

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 7 <i>Birth of John the Baptist</i>	9:00 AM: Sunday School 9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (Malayalam)	1st Lesson: Isa 55:1-13 2nd Lesson: Rom 15:1-6 Epistle: 2 Pet 1:1-11 Gospel: St. Luke 1:56-66
Area: Irving		
December 14 <i>Annunciation to Joseph</i>	9:00 AM: Sunday School 9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (English)	1st Lesson: Isa 9:1-17 2nd Lesson: Rom 1:1-7 Epistle: 1 John 5:1-15 Gospel: St. Mat 1:18-23
Area: Plano		
December 21 <i>Rejoice, The Lord Is coming</i>	9:00 AM: Sunday School 9:30 AM: Holy Qurbana (Malayalam)	1st Lesson: Zech 2:10-13 2nd Lesson: Heb 1:1-12 Epistle: Eph 3:14-21 Gospel: St. Mat 2:1-12
Area: Carrollton East		
December 25 <i>The Joy of the Coming of Christ</i>	8:00 AM: Holy Qurbana (English)	1st Lesson: Isa 11:1-9 2nd Lesson: Phil 2:1-11 Epistle: Col 1:15-20 Gospel: St. Luke 2:1-7
Christmas Area: Carrollton North		
December 28 <i>Light of the Gospel To all</i>	9:00 AM: Sunday School 9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (Malayalam)	1st Lesson: Isa 45:1-7 2nd Lesson: Acts 17:16-31 Epistle: Gal 2:15-21 Gospel: St. Mark 7:24-30
Area: Carrollton West		
December 31 <i>God who is always With us</i>	10:00 PM: Witnessing Holy Qurbana (Malayalam)	1st Lesson: Exo 33:12-23 2nd Lesson: Heb 13:7-17 Epistle: 1 Pet 5:6-11 Gospel: St. Luke 12:22-34
New Years Eve Watchnight Service Area: Coppell		

PRAYER MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Area</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Residence of</u>	<u>Time</u>
Carrollton East	12/07(Sun)	C J Benjamin	6:30
	12/12-13	X-Mas Caroling	
	12/20	Cherian Mathew	
	12/28(Sun)	Jose V. George	6:30
Carrollton North	12/7	TBD	
	12/14	TBD	
	12/21	TBD	
	12/28	TBD	
Carrollton West	12/6	TBD	
	12/13	TBD	
	12/20	TBD	
	12/27	TBD	
Coppell	1		
	2		
	/		
	6		
Dallas/Mesquite	12/6	TBD	
	12/14	Mathew T. George	6:00
	12/20	X-Mas Carol	
	12/28	Jacob Varghese	6:30
Garland	12/6	X-Mas Carol	
	12/13	House Visit	7:00
	12/20	House Visit	7:00
	12/27	Sunny Theckamury	7:00
Irving	12-13	X-Mas Caroling	3:30
	12-14	X-Mas Caroling	3:30
	12-20	X-Mas Caroling	3:30
	12/21	X-Mas Caroling	3:30
Plano	12/6	Mr. Varghese Kurian	6:30
	12/13	X-Mas Caroling	4:00
	12/20	X-Mas Caroling	4:00
	12/27	Mr. Philip Kochiyil	6:30

WEDDINGS

Dony Daniel Kalluvilayil & Sindhu Cicilia Thoppil, 6316 Rolling Hills Road, The Colony, TX 75056 was united through holy matrimony on November 01, 2008 at Mar Thoma church of Dallas, Farmers Branch.

CONDOLENCES

- Mrs. Annamma skariah (80) , mother of Mr. Babukutty Skaria, (Irving,) passed away on Oct 6th at Pathnapuram, Kerala.
- Mr. John Daniel (86), grandfather of Mrs. Mareena Cherian (Priya) (Coppell) passed way on Nov 8th at Kottayam, Kerala.
- Cherian Abraham (72) and Saramma Abraham (70) Brother-in-law and sister of Mariamma Joseph and Reena Abraham (Carrollton North) Passed away at Kottayam, Kerala

BIRTHS

Sunij M & Mini Abraham (Garland) are blessed with a baby girl, Nadia Alissa Abraham on October 21, 2008

Secretary's Corner

All submissions for 2009 January edition of the Life Times should be submitted to the 2009 Secretary Mr. Anwar Achan Kunj by **Friday, Dec. 19, 2008.**

On behalf of the 2008 Executive Committee, we would like wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Prosperous New Year.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Dearly beloved in Christ,

In this advent season, let me share certain familiar and scattered thoughts about Christmas. Christmas is a time for meditation and celebration. Church sets apart twenty five days in December for preparing ourselves for the advent of the Lord. These days are for meditation and prayer. What is the significance of Christmas? We all know that scripture contains God's interaction with human beings. Therefore this is the day in which God took human nature. St. Paul pictures it vividly, he writes that, "Who, being in very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness". Therefore, it is God's incarnation in human form and communicates the message of humility and identification. God's identification with human is very important thought for us in this Christmas. A quotation from Our Daily Bread clearly says this "Let us at all cost avoid the temptation to make our Christmas worship a withdrawal from the stress and sorrow of life into a realm of unreal beauty. It was into the real world that Christ came, into the city where there was no room for him, and into a country where Herod, the murderer of the innocent was king, He comes not to shield us from harshness of the world but to give us the courage and strength to bear it; not to us away by some miracle from the conflicts of life, but to give us peace- His peace- in our hearts, by which we may be calmly steadfast while the conflict rages, and be able to bring to the torn world the healing that is peace. "Christmas is not a retreat from reality but an advance into it along side to the prince of peace"

What compelled God to take human form? St. John says that "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" Therefore in this day God manifests his love towards world and draws the scheme of salvation for the world by giving his only son. This giving is definitely a precious one (II Cor. 9:15). Angels announce that this is for whole world, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people (Luke 2. 10). It means that, the birth of Jesus breaks all divisions and invites all people to live in perfect harmony with God and other people. Therefore in this Christmas season let our meditation be on God's humanness, humility, love and plan of salvation for us, his people. May God almighty bless & keep you all in this advent season



Rev. Vinoy Daniel



A Tribute to Coorilos Thirumeni

Euyakim Mar Coorilos Thirumeni belongs to the fifth generation of the Bishop Yuyakim Mar Kurilose who was sent by the Jacobite Patriarch at Mardin in Syria in 1846 to Kerala to conduct inquiry about the dispute between Mar Athanasius Mathew (nephew of Abraham Malpan) who advocated reform in the Church and Mar Dionysius of the Syrian Church who opposed the reforms of Abraham Malpan. Gabriel Malkudisa, Mar Kurilos's brother accompanied the Bishop Mar Kurilos to Kerala. Malkudisa, the Bishop's brother, married a girl from Chalakuzhy family in Thiruvalla. Malkudisa and his wife had one son named Malk, who married from the Kandathil family and he had three sons, C. M. Yuha-kim, C. M. Mathen, and C. M. Philip as well as three daughters. C. M. Mathen, the second son of Malk, had one son named Thampan and two daughters, Ammini and Ponnamma. Ammini (Saramma) was married to Sri. Ittymani Ittyachen Kunju, of Cheeran family of Arthattu Kunnamkulam Mar Thoma Church. The fourth son born to them on November 25, 1951 was Euyakim I. Cheeran, who is now known as Euyakim Mar Coorilos, our Diocesan Episcopa. Coorilos Thirumeni's grandfather Sri. Ittymani Cheeran, who was very active in the Church, took interest in inviting the bishops of Thoziyoor Church for the consecration of Titus I Mar Thoma, at a time when we had no Bishops to consecrate a successor due to the death of Thomas Mar Athanasius Metropolitan in 1893.

Coorilos Thirumeni took charge of this Diocese on October 1, 2001 and is leaving by December 31, 2008 after more than seven years leading and guiding this Diocese both in the temporal and ecclesiastical matters. According to Thirumeni, mission of the Church is to share our blessings with the less fortunate and caring for them. It was during Coorilos Thirumeni tenure as Diocesan Bishop, that our Diocese has taken an active interest in the mission of the Church by establishing two mission fields: one in Mexico and the other among Native Americans. With Thirumeni's blessings and guidance, our Diocesan Youth Fellowship is taking the leadership in Mexico Mission field.

We had the privilege of having our newly constructed balcony blessed by Thirumeni on June 27, 2004. Two of our youths Alex Koleth and Christopher Daniel began attending Vaideeka Seminary at Kottayam to become ordained priests of our Church. Thirumeni's guidance and pastoral care helped both of them to commit themselves to our Lord Jesus Christ. We as a Church had the privilege to host the Diocesan Assembly meeting from June 3 - 4, 2005 at our parish. We also had the privilege to be part of the joint reception to Valiya Metropolitan and Joseph Mar Thoma held on May 18, 2008 at Dallas Convention Center. It was during Thirumeni's tenure that we grew as the second largest parish in this Diocese. Mrs. Leelamma Issac (2002-2005), Mr. Lal Varghese (2005-2008) and Mrs. Annamma Mathew, Mrs. Elizabeth John and Mrs. Aswathi Mathew (2008-2011) served as Diocesan Council members from our parish while Thirumeni was the Diocesan Bishop. We have been entrusted with the privilege and honor to host the Mar Thoma Family Conference to be held in 2010. We as a parish express our sincere gratitude to Thirumeni for his able leadership and guidance provided to us during the past seven years.

Thirumeni also believes that the future of our Church is safe in the hands of our young generation. Thirumeni is also a man of prayers and begins his day by kneeling before God seeking His guidance and ends the day by kneeling before God expressing his gratitude for all the providence given during the day in all deliberations and decisions taken. The executive committee and members of the MTC Dallas, Farmers Branch wish and pray that God may shower His abundant blessings upon Thirumeni in the future especially in discharging the responsibilities as Diocesan Bishop of the Kottayam-Cochi Diocese and also in charge of the Vaideeka Seminary at Kottayam.

MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH CHAPLAIN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas!

Christ is BORN! Praise be to GOD!

Christmas is one of the most joyous occasions of the year. The Christmas carols, lights, trees, gifts often carry us away with all its pomp and glitter. Shopping and celebration, too, has come to mark this most solemn of seasons. **Will this year be any different?! Should it be any different?**

How do you plan to celebrate Christmas this year? Think about it.

How did they celebrate on the very first Christmas? "And when they saw the young child with Mary his mother, they fell down and *worshipped him* and when they had opened their treasures, *they presented unto him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh*". (Mt. 2:11)

Christmas reminds of the immense and sacrificial love of God that He would become human for our sake! There is truly only *one* way to respond to that great love, to give to Christ what he deserves; it is in **falling down and worshipping Him and offering our very best to Him!**

The legend of the poinsettia flower and its place in Christmas is most interesting. Dr. Joel Poinsett, who was the first ambassador to Mexico, brought the bright red star-shaped flower to the United States. Hence, it was named Poinsettia. It is also known as 'Flame Leaf' or 'Flower of the Holy Night'.

Once upon a time, there were two siblings who were very poor. They lived in a village and they had barely enough to eat two full meals a day. As Christmas approached, festivities, parades and parties in the village attracted the children. Moreover, a large manger scene was being set up in the village church and all the children were eager to go to Baby Jesus and give him the best present. Mario and Pablo also wanted to give expensive presents to the Holy Child that He will love. While all children were discussing, what they think is best for the baby and what they will buy as the gift for Him, Mario and Pablo knew that they had no money to buy presents and had nothing that they could gift to the child.

Yet, they could not let go of the temptation to see the baby just once and give something to Him. On Christmas Eve, Maria and Pablo set out for church a little earlier than others to attend the service. Since they had nothing to give to the child, they thought of plucking some weeds that was growing along the roadside to make a soft bed for Baby Jesus and decorate his crib. While they were still decorating the crib of the Baby, other children also arrived. Now, children can be very cruel when it comes to teasing and making fun of others. Mario and Pablo were almost in tears for shame and helplessness when a miracle occurred. Suddenly, the weeds burst into bright red petals that looked like stars and were so beautiful that everyone was awed by their beauty. Everybody realized and said that a gift of love is dearer to Jesus than the most expensive presents that money could buy. Ever since then, Poinsettia flowers have become favorites for Christmas decorations.

May this Christmas be different! May the sacrificial message of love, the solemn experience of worship and submission guide us to the truth of Christmas!

Your brother in Christ,

Jaisen Achen

H- 972-495-5393

C- 214-604-6678

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

26	Dr. Pradeep P Mammen	Plano
	Kurien Ninan	Carrollton North
	Solomon Abraham	Garland
	Daisy R Mathew	Irving
27	Alexis Ann Troy	Irving
	Liezy Varghese	Coppell
28	George K Joseph	Garland
	Annamma Philip	Irving
	Jaymon John	Irving
	Panzy Thomas	Carrollton North
29	Joshua C Kurian	Plano
	P M Abraham	Garland
	Prasanth John Princely	Carrollton East
	Shiney E Idichandy	Garland
30	Abin E Abraham	Coppell
	Jijo Jacob	Dallas / Mesquite
	Shibu Zachariah	Plano
	Jasmin S. John	Coppell
31	Ajitha George	Plano
	Mareena Thomas Cherian	Coppell
	Soji Samuel	Carrollton East
	Teena Sara Maliakal	Carrollton North
	Ayan Tharian Issac	Garland

Sunday School

There will be a Sunday School Carol Program soon after the church service on December 21st. Parents please stay behind for a few minutes in church and enjoy seeing your child perform with the class. The 2008 Sunday School Office Bearers would like to thank all teachers and parents for their full support, prayers, and encouraging words throughout the year. We also wish you all a Very Blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Young Family Fellowship

12/14/08

Lejoy & Leny Philipose
412 Pleasant Run
Murphy Texas: 75094
972-423-7617

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

DAY	Name	Prayer Group
5	Mr. T. M. & Mrs. Nirmala Varghese	Carrollton East
11	Mr. Abraham & Mrs. Renney Varughese	Dallas / Mesquite
12	Mr. John Abraham & Mrs. Lalitha John	Garland
13	Mr. Benjamin & Mrs. Reny Jacob	Dallas / Mesquite
14	Mr. Thomas Mathew & Mrs. Saly Thomas	Plano
15	Mr. Joji George & Mrs. Mariamma Joji	Irving
	Mr. Sabu & Mrs. Netra Oommen	Irving
16	Mr. Troy Philip & Mrs. Dency Troy	Irving
	Mr. Cherian & Mrs. Ligimol Mathew	Carrollton East
17	Mr. Thomas Abraham & Mrs. Aniamma Thomas	Carrollton East
	Mr. Samuel & Mrs. Lissy Yohannan	Carrollton North
18	Mr. Stanley & Mrs. Jiny James	Carrollton North
	Mr. George Mathews & Mrs. Smita Koshy	Plano
20	Mr. Cherian & Mrs. Sally John	Coppell
21	Mr. Tinu Chacko & Mrs. Anitha Tinu	Irving
24	Dr. Sanjay Oommen & Dr. Sindhu Philip	Irving
25	Mr. K. C. Geeverghese & Mrs. Saramma Verghese	Plano
26	Mr. Cecil & Mrs. Mareena Cherian	Coppell
	Dr. Roy & Mrs. Aswathi Mathew	Coppell
27	Mr. George & Mrs. Annie Samuel	Carrollton West
	Mr. K. K. & Mrs. Vijaya Raju	Garland
	Mr. Biju & Mrs. Sibby Jacob	Dallas / Mesquite
29	Mr. Bipin & Mrs. Achama Thomas	Plano
	Mr. P. K. & Mrs. Lancy Kuruvilla	Irving
	Dr. George John & Dr. Sindhu Abraham	Plano
30	Mr. Bino & Mrs. Reena Mathew	Irving
	Dr. Pradeep & Mrs. Anna Mammen	Plano
31	Mr. Abey Mathew & Mrs. Lissy Abey	Irving
	Mr. Anil & Mrs. Saramma Jacob	Coppell

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Day	Name	Prayer Group
1	Susy Abraham	Irving
	Mannil R Titus	Carrollton East
2	Mary Parampottil	Coppell
3	Tara S Thomas	Plano
	Bindu Mathew	Coppell
4	Oommen B Kurien	Carrollton West
	Dr. Joseph Kurian	Other Area
	Sali Abraham	Carrollton East
5	Aleyamma Mathews	Carrollton East
6	Dennis Thankachan	Carrollton North
	Julie Panachakunnel	Carrollton East
7	Mariamamma Koshy	Coppell
	Danny John	Carrollton North
8	Thresiamma Varughese	Irving
	Nisha M Eapen	Irving
	Thomas Kunnathu John	Irving
	Rev. Thomas P Varkey	Irving
9	Jay Benjamin	Carrollton East
	Tony Philip	Carrollton West
	Sheeba Eapen	Carrollton East
	Abraham John	Carrollton North
	Eunice A Samuel	Carrollton East
	Biju T Zachariah	Plano
10	Rozil Mathew	Carrollton North
	Regi L Thomas	Garland
	Dr. Molly Cherian	Carrollton West
11	Anceslo Idicula	Garland
	Shawn Jacob	Carrollton North
12	Gigi Jacob	Carrollton West
	Susan Philip	Irving
	Suja S Mathew	Coppell
	John Abraham	Carrollton North
	Sherin Mathew	Carrollton East
13	Mariamamma Abraham	Carrollton North
	Soju Kurien	Coppell
	Sonish G. Varughese	Irving
	Nishita Sojan	Plano
	Troy Parampottil Issac	Garland

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

13	Alumkal S Abraham	Carrollton North
	Abel Mathew	Garland
	Hannah Mariam Thomas	Carrollton East
14	Mathri T Kunnel	Garland
	Rachel Varghese	Irving
	David Joseph	Garland
15	Eapen Varghese	Carrollton West
	Jayan Varkey	Coppell
	Christina M Mathew	Irving
16	Alice Mathew	Irving
	Jijo Jacob	Coppell
	Rahul Mathew Varkey	Coppell
	Jason John	Irving
	Lijoy Philipose	Garland
17	Jacob Chacko	Carrollton West
	P V Thomas	Carrollton West
18	Shana Elizabeth Skariah	Irving
	Vinson Thomas	Garland
	C V Thomas	Carrollton East
19	Ashley George	Irving
	Toby Philip	Carrollton West
	Nilam Kurian	Carrollton North
20	Leelamma Chacko	Coppell
	Noel Abey James	Carrollton East
	Zubin A Thomas	Plano
21	Aaron Abraham John	Garland
	Shaji David	Plano
	Marayamma Philipose	Carrollton West
23	Ashley George	Carrollton West
	Christina Thomas	Carrollton East
	Deepa Titus	Carrollton East
24	Anu B Abraham	Dallas / Mesquite
	Sara Varghese	Irving
25	Subin Mathew	Carrollton East
	Philip P Kochiyil	Plano
	Ramani Samuel	Other Area
	Chris Stanley James	Carrollton North
	Annie Thankachan	Carrollton North
	Julia Annmarie John	Irving
Sherin Elizabeth Varughese	Carrollton East	
	John Jesson	Garland
	Abraham K Abraham	Carrollton North