

# MAY NEWSLETTER

## EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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### From Vicar's Desk

May 2024

**‘If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.’ (2 Chronicles 7:14).**

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

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

As we continue to live our lives, it is a good time to reflect on our prayer life. Why do we engage in prayer? What is the purpose of prayer? Prayer is an important part of our spiritual walk. Communication is necessary for any relationship to sustain and flourish. In the same way, the word of God, and prayer are crucial elements in our relationship with God. Through prayer, we pour out ourselves to God, and we find meaning and purpose in who we are and what we do. Without these, how can we say that we are journeying with Him? As a faith community, we must give more importance to prayer and intensify our efforts, especially as we “claim” to have busy schedules. The greatest of all God's blessings is the assurance of his living presence with us. If we know he is with us we don't need to worry. He is with us in all life situations, and his ultimate call to us is always “Follow me”.

Sunday May 12th we will observe as Mother's Day. Let us thank God for our mothers and their selfless love, dedication, care, and faithfulness. 'Mother is the most beautiful word on the lips of mankind. she is our consolation in sorrow, our hope in misery, and our strength in weakness.' (Khalil Gibran). I wish God's blessings and favor on all mothers of our parish.

Sunday May 26th will be observing as Choir Sunday. Music is a living expression of faith, it can amuse, charm, annoy and challenge, it can provide comfort and can be incredibly uplifting; For I am convinced that God has given us all gifts, and we should use them to his glory. Thanks to all our Choir Members!

Annual Sunday School examination is near. May I request to all parents to make sure your children's participation in Sunday School examination.

As we commemorate Memorial Day this month, let us thank God for the freedom that we enjoy, both worldly and spiritually (freedom from sin and death). Let us also thank God for the lives of those who died, so that we can enjoy the freedom that many strived to defend.

Let us acknowledge God's presence and providence we experienced throughout the faith Journey, which are beyond our measure. Here I request your wholehearted prayer and support to all the activities of the Church. I do believe nothing is important than being in the will of God. Please keep me and family in your prayers as you are in ours.

Love and blessings, now and always.

Yours in Christ,

**Rev. George Abraham**  
**Vicar**  
**Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church,**  
**New York.**

## Message from Youth Chaplain

MAY 2024 MESSAGE

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Warm greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am overjoyed to connect with you all through this Newsletter. As your new Youth Chaplain in the New York Region, I am deeply aware of my crucial role in this ministry. It is an honor and privilege to follow in the footsteps of esteemed Youth Chaplains who have served the Youth of our Diocese with unwavering devotion to God and His Church. I am confident that, as a prayer-filled community, we can continue to make these days fruitful and a blessing to God and us all by prayer and active involvement in this ministry.

Friends, Sundays are not just another day of the week, but a special time set apart for God. Set apart for the celebration of the Holy Qurbana - a time set apart to commune with our family of families. This sacrament's celebration holds profound meanings, one of which is sharing. Sharing at the Lord's table is a beautiful thing that brings us together. When we heartfully participate, we open ourselves and experience belongingness that transcends all boundaries. This was a crucial part of the early church's life, and it remains so today despite our fast-paced lives and a culture that often overlooks this. The early church faced challenges in becoming more open as a fellowship, as seen in Acts of the Apostles: 2, 5 & 10, serves as a powerful reminder of our shared heritage.

In the context of the Masai people of Kenya, Meal sharing becomes a powerful symbol of reconciliation and unity. When two families conflict, the community intervenes, requesting food from both sides. The families bring offerings to the village centre and are accompanied and supported by other community members. The exchange and consumption of this food mark a new beginning in their relationship, characterized by openness, giving, and experiencing forgiveness. This tradition invites us to reflect on the profound meaning of our Holy Qurbana and our need to participate continually.

As I conclude, let us reflect on children's vital and meaningful role in our parish and the wider community. My predecessors have held this role in high esteem, and it will undoubtedly remain just as cherished. The responsibility of guiding and nurturing the children is not limited to parents, priests, and Sunday School teachers. Instead, it is a shared responsibility for our entire community and children. Remembering Hebrews 10:25 reads, "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near." Our collective pursuit is to uphold God in our hearts and consistently strive towards outreach, imparting knowledge, learning, sharing, and experiencing divine love as His chosen people. God has entrusted us to continue to guide the generations towards a closer relationship with the Almighty and nurture them into well-rounded, impactful individuals who will fulfil their divine purpose in the Church and greater society, bringing more to Christ.

I express my gratitude to the Vicar, the Executive Committee, and especially my predecessor, Rev. Jess M. George - a wonderful confidant and my friend, for their support as I transition into this new role and their warm welcome to this vibrant community. As we embark on this journey together, I seek your prayers and commitment to continuing this meaningful ministry to our youths' growth and love for our Church.

May God bless us all.

**Jason Varghese Achen; (516)532-6115 (Cell)**

**Youth Chaplain North-East Region**

**Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church**

## Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
May 5 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
May 12 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday Mother's Day Celebration	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
May 19 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)
May 26 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday Choir Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)

### Lectionary

May 5 <sup>th</sup> – Bhoo-bhavana danam: Remember the Poor (5th Sunday after Easter)		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Lev. 19:9-16
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Gal. 2:1-10
	Epistle	II Cor. 8:1-9
	Gospel	St. Matt. 25:31-40
May 12 <sup>th</sup> – Holy Spirit, one among the Trinity		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Ezek. 37:1-14
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Acts 1:6-11
	Epistle	Gal. 5:16-26
	Gospel	St. John 14:14-21
May 19 <sup>th</sup> – Feast of Pentecost: the Holy Spirit who renews the whole creation (50th day after Easter)		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Joel 2:28-32
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Acts 2:1-13
	Epistle	I Cor. 12:1-11
	Gospel	St. John 16:1-15
May 26 <sup>th</sup> – Trinity Sunday; Sing to the Lord: (Department of) Sacred Music Sunday (1st Sunday after Pentecost)		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Exod. 19:17-25
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Gal. 4:1-7
	Epistle	II Cor. 13:11-14
	Gospel	St. Matt. 28:16-20

## Wedding Anniversary

John C Mathai (Raju)	Aleyamma John	2-May
Mathai Oommen	Rosamma Mathai	10-May
George Thomas	Silvi George	20-May
Alexie Isaac	Beela George	25-May
Rev. George Abraham	Preema Mary Cherian	27-May
Chris John	Seba Samuel John	29-May
Ashok Benjamin Jacob	Lini Mathew	29-May

## Birthday Wishes

Rev. George Abraham	2-May
Rev. Johnson Mathew	2-May
Suja E Ninan	11-May
Ann Susan Mathew	14-May
Amara Rose Ninan	14-May
Joel Anil	14-May
Lini Mathew	14-May
Thomas T Samuel	20-May
John Samuel (Kochumon)	25-May
Sheba Tibu	26-May
Mariamamma Mathews	30-May
Annamma Thomas	30-May
Viju V Varughese	30-May
Akalon George Ninan	30-May
Idon Uthup Ninan	30-May
Sunitha Jacob	31-May

## Bible Reading



The family of...	Date
Kurian A Mathew	05/05/2024
Rachel George	05/12/2024
Ryan K. Varghese	05/19/2024
Saji Thomas	05/26/2024
Thomas K Mathai	06/02/2024
Thomas K. Mathew	06/09/2024
Titus Samuel	06/16/2024
Viju V Varghese	06/23/2024
Vipin T Kovoor	06/30/2024

## Upcoming Events

1. Wednesday Bible Studies and Saturday prayer meetings via zoom at 7:00pm.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSndiQkl2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09>  
Dial 1 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 812 4392 8868; Passcode:406406
2. May 12<sup>th</sup>, Sunday – Mother’s Day Celebration
3. May 26<sup>th</sup>, Sunday – Choir Sunday
4. June 16th, 2024, Sunday – 37th Parish Day Celebration (Special Offertory)/Episcopal Visit/First Communion.