

# MARCH NEWSLETTER

## EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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### From Vicar's Desk

MARCH 2023

“Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8).

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 in the third month of this New Year. We have started our Lenten Prayers. This is an important part of our spiritual life, tradition, and discipline, as it invites us to reflection, repentance, and renewal. This is a good time to renew and strengthen the practice of family prayer. Fasting is biblical. Fasts enabled the people of God to be closer with God in more deep and profound ways. We see various examples of fasting in the Old and New Testaments. Fasting strengthens our spiritual life. It gives wings to our prayers and energy to give alms for the "least of His little ones." Fasting has been practiced for generations. The Patriarchs and Prophets fasted. For example, Moses fasted 40 days while in the presence of God (Exodus 32:4); Elijah fasted (1 Kings 19:81); Daniel fasted (Daniel 10:3); and our Lord and the Apostles fasted. Furthermore, all of Christ's disciples have fasted since His coming. Remember His words: " But only prayer and fasting can drive this kind out; nothing else can " (St. Matthew 17:21).

In our place of work, we may be asked to complete an employee's self-appraisal, or our employers may conduct an employee appraisal. In schools, students may get a chance to evaluate the teacher or professor at the end of a semester. The purpose of this is for reflection. Being Christians, a critical reflection of the self is necessary. As we enter Great Lent, let us ask ourselves:

- (1) Where have I been in my faith journey?
- (2) Where am I presently in my faith journey?
- (3) Where am I headed in my faith journey?

As the Psalmist says, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." Mid-Lent starts on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March. My dear parishioners, as we embark on our Lenten journey, let us be cheerful and of good heart. Let us thank God for this time of grace and for the opportunity to grow spiritually ourselves, while being conscious of others who may need our help.

We are deeply saddened by the demise of our dear son Jason John. Praise be to God for His blessed life. He was an active member of our Parish. He was a loving Child. He was a kind person to all. He will be dearly missed by his immediate and Ebenezer Church families. We as a parish express our heartfelt condolences to dear John C Uncle and family. May God Almighty Cover you all with His great wings of love and peace.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to office bearers, executive committee members and other spiritual organizations of 2022. The years 2020 -2022 have been years we will never forget for the rest of our lives as the Covid 19 captured the attention of the World. The church family wanted to say a big thank you for your time and effort in helping in our Church ministering during the past years. I appreciate the care, time, and energy you have given. You have raised the level, and your guidance of the team has certainly been exemplary. I really appreciate and may the good Lord reward you abundantly and bless the work of your hands. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate new executive committee for the responsibility that the Lord has given you. May the love of God be upon you as you endeavor to serve in the new roles that the Lord has bestowed upon your shoulders.

Dear Parishioners, we are praying for you all and may the grace of God be with you all always. Wishing you all a blessed Lenten season.

Yours in Christ,

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

## Message from Youth Chaplain

### MARCH 2023 MESSAGE

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Let us thank God that we are blessed to be part of this Lenten journey. Each Sunday of Lent guides us to remember the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. The selfless love of Christ in how He used His time to love us is a reminder that this Lenten journey should be a sharpening experience that helps us understand how we use our time and energy as we move forward. It is a season for us to retrospect and introspect ourselves to see if our commitment to God matches God's commitment to us. We know the answer that it does not. It is vital for us to recognize God committing Himself totally to us through His birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection. Therefore, the time God blesses us to exist in this world should be dedicated to Him. Timothy Keller once said, "if God is not at the center of your life, then something else is". Lent should be an opportunity for us to recognize the things, positions, people, and the like that we put on the throne of our life in which God should be seated. Lent should not be just a 50-day commitment, but rather a call for us to prepare for our lifetime.

Our Men's Bible Study is in person at 8:00 pm, and the Women's Bible Study is on Saturdays at 8 pm on ZOOM. We have WhatsApp groups for both if any of our men or women are willing to be kept up to date about our studies and would like to be added, please reach out to Justeena or me.

Have a blessed Lenten season and Happy March to all!

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)**

## Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
March 5 <sup>th</sup> – Diocesan Sunday Pulpit Exchange – Rev. Jess M George	10.00 AM	HQ Service (English)
March 12 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
March 19 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	HQ Service (Malayalam)
March 26 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)

## Lectionary

March 5 <sup>th</sup> – Jesus Christ who Forgives Sins, Third Sunday of Great Lent.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Isa. 33:13-24
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Heb. 9:11-20
	Epistle	Col. 2:8-15
	Gospel	Mark 2:1-12
March 12 <sup>th</sup> – Jesus Christ who includes All, Fourth Sunday of Great Lent.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Isa. 45:1-8
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Acts. 10:34-43
	Epistle	Gal. 3:23-29
	Gospel	Matt 15:21-28
March 19 <sup>th</sup> – Jesus Christ who Redeems, Fifth Sunday of Great Lent.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Exod. 3:1-10
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	1Pet. 1:18-25
	Epistle	Rom. 3:23-31
	Gospel	Luke 13:10-17
March 26 <sup>th</sup> – Jesus Christ who Leads to New Vision, Thirty-Sixth Sunday.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Ezek. 37:1-14
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Phil. 3:7-16
	Epistle	Col. 3:1-11
	Gospel	Mark 10:46-52



**None**



Reshma M Joseph	3-Mar
Thomas George	3-Mar
Renoj K Varughese	8-Mar
Pearl Varghese	8-Mar
Thomas K. Mathew	10-Mar
Prarthana Susan George	10-Mar
Jephin Varughese Jose	10-Mar
Johannah Parayil	17-Mar
John C Mathai (Raju)	18-Mar
Roshan.T.Samuel	18-Mar
Sneha Anna Thomas	19-Mar
Emima Mary George	23-Mar

## Bible Reading

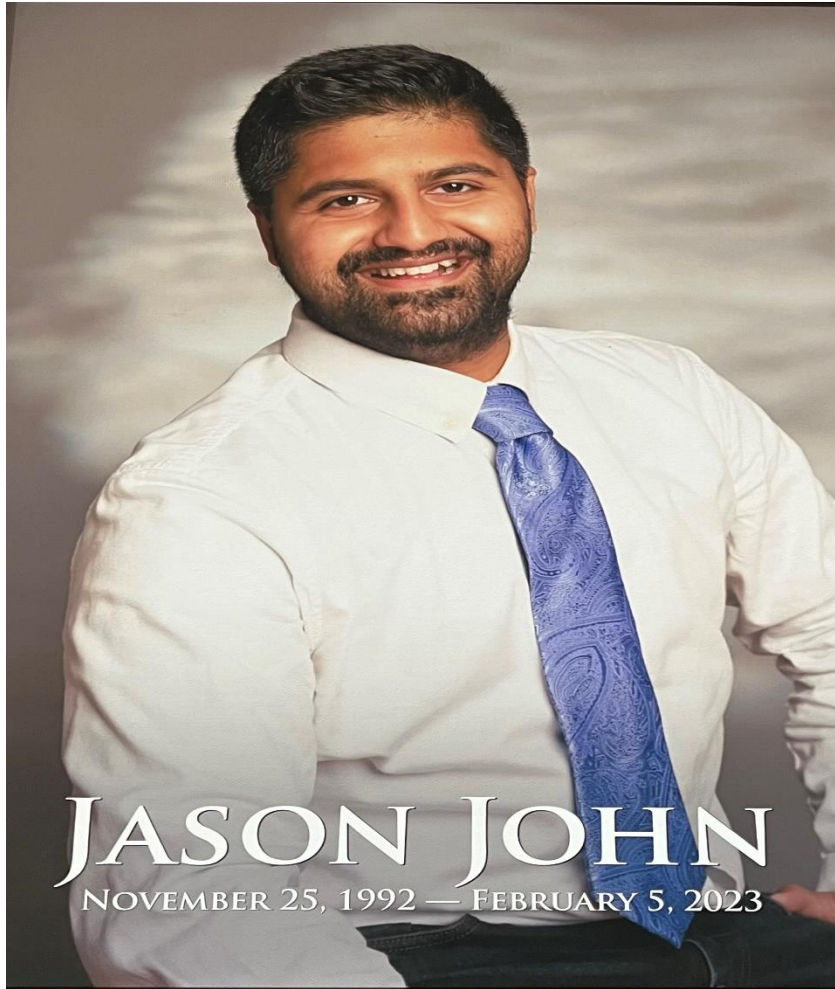


The family of....	Date
C.S. Chacko (Raju)	03/05/2023
Eapen Joseph (Jose)	03/12/2023
George Thomas	03/19/2023
Jacob Mathew	03/26/2023
Jacob Varughese	04/02/2023
John C Mathai (Raju)	04/09/2023
John Samuel (Kochumon)	04/16/2023
Rev. Johnson Mathew	04/23/2023
Jose Cherian	04/30/2023

## Newborn

Mr. Nihal Joseph Easow & Mrs. Roopa Anna Easow are blessed with a baby girl – Norah Ann Easow on 02/10/2023 at 12:56pm. Congratulations to both parents and Grandparents on behalf of Ebenezer Marthoma Church.

## Obituary



Our heart is heavy knowing Jason is no longer with us. Grief never ends, but it changes; it is a passage, not a place to stay; Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of Faith. It is the price of love. Jason was one of the most loving, caring, giving, and empathetic person among our youth. He led his life with an attitude of service to others. He was well known among his friends as someone who brought everyone together. Jason was incredibly loved by all who were lucky enough to know him. Jason had a magnificent personality and spirit, and we will all miss him very much.

We want to express our deepest condolences and prayers for the loss of our beloved son Jason on behalf of Ebenezer Marthoma church office bearers, Executive Committee members, and Parish members. May God hold John C Mathai family at this painful moment and give them comfort as they mourn the untimely death of their child and brother. May our beautiful memories of Jason sustain and bring comfort to all of us during this difficult time. And know Jason is at peace now in heaven with God.

## **Upcoming Events**

1. Great Lent started on 02/19/2023, Sunday; Lenten prayers via Zoom started on 02/20/2023, Monday at 7:00pm and continues. All are requested to join.

**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**