



Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco

MAY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5 - 2015

From Vicar's Desk

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"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11)

Dearly Beloved in Christ,
Greetings to you all in the name of Christ Jesus!
In the month of May our church is observing two important events in the liturgical life of the church, feast of Ascension and feast of Pentecost. The Feast of Ascension commemorates that, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of

the promise of the Holy Spirit, ascended into heaven. Scripture reminds us that Jesus' ascension gives Christians a great hope that he will come again (Acts 1:11). The feast of Pentecost is another church feast. This year May 24th Sunday is the Pentecost Sunday. In the Old Testament, Pentecost was the feast of the celebration of the giving of the law on the 50th day after the departure of the Israelites (Passover) from Egypt. In the new dispensation Pentecost is the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus Christ on the 50th day of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as a result of Jesus' prayer and the Holy Spirit was sent to abide with us forever. The Holy Spirit infused courage and confidence among the frightened and doubted disciples to continue

the mighty act of God through their mission. We also are called to experience this powerful presence in our church life today. On a different note, this month our Sunday School is celebrating the annual day; on behalf of the parish I sincerely express our parish's love and gratitude to all the Sunday School teachers who have worked earnestly in teaching the Word of God to the children. Let us all work together for the glory of Lord. May God bless us all.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Biju P. Simon Achen

The 31st Family Conference will be held from July 2nd to July 5th at Hilton Stamford Hotel, Stamford, Connecticut. Web: www.mtfc2015.org For info email info@mtfc2015.org
Youths are participating in the MarThoma Native American Mission Trip in the summer. This is a great opportunity of our youth to serve in the local communities of Oklahoma and Alabama. For further details please contact Elizabeth Chandy.

Area Prayer Meetings

San Ramon Area	May 1st, Friday 8:00pm	Thomas Varghese and Leelamma
Sacramento Area	May 16, Saturday 4:00 pm	Zachariah George (Saji)& Sheela
Central Valley	May 16 th Saturday 7:00pm	
San Francisco Area	May 23 rd Saturday 4:00pm	
Fremont Area	May 23 rd Saturday 7:00pm	Josie and Susie Varghese

Holy Communion Service

May 3 rd	Malayalam HC service @1000	South Bay / Sacramento Area assist
May 10 th	Malayalam HC service @10am	San Francisco Area assist
May 17 th	English HC service @1000am	Fremont Area assist
May 24 th	English HC service @1000am	San Ramon Area assist
May 31 st	Malayalam HC service @10am	Central Valley Area assist

Birthdays

1	Anil Mathew	18	Grace Joseph	29	Betsy Joseph	30	Jimmy Mathew
1	John Mathew	19	Honey Varghese	29	Geevarghese Oonunny	30	Miriam Varghese
1	Lija Varghese	19	Rakhe Mathew	29	Justin Joseph	30	Shibu Yohannan
1	Raney Godfray	20	Abraham Kuruvilla	29	Soniya Oonunny	31	Anish Joyson
1	Rev. Biju P Simon	20	Aleyamma Thomas	29	Thomas Kuruvilla	31	Biju G. George
1	Zachariah George	20	Daisy Mathew	30	George Abraham	31	Manju Mathew
3	Koshy George	20	Neethu Zachariah	30	Jacob E John	31	Philip Varughese
3	Roshni Susan Mathews	20	Saramma Varghese	31	Suji Thomas	31	Sam John
3	Thankam Mammen	20	Sheeba Samuel				
5	Liya Linson	21	Berty Jackson				
6	Jeeva John	21	Christina Thomas				
6	Mathews George	21	Nilofeur / Dolly Samuel				
6	Santamma George	23	Josy Thomas				
8	Abraham Mathew	23	Nivedita Titus				
9	Rachel Alexander	24	Meera Jacob				
10	Mathew Palakothu	24	Rekha George				
11	Jija Isaac	25	Kurien Iduculla				
12	Suja Thomas	25	Saji Iduculla				
12	Valsa George	25	Shaiju Varghese				
13	Ajni George	26	Renji George Zachariah				
13	Betty Mathews	26	Roby J Thomas				
13	Suju Koshy Abraham	27	Abraham Manu				
14	Ria Joseph	27	Daisy Saji				
14	Rohan George	27	George Mammen				
14	Tina Mathew	27	Susy E. Varghese				
14	Zachary Mathew	28	Annamma George				
15	Jennifer Philip	28	Aswathi Mathew				
15	Tigi Thomas	28	Joanna Thomas				
16	John Varghese	28	Lizy Thomas Kuruvilla				
16	Mavunkal S. Cherian	28	Renu Philip				
17	Soney Jones	28	Sajan John				
17	Timothy Poozhikala	28	Suja Thomas				
18	Annamma Philip	28	Thomas Jacob (Libin)				
		28	Thomas Mathew				

Wedding Anniversaries

- 1- P.C. Philip & Annamma Philip
- 2- Koshy George & Mary Verghese
- 3- Biji Abraham John & Deepa Mathew
- 5- Anish Joyson & Rachel Anish
- 9- Abby Cherian & Sapna A Cherian
- 12- George Zachariah & Valsa George
- 12- John Varghese & Sheeba John
- 13- Jijoe J Vurgheese & Aparajita Bhatanagar
- 15- Vipin Thomas & Shiney
- 17- Samuel T. Puzhikala & Liji Samuel
- 19- Naveen Therathanath & Leena Isaac
- 22- Philip Varghese & Reena Korah
- 22- Thomas Godfray & Raney Godfray
- 26- Dr. P.T Mammen & Thankam Mammen
- 26- Joseph P Thomas & Grace Thomas
- 28- Jimmy P Alexander & Harsha Alexander
- 28- O.C. Ninan & Soumini
- 31- George Thomas & Silba George
- 31- Linson Varghese & Smitha Skariah

**From the Secretary**

We are in the second quarter of the year already. I thank God for his continued blessings on all of us. The Edavaka Mission holds Fasting and prayer on the first Saturday of every month @ 1030am. Various Organizations met regularly to plan their events. Sevika Sungham conducted the Auction and collected cover \$8,000, which will be used for helping the poor locally and in India.

Our Sunday School children are preparing & writing Diocesan Exam this Sunday. Please keep the students as well as the teachers in your prayer as they prepare for the exam. May 17th we plan to celebrate the Sunday School Day.

The MENS bible study in Hayward has

been a real success and great blessing to many. This was first started as a Men's Bible study but has now included High School students also.

The Trustees presented the Accounts for the first Quarter. We are meeting the budget target except in the ASR. We encourage more sponsors in the months ahead.

I am happy to report that we have identified a place for our church Family Retreat as Presentation Center, Los Gatos. The sub-committee is working hard to get Leaders to lead the various programs. Please pray for this event which will be on August 28-30. I am confident that God will provide us the wisdom and ability to properly plan and execute this event and that

it will be a blessing to all.

We are in the process of reserving the picnic spot for our Church Picnic (Aug 15). We plan to reserve the Quarry Lake area in Fremont .

Last week we had Dr. Thomas George with us as the guest speaker. What an inspirational message it was! He talked about how Jesus goes ahead of you, Meets you where you are, fills your emptiness and Transforms you completely. He is the "great provider"

As we are saddened by the disaster that struck Nepal this week,, please pray for the country and the people. We are living because of our Gods protection and Mercy . We can count His blessings one-by-one. With prayers, Secretary

Jacob Varghis (Prasad)



PRESENTATION CENTER

RETREATS • CONFERENCES • EVENTS

Family Retreat: August 28-30. Presentation Center, Los Gatos

- May 2nd-10:30am Fasting and Prayer @church
- May 2nd- 2:30-4:00 pm @Church Sevika Sanghom meeting
- May 3rd - Sunday School Diocesan Exams
- May 9th-10am Church cleaning
- May 9th-10am Choir Fellowship, Dublin. Shoby & Rekha
- May 9th-4:30 pm - Uvajana Sakyam meeting , Subu & Nisha Alex's Residence, Fremont
- May 10th - Sunday School Prize Distribution Day
- May 13th 8pm-tele prayer meeting of WRVEA. MTCSFO has the lead
- May 16th - 08:00-MENS bible study in Hayward
- May 17th Sunday School Day.
- May 31st-Sacramento HC @430pm



After Service Refreshment – We need volunteers to sponsor ASR. Members celebrating BDs and WAs please contact Trustees for sponsoring.

The youth from the SFO and SVC Mar Thoma Churches are co hosting the 2015 Western Regional Youth Conference. The conference is on July 9-12, 2015 at Alliance Redwood Conference Grounds. Please contact Emil Kurian or Elizabeth Chandy for more information. Registration for the 2015 Western Regional Youth Conference is now open.

Birth Announcement:
 Santhosh Simon and Beena Mathew are blessed with a baby girl . **Aaditha Simon** was born on April 22nd at 06:20pm. Both mom and baby are doing fine.



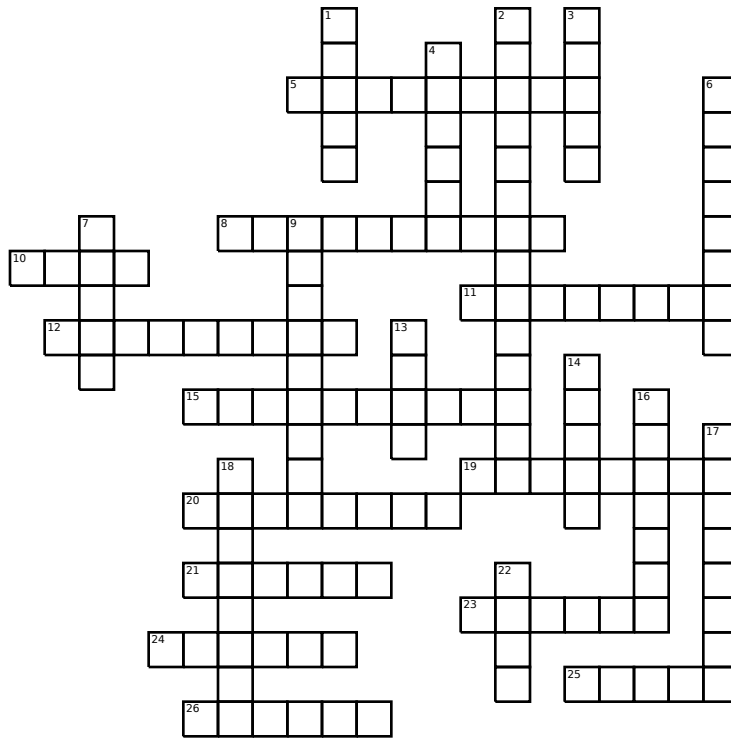
17 th DIOCESAN YUVAJANASAKHYAM CONFERENCE 2015
 The Mar Thoma Church of Silicon Valley Yuvajana Sakhyam takes immense pleasure in inviting you to the 17th Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam Conference of our Diocese. The conference will be held from October 2nd to 4th, 2015 at Mar Thoma Church of Silicon Valley, California. The theme for this year's conference is "Bloom where you are planted."

Youths are planning to participate in the MarThoma **Native American Mission Trip** in the summer. Mt. Vernon, Alabama and Oklahoma mission trip. If you are interested in mission trip, please talk with Elizabeth Chandy. Each trip is about 4-5 days. For the Alabama Mission trip June 8-12, 2015.

July 23-26: 12th Diocesan Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists Association conference will be held @Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston. For more details see the brochure or contact Kurian Varghese (Vijayan)

Family Retreat: August 28-30. Presentation Center, Los Gatos





Across

- 5 Who said, " What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall?"
- 8 The men and their wives raised a great outcry against their brothers because they were ___ their fields to get grains during the famine, had to borrow money to pay the king's tax on their fields and their children were subjected to slavery
- 10 The neighboring ___ brought the news ten times to Nehemiah that " wherever you turn, they will attack us"
- 11 Jerusalem wall was completed in ___ days.
- 12 Nehemiah kept a ___ always by him to sound an alarm, upon the first intimation of danger.
- 15 Nehemiah prayed to ___ his hands because the enemies thought that builders would get too weak and the work wouldn't be completed.
- 19 Nehemiah told the nobles that it was not right to keep the Jewish brothers under the bondage, for we had brought them back from the Babylonian bondage. "Shouldn't we walk in the fear of God to avoid the ___ of our gentile enemies?"
- 20 ___ knowing the enemies scheme to harm him said, " I am carrying on a great project and can't go down."
- 21 Those who carried the materials did the work with one hand and held a ___ on the other.
- 23 Nobles of Judah were in correspondence with ___ because he and his son married the daughters of Israel.
- 24 Who said, "Even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones"?
- 25 The men in ___ brought discouragements by saying that the strength of the laborers was giving out and can't rebuild the wall.
- 26 When the enemies tried to stop the work of the wall, Nehemiah ___ and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

Down

- 1 People worked from the first light of dawn till the ___ came out.
- 2 When the enemies saw that the wall was completed, they lost their ___ because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.
- 3 The instruction that Jesus had given, ___ and pray (Matt.26:41), can be seen in the measures that Nehemiah had taken to fight against the enemies.
- 4 Nehemiah replied to the false accusation, " Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just ___ it up out of your head"
- 6 Nehemiah was appointed as a ___ in the land of Judah.
- 7 Each of the builders wore his ___ at his side as he worked. It is one of the weapon in the full armor of God that we must wear always to fight against the evil forces.
- 9 Nehemiah told the assembly that his predecessors took forty shekels of silver from the people in addition to food and wine, but out of ___ for God he didn't act like them.
- 13 The nobles took an ___ to giveback everything that they took from their brothers.
- 14 Nehemiah accused the nobles and officials for exacting ___ from their own countrymen. Deut. 23:19
- 16 A prophetess who tried to intimidate Nehemiah.
- 17 A false prophet named ___, in the hire of Sanballat, attempted to frighten Nehemiah into hiding by claiming God had revealed to him Nehemiah would be murdered that very night.
- 18 Nehemiah said, " ___ me with favor, O my God, for all I have done for these people"
- 22 Sanballat and Geshem sent Nehemiah same message ___ times to meet in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.