



MAR THOMA CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Newsletter - March 2015

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

"He was wounded for our transgressions crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

This month we will observe mid-lent on March 11th. I am glad to know that many of our members are observing lent with genuine enthusiasm. Lent is 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. I request all my parish members to continue to observe the Great Lent and Sandhya Namaskaram and attend prayer meetings earnestly so that we can celebrate Easter in its full meaning! On a different note, I am thankful for God's guidance and providence we are experiencing as a parish and as Diocese. This month we are observing Diocesan Sunday, please uphold our Diocese of North America and Europe in your prayers. Also our parish is observing the fourth Sunday of this month as World Day of prayer. Our Sevika Sangam will give leadership for special liturgy and prayers. Our parish choir conducted a choir audition and added 14 new members. Edavaka Mission Western Regional Conference was held at Los Angeles and 11 members from our church attended. Please continue to keep our church activities in your prayers.

Your's in Christ Service
Rev. Biju P. Simon Achen

Worship Schedule

Mar 1	- Holy Communion Service in Malayalam (10:00 am)
Mar 8	- Holy Communion Service in Malayalam (10:00 am)
Mar 15	- Holy Communion Service in English (10:00 am)
Mar 22	- Holy Communion Service in English (10:00 am)
Mar 29	- Holy Communion Service in English (10:00 am)

March 2015 Programs:

March 01, 2015	Diocesan Sunday –Pulpit Exchange
March 06, 2015	San Ramon Area prayer 8:00 PM
March 07, 2015	Fasting prayer led by Edavaka Mission 10:30 AM
March 07, 2015	Sevika Sangam prayer 2:30 PM
March 07, 2015	South Bay Area Prayer 7:00 PM
March 13, 2015	MTC of Silicon Valley Holy Qurbana & Inauguration
March 14, 2015	Western Region Sevika Sangam Conference, LA
March 21, 2015	Men's Fellowship 8:00 AM
March 21, 2015	Youth Fellowship Cottage prayer 11:30 AM
March 22, 2015	World Day of prayer
March 27, 2015	40th Friday Holy Qurbana
March 28, 2015	San Francisco Area Prayer 4:00 PM
March 28, 2015	Fremont Area Prayer 7:00 PM
March 29, 2015	Hosanna/ Holy Qurbana @ Sacramento
March 30, 2015	Sandhya Namaskaram
March 31, 2015	Sandhya Namaskaram

Significant Liturgical Dates

March 11, 2015	Mid Lent
March 25, 2015	Suboro: Annunciation to Virgin Mary
March 27, 2015	40th Friday - Lord who overcomes the temptations
March 29, 2015	Hosanna

Sunday Service Assisting & Cleaning Schedule

Date	HC service	Area Assisting
March 1st 10 am	Malayalam HC service	San Francisco
March 8th 10 am	Malayalam HC service	Fremont
March 15th 10am	English HC Service	San Ramon
March 22th 10 am	English HC Service	Central Valley
March 29th 10 am	English HC Service	South Bay and Sacramento

Wedding Anniversaries

2 Koshy George and Mary Verghese
4 Sam George and Grace George



Birthdays

2 John C. Kavanattu	16 Sunu Easaw	21 Vipin Thomas
2 Mathew Kavanattu	17 Jonah Varghese	22 Jess Mathai
3 Kristal Kurien	18 Christine Viji	22 Rebecca George
3 Samuel T Poozhikala	18 Issac Mathews	23 Noel Zachariah
4 Susan John	18 John Mathews	23 Ryan S Reuben
5 Anita Mary Chandu	18 Jordin Gracy George	25 Mary Verghese
5 Jocelyn George	18 Puspa Samuel	26 Renu Mathews
5 Joshua Alexander	18 Reenu Cherian	26 Susan Mathew
6 Valsamma Thomas	18 Shante Thomas	27 Smithu Ann Sam
10 Sheena John	19 Ansu Ninan	28 Joshua Thomas
10 Smitha Skariah	19 Jinsu Varghese	28 Sosamma Cherian
11 Jordan Mathew	19 Justin Varughese	29 Shreya Linson
12 Kevin Sam Stanley	19 Susan Abraham	30 Joel John Jacob
12 Liju John	19 Rebecca Anna George	30 Neha Varughese
13 Saramma Philip	20 Eva Rachel Thomas	30 Noah George
14 Joseph Thomas	20 Rahelamma	31 Melbin Mathew
14 Ricky Roy	20 Tara George	31 Daisy Mathew
16 Sheila Chandu	20 Thomas P. Thomas	

Area Prayer

March 21st 4 Pm	Sacramento prayer	: P. C. Philip & Kunjumole
March 21st 7: Pm	Central Valley	
March 6th 8 pm	San Ramon	Anil and Rakhi Jacob
March 28th 7pm	Fremont	Mathew Jacob and Swapna Mathew
March 7th	South Bay Area	
March 28 Saturday 4PM	San Francisco	Philip & Omana Alexander (Moti)

Mar 6- World Day of prayer
March 7th (Sat) at 1030 Fasting and prayer @ church
March 7th 2:30 Sevika sungham Meeting at church
March-11 (Wed) 09.00pm. Western Regional Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists' Association tele-prayer (On-line) Prayer.
Mar 14/15- Sevika Sungham Conference, LA
March 21 (Sat)- Youth Cottage Fellowship Activity from 11:30 - 1:30.
March 22- Youth Fellowship general body meeting after HC service.
March 22nd World Day of Prayer During service
Mar 27 Fri- 8:00 pm Holy Communion Svc (40th Day)
Mar 29-Sacramento Holy Communion Service
Mar 30-Apr 1st 7: pm Sandhya Namaskaram (daily) @church
Apr 2nd- 7:00pm Holy Communion Service
Apr 3rd - 9:30am Good Friday Service
Apr 5-7:00am Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service.

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, we are in the "lent" season. The word "Lent" comes from the Teutonic (Germanic) word for springtime. Lent can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning; a time to reflect on our life, cleaning things which hinder our relationships with Jesus Christ and with others and to attain spiritual discipline. "Lent" is also the time for "sacrifice"; giving up something that is our "favorite". Jesus spent 40 days in the desert before beginning his public ministry, several years before he was crucified. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, individual, yet similar, interpretations of Christ's message, each tell of Jesus spending 40 days in the desert, where he fasted, prayed and was tempted by the devil. After this he went to Galilee where he called his first disciples and began his public ministry. The 40 days of Lent are also a time to remember and imitate the life and ministry of Jesus as we prepare to commemorate his death and resurrection at Easter. I invite all of you to join in for special services, meditations, fasting and giving during this lent season. I also applaud our youth for organizing the "city impact" as part of our ministry during this "lent" season.

This is the first newsletter after the new 2015 office bearers took charge. I am excited to serve you and the Lord and with our Achen's excellent leadership this will be an exciting year for all of us as a church community.

As we recognize the excellent service done by our 2014 office bearers and the Executive Committee, my special thanks to all of them for a smooth transition and for all the help given to the new members. During our last Executive committee meeting we organized all our sub-committees for 2015.

I would like to request your prayers and support to carry out my responsibilities in the New Year. I would encourage you to participate and "get involved" in the day-to-day activities of the church. We have various activities planned for this year and I request your prayers and full support in making this a successful year for the church.

Thank you for your support, participation and for prayers.

March Crossword

Across

5. A ___ was issued throughout Judah and Jerusalem for all the exiles to assemble in Jerusalem in three days to make them confess their sins.
7. ___ and his officials established 220 of the temple servants to assist the Levites.
8. In the list of people recorded in chapter-8, none of the descendants of ___ stayed back in Babylon. He had 666 descendants. Ezra 2:13
10. Ezra was asked to punish those who didn't obey the law of God and the king by death, banishment, confiscation of property or ___.
12. Ezra's father was ___. (1 Chro.6:4-15)
13. Soon Ezra learned that the people of Israel had mingled the ___ with the people around them and followed their detestable practices.
15. Ezra took the gold and silver that the king had given, together with what he obtained from the province of Babylon and the ___ offerings of the people for the temple of God.
17. While Ezra was praying, a large crowd gathered around him wept bitterly and ___ suggested to make a covenant with God to send away all the Canaanites women and their children.
18. During the reign of ___ King of Persia, Ezra the descendants of Aaron returned to Jerusalem from Babylon along with 1500 people. This was 80 years after the first group of exiles' return.
22. When Ezra heard the tragic report he ___ his cloak.
23. The exiles who had returned from captivity sacrificed ___ offerings to the Lord.
25. Upon hearing Ezra's sermon, the men who had married ___ woman agreed to dismiss their wives.
26. Ezra set apart ___ leading priests and Levites to be in charge of transporting the articles that they had received in Babylon.
27. By the Ahava Canal, Ezra proclaimed a ___ to humble themselves before God and to ask for a safe journey to Jerusalem.
28. Ezra was asked to appoint ___ to administer justice to all the people of the Trans-Euphrates and to teach any who didn't know the law of the Lord.

Down

1. Ezra's journey took ___ months to reach Jerusalem.
2. The Persian Monarch told Ezra that whatever the God of heaven had prescribed, let it be done with ___ for the temple of the Lord.
3. Ezra withdrew from the house of God and continued to fast and mourn over the ___ of the exiles.
4. Ezra sent a delegation to ___ in Casiphia [a place where Levites were settled in Babylon] to bring the Levites.
6. Ezra was the descendant of ___, who found a copy of the Law during the reign of Josiah.(2 kings 22:8)
7. The two priests that came with Ezra were Gershom and ___ (Descendants of Aaron) and none of their families came with them.
9. The king ordered all the ___ of Trans-Euphrates to furnish Ezra with all he needed.
11. Ezra was ___ God, who had put it into the king's heart to bring honor to the house of God in such a loving way.
12. Ezra weighed out all the articles and gave it to the priests to guard them carefully until he weighs them out in ___.
14. Ezra was the descendant of ___ the chief priest, whom Nebuchadnezzar had executed when he was taking the Israelites to Babylon.(2 Kings 25:18-21)
16. Ezra was a priest and a ___.
19. At the ___ sacrifice, Ezra fell on his knees and his hands spread out to the Lord and confessed their sins.
20. Like ___ in Egypt, Ezra in Babylon was a leader in the service of the Lord.
21. En route the group assembled at Ahava canal and Ezra found out there were no ___ for the temple service.
22. When Ezra and his retinue reached Jerusalem they rested for ___ days.
24. The king exempts all the ministers of the temple from paying ___ to the government.

able general, ___ the Mede as king over the city of Babylon.