# MAY NEWSLETTER

#### EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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# From Vicar's Desk

#### **MAY 2023**

#### Acts1:3

'After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.'

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

By the grace of God, we are given one more Easter Season in our life. This is the period when the Church is remembering and celebrating the resurrection of our blessed Lord from the dead and ascension into heaven. Jesus died on a cross. He was buried. The tomb was sealed. On the third day the "very large stone" over the entrance was rolled back. A messenger says, "He has been raised; he is not here." Christ's victory over sin and death is our hope of eternal life and eternal happiness, and it should be the motive force of our entire lives.

The greatest of all God's blessings is the assurance of his living presence with us. If we know he is with us, we don't need to worry. It is significant that while the Gospel of Mathew ends with the promise of Jesus' universal and eternal presence with all his people, John's Gospel ends with his actual presence with his disciples at work. Jesus recognizes the sanctity of work. He reveals himself to those who love him and faithfully fulfil whatever task he has given them to do. He is with us in all life situations, and his ultimate call to us is always "Follow me".

Sunday May 7th we will observe as Mother's Day. 'Mother is the most beautiful word on the lips of mankind. she is our consolation in sorrow, our hope in misery, and our strength in weakness.' (Khalil Gibran). Let us thank God for our mothers and their selfless love, dedication, care, and faithfulness. I wish God's blessings and favor on all mothers of our parish.

Sunday May 21st will be observing as Choir Sunday. Music is a living expression of faith, it can amuse, charm, annoy and challenge, it can provide comfort and can be incredibly uplifting; For I am convinced that God has given us all gifts, and we should use them to his glory. Thanks to all our Choir Members!

Annual Sunday School examination is near. May I request to all parents to make sure your children's participation in Sunday School examination.

As we commemorate Memorial Day this month, let us thank God for the freedom that we enjoy, both worldly and spiritually (freedom from sin and death). Let us also thank God for the lives of those who died, so that we can enjoy the freedom that many strived to defend.

Let us acknowledge God's presence and providence we experienced throughout the faith Journey, which are beyond our measure. Here I request your wholehearted prayer and support to all the activities of the Church. I do believe nothing is important than being in the will of God. Please keep me and family in your prayers as you are in ours.

Love and blessings, now and always.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. George Abraham Vicar Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church, New York. Message from Youth Chaplain

MAY 2023 MESSAGE

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Let us praise the Lord for all His blessings throughout the last four months. As we welcome the fifth

month, let us see to it that we can move forward with thanksgiving in our hearts. Thankfulness is

foundational to the Christian life. It is a conscious response from looking beyond our blessings to their

source. Our life should be a response to thanksgiving, in all that we live for, understand human life is a

gift from God and our life should be a gift given to God through surrendering ourselves to His will. We

always pray to God for His blessings, realize that God wants to bless us. He wants to continually give us

gifts in ways that we can never expect. But as much as we are blessed, how much are we able to bless

others? By blessing others around us, we are gifting our life to God. Just see in which ways we are

comfortable and think about those who are not fortunate to be as comfortable as we are. Can our resources

and our existence guide them to be brought to our attention and are we able to humanize the world around

us?

Campus visits have been a blessing for our youths. I had the opportunity to reach out and visit our youths

locally in New York and travel upstate to Buffalo, Albany, Philadelphia, and New Jersey. Campus visits

are continuing this month as well, let us pray for our college youths especially as this month is filled with

final exams as well as graduation. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the class of 2023

and our prayers continue for all that God has for our youths who are looking forward to the new chapter in

their lives.

Wishing everyone a blessed, bright, and colorful May! God bless all of you!

Much love,

Jess M. George Achen

Rev. Jess M. George

**Youth Chaplain North-East Region** 

Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church

(516)532-6115 (Cell)

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# **Worship Schedule**

Date	Time	Service
May 7 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday Mother's Day Celebration	10.00 AM	HQ Service (English)
May 14 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
May 21 <sup>st</sup> – Sunday Choir Sunday Celebration	10.00 AM	HQ Service (Malayalam)
May 28 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)

# Lectionary

May 7 <sup>th</sup> – Bhoo Bhavana Dana Prasthanam; Remember the little ones; Fourth Sunday after Easter.			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Deut. 15:7-11	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Acts. 4:32-37	
	Epistle	2Cor. 8:1-9	
	Gospel	Matt 25:31-46	
May 14 <sup>th</sup> – Be witnesses of the Ris	en Lord; Fifth Sunday after Easter	r.	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Isa 43: 1-10	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Heb 12: 1-13	
	Epistle	1 Thess 2: 1-12	
	Gospel	Luke 24:36-49	
May 21st – Promise of the Holy Sp	irit.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Isa 59:20-21, 60:1-3	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Acts 1:12-14	
	Epistle	Eph 6:10-20	
	Gospel	John 16:5-13	
May 28 <sup>th</sup> – The Feast of Pentecost (50 <sup>th</sup> Day after Easter); Sacred Music Sunday – Sing to the Lord.			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Joel 2:28-32	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Gal 5:22-26	
	Epistle	Acts 2:1-12	
	Gospel	John 14:14-21	



John C Mathai (Raju)	Aleyamma John	2-May
Mathai Oommen	Rosamma Mathai	10-May
George Thomas	Silvi George	20-May
Alexi Isaac	Beela George	25-May
Rev. George Abraham	Preema Mary Cherian	27-May
Chris John	Seba Samuel John	29-May
Ashok Benjamin Jacob	Lini Mathew	29-May

# Birthday Wishes

Rev. George Abraham	2-May
Rev. Johnson Mathew	2-May
Suja E Ninan	11-May
Ann Susan Mathew	14-May
Amara Rose Ninan	14-May
Joel Anil	14-May
Lini Mathew	14-May
Dr.Christeena Kurian	18-May
Thomas T Samuel	20-May
John Samuel (Kochumon)	25-May
Sheba Tibu	26-May
Mariamma Mathews	30-May
Annamma Thomas	30-May
Viju V Varughese	30-May
Akalon George Ninan	30-May
Idon Uthup Ninan	30-May
Sunitha Jacob	31-May

#### **Bible Reading**



The family of	Date
Philip Parayil	05/07/2023
Kurian A Mathew	05/14/2023
Rachel George	05/21/2023
Ryan K. Varghese	05/28/2023
Saji Thomas	06/04/2023
Thomas K Mathai	06/11/2023
Thomas K. Mathew	06/18/2023
Thomas T Samuel	06/25/2023

#### **Upcoming Events**

- 1. May 7th, 2023, Sunday Mother's Day Celebration
- 2. May 21st, 2023, Sunday Choir Sunday/Dedication
- 3. June 18th, 2023, Sunday 36th Parish Day Celebration (Special Offertory)
- 4. June 18th, 2023, Sunday Father's Day Celebration
- 5. Wednesday Bible Study and Saturday Prayer Meeting at 7:00pm via ZOOM.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSndiQkl2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09

Dial 1 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 812 4392 8868; Passcode: 406406