

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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From Vicar's Desk

February 2024

‘Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.’ (1 John 4:7)

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

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

By the Grace of God, we are in the second month of this New Year. Let us thank God for all His blessings but remember that our blessings are given with the hope that we will repent and turn to our Triune God at all times, not when it is “convenient.” God is greater than any challenges we are facing. God will carry us through it. Now it is time for us to rededicate ourselves wholeheartedly to putting on the love of Christ, regarding one another through the eyes of Jesus, and loving one another as he loves us. Because we are his Body, there can be no other way for us than this. May the love of the Father sustain us; may the light of the Son enfold us; may the power of the Holy Spirit make us bold.

February 11th, we will be beginning our 50-Day Great Lent (Valiya Nombu). This is an important part of our spiritual life, tradition, and discipline, as it invites us to reflection, repentance, and renewal. Fasting is biblical. Fasts enabled the people of God to be closer with God in more deep and profound ways. We see various examples of fasting in the Old and New Testaments. I pray that this year's Lenten season may be a time of transformation, and a time that brings us into the salvation experience through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The 129th session of the Maramon Convention will take place from February 11-18, 2024. Many people from around the world will be attending this year's convention, which includes bible studies, intercessory prayers, devotions, and messages. Several from the USA are attending. I humbly request that you view the livestream and pray for God's blessings upon the convention. Many of the messages are in English and translated to Malayalam. I encourage you to listen to some of the messages for spiritual fulfillment and renewal.

Wishing you all a blessed Lenten season. Above all, let us pray for the sanctification and renewal of our faith community. May the grace, mercy, and blessings of our Triune God, be with you all.

Remain steadfast, faithful, and hopeful!

We are thankful to God for each one of you. Prayers for you All.

Yours in Christ's ministry,

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

Message from Youth Chaplain

February 2024 MESSAGE

Dearly beloved in Christ,

As we embark the second month of this year, let us thank God for His goodness. His goodness is reflected as we know Him as the greatest physician. February 4th we are meditating on the theme in our lectionary as Medical Mission Sunday, and we remember Jesus Christ who heals. Christ's healing love is understood when we see His earthly ministry of His availability for everyone, especially the least and the last. It calls for us to really look unto ourselves as a Church and see if our praxis of worship a place for healing? Another thing we need to reflect on is if we are as a Church a place for the broken or an organization for status. Christ is all powerful, but He focused on bringing the least and the last to the center from the margins. As we commemorate Medical Mission Sunday let us also be thankful for those in the medical ministry in this world, our community, and families. Let us continue to pray for them so that their lives can point to the healing love of God.

This month also embarks a great journey for the faith community. We together will experience the Great Lent season. Let us thank God for the opportunity that is used to retrospect and introspect our lives and see which direction our life's journey is headed. That is more personal when we realize Christ coming to this world and journeying to the way to the cross for each one of us. May the fifty-day lent journey be a blessing so that our lives can also bless His name.

NERYF will have the Winter Retreat from February 16-18 at the Montrose Bible Conference in Montrose Pennsylvania. I plead to our youths to come and plead to the parents to send our children for the retreat. Main speaker will be Rev. Jaisen A. Thomas, Vicar- Redeemer Mar Thoma Church and New Jersey Youth Chaplain. We will have a talk by Rev. Dr. Pramod Zachariah, Vicar of the Epiphany Mar Thoma Church and a devotion led by Mr. Justin Babu from St. John's Mar Thoma Church. We will have Basketball tournaments throughout the conference and great time of fellowship and recreation. Our Theme is UNIQUE based on Isaiah 64:8. Registration is open on the NERYFMTC Instagram, also along with the Youth fellowship secretaries.

May God bless each of us in the month of February!

Much love,

Jess M. George Achen

Rev. Jess M. George
Youth Chaplain North-East Region
Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church
(516)532-6115 (Cell)

Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
February 4 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
February 11 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
February 18 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)
February 25 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)

Lectionary

February 4 th – Jesus Christ Who Heals (Medical Mission Sunday).		
	1 st Lesson	2Kings. 20:1-11
	2 nd Lesson	Acts 14:8-15
	Epistle	James 5:13-18
	Gospel	St. John 9:1-11
February 11 th – Pethurtha – Beginning of the Great Lent: Jesus Christ who transforms (Beginning of the 129 th Maramon Convention).		
	1 st Lesson	Ezek. 18:21-32
	2 nd Lesson	2 Cor. 5:17-21
	Epistle	Rom. 13:11-14
	Gospel	St. John 2:1-11
February 18 th – The Compassionate touch of Jesus Christ that sanctifies (2 nd Sunday of Lent); Conclusion of the 129 th session of Maramon Convention.		
	1 st Lesson	2Kings. 5:1-14
	2 nd Lesson	Acts 10:34-43
	Epistle	I John. 1:5-10
	Gospel	St. Matt. 8:1-4
February 25 th – Jesus Christ who leads to holistic Healing (3 rd Sunday of Lent).		
	1 st Lesson	2Kings. 4:16-37
	2 nd Lesson	Acts 5:12-16
	Epistle	Eph. 2:1-8
	Gospel	St. Luke 5:17-26



Wedding Anniversary

Rev. Johnson Mathew	Reena Mathew	23-Feb
Thomas T Samuel	Annamma T Thomas (Glory)	26-Feb
Varghese C Abraham	Sali D Varghese	26-Feb



Birthday Wishes

Sandra Titus	1-Feb
Justin George	2-Feb
Jacob Mathew	4-Feb
Anil Abraham	6-Feb
Norah Ann Easow	10-Feb
Cinthujaa	12-Feb
Ryan K. Varghese	15-Feb
Alizah Marie Jacob	16-Feb
Azannah Jacob	18-Feb
Sumana Mathew	22-Feb
Suja Mary Thomas	25-Feb
Beela George	25-Feb
Tobin Thomas Kovoov	25-Feb
Corimarie Jacob	26-Feb

Bible Reading



The family of...	Date
Abraham Oonnoony	02/04/2024
Alexei Isaac	02/11/2024
Benjamin Jacob	02/18/2024
C.S. Chacko (Raju)	02/25/2024
Eapen Joseph (Jose)	03/03/2024
George Thomas	03/10/2024
Jacob Mathew	03/17/2024
Jacob Varughese	03/24/2024
Jerry Chacko	03/31/2024

Upcoming Events

1. Great Lent starts on 02/11/2024, Sunday; Lenten prayers via Zoom to start on 02/12/2024, Monday at 7:00pm - TBD.

2. Wednesday Bible Study and Saturday Prayer Meeting at 7:00pm via ZOOM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSndiQkl2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09>

Dial 1 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 812 4392 8868; Passcode:406406