



**NEWSLETTER | ISSUE IV | APRIL 2022**

## **ST. JOHN'S MAR THOMA CHURCH, MI**

*April is the time of Lent and Easter. Lent is the time for self-reflection and repentance, and to realign ourselves with God. Easter and Jesus Christ's resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. May the promise of Easter fill your heart with peace and joy!*



## From the Vicar's Desk

To the faithful believers of St. John's Mar Thoma Church, Michigan

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



How quickly the months passed by! We have approached another Easter once again. Let us thank God that we can somewhat resume our lives again. During the last two Easter Sundays, we were all under the fear of Covid-19 and lockdown regulations. While Covid-19 has not departed from us, through the use of careful quarantine measures and protocols, vaccines and other treatments, much of the world has been able to bring the situation under control. As we move forward and as we tried to resume our church activities, let us be cautious as well as recognizing that the world situation brought on by the pandemic has left a long-lasting impression on how we conduct ourselves in society. It is beneficial to maintain the protocols that help us feel safe. Let us learn how to take care of one another with the love and kindness that Christ has shown to us.

In the past months, we were able to complete the various administrative practices of our church. The new office bearers and representatives of the organizations took charge and dedicated themselves to the responsibilities entrusted to them. Let us uphold them in our prayers. Our Youth Fellowship had been able to host various activities including a bowling fellowship and give leadership in the Diocesan Lenten Prayer Fellowship. Our various organizations such as Edavaka Mission, Sevika Sanghom, and Senior Citizens Fellowship were also able to resume meetings. The weekly Bible studies are continuing both virtually and in-person. A monthly in-person prayer meeting has also resumed. Let us wholeheartedly and prayerfully participate in the various activities of the church. It is important for us to remember that in addition to the Sunday worship, every Christian must build up their spiritual life through reading and studying the Bible, praising God together, taking part in charitable services and praying together for the needs of those around us.

As we near the summer months, we as a church plan various activities including VBS, cultural fest, and the annual convention. Let us joyfully participate in them and share in the fellowship. Wherever we go and in all that we do, let us always glorify our Lord and Savior. Remember, as the apostle Peter wrote, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Pet 2:9)" Therefore let us remember our calling into the Kingdom of God and our status as royal priests and children of God and act as ambassadors of God wherever we go. Wishing you all a Happy Easter! May God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Living Holy Spirit strengthen each one of us and as a parish, now and always.

*Rev. Jeswin S. John*

*April 5, 2022*

*Chicago, Illinois*

## Joyful Life in the Risen Lord

*Luke 24: 1-12*

Let us thank God for the experiences and blessings received during this Lenten season. We are now celebrating the Easter, the Feast of Resurrection (Syriac: *kemtho*). This is a day we have all been looking forward to. A time where we put off the old, and become a new creation in Christ (2 Cor 5:17). Christ's resurrection brings us into an entirely new form of life. We experience joy in the good news of the Resurrection of our Lord. How has your relationship with our Triune God changed during this past season of Lent?

We live in a world where we see and experience disheartening moments, and turn of events. The ongoing pandemic, the conflict between Russia & Ukraine (along with the refugee crisis), among many other world events have disappointed and shocked humanity. When we look at the news or see what is happening around us, or even turn to experiences in our own lives, we may lose hope. When we look at the Gospels, we see that the disciples had lost hope even after the death of Jesus Christ. But Christ assured them of His presence, by empowering them with the Holy Spirit (John 20:22), and reminding them that He is with them to the end of ages (Matthew 28:20). This promise is for us. Have we understood it? Do we keep up in Christian hope in the midst of despair?

As a church, we believe in the empty cross (as opposed to a crucifix). The empty-cross theology our church holds is grounded on our faith and hope in the resurrected Christ. Christ is no longer on the cross; He has risen! And now, we look forward to His second coming. Understanding this brings us to a self-realization, and empowers us to move forward in our journey of faith. Does our life reflect our love for the Christ who has been resurrected? Are we able to put away the things that bring us away from our relationship with God, and become a new creation? This is what it means to live a life with Christ Jesus who has risen.

The history of salvation has been unfolded before us through the cross. Where do we locate ourselves in the midst of Christ and the Cross? Do we allow the empty cross to give us hope in a world of despair?

May the joy of resurrection of our Lord be an inspiration for us to move forward in our journey with Him, and to be true ambassadors of faith (2 Cor 5:20).

*Christ the Lord is Risen today, Hallelujah!*

\*

*(Aramaic: Maranatha) – [Amen], Lord Jesus, come!*

Rev. Dennis Abraham  
Mar Thoma Church of San Francisco Bay Area

# പ്രത്യാശയുടെ നിറവിൽ കാന്തനെ എതിരെൽക്കാം

അങ്ങ് ദൂരെ ദൂരെ കാണുന്ന സ്വർഗ്ഗദേശം  
കാൽവനിക്രൂശിൽ മരിച്ച് ഉയർത്തെഴുന്നേറ്റ  
ദൈവപുത്രൻ വാഴുന്ന സ്വർഗ്ഗം

എന്നു കണ്ടിടാം കാൽവനി ക്രൂശിനെ  
ഗമിച്ചിടാം അനുദിനം ക്രൂശിന്റെ പാതയെ

നോക്കിടാം പ്രിയൻമുഖം ദർശിച്ചിടാം  
തന്നിടും താതൻ ആത്മീയ നൽവരങ്ങൾ

എന്ന് എന്നു ദൈവം കേട്ടിടും മനുഷ്യന്റെ രോദനം  
ആശ്വാസം നൽകി തൻ മാർവ്വോട് ചേർത്തിടും

കാൽവനി ദർശനം ആശ്വാസം ഏകിടും  
വന്ദിക്കാം വണങ്ങിടാം ആ ക്രൂശിലെ ത്യാഗത്തെ

സ്നേഹത്തിൻ അധിപതി സ്വർലോകനാഥൻ  
എന്നും നടത്തിടും തൻവൻ കരത്താൽ

എൻ കൺകൾ നിറഞ്ഞിടുന്നു ആനന്ദത്താൽ  
ഉള്ളം കവിഞ്ഞിടുന്നു  
ദൈവത്തിൻ നന്മകൾ ഓർത്തിടുമ്പോൾ

പാഴ് മരുഭൂമിയിലെ യാത്ര വേഗം തീർന്നു പോകും  
പ്രത്യാശയുടെ നിറവിൽ കാന്തന്റെ വരവിനായി  
കാത്തിരിക്കാം



By: Ani George

# Joyful Life with the Risen Lord

*Lord's creation, beloved humans,  
Sinned to brim, Father in anger.  
World in agony, Pleaded for mercy,  
Waited for Messiah, the only salvation.*

*Lord our Gardner, sent his only son.  
Wonderful redeemer, Prince of peace  
Not crowned, Nor elite,  
Lamb of sacrifice, died for our sins.*

*Light of the world, Emerged from darkness,  
He is risen, Angels Harks,  
Earth Rejoiced, God is with us,  
Crowned with Father in paradise.*

*Light of the World, shine in our heart,  
Born again to live for you,  
Loving and caring as you taught.*

*By thy Light, we can lead,  
Joyful life with you risen Lord,  
Meaningful life for risen Lord.*



By: Viju Chacko

# Easter a new beginning

*Easter is a joyous day,  
All our worries have gone away  
It's not about the Easter Bunny,  
It's not about spending money,  
It's for us to realize  
That He is alive!  
It's about our God  
Who is our risen Lord !  
Unto the cross He was pinned,  
He died to save us from our sins  
How powerful is our king,  
Let us praise and sing!  
Thanks be to God for Easter Day  
To Jesus who led the way  
It's God's promise that He fulfilled,  
So we have eternal life if we do His will  
He is our "Heavenly Father"  
And He will be forever!*

**Jayden, Rohan,  
Krista, Naomi, David.**



# Joyful Life with the Risen Lord

\*ON THE PHONE\*

Christina: Hi, can you come over for a sleepover?

Eliana: Sure, let me ask my mom if she can drop me off

\*AT CHRISTINA'S HOUSE\*

\*WHILE READING A MAGIC SCHOOL BUS BOOK CHRISTINA FOUND, WE WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE HOLY WEEK SATURDAY\*

Christina: Where are we?

Eliana: I think we traveled back in time, we are on mount calvary, its Saturday of the Holy week!

Christina: It Seems like we went back to the time of J esus's crucifixion.

Eliana: Oh no wonder why it looks so gloomy here.

Christina: Look around, sky dark, sun not bright, people look so sad, Soldiers are marching around everywhere.

Eliana: Yeah, this is so sad and depressing why would this happen! J esus was so innocent; he sacrificed his life for our sins. He wanted us to live a sinless life with the Lord.

Christina: Yes, but it is getting dark so let's go back to the bus.

\*NEXT MORNING - Sunday Easter day\*

Christina: Look! The flowers are blooming, birds are chirping, and everyone is happy. I wonder what happened.

Eliana: Let's go find out what had happened. Let's ask those two ladies.

Eliana: It's Mary the mother of J ames and her friend Mary Magdalene.

Christina: They said that J esus wasn't in the tomb. He had risen from the dead.

Eliana: Wow this is amazing news! J esus is truly our salvation and redeemer.

Christina: The sky is so bright. Doves are flying, birds are singing, flowers are blooming, and trees are rustling in the wind.

Eliana: Christina look! J esus, he is ascending into heaven, and he is smiling at us!

Christina: Yes, he knew us from last time we saw him. It is so nice to see that J esus has risen from the dead and has defeated death. Now we can live with Him in heaven. He is our redeemer, only salvation.

Eliana: Let's be prepared to accept his second coming. Let world reconcile and get pardon for their sins and live accordingly by God's words, so all can have a Joyful Life with the Risen Lord.

(Christina and Eliana both waving at J esus who is ascending to paradise victoriously.)

An imaginary skit by 7th Grade students (Eliana Varughese and Christina Sam)



# Happy Anniversary

	<u>May</u>
Mr. Poovakulathu Jorge Abraham & Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	5/3
Mr. Binu Mathew Jacob & Mrs. Siby Binu	5/8
Mr. Bino Tom Varghese & Mrs. Jyothi Varghese	5/15
Mr. Anil Sam & Mrs. Simi Varghese	5/17
Mr. Philip K. George & Mrs. Mary Philip	5/17
Mr. Jossy Mathai & Mrs. Jaya Mary Mathai	5/23
Mr. Cherry Thomas & Mrs. Elizabeth Cherry	5/26
Mr. John Varughese & Mrs. Sunitha Varughese	5/31
Mr. Samuel Kozhichira Rappai & Mrs. Lilly Samuel	5/31
<b><u>June</u></b>	
Mr. Thomas Abraham & Mrs. Mariamma Thomas	6/3
Mr. Abraham Thomas & Mrs. Rachael John	6/6
Mr. Rajumon George & Mrs. Gracy Rajumon	6/12
<b><u>July</u></b>	
Mr. Nirmal Mathews & Mrs. Sophiya Mathews	7/14
Mr. Philip Mathew & Mrs. Laly Mathew	7/21
Mr. Manaloor Eapen Eapen & Mrs. Saramma Eapen	7/30



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## MAY

5/3	Sherin Rajumon (daughter)
5/4	Anil Sam
5/6	Saumya Kuriakose (wife)
5/7	Gracy Rajumon (wife)
5/7	Sona Susan Mathews (wife)
5/8	Annamma Thomas (mother)
5/14	Laly Mathew (wife)
5/17	Sarah Rejeesh (daughter)
5/18	Samuel Kozhichira Rappai
5/18	Lilly Samuel (wife)
5/18	Scaria Nambumadathil Thomas
5/18	Siby Binu (wife)
5/18	Jacob John Binu (son)
5/20	Annamma Scaria (wife)
5/20	Sheeba Eapen (wife)
5/23	Roy Mathews
5/24	Aleyamma Mathew (wife)
5/25	Abraham G. Kattunilathu (father)
5/25	Rohan Eapen (son)
5/27	Shaji Edwin
5/27	Nathan A. Sam (son)
5/29	Ashely Abraham (wife)
5/30	Jolly Mathews (wife)

## JUNE

6/1	Sheeba Joseph (wife)
6/1	Sunitha Mathew (wife)
6/2	Jonah Charls Thomas (son)
6/18	Achsah Ann John (daughter)
6/24	Solomon Varughese Abraham
6/26	Sarah Maria Binu (daughter)
6/27	Sneha Thomas (sister)
6/28	Robin Abraham

## JULY

7/1	Shobi Mathew (son)
7/1	Sherwin M. Shaji (daughter)
7/1	Naheth Abraham Steephen (son)
7/1	Nahum Sakhariah Steephen (son)
7/4	Shine M. Eapen (son)
7/9	Tessa Mary Mathews (daughter)
7/10	Aden Thomas (son)
7/10	Asher Thomas (son)
7/13	Tina Mary Mathews
7/14	Vin Joe Varghese
7/17	Aquino Dominic (wife)
7/18	Kurian Palathinkal Jacob
7/21	Ansu Susan John (niece)
7/24	Cherry Thomas
7/24	Jaya Susan Mathew (daughter)
7/25	John Varughese
7/26	Sarah Kurian (daughter)
7/27	Aleyamma Mathai (mother)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Prayer Meeting

Saturday May 7, 2022

Sunday School Diocesan  
Exam

Sunday May 15, 2022

Prayer Meeting

Saturday June 4, 2022

VBS

Wednesday June 22,  
2022 -  
Sunday June 26, 2022

Prayer Meeting

Saturday July 2, 2022

Church Picnic

Saturday July 16, 2022

# Calendar 2022

<b>March</b>	
03/06/22 (Sun)	Diocesan Sunday
03/20/22 (Sun)	Executive Committee Dedication Prayer
<b>April</b>	
04/3/22 (Sun)	Parish day/Parish day collection (Eng)
04/10/22 (Sun)	Hosanna (Palm) Sunday 8:00 AM (Mal)
04/11/22 (Mon)	Sandhya Namaskaram( Mal) 7:00 PM
04/12/22 (Tue)	Sandhya Namaskaram (Eng) 7:00 PM
04/13/22 (Wed)	Sandhya Namaskaram (Mal) 7:00 PM
04/14/22 (Thu)	Maundy Thursday Service (Mal) 7:00 PM
04/15/22 (Fri)	Good Friday Service 9:00 AM
04/17/22 (Sun)	Easter Sunday Service 8.00 AM (Eng)
<b>May</b>	
05/08/22 (Sun)	Mother's Day Celebration
05/15/22 (Sun)	Sunday School Diocese Exam
05/22/22 (Sun)	Choir Sunday

<b>June</b>	
06/05/22 (Sun)	Graduation Sunday
06/19/22 (Sun)	Father's Day Celebration
06/22/22 (Wed)	VBS 6PM-9PM
06/23/22 (Thu)	VBS 6PM-9PM
06/24/22 (Fri)	VBS 6PM-9PM
06/25/22 (Sat)	VBS 9AM- 1PM
06/26/22 (Sun)	VBS Closing
<b>July</b>	
07/16/22 (Sat)	Church Picnic
<b>August</b>	
08/07/22 (Sun)	Mission Sunday
08/14/22 (Sun)	First Fruit Auction
08/21/22 (Sun)	Cultural Fest
<b>September</b>	
09/04/22 (Sun)	Vijayadhinam Day
09/04/22 (Sun)	Sunday School Teacher Dedication
09/11/22 (Sun)	Sevika Sanghom Day
09/17/22 (Sat)	Parish Convention 6PM-9PM
09/18/22 (Sun)	Parish Convention 6PM-9PM
09/18/22 (Sun)	Senior Fellowship Day
09/18/22 (Sun)	Sunday School Anniversary

<b>Oct</b>	
10/02/22 (Sun)	Edvaka Mission Day
10/09/22 (Sun)	Yuvajana Sakhyam Day
10/16/22 (Sun)	Family/Tithe Sunday
10/21/22 (Fri)	Church Retreat
10/22/22 (Sat)	Church Retreat
10/23/22 (Sun)	Church Retreat
10/30/22 (Sun)	Youth Sunday
<b>Nov</b>	
11/06/22 (Sun)	World Sunday School Day
11/12/22 (Sat)	Praise and Worship w/Evanswood lead by YG Thanksgiving
11/20/22 (Sun)	Annual General Body Election for the year 2023
11/27/22 (Sun)	Carol Rounding
<b>Dec</b>	
12/03/22 (Sat)	Carol Rounding
12/04/22 (Sun)	Carol Rounding
12/10/22 (Sat)	Carol Rounding
12/11/22 (Sun)	Carol Rounding- Reserve Day
12/17/22 (Sat)	Christmas Carol Service 4pm-8pm
12/25/22 (Sun)	Christmas Service
12/26/22 (Mon)	Regional Youth Conference
12/27/22 (Tue)	Regional Youth Conference
12/28/22 (Wed)	Regional Youth Conference
12/29/22 (Thu)	Regional Youth Conference
12/31/22 (Sat)	Watch Night Service