

Mar Thoma Church
of San Francisco

MTCFSF Newsletter

August 2023

From the Vicar's Desk



Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2-4)

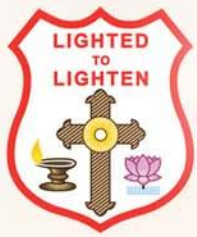
Nikos Kazantzakis wrote these words, "People are always impatient, but God is never in a hurry!" These words underline an important truth. We need to be patient, infinitely patient, with God. We need to let things unfold in their proper time, God's time.

In the midst of pain, injustice we long for God to intervene and to take away our pain or avenge oppression, but mostly God seems silent. We see it in the Bible too, the constant, painful cry: Come, Lord, come, Save us! How long, O LORD? When, Lord, when? Why not now? We are forever impatient, but God refuses to be hurried. Why? Why is God, seemingly, so slow to act? Is God insensitive to our suffering? Why is God so slow, when we're suffering so deeply?

John of the Cross, uses the image of a log bursting into flame in a fireplace in trying to explain how a person comes to be kindled in altruistic love. When a green log is placed in a fire, it doesn't start to burn immediately. It first needs to be dried out. Thus, for a long time, it lies in the fire, its greenness and dampness slowly drying out. Only when it reaches its igniting temperature can it ignite and burst into flame. So a log needs to pass through a certain drying out before it can burst into flame. Just as a log needs a period of weariness and aching, before it could burst into flame, so too, we could become persons whom God intended us to be, people ignited into love only when our selfish, green, damp logs, have crackled adequately. It is with much groaning of the flesh that the life of the spirit is brought forth!

In His service

Sajiachen.



Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco

Secretary's Note



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Praise the Lord for his presence, blessings and the guidance we received throughout our worship services and events in the month of July. It was an eventful month. We were blessed with the visit of Our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos. During the visit we celebrated the 39th anniversary of our parish and celebrated Graduation Day 2022. Let us thank God for all his mercy and blessings bestowed upon us as a faithful community in the San

Francisco Bay Area for the past 39 years. As the Bible says, "Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done" *Philippians 4:6*

Our two teams of volunteers visited and conducted VBS at the Native American Mission fields in New Mexico and Utah. Our youth had a chance to experience the struggle these people are facing and the opportunity to assist with their needs. Reminding them how blessed we are as a community and as individual families.

By God's grace we were able to host the Back 2 School festival successfully again this year. We distributed over 125 Backpacks filled with school supplies and over 50 families attended the event. A big thank you to Yuvajana Sakhyam and Parish Mission Board for organizing the event.

Summer is almost over, our children and teachers are ready to go back to school, let's remember them in Prayers for a blessed school year. Lord, please bless all our students and teachers, help them to feel excitement and joy in the promise of a new start.

Our Sunday School is scheduled to resume classes by August 27, remember our Sunday School students and teachers in our Prayers. Our Edavaka Mission Bible study also will resume during this time, remember them in our Prayers as well. We ask that you'd open our ears and our hearts to whatever it is you are wanting to teach us.

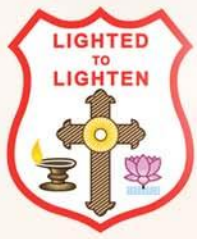
Lord, we ask for your wisdom, for your strength, and power to be constantly present with us during the coming days.

Requesting your continued prayers and support,

With Prayerful Regards,

Philip Roy,

Secretary, MTCSF



Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco

Worship Schedule

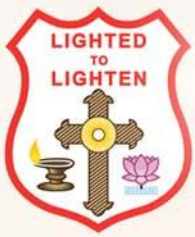
	Time	Service	Celebrant(s)
August 6	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (Mal) Beginning with Praise & Worship	Rev. Saji Thomas
August 13	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (Mal) Beginning with Praise & Worship	Rev. Saji Thomas
August 20	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (English) Beginning with Praise & Worship	Rev. Saji Thomas
August 27	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (English) Beginning with Praise & Worship	Rev. Saji Thomas

Sunday School

First day of Sunday school August 27

Edavaka Mission Bible Study

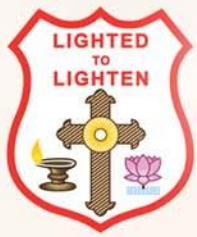
Resumes August 27 after summer break



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Area Prayer Groups Organization Meetings Events (In person or via Zoom)

- Friday August 4,
 - Tri-Valley area prayer meeting at 8 PM at the residence of Ansu & Sam John
- Saturday, August 5,
 - Edavaka Mission fasting prayer at church at 10 AM Saturday, August 5
- Saturday, August 12,
 - Fremont area prayer meeting at the Residence of Rachel & Anish Joyson at 6.30 PM
- Sunday, August 13,
 - Student & Teacher dedication during Service
- Saturday, August 19
 - Parish Summer Picnic at 9 AM at Quarry Lakes Park, Fremont (2100 Isherwood Way, Fremont, CA 94536)
- Sunday, August 20,
 - Sevika Sanghom Sandwich making for Homeless after ASR
- Tuesday, August 22,
 - Senior Fellowship prayer meeting at 6.30 PM via zoom
- Saturday , August 26,
 - Sevika Sanghom cottage Prayer via zoom at 11 AM
 - San Francisco & South Bay area combined Prayer meeting at 5.30 PM via zoom
- Sunday, August 27,
 - Sevika Sanghom intercessory prayer at Church after ASR



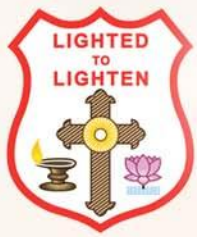
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Special Events

August 13 Student & Teacher dedication
August 19 Summer picnic

Recurring Meetings Every...

Sundays 9.15 AM	Edavaka Mission Bible Study
Tuesday's 9PM	Youth Fellowship Prayer call
Wednesday's 8.00 PM	Western Regional Edavaka Mission meeting Via Zoom
1st Monday 5:30 PM	Diocesan Edavaka Mission prayer meeting Via Zoom
1st Thursday 8 PM	Western Regional Sevika Sangham meeting Via Zoom
1st Friday 8:00 PM	Tri-Valley Area Prayer Meeting
1st Saturday 10 AM	Edavaka Mission Fasting Prayer
1st Saturday 6:30 PM	San Francisco Area Prayer Meeting
2nd Saturday 11:00 AM	Yuvajana Sakhyam meeting
2nd Saturday 6:30 PM	Fremont Area Prayer meeting
3rd Saturday 11:00 AM	Choir Fellowship
3rd Saturday 6:00 PM	Central Valley Area Prayer Meeting
3rd Sunday	Sevika Sanghom Sandwich making for Homeless after ASR
4th Saturday 11AM	Sevika Sangham Cottage Prayer
4th Saturday 6:30 PM	South Bay Area Prayer Meeting
4th Sunday	Sevika Sanghom Intercessory Prayer after ASR
4th Tuesday 6:30 PM	Senior Fellowship Prayer meeting



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mangala George, August 1

Roshan Issac, August 4

Isaiah Kurian, August 5

Philip Varghese, Aug 5

Vivek Cheriyan, August 8

Maya Ninan, August 8

Evan Mathews, August 9

Asha Renji, August 9

Saly Sajan, August 9

Bennett Stanley, August 10

Alex Samuel, August 12

Sheena Thomas, August 12

Viji Thomas, August 12

Ann John, August 13

Priscilla Soby, August 13

Thomas Tharakan, August 13

Oommen Thomas, August 14

Annie Mathew, August 16

Samuel Varughese, August 16

Joe Biju, August 17

Austin Joy, August 18

Sruthi Thambi, August 18

Sheenu John, August 19

George Thomas, August 19

Varghese Chandy, August 20

Sam Alex, August 21

Benjamin Jacob, August 21

Lini Varghese, August 21

Naomi Daniel, August 22

Libi Thomas, August 22

Revlyn John, August 23

Zarah Thomas, August 23

Sharon Mammen, August 24

Ann Philip, August 24

Zaneta Thomas, August 24

Anushka Cheriyan, August 27

Joshua Mathew, August 27

Seji Alexander, August 28

Hana Geno, August 29

Sharon Jones, August 30

Memuriyil Thomas, August 30

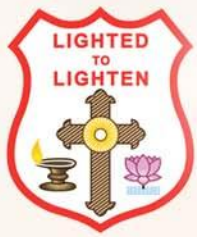
Mary Varghis, August 30

Saumeya Bobin, August 31

Eva Cherian, August 31

Ewin Mathew, August 31

Sunita Philipose, August 31



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Jollykutty & Joy Samuel, August 7

Gracy & Gheevargese Oonnunny, August 10

Leelamma & Cheriian Philip, August 12

Ann & Jubin Jose, August 14

Vinsu & Jibin Thomas, August 14

Honey & Shaiju Varghese, August 17

Rekha & Shoby Cherian, August 18

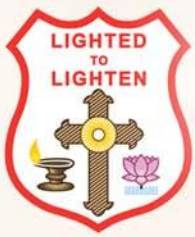
Annamma & Samuel Varughese, August 21

Lini & Feby Raju, August 21

Roshney & Pratheep George, August 23

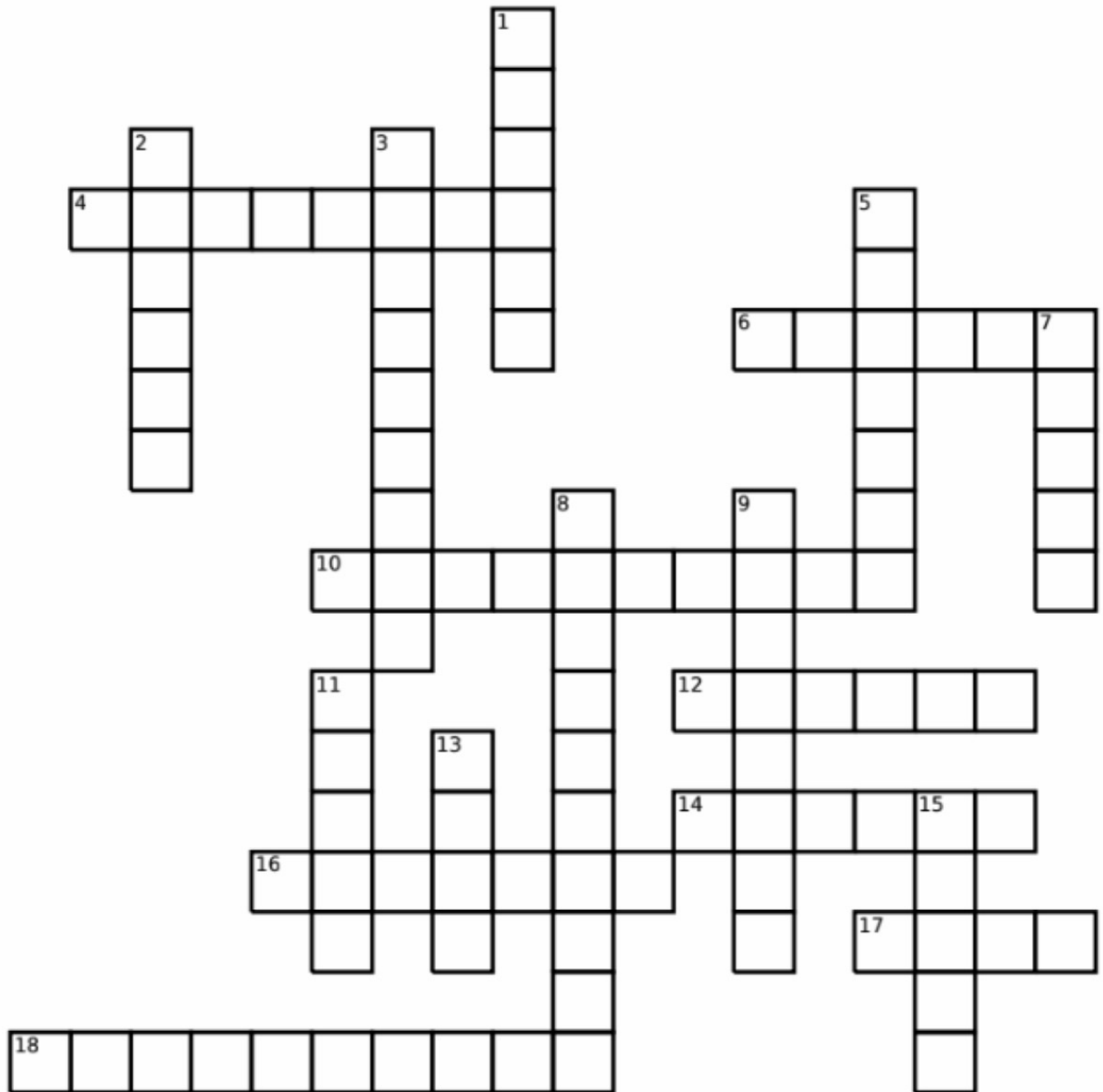
Jinsu & Anoop Johnson, August 23

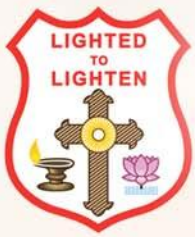
Sheena & Michael Mathew, August 27



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Crossword Zechariah 4-6 NIV





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Across

4 Before Zerubbabel __ (obstacles) would become level ground.

6 The Lord asked Zechariah to take silver and gold from certain __ and make a crown and set it on the head of the high priest Joshua. He foreshadows the future Branch of Israel.

10 Zechariah's 8th vision: The woman (Rev.17:1-7) in a basket with a lead cover. The woman represents __ and the cover keeps her confined in the basket. The cover probably symbolizes the restraining power of God over evil.

12 Zechariah's 6th vision: A solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it with 7 channels and 2 olive trees by it, one on the left of the bowl and one on the right. Olive trees were pouring out the oil into the bowl without any human work. A lampstand represents God's witness. Two olive trees may refer to Zerubbabel and __ (highpriest); in the future Elijah and Moses(Rev.11:3-4). This means God will empower them to rebuild the temple in the midst of opposition, not by might nor by power but by His Spirit.

14 Zechariah's 7th vision mentions breaking the third and __ commandment.

16 The term Branch means __.

17 There will be harmony between the two offices of __ and Priest.

18 The Branch will build the temple. This refers to the third temple in the __ kingdom.

Down

1 Zechariah's 9th vision: Four chariots coming out from between two __ mountains pulled by black, red, white, and gray horses. (similar to Rev.6:1-7)

2 The exiles who have arrived from Babylon were probably staying in the house of __.

3 The two winged women carried the basket to __ build a house for it. This symbolizes God taking the wickedness away from the land of Israel. Gen.11 The organized rebellion began in this place and it will end in the same place(Rev.18)

5 The four chariots are the four __ of heaven going out from the presence of the Lord to judge the world.

7 The chariot with the black horses is going to North; the white toward the west and the dappled horses toward the __.

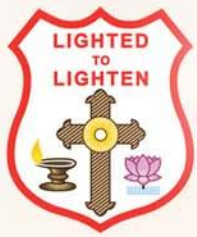
8 __ would lay the foundation of the temple and complete it.

9 The crown that was placed on the head of Joshua will be placed in the temple of the Lord as a __ to His people. It will give them hope for the coming Messiah

11 The names Joshua and Jesus mean "The Lord __"

13 The horses going toward the North country have given His Spirit __in the land of the North (Babylon). Justice would be done to His people.

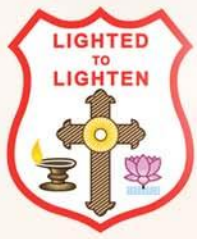
15 Zechariah's 7th vision: A flying scroll of judgment. It would enter the house of the __ and the house of him who swears falsely by His name and destroy it.



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Episcopal Visit

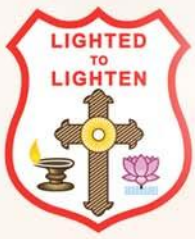




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Parish Day





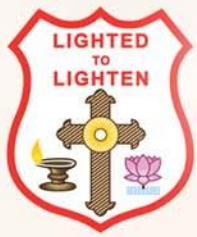
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Best Parish Award 2022



Graduates 2022-23





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Back 2 School Festival

