

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

From Vicar's Desk

February 2025

1 John 4:7

'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.'

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 always repent and turn to our Triune God, 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.

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The 130th session of the Maramon Convention will take place from February 09-16, 2025. 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.

Our Diocesan Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, March 02, 2025. As per the arrangements of the pulpit exchange, the Rev. Jobin John (Vicar, Bethany MTC, NY) will be visiting our parish during that weekend. Kindly uphold the mission and ministry of our Diocese in your prayers.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to office bearers, executive committee members and other spiritual organizations of 2024. The church family wanted to say a big thank you for your time and effort in helping in our Church ministering during the past years. I appreciate the care, time and energy you have given. You have definitely raised the level, and your guidance of the team has certainly been exemplary. I really appreciate and may the good Lord reward you abundantly and bless the work of your hands. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate new executive committee for the responsibility that the Lord has given you. May the love of God be upon you as you endeavor to serve in the new roles that the Lord has bestowed upon your shoulders.

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.

YOUTH CORNER

Message from Youth Chaplain

FEBRUARY 2025 MESSAGE

Glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - One True God! Amen.

Wow, it is already February! How quickly time is flying!

As the world emphasizes romantic love, it's a great opportunity for Christians to focus on agape—God's unconditional, selfless love that transcends emotions and embraces action.

In 1 Corinthians 13, St. Paul's description of love as being patient and kind is truly a countercultural call to practice love that seeks others' well-being. This love is not limited to moments of celebration or affection but extends to those who are hard to love, like strangers, enemies, and those with different opinions. Beloved, as we persevere to embody this love, we discover ourselves evolving and motivated to bring Christ into everything we do.

Amid a world filled with hostility and division, embodying this Christlike love can serve as a powerful testimony. Uncomplicated acts of kindness, listening with empathy, and speaking truth in love cannot only recast relationships but also bring hope and positivity in the face of hardship.

I then implore us all to see that this Valentine's season, let's be intentional about reflecting God's love.

Here's a simple challenge for the days ahead:

1. Pray for Someone Difficult to Love – Lift someone who has hurt or disagreed with you.
2. Commit to One Act of Unconditional Love – Show kindness without expecting anything in return.
3. Encourage Someone – Share a word of affirmation or encouragement with someone who might feel unseen.

May February inspire us to let God's love shape how we see and serve others, especially as we wait on the verge of Great Lent. Through this, we find reassurance and comfort in the ultimate love shown to us through Jesus Christ, guiding us in our daily interactions and decisions.

In Christ's Love,
JVarghese Achen

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

Youth Fellowship HouseKeeping

Please make it a priority to send your youth to these events. These gatherings offer more than just activities; they're valuable opportunities for our children to connect with their faith, build lasting friendships, and grow spiritually. Let's give them the chance to experience the joy and purpose found in a life rooted in Christ. Your encouragement and commitment make all the difference in shaping their journey with God and with our community.

Combined Youth Fellowship Bible Study

When: Wednesday, February 12 & 26, 2024, at 7:00 pm

Where: Youth Chaplain's Parsonage

Come ready for a night of spiritual growth, connection, and deep discussion! All are invited, and we'd love for you to join us as we dive into God's Word together. Mark your calendars and don't miss out!

Monthly Parish Youth Fellowship Meetings

Monthly Parish Youth Fellowship Meetings are happening, and they're filled with activities to deepen our faith and friendships. For more information, please reach out to your Parish Youth Fellowship Secretary, who will have all the details. Let's make the most of these gatherings!

February College Visits – Let's Fellowship in Christ!

Students! Join in on an opportunity to grow together, share life, and encourage one another on campus! Your Youth Chaplain is excited to join you for fellowship, support, and prayer. Whether you need a break, a boost, or a few moments of community, we're here for you. Here's where you can join us:

- University of Connecticut (UConn):
Date: February 4, 2025
Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- Adelphi University:
Date: February 5, 2025
Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
- University at Albany:
Date: February 18, 2025
Time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Stony Brook University:
Date: February 20, 2025
Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- Hofstra University:
Date: February 5, 2025
Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- University of Buffalo:
Date: February 12, 2025
Time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- St. John's University
Date: TBD
Time: TBD

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20)

Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
February 2 nd – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
February 9 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)
February 16 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
February 23 rd – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)

Lectionary

February 2 nd – Medical Mission Sunday; Jesus who gives complete healing; Our Lord's entrance to the temple (Mayalatho)		
	1 st Lesson	2 Kings 20:1-11
	2 nd Lesson	Hebrews 9:11-14
	Epistle	James: 5:13-18
	Gospel	St. Mark 5:25-34
February 9 th – Beginning of the 130th Session of the Maramon Convention; God's Sublime Creation		
	1 st Lesson	Isaiah 40:12-26
	2 nd Lesson	Romans 8:19-25
	Epistle	Colossians 1:15-20
	Gospel	St. Matthew 6:26-30
February 16 th – Conclusion of the 130th Session of the Maramon Convention. Abundant life through the experience of the Kingdom of God		
	1 st Lesson	Isaiah 11:1-9
	2 nd Lesson	Ephesians 3:16-21
	Epistle	I Corin. 1:4-9
	Gospel	St. John 4:4-15
February 23 rd – Reorganization of life to experience the Kingdom of God.		
	1 st Lesson	Ezekiel 36:24-31
	2 nd Lesson	Ephesians 4:17-24
	Epistle	I Peter 2:1-10
	Gospel	St. Luke 19:1-10



Wedding Anniversary

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



Birthday Wishes

Sandra Titus	1-Feb
Justin George	2-Feb
Thomas Mathew	2-Feb
Jacob Mathew	4-Feb
Anil Abraham	6-Feb
Norah Ann Easow	10-Feb
Cinthus Robin	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
Vipin T Kovoor	02/02/2025
Mathai Oommen	02/09/2025
Tony/Sneha	02/16/2025
Jephin/Rijo Jose	02/23/2025
Rev. George Abraham	03/02/2025
Abraham C. Jacob	03/09/2025
Anil Abraham	03/16/2025
Alexei Isac	03/23/2025
Ashok Benjamin Jacob	03/30/2025

Upcoming Events

1. **02/02/2025 - Annual General Body Meeting and 2025-Office Bearers' and Executive Committee members' Dedication**
2. **Wednesday Bible Study and Saturday Prayer Meeting at 7:00pm via ZOOM.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSndiQkI2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09>

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