

St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, NY

34 Morris Street, Yonkers, NY 10705
<http://www.stthomasmtc.org>

February  **2012**

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WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Our Worship Services will be conducted downstairs while the sanctuary is being renovated.

| Date | Time | Worship |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Sun, Feb 5 | 9:00 am 10:30 am | Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Class Holy Communion Service, <u>English</u> |
| Sun, Feb 12 | 9:30 am 10:30 am | Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Intercessory Prayer Holy Communion Service, <u>English</u> |
| Sun, Feb 19 | 9:30 am 10:30 am | Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Class Holy Communion Service, <u>Malayalam</u> |
| Sun, Feb 26 | 9:30 am 10:30 am | Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Class Holy Communion Service, <u>Malayalam</u> |

MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH OF MALABAR LECTIONARY CHRISTIAN YEAR — 2012 FEBRUARY

| Date | 1st Lesson | 2nd Lesson | Epistle | Gospel |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Sun, Feb 5 | 2 Kings. 2:19-22 | Rev. 22:1-7 | 2 Cor. 12:7-10 | St. Mark. 5:25-34 |
| Sun, Feb 12 | Josh. 6:12-20 | Rev. 22:5-17 | Rom. 13:11-14 | St. Mark. 14:32-42 |
| Sun, Feb 19 | Job. 1:1-5 | Rom. 12:1-15 | 2 Cor. 5:16-21 | St. John. 2:1-11 |
| Sun, Feb 26 | 2 Kings. 5:1-16 | Jam. 2:1-10 | Acts. 5:12-16 | St. Luke. 5:12-16 |

IMPORTANT DAYS IN SABHA/DIOCESAN CALENDAR

| Date | Importance of the Day |
|-------------|---|
| Thu, Feb 1 | Mayaltho: Presentation of our Lord in the Temple- (End of Three Day Fast) |
| Sun, Feb 5 | Medical Mission Sunday. 'Healing to the Nation and people' |
| Sun, Feb 12 | 117th Maramon Convention Begins- 'Arise Let us go forward' |
| Sun, Feb 19 | Pethurtha: Beginning of Great Lent End of Maramon Convention |
| Mon, Feb 20 | Shubkono: Service of Reconciliation during Great Lent |
| Sun, Feb 26 | The Compassion of our Lord (2nd Sunday in Lent) |

~Vicar's Message~

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the matchless name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ! The month of February is very important as far as our Church is concerned. Maramon Convention begins on 12th of this month. The main theme for this year's convention is "Arise, let us be going" based on the Biblical passage Matt.26: 46



The theme reminds us of our mission in the society. Listening to the word of God must challenge us for the mission. As Emil Bruner says, "church exists by its mission as fire exist by burning." Church is a called out community. That is precisely the root word for church –ecclesia- implies. At the same time we are send in to the world with a mission to accomplish – to transform the world.

The 50 days great lent commence on February 19. Observance of lent has become a mere ritual or a convention now a days. The deep meaning and significance of lent and fasting is to be rediscovered. Last year when we observed lent we made certain concrete practical resolutions - 'fast from anger and hatred; fast from judging others; fast from discouragement; fast from complaining; fast from resentment and bitterness and fast from spending too much money. Let us make a sincere diagnosis on our own life whether we could make any difference in our mind set and attitude towards others by the observance of fast and lent. If not, this is the time for repentance and renewal of our resolutions.

In the book of Isaiah chapter 58 we see a critique of the futility of the pseudo fasting of the people and a call for real fasting which is well pleasing and acceptable to the Lord. The community's fasting is ineffectual because it fast to cover the life that is selfish, unjust and violent. "Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist." (vv.3b-4a). Isaiah exhorts us the true purpose of fasting as to instill the virtue of humility and commitment to justice. "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" (v. 6) True fasting is not just abstinence from certain quality food (of course it involves abstinence from all sorts of extravagance) but the deliberate choice to give to those in need. Let us resolve to set apart our material resources during this lent season to give shelter to the homeless and to feed the hungry and care the most unfortunate brothers and sisters of our community. It is also the time for re -establishing our lost harmony with God and our fellow beings.

Yours in His Service,

Rev. Joseph Johnny
Vicar



EVENING LENT & AREA PRAYER

| Area | Date & Time | Location |
|--|------------------------|---|
| Manhattan/NJ | Sat, Feb 4 6:00pm | Mr. Varkey Uthup New Milford, NJ |
| Yonkers South (McLean Ave) / Bronx | Sun, Feb 5 6:30pm | Mr. M. J. George Yonkers, NY |
| Upper West- chester / CT | Sat, Feb 11 6:30pm | Mr. Pallickal Easo Koshy Scarsdale, NY |
| Queens / Long Island | TBA | TBA |
| Yonkers East (Central Ave) | Sat, Feb 18 7:00pm | Dr. Varghese Abraham Yonkers, NY |
| Rockland | Sun, Feb 19 6:30pm | Mr. Thomas John Spring Valley, NY |
| Evening Lent Prayer | Mon, Feb 20 6:30pm | Mr. Jacob Vaidian Yonkers, NY |
| Evening Lent Prayer | Tue, Feb 21 6:30pm | Mr. John K. Abraham Spring Valley, NY |
| Evening Lent Prayer | Wed, Feb 22 6:30pm | Mr. John Kurian Spring Valley, NY |
| Evening Lent Prayer | Thu, Feb 23 6:30pm | TBA |
| Evening Lent Prayer | Fri, Feb 24 6:30pm | TBA |

| Area | Date & Time | Location |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Yonkers West (Church-Riverdale) | Sat, Feb 25 6:30pm | Mr. Varghese Jacob Yonkers, NY |
| Yonkers North (Broadway) | TBA | TBA |
| Evening Lent Prayer | Mon, Feb 27 6:30pm | Mr. Thomas V. Varghese White Plains, NY |
| Evening Lent Prayer | Tue, Feb 28 6:30pm | Mr. M. J. George Yonkers, NY |
| Evening Lent Prayer | Wed, Feb 29 6:30pm | Mr. M. C. Chacko Spring Valley, NY |

MONTHLY FASTING PRAYER

| Event | Date & Time | Location |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Monthly Fasting Prayer | Sat, Feb 18, 10:00 am | Mr. P. John Joseph Yonkers, NY |

Organizational Meetings

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Schools Starts at 9:00AM every Sunday

EDAVAKA MISSION

Prayer Meeting at Church every Wednesday at 7:00 PM
Except

| Edavaka Mission | Date & Time | Location |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Wednesday prayer | Wed, Feb 1, 7:00 pm | Mr. Abraham Koshy Pelham, NY |

SEVIKA SANGHAM

Bible Study - 3rd Sunday at Church

Friday Prayer Meeting

| Sevika Sangham | Date & Time | Location |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Friday Prayer | Fri, Feb 3, 9:30 am | Mrs. Sherly Vaidyan Hartsdale, NY |
| Friday Prayer | Fri, Feb 10 9:30am | Mrs. Saramma Jolly Yonkers, NY |
| Friday Prayer | Fri, Feb 17, 9:30 am | Mrs. Sosamma Joseph Yonkers, NY |
| Friday Prayer | Fri, Feb 24, 9:30 am | Mrs. Aleyamma Thomas Yonkers, NY |

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

| Event | Date & Time | Location |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Cottage Prayer | TBA | TBA |

YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

| Event | Date & Time | Location |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Fellowship Meeting | TBA | TBA |

Senior Citizen Fellowship

| Event | Date & Time | Location |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Fellowship Meeting | Sun, Feb 12 | At Church |

Youth Chaplain's Corner

Greetings in the name of One Triune God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The month of February is very memorable to many of us. The United States of America observes this month as African-American month, Valentine's Day is celebrated in honor of love, and after all it is the shortest month of the year with 28 days. For the Mar Thoma Church too this month is a special month. Maramon convention is held this month and most importantly the liturgical season of the church begins this month, the *Great Lent Season*. Lent is a term derived from Anglo-Saxon and means "long days" or spring. Christian church observed this time as a period of fasting and penitence for all in preparation for Easter. Jesus prepared for his ministry during forty days of fasting and wrestling with temptation in wilderness. I personally encourage all the Youths to participate in this lent by giving up certain things that you cannot live without and spending more time in prayers and meditations and also mending broken relationships. I praise God for the Youths of our region. The activities organized by the region and Diocese were well received and were a blessing to many. Christmas choir festival went well and Rev. Joseph Johnny gave a blessed and challenging message to the participants of that event. A good number of Youth fellowship members from our region attended the Diocesan Leadership conference hosted by St. Mark's MTC, Tampa, Florida. All those who attended this conference gained a new perspective and appreciation for our church and its ministry in this Diocese. The Young Women's one-day conference held at Long Island Mar Thoma Church, Merrick, NY was well attended and received many inspiring feedbacks. This conference included a service activity that created care packages for victimized women of Domestic Violence living in a shelter in NYC. This was a moving experience to all. St. Thomas MTC Youth Fellowship members visited St. Joseph's Nursing Home at Yonkers, NY and Richmond Children's Center on Christmas Eve and sang carols to Senior Citizens and mentally challenged children. God is calling our youths to identify with the needs and agenda of God's kingdom on this earth. The activities and involvement of our Youths reveal God's presence with us and that is moving, challenging and redeeming our faith community. May God bless you all.

Youth Chaplain's February 2012 Schedule:

1st Sunday St. Andrews Mar Thoma Church
2nd Sunday Epiphany Mar Thoma Church
3rd Sunday St. John's Mar Thoma Church
4th Sunday St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church

*Individual parish Youth Fellowship Bible studies throughout the month

Weekly Bible Study:

When: Every Thursday

Time: 8:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M

Where: Youth Chaplain's Parsonage- 194 Bregman Ave, New Hyde Park, NY, 11040

Contact: 516-437-0425/516- 532-6115 or bsimonachen@gmail.com

Events of the Region:

Workshop on Holy Qurbana: This workshop is intended for those who are interested in learning more about Holy Qurbana service in the Mar Thoma Church, especially for those who are Lay Leaders and assist in the Holy Qurbana Service in the churches.

Venue: St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Yonkers, NY

Date: February 26th Sunday, 2012

Time: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

If undelivered

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St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church
34 Morris Street

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