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(This newsletter is for private circulation only)

Published by **P. M. Jacob**, Parish Secretary
For and on behalf of Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston
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Immanuel Mar Thoma Church

Houston, TX



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FEB. 2024

Feb. 04 Jesus Christ who Heals			
08.00 am	English HQ assisted by Sharon area prayer group	Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	2 King. 20: 1-11 Acts. 14: 8:15 James 5: 13-18 St. John 9: 1-11
10.30 am	Malayalam HQ assisted by Sinai area prayer group	Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	2 King. 20: 1-11 Acts. 14: 8:15 James 5: 13-18 St. John 9: 1-11
Feb 11 Pethurtha –Beginning of the Great Lent			
8.00 am	G3 & English HQ assisted by YF	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Eze. 18:21-32 2 Cor . 5:17-21 Rom. 13:11-14 St. John 2: 1-11
10.30 am	Malayalam HQ assisted by Tabor area prayer group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Eze. 18:21-32 2 Cor . 5:17-21 Rom. 13:11-14 St. John 2: 1-11
Feb. 18 The compassionate touch of Jesus Christ that sanctifies			
10.30 am	English HQ assisted by Bethel area prayer group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	2 king. 5:1-14 Acts. 10:34-43 1John 1: 5-10 St. Matt. 8:1-4
Feb. 25 Jesus Christ who leads to holistic healing			
08.00 am	G3 CFF & English HQ assisted by CFF	Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	2 king. 4:16-37 Acts. 5:12-16 Eph. 2: 1-8 Luke. 5: 17-26
10.30 am	Malayalam HQ assisted by the Bethlehem area prayer group	Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	2 king. 4:16-37 Acts. 5:12-16 Eph. 2: 1-8 Luke. 5: 17-26
Mar. 3 Jesus Christ who redeems all			
08.00 am	English HQ assisted by Carmel area prayer group	Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Gen. 12: 1-9 Acts. 8: 26-40 Rom. 15: 14-21 St. Mark 7: 24-30
10.30 am	Malayalam HQ assisted by Ebenezer area prayer group	Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Gen. 12: 1-9 Acts. 8: 26-40 Rom. 15: 14-21 St. Mark 7: 24-30

2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICE BEARERS		
Vicar	Rev. Dr. Eappen Varghese	713.330.5299
Assistant Vicar	Rev. Santhosh Thomas	832.837.4721
Vice President	Mr. K.K. John	713.408.0865
Secretary	Mr. P.M. Jacob	832.567.0745
Treasurer	Mr. T.V. Mathew	281.499.7414
Accountant	Mr. John K. Philip	832.744.0271
Lay Leader (Malayalam)	Mr. Saji John	847.903.6505
Lay Leader (English)	Mr. Navid John	281.788.6233
AREA REPRESENTATIVES		
Bethel	Mr. Mathews Varghese	832.205.6860
Bethlehem	Mr. Varghese Rajesh Mathew	832.630.0748
Carmel	Mrs. Mariamma Oommen	281.734.7093
Ebenezer	Mr. K.T. Sajee	281.750.5141
Hebron	Mrs. Susmy Prasanth	713.923.0778
Horeb	Mr. Rajan Daniel	832.628.5481
Jerusalem	Mr. Daniel Varghese	908.591.3621
Salem	Mrs. Annamma Jacob	832.332.1007
Sehion	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	516.467.7926
Sharon	Mrs. Elizabeth Benni	832.462.9383
Sinai	Mr. Philip Mathew	682.246.1255
Tabor	Mr. John Varghese	281.746.0005
CHURCH ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES		
Choir	Mr. Derrick Kurian	832.744.1664
Edavaka Mission	Mr. Mathew T. Scaria	281.857.5611
Senior Fellowship	Mrs. Sara Philip	281.889.8566
Sevika Sanghom	Mrs. Lata Mathews	832.205.6861
Sunday School	Mrs. Bincy Puthenmadathil	832.215.2462
Young Family Fellowship	Mr. Ninan Philip Kalloor	281.995.8124
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Alan John	832.877.6873
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Sajan John	832.429.5353
DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY & MANDALAM MEMBERS		
Diocesan Assembly	Mr. Binu Pappachan	405.922.5716
Diocesan Assembly	Ms. Jewel Zachariah	832.334.8622
Diocesan Assembly	Mr. Siju Philip	516.503.5589
Sabha Mandalam	Mr. M.G. Mathew	281.857.3088
OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS		
IMC Administrator Scheduler	Mr. Zachariah Koshy	281.780.9764
IMC Facility Manager	Mr. John Varghese	832.938.8664
IMC Facility Manager	Mr. John P. Mathew	832.656.1836
Technology Director	Mr. Abraham Kurien	832.623.2330
AUDITORS		
Auditor	Mr. John Varghese	832.938.8664
Auditor	Mr. Aju John	832.846.0763

Birth Announcements

A baby boy Malachi Abraham was born to Mr. Gene Abraham and Jennifer on January 1st, 2024. Grandparents: Mr. George and Leena Abraham of the Bethlehem area.

A baby girl Elaia Jose was born to Mrs. Jenny Zachariah & Mr. Joshua Jose on January 19th, 2024. Grandparents: Mr. & Mrs. Zacharia Koshy of the Bethel area.

Congratulations to the proud parents and grandparents!

Jubilee Project Update:

The city of Stafford has approved and stamped the drawings that are needed for the construction.

The building committee has shortlisted one construction company and is in the process of finalizing the steps necessary to sign a contract with them.

Efforts are underway to collect the needed funds for the construction of our Jubilee project by taking personal loans from our members at 4.50% interest rate. Members will be paid interest at the end of each year, though they have the option to return the interest amount paid to them back to the church. The minimum loan amount was set at 10,000 dollars.

Please consider this request prayerfully.

THE GREATEST

God	-	the greatest lover
So Loved—		the greatest degree
The world	-	the greatest company
That He gave	-	the greatest act
His only begotten son	-	the greatest gift
That whosoever	-	the greatest opportunity
Believeth	-	the greatest simplicity
In Him	-	the greatest attraction
Should not perish	-	the greatest promise
But	-	the greatest difference
Have	-	the greatest certainty
Eternal life	-	the greatest possession

- John L. Davies

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK



Ink Pot
February

RESET YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Reset our spiritual life. We are entering into the Great Lent, the beautiful time in the church calendar, worshiping the passion, suffering, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the time we bow down and worship the Lord. Bowing down is a very beautiful spiritual exercise. When we bow down, it reminds us to put down our ego, selfishness, pride, jealousy, envy, and the like. It also reminds us to submit to the Lord and surrender to His will. The music and the chants are of sadness. But we look forward to Easter, the resurrection of our Lord, and the transformation and newness that has been brought to our life. By bowing down and worshipping God, let's reset our lives.

Let's reset our life by fasting and praying. During this time of Great Lent, all of us set aside time to fast and pray. There is no lent without fasting. Rather than a ritual, fasting is a spiritual, theological, and faith expression. In the Old Testament, we read about the 'breaking of the fast' by Adam and Eve by eating the fruit. Jesus our Lord began His ministry with fasting and praying. The result of Adam's failure is the expulsion from paradise and death. The result of Jesus, our Lord's victory is the destruction of death and the restoration of humans to paradise. In this perspective, fasting is revealed to us as something decisive and ultimate in its importance. It is not merely a custom or tradition or obligation; it relates to the very mystery of life and death, of salvation and damnation.

Reset our life with deep love. It is a time to reset our relationships; husband and wife, parents and children, siblings each other, church as a community, and professional relation. The whole worship of lent and passion will be meaningful if we receive the love of Jesus our Lord and share the same. Our Lord manifested divine love throughout his life on earth, especially in passion. As a symbol of his love, he washed the feet of his disciples. St. John says: "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." The end is just like emptying the cup after finishing a drink. There is nothing left. The imagery is perfect for the perfect love. Let our love for each other be the same. So, let's reset our relationship. Organize the work schedule and life schedule accordingly to attend all the worship services. Reduce food, and screen time, slow down in life, enjoy silence, and refresh our life. Read Scripture and a devotional book. Let's reconcile and restore our relationship. Fill the love of our Lord in us and share the same love with all.

May God bless you all

Rev. Dr. Eappen Varghese
Vicar

CALENDAR

February 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6 AM Prayer 7.30 PM MTVEA prayer	2 6 AM Prayer 10 AM Fasting Prayer	3 10 AM Senior Fellowship 12 Engagement 6 PM Prayer Jerusalem
4 8 AM English HQ 9.30 AM Sunday School 10.30 AM Mal. HQ	5 6 AM Prayer 7.30 PM MTVEA Diocesan Prayer	6 6 AM Prayer	7 6 AM Prayer 8 PM Bible Study	8 6 AM Prayer 7.30 PM MTVEA	9 6 AM Prayer 10 PM Fasting Prayer 7 PM Prayer Carmel	10 9.30 AM Sevika Sanghom 12 Baptism 6 PM Prayer
11 8 AM G3 & English HQ 9.30 AM Sunday School 10.30 AM English HQ	12 6 Prayer 7 PM Lent prayer	13 6 AM Prayer 7 PM Lent Prayer	14 6 AM Prayer 8 PM Bible Study	15 6 AM Prayer 7 PM Lent Prayer	16 6 AM Prayer 7 PM Lent Prayer	17 9.30 AM Sevika Sanghom 7 PM Prayer Jerusalem
18 9.30 AM Sunday School 10.30 AM English HQ	19 6 AM prayer 7 PM Lent Prayer	20 6 AM Prayer 7 PM Lent Prayer	21 6 PM Prayer 8 PM Bible Study	22 6 AM Prayer 7 PM Lent Prayer	23 6 AM Prayer 10 AM Fasting Prayer 5 PM Rehearsal 7 PM Lent Prayer	24 3 PM Marriage 7 PM YFF
25 8 AM G3 CFF & Eng. HQ 9.30 AM Sunday School 10.30 AM Mal. HQ	26 6 Am Prayer 7 PM Lent Prayer	27 6 am prayer 7 PM Lent Prayer	28 6 AM Prayer 8 PM Lent Prayer	29 6 AM Prayer 7 Lent Prayer		

FEB BIBLE QUIZ QUESTIONS

Bible portion: Ecclesiastes 1-12 chapters

- Guard your steps when you go to the -- -- -- .Fill the gap.
- We read sorrow is better than laughter in Ecclesiastes. Why ?.
- What brightens a man's face and changes its hard appearance ?.
- A little folly outweighs wisdom and honor is compared to what ?.
- What does Ecclesiastes say about whole duty of man ?.

Answers for January Quiz { Proverbs 21-31}

- 21:24, 2. 29:11, 3. 27:12, 4. 26:12, 5. 31:30.

FEBRUARY 2024 WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Kevin Mathew Thomas & Sherry Joshy	1-Feb
Mathew Cherian & Smitha Saira Mathew	1-Feb
Bivin Varghese George & Glenu Elizabeth Zachariah	2-Feb
Binu Benneykutty & Jerin Joy	4-Feb
Koshy P. Mathew & Ramani Mathew	5-Feb
Jacob K Chacko & Annie Jacob	6-Feb
Jose P. George & Mariamma George	8-Feb
Thomas Stephen & Shiney SusanThomas	8-Feb
Jijo Philip Varughese & Shiji Kuruvilla	8-Feb
George Mathew & Geena M. George	9-Feb
Biju T. Mathew & Susan Mathew	9-Feb
Samuel M. Varghese & Sosamma Samuel	10-Feb
Abraham Mathew & Anitha Mathew	11-Feb
Shaji Samuel & Ruby Varghese	11-Feb
Robin Tristan Mathew & Jincy Thankan Cherian	11-Feb
Shiju Kuruvilla & Smilo Kuruvilla	11-Feb
Dr. Jacob Manoor Thomas & Sara Thomas	14-Feb
Varghis George & Sheela George	15-Feb
Chacko Thottiyil &	16-Feb
Ninan Philip Kalloor & Bindhu Samuel	16-Feb
Thoongupla Varghese John & Mariama John	17-Feb
Abey V. Kunjumon & Purva Vinay Panchal	18-Feb
Monachan Thomas & Marykutty M. Thomas	18-Feb
Thomas Abraham Pullattu & Gracy Thomas	18-Feb
Kurien T. Idiculla & Aleyamma Idiculla	19-Feb
Mathew P. Easow & Sindhu P. Mathew	20-Feb
Thomas Mathew & Susan Samuel	20-Feb
Mathew P Mathai & Mariamma Philip	20-Feb
Dr. Cherry Mathew & Dr. Lila Cherry	23-Feb
Varghis G. Kattappuram & Susan V. Kattappuram	23-Feb
Georgi Kuruvilla & Annie Kuruvilla	25-Feb
Raju M. Karikottu & Elizabeth Raju	26-Feb



FEBRUARY 2024 BIRTHDAYS (CONT)



Amminiamma George	17-Feb	Julia S. George	24-Feb
Emmy Chacko		Jacob John	
Tissy Mary Itty		Sheeba Pappachen	
Aleena Varghese		Justin K. Varghese	
Paul Thomas Varghese		Riyah Mary Abraham	
Aleyamma John Kalathoor	18-Feb	Ethan Sajan	26-Feb
Sheeja Thomas		Lida Susan Abraham	
Mariamamma K. Samuel		Ani Johnson	
Daniel Kallathoor		Ramani Mathew	
Seth M. Kurian		George C. Thomas	
Teia Mary Samuel		Grace Archibold	
Rimla Anna Paul		Joseph Nikhil Samuel	
Nikhil George		Aju Kurien John	
Sam Thomas		Elaine Susanna Thayil	
Thomas V. Mathew		Sibil Thomas	
Rajiv N Jacob	19-Feb	Rebecca Raju	27-Feb
Rianna Samantha George	20-Feb	Susamma John	
Jose P Abraham		Reena Mammen	
Sharon Ann Abraham		Binu George	
Neha Merlin Kuruvilla	21-Feb		
Abraham Kurien			
Jamie S. Thomas			
Kevin Mathew Thomas			
Sandra Varghese			
Betsy Varghese	22-Feb		
Selin Chandy			
Cherian Palackamannil Mathew			
Praise Reggy Varghese	23-Feb		
Ann Reshma Abraham			



CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Anitha Saji, 55 years old, sister-in-law of Mr. Bhasilal Mathai and Valsa Mathai, ID # 224, of the Sharon area prayer group was called to eternal rest on December 29th in Houston. Funeral service will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at the St. Stephen's Orthodox church, Houston.

Mrs. Achiamma Mathew, 89 years old, mother of Mr. Cherian Mathew, ID # 639, of the Sinai prayer group was called to eternal rest in Kerala.

Mr. Mathai Samuel, 95 years old, father of Mr. Sam Thomas, ID # 239, of the Carmel area prayer group and brother-in-law of Mrs. Ponnamma George (ID # 219) of the Carmel prayer group was called to eternal rest in Anjal, Kerala.

Mr. Mathew Ninan, 81 years old, brother of Mrs. Annamma Mathew (id # 631) of the Bethlehem prayer group was called to eternal rest in Pearland Texas on 11th January.

Mrs. Mary Oommen, 74 years old, mother of Mr. Shawn Samuel Oommen (id # 452) of the Jerusalem prayer group was called to eternal rest in Los Angeles, CA.

Mrs. Mariamma Abraham, 83 years old, sister of Mrs. Rachelamma Thekethundiyl (id # 183) of the Bethel prayer group, and aunt of Mr. Joe Eapen (id# 203), and cousin of Mr. T.V. Mathew (id # 115) was called to eternal rest in Houston, TX.

Mrs. Annamma Thomas, 80 years old, sister of Mr. Mammen Mathew (id # 104) of the Horeb prayer group and Mr. Sam Mathew (ID # 241) of the Salem prayer group was called to eternal rest in Chengannur, Kerala.

The Vicars and members of the Immanuel Parish express our heartfelt condolences. Let us uphold the bereaving family members in our thoughts and prayers.

The Theme for 2024: New Creation

2 Corinthians 5: 17. Therefore, if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!

Inculcate:

1. Listen to others with respect.
2. Speak with truth and gentleness.
3. Forgive

Read the Bible completely in one year. Read 4 chapters every day. You can complete the Bible in one year.

ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School	Sunday school starts @ 9.30 am
Sevika Sanghom	Prayer meetings: 2nd, 3rd Sat. @ 9.30 am
Edavaka Mission	Prayer Meeting @ 7.30 pm (1st, 2nd Thursday)
Senior Fellowship	Feb. 03: Monthly Prayer Meeting @ 10.00 am Feb 15: Holy Qurbana @ 10.00 am Feb 22: Pakal Veedu gathering @ 10.00 am
YFF	Feb 24: Prayer meeting @ 7.00 pm
LENT Prayer	Feb 12 –March 22 @ 7.00 pm at homes
AREA PRAYER GROUPS	<p>Jerusalem area prayer meeting: Saturday February 3rd, at 6.00 pm at the residence of Mr. Thomas Mathen (ID # 449). Address: 27130 Horizon bay lane, Katy, TX. 77494.</p> <p>Prayer group representative to the executive committee will be elected during this prayer.</p> <p>Carmel area prayer meeting: Friday February 9th, at 7.00 at the residence of Mr. Koshy P. Mathew (ID # 148). Address: 4526 Ring Rose, Missouri City, TX 77459</p> <p>Prayer group representative to the executive committee will be elected during this prayer.</p> <p>Jerusalem area prayer meeting: Saturday February 17th, at 7.00 at the residence of Mr. Varghese John (ID # 634). Address: 8111 Peralta Valley Ct., Richmond, TX 77407</p>

11th Southwest Regional conference of MTVEA, Sevika Sanghom, and Sr. Fellowship will be conducted on March 8th Friday & 9th Saturday, 2024 at the Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Farmers Branch. Further details will be given later. Please mark your calendars and save the date. Kindly remember the conference in your prayers.

FEBRUARY 2024 BIRTHDAYS

Name	B Day		
Anikutty John			
Ammini George		Leena Daniel	9-Feb
Annie Koruthu		Grace Ann Jacob	
Jobin M. Jose		Julie Mathew	
Caleb David Kurien		Manoj S. Raju	10-Feb
John P Abraham		Julie Reggy Varghese	
C.P. Mathews		Richard Philip	
Abraham Mathew		Nyla Rose Mathew	
M. John Thomas	1-Feb	Sherly Mariam Mathew	11-Feb
Aleyamma Kurian		Jocelyn Ann Thomas	
George Joseph		Kunjamma Abraham	
Annas M. Varughese		Joseph John	
Rachel Emily George		Terin V. Philip	
Dhanya Mariam Koruthu		Lata Mathews	
Asha Roy	2-Feb	Ani P. Varghese	
Sheryll Mathew		Sarah Leethi Cherian	
Nathaniel Josiah John	3-Feb	Titus Eapen	
Shane Bobby Kalathoor		Divina Ann Mathew	
Brian Binoy		Vinod Thomas	
Ethan Daniel Cherian		Samuel C. Mathew	12-Feb
Saro Kurian Thomas		Lally George	
Sam Abraham		Job Kandathiel Joji	
Julia Varghese	4-Feb	Binu Alexander	
Dr. Sheila Mary Thomas		Jamy Abraham	
Diana Varghese		Varghese Zachariah	13-Feb
Steve K. Joshy		Kuruvilla John	
Mariamamma Oommen		Neva Angie Kuruvilla	
Dinu Joseph	5-Feb	Alex Varghese	
Susan Rachel Varghese	6-Feb	Ben Sebastain Varghese	
Noel J. Varkey		Robin M. Thomas	
Sosamma Chacko		Christian Joseph Ninan	
Abriel R. Johnson	7-Feb	Grace Elizabeth Abraham	
Shanon Sarene Mathew		Thomas Philip Abraham	14-Feb
Anu Shibu		Mathew Daniel	
Reena M. Varghese	8-Feb	Shawn T. Jacob	
		Mariamamma John	
		Abel R. Eapen	
		Roni Regi	15-Feb
		Bobby Kalathoor	
		Molykutty Thomas	
		Jayson John	
		Gaurav George Varghese	
		Bettina Manoj Raju	
		Gracy Mathai	16-Feb