

THE MAR THOMA CHURCH OF DALLAS FARMERS BRANCH

CHURCH

11550 LUNA ROAD
DALLAS, TX 75234
TEL: (972) 830.9300



PARSONAGE

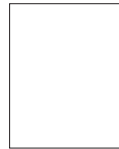
3621 CANYON OAKS
CARROLLTON, TX 75007
TEL: (972) 939.0699

Items to be included in the lifetimes should be submitted to the Secretary or Joint Secretary by the 3rd Sunday of each month. If information is incorrectly printed, please contact the Vicar and Secretary to make the corrections. Please feel free to contact the Vicar or Secretary with any questions or comments. Your feedback is appreciated.

CONTACT INFORMATION

President	Rev. Vinoy Daniel	(972) 939-0699	vinoydanielachen@yahoo.co.in
Youth Chaplain	Rev. Jaisen Thomas	(972) 495-5393	revjathomas@yahoo.com
Vice President	Mr. Varghese Abraham	(469) 556-6835	mohankoodal55@yahoo.com
Secretary	Mr. Anwar Achankunju	(214) 952-9262	secretarymtcfb@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Mr. C.M Mathew	(972) 462-7522	cmmathew254@yahoo.com
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Facility Manager	Mr. Philip Thomas	(214) 415-5688	punalurthampy@yahoo.com
Mission & Outreach	Mr. Abraham Mathew	(214) 321-7561	saraabe2000@yahoo.com
Sound Engineer	Mr. Chacko N. Mani	(214) 215-6158	cbaby@mail.com

THE MAR THOMA CHURCH OF DALLAS, FARMERS BRANCH
11550 LUNA ROAD
DALLAS, TX 75234



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MAR THOMA CHURCH OF DALLAS, FB

FEBRUARY 2009
Year of Salvation

“Create in me a pure heart O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.”

Psalm 51:10,12



MARAMON
CONVENTION

2009



The Mar Thoma Church of Dallas
Farmers Branch

11550 Luna Road, Dallas, TX 75234
972.830.9300
www.mtcdallasfb.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 1	9:00 AM: Sunday School 9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (Malayalam)	1st Lesson: 2 King. 5:1 –14 2nd Lesson: Rev. 22:1-7 Epistle: James 5:13-19 Gospel: Mark. 7:31-37
<i>Healing; Wholeness In Christ.</i>		
Area: Dallas/ Mesquite		
February 8	9:00 AM: Sunday School 9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (English)	1st Lesson: Gen. 6:1-13 2nd Lesson: II Pet. 2:1-10 Epistle: Rom. 3:21-30 Gospel: Luke. 15:1-7
<i>Sin: Alienation from God and Creation</i>		
Area: Garland		
February 15	9:00 AM: Sunday School 9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (Malayalam)	1st Lesson: Jer. 7:1-11 2nd Lesson: Heb. 2: 1-13 Epistle: I Thes. 1:1-8 Gospel: Mathew 7:15-27
<i>Live According to the Word of God. 114th Maramon Convention</i>		
Area: Irving		
February 22	9:00 AM: Sunday School 9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (English)	1st Lesson: Exo. 15:22-27 2nd Lesson: Rom.12: 1-8 Epistle: Eph.4: 17-24 Gospel: John 2:1-11
<i>Transforming Lord: Beginning of great Lent.</i>		
Area: Plano		
March 1	9:00 AM: Sunday School 9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM: Holy Qurbana (Malayalam)	1st Lesson: Exo. 3:7-18 2nd Lesson: James. 5:1-11 Epistle: Acts. 16:16-24 Gospel: Luke. 5:12-16
<i>Christ and the Marginalised</i>		
Area: Carrollton - East		

PRAYER MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Area</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Residence of</u>	<u>Time</u>
Carrollton East	2-08	TBD	TBD
	2-14	TBD	TBD
	2-21	Bijili George	7:00
	2-28	Alex. V. Easo	7:00
Carrollton North	2-08 (Sun)	Easaw Maliakal	6:30
	2-14	Abraham John (Kunjubai)	6:30
	2-21	Thomas. V. Thomas	6:30
	2-28	Abraham K.A (Saju)	6:30
Carrollton West	2-01 (Sun)	Dr. Cherian V. Samuel	6.30
	2-14	Alex Chacko	6:30
	2-21	TBD	TBD
	2-28	TBD	TBD
Coppell	2-07	Chacko Jacob	7.00
	2-14	House Visit	7.00
	2-21	Varghese .T. John	7.00
	2-28	Sunil George	7:00
Dallas/ Mesquite	2-07	TBD	TBD
	2-15 (Sun)	K.S. Mathew	7.00
	2-22 (Sun)	Mathew .T. Geroge	6:30
	2-28	TBD	7:00
Garland	2-07	V.T. Abraham	7:00
	2-15 (Sun)	Sunil Varghese	6:30
	2-21	Cherian Alexander	7:00
	2-28	Mathew Pappy	7:00
Irving	2-02	TBD	6:30
	2-09	TBD	6:30
	2-22(Sun)	Koshy. T. George	6:30
	2-28	Varghese Titus	6:30
Plano	2-07	Thomas K. Mathews	6:30
	2-14	Sunny Kovoor	6.30
	2-21	Thomas M. Mathew	6.30
	2-28	Family Visit	6:30

WEDDING

Congratulations:

Binoy Varghese Thomas & Ashby Ann Thomas of Carrollton East Prayer Group were united through holy matrimony on December 27, 2008 at Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church, Kavumbhagam, Thiruvalla, Kerala.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parents: Please encourage your children to attend Sunday School at 9:00 AM so they won't miss the exciting programs during the assembly such as interactive message, short videos, lively songs by praise and worship, games and much more. Thank you for your support and prayers.

**Sunday School Superintendent,
Thomas Andrews**

Address Changes

James Abraham
2291 Magic Mantle Dr.
Lewisville, TX 75056
972-899-0593

P.V. John
6823 Shady View Ct.
Sachse, TX. 75048
972-235-2962

Sunny Mathew Nirakathy,
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The Colony, TX 75056
Phone: 972-625-0092

Jaymon John
2820 Cameron Bay Dr
Lewisville, TX 75056
972-786-5413

Jose Cherian
4133 Kickapoo Tr
Carrollton, TX 75010
214-789-5429

Yuhanon Panachakunnel
547 Burning Oak Dr
Frisco, TX 75034
972-370-7280

Rev. P.V. Thomas
1101 N. O'Connor Rd. # 114
Irving, TX 75061
972-254-5059

Reny Jacob
6114 N. Shiloh Rd.# 833
Garland, TX 75044

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Dearly Beloved in Christ

The great lent begins in this month. It is the time to meditate upon the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The salvific act of Jesus is clearly demonstrated on the cross. The salvation to the whole world is won through sacrificial act of Jesus Christ. Paul used different terms for what Christ has done for us on the cross. This month I would like to give certain biblical glimpses about **reconciliation**.

To be reconciled is to be restored to friendship or harmony. The estrangement can only be reversed by reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 declares, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."

The Bible says that Christ reconciled us to God (Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Colossians 1:20-21). The fact that we needed reconciliation means that our relationship with God was broken. Since God is holy, we were the ones to blame. Our sin alienated us from God. Jesus made possible our reconciliation through cross. Our "reconciliation" to God, then, involves the exercise of His grace and the forgiveness of our sin. The result of Jesus' sacrifice is that our relation has changed from enmity to friendship. "Henceforth I call you not servants . . . but I have called you friends" (John 15:15). Christian reconciliation is a glorious truth! We were God's enemies, but are now His friends. We were in a state of condemnation because of our sins, but we are now forgiven. We were at war with God, but now have the peace that transcends all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

Reconciliation is our Christian duty, for we are made in the image of Christ; we are God's body here on earth, the Temple of his Holy Spirit. We are to reconcile one to another, healing the quarrels and factions between us. **An offence against your neighbor is a fence between you and God.** We are to reconcile others to God, bringing them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The process of reconciliation is not easy. It cost Jesus his life on the cross. When we think about reconciliation we have to keep in mind the following things. **The innocent one must move first.** We could not approach God while we were yet sinners therefore God approached us in the form of Jesus. **Reconciliation is costly.** It cost Jesus his life. It is expensive and costly, but necessary. **There is a joy in reconciliation.** What was lost can be found; what was weak can be made strong again. It is not a question of "can" but of "will." Since we are the ambassadors of Christ, his imitators, his body, let us do as he does, reconciling ourselves to each other.

May God almighty shower all kinds of blessings upon you.

Yours in His ministry,



Rev. Vinoy Daniel



2009 ORGANIZATION OFFICE BEARERS

CHOIR

President: Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Secretary: Mr. Melvin P Philip
Treasurer: Mr. M.J. Andrews
Director: Mr. George Varghese(Jayan)
Asst Director: Mr. John. Renji Abraham

SEVIKA SANGHAM

President: Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Vice President: Mrs. Ammini Daniel
Secretary: Mrs. Anju Bijili
Joint-Secretary: Mrs. Jaya Joseph
Treasurer: Mrs. Vijaya Raju
Accountant: Ms. Sosamma John

SUNDAY SCHOOL

President: Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Superintendent: Mr. Thomas Andrews
Secretary: Mr. Snobey Kuruvilla
Treasurer: Mr. Siljo Kuruvilla

PARISH MISSION

President: Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Vice President: Mr. Abraham Mathew
Secretary: Mr. George Varghese
Treasurer: Mr. Philip Thomas
Accountant: Mr. Joji George

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

President: Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Youth Chaplain: Mr. Jaisen Thomas
Vice President: Mr. Manish John
Secretary: Mr. Cyril Mathew
Joint-Secretary: Ms. Shani Joseph
Treasurer: Ms. Jane Chandy
Youth Advisors: Mr. Alex Philip
Mr. Sam John

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

President: Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Vice President: Mr. Abraham K. Abraham
Secretary: Mr. Bijili George
Lady-Secretary: Ms. Betsy Mathew
Treasurer: Mr. Joby John

MESSAGE FROM THE JAISEN ACHEN, YOUTH CHAPLAIN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever observed Lent?!! Or ever Fasted?!! I mean, seriously fasted?? (not just giving up candy or something). Is FASTING important?



"LET'S EASE INTO THIS--I WANT YOU TO TRY FASTING BETWEEN MEALS."

"If any want to become my followers, *let them deny themselves* and take up their cross and follow me." St. Mark 8:34.

What is it?!

The **Great Feast of Lent**, which **begins on February 22nd** of this year, marks the observance of a fast that concludes with the celebration of Easter Sunday. It has since the Early Church been a season of spiritual preparation and personal dedication through repentance and fasting. It ushers the affirmation of Christian identity through the character of self-denial in spiritual meditation and physical avoidances. Biblically, the Old and New Testaments have recognized the importance of fasting as an aid to a more intense prayer experience, as well as, the foundation for decisive action and/or a direct encounter with God. (i.e. Moses on Mount Sinai -Ex. 34:28; Elijah on Mount Horeb - 1 Kings 19:8-12; Jesus in the Wilderness - St. Matthew 4:1-11).

Who is it for?!

The call to the observance of the Great Lent in fasting and prayer is not for a select few or just the clergy but, for the **whole Christian community**. It is the call towards a collective spiritual and physical renewal of the faith community. In fact, the original English meaning of the word "Lent" is "Springtime" which echoes this very truth of new life and restoration.

How to Fast?!

Fasting requires a proper balance of both the physical and spiritual aspects of an individual. On the outward or physical level, it involves physical abstinence (avoidance) of food and drink. During the Great Lent, meat and animal byproducts such as eggs, milk, butter, cheese, etc. have been historically avoided. That is, not just the mere avoidance of "luxury foods" such as chocolate, soda, chips, etc. but, a more concrete commitment to subsist with only the essential foods. In fact, our forefathers of faith have also advised that we should never eat to our fill but, always rise from the table feeling as if we could have consumed more and ready to pray.

However, fasting is incomplete, valueless and even harmful if it is not accompanied by the reformation of an internal spiritual experience. As such, greater time in prayer, meditation and Scriptural study is necessary for this holistic renewal. These passages further point to the necessity of both prayer and fasting: St. Matt. 17:21; St. Mk. 9:29; Acts of Apostles 13:3.

Lastly, fasting should be accompanied by almsgiving which is a practical expression of our love. That is, the amount of money that one saves or does not spend during this Lenten season on food or on luxuries should be offered up to those in need within our community and society. Also, one should sacrifice their time and presence towards the well-being of others. For in the same way, Christ taught us the truth of love in the sacrifice of His own life.

Why to Fast?!

The tendency to eat and drink to our fill may inadvertently lead us to a false sense of autonomy and self-sufficiency. So, fasting is an amazing experience that better enables us to be conscious of our ultimate dependence on God. Although, the initial few days of the fast may make one feel hungry and fatigued, it later enables one to sleep less, think more clearly, work more decisively and achieve greater physical and spiritual invigoration. The experience *leads us to a sense of inward brokenness and contrition* so that we more fully comprehend the words of Jesus "apart from me you can do nothing" (St. John 15:5). Thereby, it strengthens our joy, refreshing and renewing us for the Christian walk in repentance to the freedom in forgiveness and discipleship through the Spirit of God.

Take the challenge this year and make the commitment to properly observe the fast

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

	Names	Prayer Group
1	Suresh Kuriakose and Aleena Kurian	Carrollton West
	Abraham and Mariamma Abraham	Irving
	Bijili and Anju Geroge	Carrollton East
	George and Elizabeth Thomas	Irving
2	Baby Samuel and Achamma Baby	Carrollton East
3	Abraham and Marykutty Jose	Coppell
5	Thomas and Mariamma Thaimuriyil	Irving
	Mathew Pillai and Susan John	Plano
8	K.S. Mathew and Sosamma Skariah	Dallas / Mesquite
11	Jacob Mathai and Lizy Jacob	Carrollton North
	Abraham and Annamma John	Carrollton North
12	Joseph and Thresiamma Varughese	Irving
	P.T. Mathew and Kunjamma Mathew	Carrollton North
16	O.C. Abraham and Manorama Abraham	Coppell
17	Varghese Kuzhuvellil and Rachel Varghese	Irving
18	Varghese Titus and Mary Varghese	Irving
19	Varghese and Elizabeth John	Coppell
21	Dr.Varghese and Ramani Samuel	Other Area
	Sanjay and Bindu Cherian	Coppell
22	Cherian and Lila Alexander	Garland
23	Regimon and Elcey Ninan	Carrollton West
24	John and Rachel Thomas	Carrollton East
25	John and Jaya Joseph	Garland
	Thomas Mathew and Mathri Kunnel	Garland
27	Sunny Mathew Nirakathy and Raichel Sunny	Irving
28	Mathew Pappy and Gigi Mathew	Garland

BIRTHS

Congratulations:

- **Manoj and Anne Varghese (Plano Prayer Group) have been blessed with a baby boy " Ethan .M. Varghese" born on Sept 27. 2008.**

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of:

- **Aleyamma James, 84 years old, Sister of Mr. K.C Samuel of Irving Prayer group, passed away on Jan 7th, 2009 in Kaviyoor**
- **Mr. M.J Varghese, 67 years old, Father of Mrs. Anie Jose Cherian of Carrollton North Prayer group, Passed away on Jan. 11th, 2009 at Nilambur, Kerala.**
- **Mr. K.G. Abraham, 82 years old, father of Mr. Thomas Abraham, Mr. Sunny Abraham, Mrs.Susan Varghese Daniel and Mr.James Abraham of *Carrollton East Prayer group*, passed away on Jan 12th, 2009 in Punnakadu, Kerala.**
- **Mrs. Saramma George, 72 years old, Sister of Mr.Easaw Malikal of Carrollton North Prayer group, passed away on Jan 20th, 2009 in Naranganam, Kerala.**
- **Mr. C.J. Thomas, 60 years old, brother of Mr.C.J.Benjamin of Carrollton East Prayer group, passed away on Jan 24th, 2009 in Kozhenchery, Kerala.**
- **Mrs. Gracy Mathew, 52 years old, Sister of Mr. Chacko Mathew(Thambi) of Irving Prayer group, passed away On Jan 24th, 2009 (Saturday) in Bombay, India.**
- **Mr. P.K. Samuel, 85 years old, father of Mrs. Mariamma Abraham (Valsa) of Carrollton North Prayer group, passed away on Jan 27th, 2009 in Koodal, Kerala.**

Youth Prayer Leader for Irving Prayer Group

Ms. Viji Thomas has been selected as the Youth Prayer Leader of Irving Prayer Group for the year 2009.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdate	Name	Prayer Group
1	Susy Joseph	Other Area
	Molly Mathew	Coppell
	Sony Raju	Garland
	Aleyamma George	Dallas / Mesquite
	Neetha G Samuel	Carrollton West
2	Tom Mathai	Garland
	Joel S Kovoor	Plano
3	Abey Mathew	Irving
	Jacob Mammen	Plano
	Susan Mathew	Dallas / Mesquite
4	Mini Abraham	Garland
	Cecil Pokudiyil Cherian	Coppell
	Jaison John	Carrollton West
5	Chacko Jacob	Coppell
	Thomas K Mathews	Plano
6	Deenamma George	Carrollton West
	Philip Thomas	Carrollton West
	Evin Daniel	Parsonage
	John Itticheria	Dallas / Mesquite
7	Babukutty C. Skaria	Irving
	Stemmon V Charly	Carrollton East
8	Mariamamma Philipose	Garland
	O. C. Abraham	Coppell
	Saramma Varughese	Irving
9	Merlin John	Irving
	George Skariah	Carrollton East
	Reeni Mathew	Irving
10	Mini Varghese	Carrollton North
	Jacob Chacko Varghese	Irving
	Alexy Jacob Troy	Irving
11	Jaison Ninan	Carrollton West
	Stanley Somar	Carrollton East
	Molly Thomas	Carrollton West
12	Jibin Mathew Abey	Irving
	Rohan G Varkey	Coppell
	Dr. Gigi Mathew	Garland
	Sujan George	Carrollton North
13	Alexander Varghese	Coppell
	Biju K. Mathew	Coppell
	Ponnachen K Thomas	Carrollton East
	Cyril Varughese	Irving
14	Nigil Thomas Thaimuriyil	Irving
	Sosamma Thomas	Coppell
	Sara Chacko	Carrollton West
	Nivin Mathew	Dallas / Mesquite
	Rubin Philip	Coppell

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

17	Suja Thomas	Garland
	Nissi A Chacko	Garland
	Maher Adam Ismael	Coppell
	Justin Joseph	Coppell
	Maher Esmail	Coppell
	Johan S Kovoor	Plano
	Mary Oommen	Other Area
18	Laila O Thomas	Carrollton North
	Alex K Chacko	Carrollton West
	Leyah Grace Philip	Irving
	Sheena R Abraham	Coppell
	Bijo K Abraham	Dallas / Mesquite
19	Jason Jacob	Dallas / Mesquite
	Jincy Sunny Mathew	Irving
	Viji Thomas	Irving
20	Shaun C Alexander	Garland
	Salina S George	Carrollton East
21	Tania Sara Bijili	Carrollton East
	Nathan Varghese	Carrollton North
	Mariamamma Thaimuriyil	Irving
22	Sharon Abraham	Garland
	Raju George	Dallas / Mesquite
	Susy Philip	Irving
	Libin Mathew Abey	Irving
	Iype Chacko	Other Area
23	Lejoy Mathew	Garland
	Ashwin V Alexander	Coppell
	Sumitha Rachel Cherian	Irving
	Nisha Skariah	Irving
24	Wesley S. Mathews	Coppell
	Sunoj J Mathew	Irving
24	Noah. J. Chacko	Plano
25	George Varghese	Coppell
	Ricky Abraham	Irving
	Liju John	Dallas / Mesquite
	Sophia Ann Mathew	Carrollton North
	Oommen Varghese	Carrollton East
26	Biji Chacko	Coppell
	Lauren A. Thomas	Carrollton West
	Stephen C Mathew	Carrollton East
27	Thomas Mathew	Garland
	Christian Biju Varghese	Coppell
	Reena Abraham	Carrollton North
	Dr. Sumna Kuruvilla	Other Area