

# St. Mark's Bulletin



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Volume 8, Issue 1

January - March 2012

## *From the Vicar's Desk*

Dearly beloved in Christ,

On a wintry day, a man noticed that someone had thrown a sheaf of grain on the ground, and a flock of hungry sparrows had monopolized it for an unscheduled feast. The man paused, and took a step in their direction. The birds became uneasy, and with another step and the birds suddenly flew away, leaving their banquet unfinished. The man went back to his house. Then the sparrows came back again and restarted the feast. Then another sparrow came to join their group. The sparrows were not frightened and did not fly away. The man stood there reflecting on what had happened. Why were those sparrows scattered in flight as he came by, and why they didn't fly away when another sparrow came? At once, the thought came to him; it is me. I am too big. They were frightened at my size and were not when other sparrow joined, because it was one among them.

He saw a spiritual analogy immediately. God had approached Abraham through heavenly messengers. He spoke to Moses out of the burning bush. In both cases those men were afraid. But centuries later the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and announced: *"Fear not, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord."* God came in human form when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. All who trust him can be fearless and can find renewed strength for every need. The birth of Christ gives a new meaning to the name Immanuel. *"Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate deity! Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel"* - Wesley.

As we are entering in to 2012, let us be filled with the message that the human face of God, Immanuel, is with us, to be in our midst, in our sorrows and in our struggles. So, let us face the new days of the New Year with out fear. Year 2012 is welcoming us with great responsibilities. We are hosting the national youth leadership conference in the first week. We need more dedicated leaders for our church. Please pray for the conference and make sure everyone's participation in this event. Pray for the Maramon convention 2012. Also, I request your prayers for the Orlando Marthoma Church which is our daughter. As we are approaching the lent season, let us prepare to have a meaningful and disciplined Christian life.

One more financial year has come to a close. I take this time to express thanks to all of our office bearers, committee members and all those who had contributed to the affairs of the parish and organizations in various ways in the year 2011. May God bless you all with His rewards for your efforts.

With warm wishes for a happy new year,

John Kuruvilla achen

## **MARAMON CONVENTION – 2012**

**Feb. 12 – Feb. 19, 2012**

The 117<sup>th</sup> Maramon Convention will be held from Sunday February 12, 2012 to Sunday February 19, 2012 at the historic site, the banks of river Pampa near Kozhenchery/ Maramon

Maramon convention today has assumed global significance as the world's largest annual Christian gathering. Launched in 1895, it has remained a perennial source of spiritual vigor and inspiration for people of all denominations in Kerala, India and abroad.

All the Bishops of the Mar Thoma church are speakers at the convention, but it is also an ecumenical event. Many leaders of other churches have addressed the convention in the past. Notable among them are the Archbishops of Canterbury Rt. Rev. Robert Runcie and Rt. Rev. George Carey, and Mar Ignatius Zaka I the Patriarch of Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch. Among the other social and political leaders who have addressed the convention in the past include T K Madhavan (1927), C V Kunjuraman (1934) and former Chief Minister C. Achutha Menon, an ardent communist.

### **SPECIAL SUNDAYS OF THE QUARTER**

**January 1**

**Outside Kerala Mission Sunday**

**February 5**

**Medical Mission Sunday**

**March 4**

**DIOCESAN SUNDAY**

**SOUTHERN REGION EDAVAKA MISSION  
PRAYER LINE**

**9:00 PM on Second and Fourth Mondays**

**DIAL (209) 647-1600  
ACCESS CODE: 712137#**

## **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

**15<sup>TH</sup> DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
JANUARY 5 – 8, 2012**

Hosted by St. Mark's Mar Thoma Youth Fellowship

Theme:

***"Deal or No Deal: Choices of Christian Leadership"***

Venues

St. Mark's Mar Thoma Church &  
Center Point Community Church  
8610 Temple Terrace Highway  
Tampa, FL 33637

**LEADERS**

Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius  
Diocesan Bishop  
And all Youth Chaplains of the Diocese

Our Diocesan Bishop will celebrate Holy Communion at our Church on Sunday January 8, 2012 at 8:00 AM.

It will be followed by the closing ceremony of the Youth Leadership Conference.

### **CALENDAR FOR THE GREAT LENT – 2012**

**February 19, 2012**

Beginning of Lent

**March 30, 2012**

40<sup>th</sup> Friday

**April 1, 2012**

Palm Sunday (Hosanna)  
MT Seminary Collections

**April 5, 2012**

Maundy Thursday - Passover Festival

**April 6, 2012**

Good Friday  
Collections for Hoskote Mission

**April 8, 2012**

Easter Sunday

Uposhanam (Self Denial) and Raseesa will be collected during the Holy Week

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE QUARTER**

1-Jan Arun Abraham  
 1-Jan Gifty Susan Abraham  
 2-Jan Anita Jacob  
 2-Jan Elizabeth Valliyil  
 3-Jan Anju Abraham  
 5-Jan Mariamma Mammen  
 5-Jan Sheena Alexander  
 7-Jan Sheldon Alexander  
 8-Jan Dr. Philip K Thomas  
 8-Jan Sarah Mathai  
 9-Jan Mathew Verghese  
 10-Jan Jolly Johnson  
 14-Jan Saly Daniel  
 16-Jan Amy Alex  
 18-Jan Suparna Narayan  
 19-Jan Anne Scott Jones  
 19-Jan Saleen S Mathew  
 19-Jan David Philip  
 20-Jan Annmarie Abraham  
 21-Jan Jacob Simon  
 21-Jan Saurav Narayan  
 21-Jan Saramma Varghese  
 23-Jan Mariamma Koshy  
 25-Jan Abraham Thomas  
 25-Jan Somya Jose  
 29-Jan Amina Anna George  
 30-Jan Bindu Cherian  
 31-Jan Rebecca Karakad  
 5-Feb Oommen P George  
 6-Feb Mathai Abraham  
 8-Feb Dr. Abraham C Thomas  
 10-Feb Thabitha Philip  
 11-Feb Sheela John  
 11-Feb Sheba George  
 11-Feb Aaron Mathew Thomas  
 12-Feb Tom Kurian  
 12-Feb Vinoy George  
 13-Feb Adithya Mathews  
 13-Feb Mariamma I Pothen  
 14-Feb Dr. Saji Koshy  
 16-Feb Hannah Alex  
 20-Feb Abey Abraham  
 20-Feb Nathan Karakad  
 21-Feb Joshua Eapen  
 23-Feb Simi Rachel Mathew  
 23-Feb Sruthi Elizabeth Mathew  
 25-Feb Dolly Mathews  
 25-Feb Mathews Benny  
 25-Feb Binu Alex

**BIRTHDAYS CONTD .....**

26-Feb Suja Alex  
 28-Feb Saji Mathew  
 28-Feb Aiden Michael Koshy  
 1-Mar Amit Cherian  
 1-Mar Deepa Thomas  
 1-Mar Jana Mammen  
 2-Mar Mariamma Abraham  
 3-Mar Varghese K Abraham  
 4-Mar Cherrian K Cherian  
 5-Mar Jonathan Paul  
 6-Mar Jason Mathew  
 9-Mar Caroline Kurian  
 11-Mar Joji Jacob  
 15-Mar Gracy Angail  
 16-Mar Tommy M Thomas  
 19-Mar Bini Koshy  
 21-Mar Samuel J Thattamanni  
 21-Mar Thomas Koshy  
 23-Mar Marykutty Easow  
 23-Mar Raji Abraham  
 25-Mar Anita Verghese  
 27-Mar Alisha Sarah Mathew  
 29-Mar Bijy Abraham  
 31-Mar Saramma Samuel

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

4-Jan Thomas Karakad & Susan Karakad  
 4-Jan Dr.Saji Koshy & Minita Saji  
 4-Jan Prasad Mathai & Marsha Mathai  
 12-Jan Cherian P Kurian & Aleyamma Kurian  
 14-Jan Alex Kiran George & Sheba George  
 16-Jan Santhosh Alexander & Sheena Alexander  
 16-Jan Binu Eapen & Mini Eapen  
 17-Jan Berty Mathew & Renu Thomas  
 19-Jan Thomas A Abraham & Thankamma Abraham  
 27-Jan Oommen Alexander & Mariamma Alexander  
 6-Feb Vinoy George & Beena George  
 11-Feb Thomas Abraham & Mary Abraham  
 25-Feb Thomas Mathew & Manjusha Mathew  
 20-Mar John Verghese & Anita Verghese  
 20-Mar Mathew Skariah & Mariamma Mathew

**30<sup>th</sup> MAR THOMA FAMILY CONFERENCE****Diocese of North America & Europe****July 5 – 8, 2012****VENUE: The National Conference Center, Leesburg, Virginia****THEME: Remembering the Covenant for a Reforming Church**

(Joshua 24:24)

**Leaders****Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa****Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Theethos Episcopa**

(Diocesan Bishop, Mumbai Diocese)

**Rev. Dr. M.C. Thomas**

(Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, Kottayam)

**REGISTRATION**

Type	Reg. Fee	Conf Fee
Single	\$100.00	\$400.00
Double	\$200.00	\$600.00
3 Person	\$300.00	\$800.00
4 Person	\$400.00	\$900.00
5 Person	\$400.00	\$1200.00

## LECTIONARY FOR THE QUARTER

<u>DATE/THEME</u>	<u>LESSONS</u>	<u>EPISTLE/GOSPEL</u>	<u>LESSON READING FAMILY</u>
<b>January 1, 2012</b> Outside Kerala Mission Sunday	Gen. 1:26-31 Heb. 6:13-30	Rom. 1:9-17 St.Luke.1:26-31,2:21	Varghese K Abraham
<b>January 8, 2012</b> St. Stephens Day	Dan.1:1-21 Acts. 7:54-60	Acts. 6:1-7 St. Mat. 24:45-51	Youth Conference
<b>January 15, 2010</b> God of Peace	Micah. 4:1-7 Rom.5:1-11	Eph. 2:11-19 St. Mat. 5:1-9	Thomas A. Abraham
<b>January 22, 2010</b> Ecumenical Sunday	Isa.60:l-1 2Pet. 1:1-11	Eph. 4:1-7 St. John. 17:21-26	Thomas Abraham (Moni)
<b>January 29, 2012</b> "Repent - Return"	Joel. 2:12-17 Rev. 2:12-17	Eph. 5:8-14 St. Luke. 13:1-5	Samuel J. Thattamannil
<b>February 5, 2012</b> Medical Mission Sunday	2King.2:19-22 Rev.22:1-7	2Cor. 12:7-10 St. Mark. 5:25-34	Geevarghese Samuel
<b>February 12, 2012</b> 117th Maramon Convention Begins	Joshua.6:12-20 Rev.22:5-17	Rom. 13:11-14 St. Mark. 14:32-42	Shibu Itty Pothan
<b>February 19, 2012</b> Beginning of Great Lent:	Job.1:1-5 Rom.12:1-15	2Cor. 5:16-21 St. John 2:1-11	Alex George
<b>February 26, 2012</b> The Compassion of our Lord (2nd Sunday in Lent)	2Kings. 5:1-16 Jam. 2:1-10	Acts. 5:12-16 St. Luke. 5:12-16	Thomas Mathew (Saji)
<b>March 4, 2012</b> DIOCESAN SUNDAY	Isa. 1:1-20 1 John.1:5-2:6	Heb.9:24-28 St. Mark. 2:1-12	Jolly Johnson
<b>March 11, 2012</b> The Zeal of Faith (4th Sunday in Lent)	Isa. 45:1-8 Acts.16:6-15	Gal.2:11-21 St. Mat. 15:21-28	Mathews Thomas
<b>March 18, 2012</b> Mid Lent - Salvation in Christ	Num. 21:4-9 1 Cor. 1:18-31	Gal. 6:11-16 St. Mark. 10:32-34	Regi M. Alex
<b>March 25, 2012</b> Restoration through Worship	Isa.59:9-21 Rom.8:31-39	Eph.6:10-20 St Luke. 13:10-17	Jerry M. Jacob

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