

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

From Vicar's Desk

OCTOBER 2023

Inside This Issue

Vicar Desk 1, 2,
Youth Corner 3,
Worship Schedule 4,
Lectionary 4
Wedding Anniversary 5
Birthday 5
Bible Reading 6
Upcoming Events 6

“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

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

Christ Jesus teaches us how to evangelize, how to invite people into communion with him, and how to create a culture of witness: namely, through love. The faithful become agents of evangelization through living witness and commitment to the Gospel. The witness of Christians, whose lives are filled with the hope of Christ, opens the hearts and minds of those around them to Christ. The family, called the domestic Church, is often the first place where one experiences and is formed in the faith.

October first Sunday has been set apart by our church as Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelistic Sunday. The object of this association is that every member of the Church should be a witness to Jesus Christ, whatever his/her occupation may be. Those who volunteer to be members of the Association meet in each parish at least once a week for fellowship, intercessory prayer, Bible study and sharing experiences. Every member of the Church should be a missionary filled with such joy and assurance of salvation as to be Christ's witness to those who encounter him, irrespective of one's profession in secular life. The branch of the Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists' Association in the Parish is called Edavaka Mission.

Second Sunday we set apart to pray for our differently abled brothers and sisters. many were born blind, lame, deaf, or dumb, never getting to enjoy the normal physical abilities of a human being. Let's pray that, Lord, make Your strength perfect in their weakness, and Your comfort perfect in their depression. May God Almighty Send His mighty power upon them all that it may rest upon them and unleash a special and unique ability in them. Let's remind them that they are more than loved by the One who makes all things possible.

October 15 Sunday has been set apart by our church as Youth Sunday. The Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam and the Youth fellowship are organized with a view that all the young people in the Church should accept Jesus Christ as their savior and Lord, and bear witness to His saving power. There are many ways you can make a difference as a Christian youth. You can make a difference by living a Christian life every single day.

This year's Family dedication Sunday will be on Sunday, October 22nd. We will be observing our Family dedication Sunday on October 15th. Rev. P.M Thomas will be our chief guest. 'But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord' (Joshua 24:15)' May our families to be grateful for each member and to pray for one another continually. Our gratitude for one another will bind us together as a family, and our prayers for each other will further unify us in gratitude and love.

Please mark your calendar for our Regional Convention. The Northeast Regional Activity Committee (RAC) is arranging a Regional Convention that will be held on October 27th to 29th, 2023. The Regional Convention will be held at the St. John's Mar Thoma Church (Queens Village, NY) on Friday, October 27th at 7:00 PM and at the St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church (Yonkers, NY) on Saturday, October 28th at 7:00 PM. A combined Holy Communion service and the concluding session of the Regional Convention will be held on Sunday, October 29th at 10:00 AM at the Queensborough Community College (Oakland Gardens, NY).

Let's pray that our faith would be stirred as we look at the biblical principle that faith comes by hearing.

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to you all for making our harvest festival a success. I am happy about some of your generosity, spirit, hard work, and willingness to help our church. May God accept all your offerings and bless you in abundance for the years to come!

I encourage you to be faithful to our Lord and his Bride, the church. Let us be committed and serve Him in the beauty of His Holiness.

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

OCTOBER 2023 MESSAGE

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Let us thank God for enabling us to enter the 10th month of the year. The weather is getting a bit chilly by the day, but never be disheartened but live life thankfully to God. October is a month for us to enjoy the fabulous foliage of Autumn. One thing we tend to enjoy throughout this season is when trees change colors. It is always enjoyable to go on a long scenic drive to see the leaves turn orange, brown, and yellow. Kids also love stopping on the leaves to hear the satisfying crunching sounds that they make. As much as we enjoy the season and its colors, we should be reminded that the colors are enjoyable only when the leaves die. That is where its beauty is realized more. Christ has given us His life while living and, in His death, burial, and resurrection. He had shown us in His perfection, how perfect He is to us and how we can enjoy being with Him. In all seasons of our lives, we can abide in His beauty of holiness. As we go through the season by season let us never forget God has given us the precious gift of being life on this earth, to exist for Him. Let us do that to the fullest.

October 15th we are celebrating Youth/ Yuvajana Sakhyam Sunday. Let us thank God for the ministry of the growing generation of our church. One thing I would like to emphasize to our parents is to invest in the future of our church for the growing generation and to teach our youths to own the church and invest in the ministry as well. It should be passed down with passion instead of our spiritual journey going into a slumber. We are blessed in this nation and fought so hard to make ends meet and to make sure we are secure. While I had the blessed opportunity to sit one-on-one with Fr. Davis Chiramel, he spoke about his burden for the growth of our spirituality. One thing we need to remember is that it is easy to care and nurture for the security of our flesh, but often we forget to nurture the security and health of our soul. The flesh is temporal, and the soul is eternal. As we think about the commemoration of Youth Sunday, let us all be challenged to invest in the eternal things and pass them on for generations to come.

It is indeed a joy for me to use this month to visit college campuses for the Fall Semester. Please pray for the college students of our church as well as help in directing the Campus ministry for the growth of our students to personally connect with the spiritual community and ultimately and importantly to God.

Wishing everyone a blessed October!

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)

Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
October 1 st – Sunday MTVEA Day/last day of Parish Convention	10.00 AM	HQ Service (Malayalam)
October 8 th – Sunday Speech – MTVEA Deputation	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
October 15 th – Sunday Family Dedication Sunday/Special Offertory	10.00 AM	HQ Service (Malayalam) Rev. P.M. Thomas
October 22 nd – Sunday Youth Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)
October 29 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)

Lectionary

Oct 1 st – Voluntary Evangelist's Association Day – Christian Presence in Differing Life Spaces (18 th Sunday after Pentecost).		
	1 st Lesson	Isa. 49:1-6
	2 nd Lesson	Acts. 16:19-34
	Epistle	Gal. 1:11-17
	Gospel	Luke 12:41-48
Oct 8 th – Difference and Dignity of all Creation: Day of the Differently Abled (19 th Sunday after Pentecost).		
	1 st Lesson	Isa. 35:1-10
	2 nd Lesson	Acts. 14:1-10
	Epistle	1Thess. 5:12-22
	Gospel	Luke 14:12-14
Oct 15 th – Christian Family Dedication Sunday – Family an Expression of the Kingdom of God (20 th Sunday after Pentecost).		
	1 st Lesson	Josh 24:14-22
	2 nd Lesson	Acts. 10:1-8
	Epistle	Eph. 5:21-33
	Gospel	Luke. 10:38-42
Oct 22 nd – Youth Sunday – Youth with Christ.		
	1 st Lesson	Dan. 1:11-17
	2 nd Lesson	1Pet. 3:13-18
	Epistle	1Tim. 4:11-16
	Gospel	Matt. 7:21-27
Oct 29 th – Confession: Sacrament of Reconciliation with God and Human.		
	1 st Lesson	Gen. 45:1-15
	2 nd Lesson	1Cor. 6:1-11
	Epistle	2Cor. 5:16-21
	Gospel	Matt. 22:34-40



None



Josefina Parayil	4-Oct
Kevin Joe Chacko	7-Oct
Ava Sarah Titus	8-Oct
Ancy Joseph	13-Oct
Thomas Kovoor	14-Oct
Varghese C Abraham	15-Oct
Joshua Johnson Mathew	17-Oct
Jincy Varughese	21-Oct
Beena Annie Mathew	22-Oct
Justin John	23-Oct
Sanil Abraham	26-Oct
Kurian A Mathew	28-Oct
Abeyson C Jacob	30-Oct
Johnson Parayil	31-Oct

Bible Reading



The family of....	Date
Jacob Varughese	10/01/2023
Jerry Chacko	10/08/2023
John C Mathai (Raju)	10/15/2023
John Samuel (Kochumon)	10/22/2023
Rev. Johnson Mathew	10/29/2023
Jose Cherian	11/05/2023
Kurian A Mathew	11/12/2023
Philip Parayil	11/19/2023
Rachel George	11/26/2023

Congratulation and Prayers



*Very Rev. Saju C Pappachan Ramban
Very Rev. Dr. Joseph Daniel Ramban
&
Very Rev. Mathew K Chandy Ramban*

Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church, New York

Upcoming Events

1. September 29th (Fri), September 30th (Sat), October 1st, 2023 (Sun) - Parish Convention
2. October 1st, 2023, Sunday - M.T. Voluntary Evangelists Association Day
3. October 15th, 2023, Sunday – Malayalam HQ
 - a. Christian Family Dedication Sunday (Family Dedication -Special Offertory)
4. October 22nd, 2023, Sunday - Youth Sunday
5. Northeast Regional Activity Committee (RAC) Convention - October 27th to 29th, 2023.
 - a. *St. John's Mar Thoma Church* (Queens Village, NY) on Friday, October 27th at 7:00 PM.
 - b. *St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church* (Yonkers, NY) on Saturday, October 28th at 7:00 PM.
 - c. Combined Holy Communion service and the concluding session of the Regional Convention - on Sunday, October 29th at 10:00 AM at the *Queensborough Community College (Oakland Gardens, NY)*.
6. 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