

# JANUARY NEWSLETTER

## EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

### From Vicar's Desk

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Dearly beloved in Christ

God has given us another year to continue our faith journey on this earth. As we are entering into a New Year let us thank God for the manifold blessings that we received as a parish and as families.

When we stand at the threshold of a New Year and look back on the way we have come, we see our record of imperfect endeavors, and shortcomings and sins. But we also see a future bright with promise, like a bud of a rose that has not yet unfolded its petals. God has given us the assurance "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine." (Is. 43:1) With that assurance let us continue our journey through the new year.

Whenever we walk into a new year, there is an expectant air of brighter future. At the same time, there is a certain degree of uncertainty. Every New Year is unique. We can risk the unique roads of the New Year because we have the great assurance that God goes with us on the journey – "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). May God Continue to bless and keep us, make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us in 2022!

We could celebrate Christmas in a meaningful way by sharing the joy with the parishioners by visiting house to house Carol rounds as well as having the blessed get-together in the church.

January 06, we celebrate Denaho, remembering the Baptism of Jesus Christ. Since Jesus was baptized as an adult, some denominations took this event to substantiate their argument for adult baptism. Jesus' baptism and the sacrament of baptism that the Christian church administer are two different ones. Christian baptism is administered as incorporating into the Body of Christ (Church) as well as the sign of dying with Christ and resurrecting for new life. As members of the Mar Thoma Church, we baptize children and include them in the Body of Christ to begin a new life that continues to eternity. We administer adult baptism only to persons who accept Christ through our evangelistic work and for children born of Christian parents we administer child baptism.

I also welcome the newly elected office bearers and the Executive committee -2022 members and pray that their services may be a blessing to us all.

I wish you all a blessed and a happy New Year.

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

### Message from Youth Chaplain

January 2022 Message

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Let us praise God for bringing us to the year 2022. With rising cases of COVID, let us do our part in keeping ourselves and others safe. Let us remember that our God is the one who guided us from the struggles that we faced last year, and He is the same God who is with us and will deliver us from the uncertain times which we face now. It is a call for us to trust Him. Let us pray for our well-being as well as for those around us.

According to the lectionary, this month on January 9th, we commemorate Temperance Day with the theme: overcoming addictions. This world is full of temptations and through that, the human body is prone to many different types of addictions. Let us see our bodies as a sacred space. Let us treat our bodies with respect and dignity. Our bodies do not belong to us, we are not the owners of the body, rather God is the master and owner of it. Can our body be a living offering to God is the question we need to bring to our attention, whatever we put in and whatever we contribute, are we glorifying God? It is not just about drugs or alcohol, but also our diet and mental health. In the technocratic society in which we live, is our wholistic health controlled by selfish desires or God-driven desires? We need to look unto God to abide daily on Him and His will for us. We are timed in the timelessness of God.

The Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference that was supposed to take place in person will be held online this year, let us pray for the conference to be a blessing so that the delegates can live their lives to be a blessing for the Mar Thoma Church. Men's Bible Study is held every Tuesday on Zoom at 8 PM and Women's Bible Studies are held every Wednesday at 8 PM. I urge all youths to participate on these online platforms.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year 2022!

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                    |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| January 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 10:00 AM | Divine Service (Malayalam) |
| January 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00 AM | Divine Service (Malayalam) |
| January 16 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00 AM | HQ Service (English)       |
| January 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 10.00 AM | Divine Service (Malayalam) |
| January 30 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00 AM | HQ Service (Malayalam)     |

## Lectionary

| We are called to Evangelize                            |                        |                 |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| January 2 <sup>nd</sup>                                | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | Exod 3:1-17     |
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | Acts 16:6-10    |
|  | Epistle                | Acts 26:19-23   |
|  | Gospel                 | Luke 10:1-11    |
| Temperance<br>Sunday                                   |                        |                 |
| January 9 <sup>th</sup>                                | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | Josh 7:16-26    |
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | Eph 5:8-21      |
|  | Epistle                | 1 Chr 6:9-11    |
|  | Gospel                 | Mark 18:6-11    |
| Victory through<br>Fasting and Prayer                  |                        |                 |
| January 16 <sup>th</sup>                               | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | 1Kgs 18:21-39   |
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | Acts 12:1-12    |
|  | Epistle                | Eph 6:10-20     |
|  | Gospel                 | Matt 17:14-21   |
| Church:<br>Incorporated to be<br>One Body              |                        |                 |
| January 23 <sup>rd</sup>                               | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | 1Sam. 7:1-5     |
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | 1 Chr. 12:12-20 |
|  | Epistle                | Eph. 4:1-7      |
|  | Gospel                 | John 15:1-12    |
| The Pandemic:<br>Which should lead<br>us to firm Faith |                        |                 |
| January 30 <sup>th</sup>                               | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson | 2 Sam. 24:15-25 |
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson | Rom.8:22-28     |
|  | Epistle                | Acts. 11:27-30  |
|  | Gospel                 | Mark. 6:53-56   |



|                    |                     |        |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Jacob Varughese    | Marykutty Varughese | 15-Jan |
| George P Varughese | Sosamma E Varughese | 24-Jan |
| Thomas.K.C         | Ammini Thomas       | 27-Jan |



|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Saju Mathews           | 2-Jan  |
| Noble G Varughese      | 3-Jan  |
| Rebecca R Joseph       | 8-Jan  |
| George P Varughese     | 9-Jan  |
| Annamma Thomas (Glory) | 10-Jan |
| Dr. Sheeba Sarah Ben   | 15-Jan |
| Philip Parayil         | 16-Jan |
| Jewel Varghese         | 17-Jan |
| Ajus K Ninan           | 20-Jan |
| Sean George            | 20-Jan |
| Shino Jacob Thomas     | 21-Jan |
| Gifty Tom Mathew       | 25-Jan |

## Bible Reading



| The family of.... | Date       |
|-------------------|------------|
| Thomas T Samuel   | 01/02/2022 |
| Thomas. K.C       | 01/09/2022 |
| Tibu C Tharakan   | 01/16/2022 |
| Titus Samuel      | 01/23/2022 |
| Viju V Varghese   | 01/30/2022 |
| Vipin T Kovoov    | 02/06/2022 |
| Abraham Jacob     | 02/13/2022 |
| Abraham Onnoony   | 02/20/2022 |
| Alexei Isaac      | 02/27/2022 |

## Upcoming Events

**Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 7:00pm via ZOOM**

**Prayer Meeting: Every Saturday 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**