cherian	20	Babu Ipe
6	Aaron Simon	22	Priju Thomas
8	Reuben John	22	Silpa Kuruvilla
8	Shany Thomas	22	Shawn Mathew
8	Vinsu Thomas	22	Anoop Johnson
8	Blesson Skariah	23	Mammen Thomas
9	Taji Abraham	23	Renji Puthenpukurakal
9	Arun Thomas	23	Dr. P.T. Mammen
10	Usha Johnson	24	Aiden George
11	Joel Johnson	26	Shelbi Jacob
11	Elizabeth Joseph	26	Binoj Isaac
13	Leela Mathew	27	Elias George
13	Sabu George	28	Aparajita Bhatnagar
14	Ivana John	29	Kenny Mathews
14	Samuel John	29	Amy Kurian
16	Anila Thomas	30	Cissy Abraham
17	Jeremiah Kenny	30	Mintu Abraham
17	Eban Shabu	31	Libin Kurian
18	Anne George	31	Sony Jacob
19	Nikhil George		
19	Rintu Sajan		



Wedding Anniversaries

1	Boby Alex & Elizabeth Varghese
1	P.T Thomas & Rosamma Thomas
2	John Samuel & Dolly Samuel
2	Biju Abraham & Suju Abraham
2	Roby Thomas & Sajini Thomas
4	Mathew Pottankal Samuel & Susan Mathew
7	Sunup Mathew and Asha & Asha George
8	George Abraham & Julie Abraham
9	George David & Smitha David
9	Rajiv Kochumman & Tina Mathew
9	Rev. Biju.P.Simon & Mereen Zachariah
11	Reuben S. John & Sheena Palachuvatil
11	Prasad Kuruvilla & Anila Thomas
12	Biju Varghese & Rekha George
16	Varghese Chandy & Sheila Chandy
18	Roji Cherian Family & Anju Prasad
24	Bincy Skaria & Bindhu Skaria
26	Thomas Geevarghese & Aleyamma Thomas
26	Raji Abraham & Ann Thomas
27	Mathew George & Priya Mathew
31	Philip Roy & Thankam Roy



Dearest Beloved in Christ: "Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us. As we begin the New Year 2016, let us pray to God to enable us to live fully in the present as we gain wisdom from the past and face the future with courage and walk boldly in the New Year. Let's seek to make 2016 the best year of our lives and use it for the glory of God! Wishing you a very Happy and blessed New Year.

One of the top New Year's Resolutions each year is to lose weight. A woman walked into her bathroom at home. As she did, she saw her husband weighing himself on the bathroom scales, sucking in his stomach. The woman thought to herself, "He thinks that he will weigh less by sucking in his stomach." So, the woman rather sarcastically said to her husband, "That's not going to help!" Her husband replied, "Sure it will. It's the only way I can see the numbers."

There is something special about a brand new year. There are fresh opportunities that await us as we go into the year 2016 with the help of our great

God! We know that the past year is history, and the coming year is future, so we must look forward with anticipation to the coming year with assurance that God is still in control.

We have a New Year with endless possibilities and we must make the best of it with the help of God, **for where we are going is much more important than where we have been.** "Stay Focused on God" and God alone.

Whatever it is that tries to take priority over God needs to be forsaken. It may be personal pleasure, recreation, misplaced priorities, power, food, or whatever. This will allow us to keep our focus on God, and give Him first place in our life.

We conducted our Christmas Carol service last month. It was wonderful to see our Choir and Sunday School Children come together singing carols. I would like to thank Manish George for his leadership and the Sunday School teachers for doing an excellent job organizing such a wonderful event. I also would like to thank Julie George, Jeeva John, Amy John

and all the volunteers for decorating the Church and Social Hall. Thanks to Babu Ipe and Cherian Philip for coordinating the house-to-house carol rounds. We tried to visit every members residence that requested our visit. Special thanks to Pushpa and the Sevika Sangham members for arranging cake for Christmas and New Year.

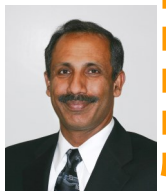
I would like to thank our 2015 trustees Sujit Isaac and Kurien Iduculla for doing an excellent job managing the financial matters of our church. Let me take this opportunity to welcome and congratulate the new Trustees – Naveen George and Shoby Cherian and wish them all success in the New Year.

Thank you for your support and participation in all our church activities. Our work is "in progress" and lets build on what we have accomplished as a Church. Once again I wish you all a Wonderful and Blessed New Year.

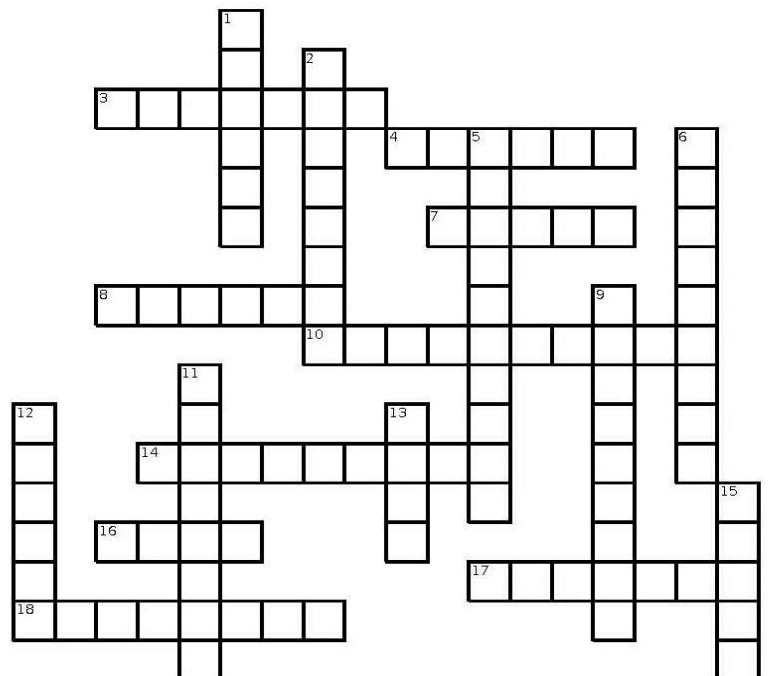
In your Service,

Secretary,

Jacob Varghis (Prasad)



Crossword Puzzle, January 2016 (Job 4-5 NIV)



- Across
- 3 Before ___ reproves Job, he praises him saying that he strengthened feeble hands, faltering knees and supported those who stumbled.
 - 4 "The upright see and rejoice, but all the ___ shut their mouths." Psalms.107:42
 - 7 God can certainly defeat the designs of his and his people's enemies like in the case of ___. Esther 7:10
 - 8 God's children are protected from the lash of the ___. Psalm 31:20.
 - 10 "Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the ___ of the Almighty."
 - 14 Job's friend telling him that when trouble comes he should not be discouraged, rather he should be hopeful because of his ___ ways.
 - 16 The devil is like a roaring ___ and Eliphaz was using the similitude of ___ to show that Job being the greatest of all men in the East got his estate by using his power in oppressing his neighbors ; but now his power and estate were gone and his family was scattered.
 - 17 After Eliphaz portrays Job as a hypocrite and wicked man, he tells him that man is born to ___. Then he began to speak God's promises to him.
 - 18 A word was ___ brought to Eliphaz when he was in his deep sleep. The more we are withdrawn from the world the fitter we are for communion with God.

- Down
- 1 Eliphaz directed Job to ___ to God and lay his cause before Him rather than cursing the day of his birth.
 - 2 God performs wonders that can not be ___ and miracles that can't be counted.
 - 5 God sets the lowly on high, thwarts the plan of the crafty so that their hands achieve no success and catches the wise in their ___. 1 Cor. 3:19
 - 6 The voice that Eliphaz heard was , " Can a mortal be more ___ than God? Can a man be more pure than his maker?"
 - 9 After six troubles may come a seventh, but the Lord delivers a ___ man from all his troubles. The evil one will not touch God's children without His permission.Psalm 34:19, 2 Tim.3:11
 - 11 Eliphaz challenges Job that which of the ___ will answer him?
 - 12 We have a covenant with the ___ of the field and with the wild animals that we will live in peace. Hosea 2:18, Psa.91:12, Isa.11:6-9
 - 13 Eliphaz made the observation that those who sow trouble will ___ it. Gal.6:8-9. Everything that he said about Job was not directed by the spirit of God.
 - 15 God speaks to man in a ___ or in vision of the night when deep sleep falls on him as he slumbers in his bed. Job.33:14-15