

JULY NEWSLETTER

EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

From Vicar's Desk

JULY 2023

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“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms”
(1 Peter 4:10)

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

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

July 3rd is well known as St Thomas Day. The day is devoted to Thomas the Apostle. We remember with gratitude the life of St. Thomas, who came to India in A.D 52, and was martyred for preaching the Gospel.

Independence Day, or ‘Fourth of July’, is an important holiday in the United States, marking the official start of American independence and freedom from Great Britain, through the Declaration of Independence. On July 4th, many families and friends meet together for fellowship (as everyone is off from school and work due to this being a federal holiday), and on a public level, there are fireworks shows, parades, carnivals, fairs, outings, picnics, games, etc. which take place. These private and public events focus on celebrating the history, heritage, tradition, culture, and freedom of America. In Paul’s letter to the Galatians, 5:1, he reminds us, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” (NIV).

Independence Day is a time of celebration of the blessings we experience through freedom. However, it is a challenge for one to exercise his/her freedom in a responsible manner, without compromising Christian values and ideals.

Please mark your calendar for our Parish Picnic on Saturday July 15.

Our Sunday school is arranging VBS from July 21-23. Dear children, we will have a great time together as we are going to learn more about the Bible in fun and exciting ways such as singing, hearing stories, playing games, making crafts and more. So please be prepared.

First Sunday of July is set apart as Christian Stewardship –We will be observing Tithe offering as on Sunday July 16, 2023. When you put the Lord first, he promises to open up heaven and pour out his blessings into your life! Throughout the years, God has released great blessings when his children wholeheartedly followed him. If you “Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing.” Proverbs 3:9-10(NIV). What a great promise from Scripture!

Please do join for the Wednesday Bible study and Saturday Prayer meetings. Let us allow the Gospel to infiltrate more of our everyday life. Then we will have the foundation for an effective witness.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued prayers in supporting the ministerial work in our parish. May God continue to bless you all. Prayers for you all.

Yours in Christ’s ministry,

Rev. George Abraham
Vicar
Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church,
New York.

Message from Youth Chaplain

JULY 2023 MESSAGE

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Let us thank God for the blessings we have, to come to the 7th month of this year. As Americans, we will be celebrating the 247th Independence Day on July 4th. Let us thank God for our nation and keep our country and her leaders in prayers for God-given strength and reconciliation in diversity pointing towards Christ-centered living. Let us also praise God for the heritage we have as St. Thomas Christians. We commemorate July 3rd as St. Thomas Day and as we recognize the life of the apostle Thomas, let us also understand even during doubt and uncertainty, we can learn to honestly acknowledge it and grow further in our faith. That is the lesson we learn from St. Thomas, we are also not perfect, but we should grow in faith in our God who is perfect and as St. Thomas claimed out loud, we should recognize and commit to our God personally as “My Lord and My God”.

This July we are looking forward to many great events as a diocese as well as a region. Let us pray for the upcoming family conference in Philadelphia its leaders as well as the delegates. Let us also call to mind the Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference that will be held in Chicago with the theme The Amazing Race. It will be held on July 20-23, 2023. As a region, NERSS Jr. Sr. Conference will be held on July 13-16, our NERYF BBQ will be held on July 28, and our NERYF Mental Health Workshop will be held on August 5th. Let us pray for God’s wisdom and our participation to make all these events for the glory of God. Please support and promote these events. We are still having our weekly Men Bible Studies in person on Wednesdays and Women's Bible Studies online on Saturdays respectively. I am preparing the list of new college students for campus visits for the coming fall and spring semesters 2023-2024, please do reach out to the NERYF Secretary for the QR code and sign up, looking forward to seeing all of you in this new academic year. In the meantime, enjoy this summer! God bless all of you.

Much love,
Jess Achen

Rev. Jess M. George
Youth Chaplain North-East Region
Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church
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Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
July 2 nd – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
July 9 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)
July 16th – Sunday *Tithe Offering Sunday *Clergy Sunday	10.00 AM	HQ Service (Malayalam)
July 23 rd – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
July 30 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	HQ Service (English)

Lectionary

July 2 nd – *Tithe Offering Sunday – Share for the Gospel (5 th Sunday after Pentecost)		
	1 st Lesson	Deut. 14:22-29
	2 nd Lesson	1Tim. 6:17-21
	Epistle	2 Cor. 9:6-12
	Gospel	Luke 3:7-14
July 9 th – *Clergy Sunday – Priests: Ministers of the Kingdom of God (6 th Sunday after Pentecost).		
	1 st Lesson	Ezek. 33:1-9
	2 nd Lesson	1Tim. 6:11-16
	Epistle	Eph. 4:7-16
	Gospel	Matt. 9:35-38
*July 16 th – People of God: The body of Jesus Christ (7 th Sunday after Pentecost).		
	1 st Lesson	Josh. 1:1-9
	2 nd Lesson	1 Cor. 12:27-31
	Epistle	2 Cor. 5:16-21
	Gospel	Matt. 5:43-48
July 23 rd – Good News: Life Through Death (8 th Sunday after Pentecost).		
	1 st Lesson	Deut. 6:1-17
	2 nd Lesson	Eph. 3:1-13
	Epistle	Rom. 8:12-17
	Gospel	John 12:20-26
July 30 th – Holy Spirit who Empowers for Mission (9 th Sunday after Pentecost).		
	1 st Lesson	Isa. 61:1-4
	2 nd Lesson	Acts 1:1-11
	Epistle	Gal. 5:16-24
	Gospel	John 20:19-23



Wedding Anniversary

Saji Thomas	Suja Mary Thomas	4-Jul
Thomas K Mathai	Annamma Thomas	5-Jul
Ben George (Rajan)	Kunjamma Ben	13-Jul
C. S. Chacko (Raju)	Aleyamma Chacko	19-Jul
Thomas K Mathew	Beena Annie Mathew	21-Jul
Ajus K Ninan	Jaimie Cherian	21-Jul



Birthday Wishes

Tony Thomas Mathew	6-Jul
Richy Tom Mathew	15-Jul
Gabriel John	17-Jul
Sara Parayil	25-Jul
Rinju John	25-Jul
Jacob Varughese	30-Jul
Aleyamma John	30-Jul
Sali D Varghese	30-Jul

Bible Reading



The family of....	Date
Tibu C Tharakan	07/02/2023
Titus Samuel	07/09/2023
Viju V Varghese	07/16/2023
Vipin T Kovoov	07/23/2023
Abraham Jacob	07/30/2023
Abraham Oonnoony	08/06/2023
Alexei Isaac	08/13/2023
Benjamin Jacob	08/20/2023
C.S. Chacko (Raju)	08/27/2023

Upcoming Events

1. July 15th, 2023, Saturday- Parish Picnic (Convener: C.S. Chacko/Trustees)
2. *July 16th, 2023, Sunday -
 - a. *Tithe Offering Sunday
 - b. *Clergy Sunday (Clergy Appreciation Day)
3. July 21st, 22nd, & 23rd, 2023 – VBS
4. 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