

Mar Thoma Church  
of San Francisco

# MTCFSF Newsletter

December 2023

## From the Vicar's Desk



Dearly beloved in Christ,

“...the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5) This Christmas, as we commemorate the birth of Christ, may joy fill our hearts for the duration of the year—not just this

Christmas, but our entire lives. Give the light of Christ—the light of our joy—to this world, which sometimes seems to be so lost in the dark.

We must put our faith in the Lord. We must learn to trust that his flawless plan is what is best for us. At Christmas last year, none of us could have imagined what this year would bring, but we must acknowledge that God is at work in our lives, even during trying times. Mary and Joseph needed to have complete faith in God to endure the difficult trek to Bethlehem and the subsequent flight into Egypt.

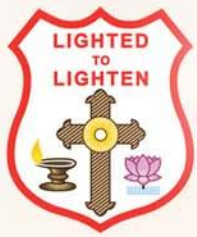
As joyful and pious individuals, may we rejoice in the light and promise that accompanies Christmas. We need to allow this light to penetrate our hearts because it shines in a world where everything is dark. We are called to be Jesus’ light to the world, one person at a time, one soul at a time, to begin spreading that light to a world that so urgently needs it.

May we be a people of joy and faith, and may Christmas bring us light and hope. This light does shine in a dark world, but it needs our hearts to be opened for it to do so. One person and one soul at a time, it is our duty to share the light of Jesus throughout the globe so that those in need of it can start to see it.

I pray that God will bless you this Christmas and that the light of Christ will drive out every darkness from your life. May the joy of Christ’s birth flood your hearts, and may you spread that joy to others.

In Christ,

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.

I am grateful for the joy and comfort the Lord has given me this past month. I appreciate Him for His presence and peace. Through His mercy and grace He has given me another month to start fresh.

This Christmas, as in all previous years, we celebrate Immanuel (God with Us). Without Christ's presence among us, we would be lost. Through God's presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole. I pray you have a fantastic Christmas. *I am the light of the World. He who follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life - John 8: 12* This is our gift. This is our Christmas. This is our hope for every New Year.

Praise the Lord for having the Parish Convention for bringing a new experience to us. It reminds us to follow God's call to be a faithful witness, and provides us with imaginative hope in fulfilling his plan, breaking our silence for the poor, standing and speaking for the weak and downtrodden.

We celebrated Thanksgiving with a special feast that day. *In that day you will say, " Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name" Isaiah 12: 4.*

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Very Rev. Dr. C.K Mathew Achen for his services during the past six months with us. As Achen leaves for India early this month it's time to express our gratitude, love and appreciation for the spiritual guidance, unwavering support and profound wisdom that Achen has shared with us.

We are planning for our Christmas Carol service this year on December 2nd and the House to House Caroling to begin on December 3rd, your presence and participation are kindly requested.

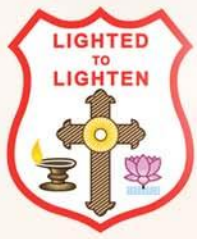
Lord, we ask for your wisdom, for your strength, and power to be constantly present with us during the coming days and in the New Year.

Requesting your continued prayers and support,

With Prayerful Regards,

Philip Roy,

Secretary, MTCSF



# Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco

## Worship Schedule

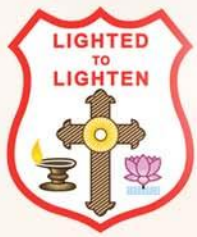
	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Celebrant(s)</b>
Dec 3	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (Mal) Beginning with Praise & Worship	Very Rev.Dr.C.K Mathew
Dec 10	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (Mal) Beginning with Praise & Worship	Rev. Saji Thomas
Dec17	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (Eng) Beginning with Praise & Worship	Rev. Saji Thomas
Dec 24	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (Mal) Beginning with Praise & Worship	Rev. Saji Thomas
Dec 25	8:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (Eng)	Rev. Saji Thomas
Dec 31	10:00 AM	Holy Qurbana (Eng) Beginning with Praise & Worship	Rev. Saji Thomas
Dec 31	10:00 PM	Watch Night Service & Holy Qurbana (Mal)	Rev. Saji Thomas

## Sunday School

Sunday School : 09:00 AM (No Sunday School classes on Dec 3, Dec 24 & Dec 31)

## Edavaka Mission Bible Study

Bible Study: 09:15 AM (No bible study on Dec 3, Dec 24 & Dec 31)



# Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco

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

- No recurring area Prayer meetings and organization meetings in December as we celebrate Christmas and H2H Caroling.

## Christmas Carol Service

*The Great I Am*

"I am the Lord, the God of all humankind"  
*Jeremiah 32:27*

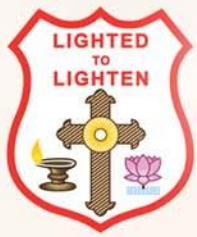
We warmly invite you to join us for the  
2023 Christmas Carol Service.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 PM**  
Tea Time: 5:00 - 5:45 PM

★ Christmas message by ★  
**Rev. Jinu John**

 Mar Thoma Church of  
San Francisco Bay Area  
102 Junction Ave, Livermore, CA 94551





# Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco

## H2H Carol Schedule

**Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco Bay Area**

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on  
whom his favor rests. Luke 2:14*

# HOUSE TO HOUSE Carol - 2023

The Carol Team is coming to your area on the specified dates.  
If you're interested in hosting, please reach out to your area representative.

<b>Dec 3 (Sunday) - South Bay</b>	<b>Dec 9 (Saturday) - Fremont</b>
<b>Dec 10 (Sunday) - Central Valley (Stockton, Manteca, &amp; Modesto)</b>	
<b>Dec 16 (Saturday) - Tri-Valley</b>	<b>Dec 17 (Sunday) - Central Valley (Tracy &amp; Mountain House)</b>

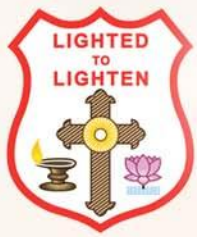
Dec 3, Sunday - South Bay

Dec 9 Saturday - Fremont

Dec 10 Sunday - Central Valley (Stockton, Manteca & Modesto)

Dec 16 saturday - Tri-Valley

Dec 17 Sunday - central Valley (Tracy & mountain House)



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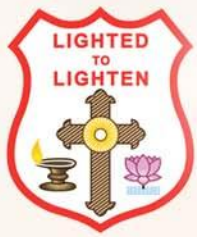
## Upcoming events, Dec & Jan

Jan 7, 2024

Bay area Ecumenical Christmas program at 2 PM  
At St. Gregoriose Orthodox Church, San Lorenzo, CA

## Recurring events

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sundays 9.15 AM       | Edavaka Mission Bible Study                           |
| Monday's 9 PM         | 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                      |



# Mar Thoma Church *of San Francisco*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jainy Philipose, Dec 1

Andrew Sam, Dec 1

Joshua Isaac, Dec 2

Jacob Varghese, Dec 2

Mathew Abraham, Dec 4

Jeslin Jacob, Dec 4

Grace Sujith, Dec 4

Shiny Thomas, Dec 5

Brian Varghese, Dec 5

Ezekiel Thomas, Dec 7

Sarah Mathew, Dec 8

Amy Bobin, Dec 9

Sherly John, Dec 9

Nora Kurian, Dec 12

Pretha Thomas, Dec 12

Annamma Varughese, Dec 12

Adam Bobin, Dec 13

Ella Jacob, Dec 14

Ivy Kuruvilla, Dec 15

Asher Alexander, Dec 16

Thomas Philip, Dec 16

Grace George, Dec 17

Isabella Myladumkunnel, Dec 19

Sheryl John, Dec 21

Johann Mathews, Dec 21

Soby Oommen, Dec 22

Annie Thomas, Dec 22

Mathew Thomas, Dec 22

Sajini Thomas, Dec 22

Jesse Daniel, Dec 23

Kevin Viji, Dec 23

Biji John, Dec 25

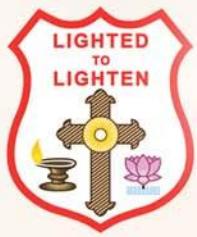
Mariamamma Oonnunny, Dec 25

Suma Peter, Dec 25

Nisha Shiju, Dec 26

Gia Santhosh, Dec 28

Isabel Joy, Dec 31



# Mar Thoma Church *of San Francisco*



Betcy & Lal Joseph, Dec 1

Rekha & Biju Varughese, Dec 1

Boby & Mathew Thomas, Dec 2

Daisy & Jose Mathai, Dec 3

Mathai, Ann & Rony, Dec 21

Susy & josie Varghese, Dec 22

Edwin, Bindu & Shaji, Dec 27

Indrawati & Nikhil Roy, Dec 27

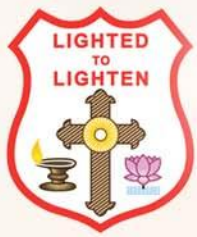
Meena & Naveen George, Dec 28

Sharon & Noel Mammen, Dec 28

Betsy & Austin Joy, Dec 29



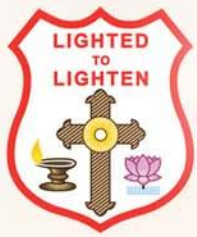




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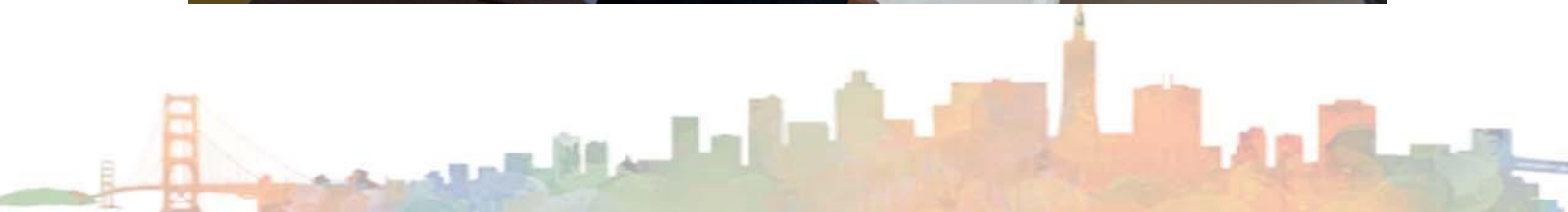
## Parish Convention

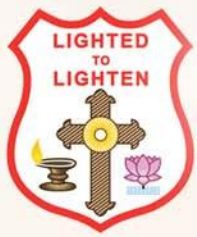




# Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco

## Thanksgiving Lunch





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