

# MARCH NEWSLETTER

## EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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### From Vicar's Desk

March 2024

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." ("John 11:25).

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 third month of this New Year. As we are in the season of Great lent, let us struggle together and refresh our spiritual life. Jesus Christ turned the water into wine. A life in Christ is new and sweet. A life without Christ is bitter and empty. I pray that this year's lent may be a time of transformation, and a time that brings us into the salvation experience through Jesus Christ our Lord. This is an important part of our spiritual life, tradition, and discipline, as it invites us to reflection, repentance, and renewal. This is a good time to renew and strengthen the practice of family prayer.

As a church, we believe in the empty cross (as opposed to a crucifix). The reason is grounded in our faith and hope in the resurrected Christ. Christ is no longer on the cross; He has risen! Understanding this brings us to self-realization and empowers us to move forward in our journey of faith. Does our life reflect our love for the Christ who has been resurrected? Are we able to put away the things that bring us apart from our relationship with God, and become new creation? This is what it means to live a life with Christ Jesus, who has risen. The history of salvation has been unfolded before us through the cross. Where do we locate ourselves in the midst of Christ and the Cross?

Our Diocesan Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, March 03, 2024. As per the arrangements of the pulpit exchange, the Rev. Dr. Pramod Zachariah (Vicar, Epiphany MTC, NY) will be visiting our parish during that weekend. Kindly uphold the mission and ministry of our Diocese in your prayers.

This month, we have various worship and sacraments scheduled during Holy Week. I request your prayers and participation. Let us experience Christ together, as a faith community.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to office bearers, executive committee members and other spiritual organizations of 2023. 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 power that of the cross and resurrected Christ be an inspiration for us as we move forward in our spiritual journey. May God bless each of you and your families on this Lenten journey to the joy of His Resurrection! I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Feast of Resurrection (Easter). May the joy of the resurrection of our Lord be an inspiration for us to move forward in our journey with Him, and to be true ambassadors of faith (2 Cor 5:20), living lives holy, pleasing, and acceptable to our Triune God. Let us patiently wait for His return!

I give thanks to God for the unique flavor of our shared ministry together.  
Love and blessings, now and always.

Yours in Christ,

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

## Message from Youth Chaplain

MARCH 2024

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Let us thank God that we are blessed to be part of this Lenten journey. Each Sunday of Lent guides us to remember the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. The selfless love of Christ in how He used His time to love us is a reminder that this Lenten journey should be a sharpening experience that helps us understand how we use our time and energy as we move forward. It is a season for us to retrospect and introspect ourselves to see if our commitment to God matches God's commitment to us. We know the answer that it does not. We need to recognize God committing Himself totally to us through His birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection. Therefore, the time God blesses us to exist in this world should be dedicated to Him. Timothy Keller once said, "If God is not at the center of your life, then something else is". Lent should be an opportunity for us to recognize the things, positions, people, and the like that we put on the throne of our life in which God should be seated. Lent should not be just a 50-day commitment, but rather a call for us to prepare for our lifetime.

Let us thank God for the past month we had our NERYF Retreat, it was a blessed retreat, and our delegates had a great experience and looking forward to next year's return again! On Holy Saturday (March 30th) NERYF will have our One Day Conference held at the St. John's Mar Thoma Church, NY. The theme is Legacy, and I encourage all of our youths to be part of the conference, the main speaker is Dr. Binu Chacko.

May the experience of Lent and Passion week guide us to remember God's unconditional love. Have a blessed Passion week and a rejoicing Resurrection Day!

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   |
|--|----------|---|
| March 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday               | 10.00 AM | Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)  |
| March 10 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday              | 10.00 AM | Divine Service (Malayalam)  |
| March 17 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday              | 10.00 AM | Divine Service (English)  |
| March 24 <sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday         | 10.00 AM | Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)  |
| March 27 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday<br>Pesaha | 7:00PM   | Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)  |
| March 29 <sup>th</sup> – Good Friday         | 9:30AM   | 1 <sup>ST</sup> Service – English<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Service – Malayalam<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Service - Malayalam |
| March 31 <sup>st</sup> – Easter Sunday       | 8:00AM   | Holy Communion Service (English)  |

## Lectionary

| March 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Jesus Christ Who redeems all (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)          |                        |                   |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|
|  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | Gen. 12:1-9       |
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | Acts 8:26-40      |
|  | Epistle                | Rom 15:14-21      |
|  | Gospel                 | St. Mark 7:24-30  |
| March 10 <sup>th</sup> – Jesus Christ who liberates (5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)           |                        |                   |
|  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | Exod. 3:1-15      |
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | Acts. 27:9-25     |
|  | Epistle                | Phil. 1:12-20     |
|  | Gospel                 | St. Luke 13:10-17 |
| March 17 <sup>th</sup> – Jesus Christ who stops at human cries (36 <sup>th</sup> Sunday)       |                        |                   |
|  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | Gen. 21:9-19      |
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | Acts 12:5-16      |
|  | Epistle                | Rom. 8:26-30      |
|  | Gospel                 | St. Mark 10:46-52 |
| March 24 <sup>th</sup> – Hosanna: Jesus Christ, the Lord of Peace; Theological Seminary Sunday |                        |                   |
|  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | Zech. 9:9-17      |
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | Eph. 2:11-22      |
|  | Epistle                | Phil. 4:4-9       |
|  | Gospel                 | St. Luke 19:29-40 |

|   |                        |                    |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| March 27 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – Pesaha; Holy Qurbana: Celebration of the Divine plan of salvation                                    |                        |                    |
|   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | Exod. 12:1-20      |
|   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | Phil. 2:1-11       |
|   | Epistle                | I Cor. 11:23-34    |
|   | Gospel                 | St. Matt. 26:17-29 |
| March 29 <sup>th</sup> – Good Friday; Crucified Christ, the way to Eternal Life   |                        |                    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Service   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | Isa.53             |
|   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | 1Pet.1             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | Zach.13: 1-9       |
|   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | Gal. 3:1-22        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Service   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | Num.21:1-9         |
|   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | Heb. 3:1-19        |
| March 31 <sup>st</sup> – Kemta – Feast of Resurrection – Easter Sunday; Christ who defeated death and resurrected (End of the Great Lent) |                        |                    |
|   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | Isa. 60:12-21      |
|   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | I Cor. 15:42-58    |
|   | Epistle                | I Cor. 15:20-28    |
|   | Gospel                 | St. John 20:1-18   |



**None**



|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Thomas George          | 3-Mar  |
| Renoj K Varughese      | 8-Mar  |
| Pearl Varghese         | 8-Mar  |
| Thomas K. Mathew       | 10-Mar |
| Prarthana Susan George | 10-Mar |
| Jephin Varughese Jose  | 10-Mar |
| Johannah Parayil       | 17-Mar |
| John C Mathai (Raju)   | 18-Mar |
| Roshan. T. Samuel      | 18-Mar |
| Sneha Anna Thomas      | 19-Mar |
| Emima Mary George      | 23-Mar |

## Bible Reading



| The family of....      | Date       |
|------------------------|------------|
| 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 |
| John C Mathai (Raju)   | 04/07/2024 |
| John Samuel (Kochumon) | 04/14/2024 |
| Rev. Johnson Mathew    | 04/21/2024 |
| Jose Cherian           | 04/28/2024 |

## Upcoming Events

1. Great Lent started on 02/11/2024, Sunday; Lenten prayers via Zoom started on 02/11/2024, Monday at 7:00pm.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSnRlQkl2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09>  
Dial 1 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 812 4392 8868; Passcode:406406
2. March 03, 2024 - Diocesan Sunday. As per the arrangements of the pulpit exchange, the Rev. Dr. Pramod Zachariah (Vicar, Epiphany MTC, NY) will be visiting our parish during that weekend.

## Passion Week Schedule

|  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| March 24 <sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday         | 10.00 AM | Holy Communion Service<br>(Malayalam)   |
| March 25 <sup>th</sup> - Monday              | 7:00PM   | Sandhyanamaskaram<br>(in person)  |
| March 26 <sup>th</sup> - Tuesday             | 7:00PM   | Sandhyanamaskaram<br>(in person)  |
| March 27 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday<br>Pesaha | 7:00PM   | Holy Communion Service<br>(Malayalam)   |
| March 28 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday            | 7:00PM   | Sandhyanamaskaram<br>(in person)  |
| March 29 <sup>th</sup> – Good Friday         | 9:30AM   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Service – English<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Service – Malayalam<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Service - Malayalam |
| March 31 <sup>st</sup> –Easter Sunday        | 8:00AM   | Holy Communion Service<br>(English)   |