

JANUARY - MARCH 2026

THE GOOD NEWS HERALD



Official Newsletter of the Mar Thoma Church of Greater Washington

From the Vicar's Desk

Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

By the grace of God, we have entered into the New Year 2026. From a Christian perspective, it is God's sustaining grace that enables us to bear fruit for His Kingdom. I prayerfully wish and hope that this year may be a truly fruitful one for all of us.

As we look back at the year 2025, we can acknowledge that it was both a challenging and a blessed year for our parish. One of the significant milestones was the commencement of the parsonage construction during the last quarter of 2025, which is continuing steadily. The construction of our new church, which began in 2024, is also progressing as planned. Another important development was the sale of our former church property. Our parish rejoices in the appointment of our former Vicar, Rev. Joel, as the Diocesan Secretary. We also initiated the souvenir project last year, marking another meaningful step in our parish journey.

Church Worship Schedule

Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

First and Third Sundays -
English Holy Communion

Second and Fourth Sundays
-
Malayalam Holy Communion

Mar Thoma Church
of Greater Washington
322 Ethan Allen Ave,
Takoma Park, MD 20912

marthomawashington.com

301 655 9080

From the VICAR's desk

Despite challenges related to worship space, God provided ways forward. We were able to conduct our worship services by renting school facilities, and we are especially grateful to the Centre for Social Change for generously opening their doors to us free of cost. By God's grace, we were able to celebrate a meaningful and blessed Christmas season. I sincerely appreciate all those who led from the front and worked tirelessly to make it successful. Each organization within our parish functioned actively and responsibly throughout the year. In the last quarter of 2025, we prayerfully selected the new office bearers for the year 2026. May God Almighty grant them wisdom, strength, and discernment as they lead our parish. I also express my heartfelt gratitude to the 2025 office bearers, executive committee members, and subcommittee members for their time, hard work, and dedicated service. I sincerely appreciate Mrs. Liji Samuel for her dedicated efforts in preparing and publishing our parish newsletter over the past four quarters.

As we begin the year 2026, let us commit ourselves fully to prayer and faithful service. May God Almighty help us to complete the new church and parsonage projects and bless all the endeavors we undertake this year for His glory.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed New Year.

Rev. Liju T Varughese



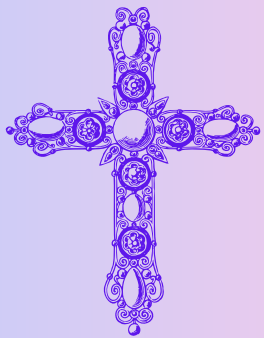
Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.



In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."



Proverbs 3: 5-6



Sunday Schedule - First Quarter

04 January <i>English Service</i> <i>(Sunday School)</i> Assisted by Mr. Thomas K. Varghese	Theme	Mission outside Kerala Mission: unveiling God's love to all	
	Lessons	Genesis 12: 1-7	Romans 8: 31-39
	Epistle & Gospel	1 John 4: 7-21	St. Luke 9: 1-6
11 January <i>Malayalam Service</i> <i>(Gaithersburg /Rockville prayer group)</i> Assisted by Mr. Joseph K. Thomas	Theme	Christian life meant to be fruitful	
	Lessons	Isaiah 5: 1-7	Colossians 1: 3-13
	Epistle & Gospel	Galatians 5: 16-26	St. John 15: 1-11
18 January <i>English Service</i> <i>(Lanham/Bowie prayer group)</i> Assisted by Mr. Thomas K. Varghese	Theme	Trusting in a caring God	
	Lessons	2 Chronicles 32: 9-23	1 Peter 5: 7-11
	Epistle & Gospel	Philippians 4: 4-8	St. Matthew 6: 19-34
25 January <i>Malayalam Service</i> <i>(Parish Mission)</i> Assisted by Mr. Joseph K. Thomas	Theme	Ecumenical Sunday Unity in faith and action	
	Lessons	Joshua 4: 1-11	Acts 4: 32-37
	Epistle & Gospel	1 Corinthians 3: 1-9	St. Mark 6: 32-44
01 February <i>English Service</i> <i>(Youth Fellowship)</i> Assisted by Mr. Thomas K. Varghese	Theme	Medical Mission Sunday Compassion: Loving and Suffering Together	
	Lessons	Isaiah 42: 1-9	Acts 3: 1-16
	Epistle & Gospel	James 5: 13-18	St. Matthew 9: 35-38
08 February <i>Malayalam Service</i> <i>(Sevika Sanghom)</i> Assisted by Mr. Joseph K. Thomas	Theme	Beginning of the 131st Session of the Maramon Convention Sabbath Leads to the Fullness of Creation	
	Lessons	Genesis 1: 31-2:3	Hebrews 4: 1-11
	Epistle & Gospel	Colossians 2: 13-19	St. Mark 3: 1-6
15 February <i>English Service</i> <i>(YFF)</i> Assisted by Mr. Thomas K. Varghese	Theme	Conclusion of the 131st Session of the Maramon Convention Beginning of the Great Lent (<i>Pethurtha</i>), Jesus Christ who Transforms	
	Lessons	Ezekiel 36: 24-36	Romans 11: 33-12:2
	Epistle & Gospel	2 Corinthians 5: 16-21	St. John 2: 1-11

Sunday Schedule - First Quarter

<p>22 February <i>Malayalam Service</i> <i>(Silver Spring prayer group)</i></p> <p>Assisted by Mr. Joseph K. Thomas</p>	Theme	Call to be Compassionate - Second Sunday of Great Lent	
	Lessons	Ruth 2: 4-20	Ephesians 4: 25-32
	Epistle & Gospel	1 John 3: 13-24	St. Mark 1: 40-45
<p>01 March <i>English Service</i> <i>(NOVA prayer group)</i></p> <p>Assisted by Mr. Thomas K. Varghese</p>	Theme	Call to Shoulder Each Other's Burdens - Third Sunday of Great Lent	
	Lessons	2 Samuel 9: 1-13	Galatians 6: 1-10
	Epistle & Gospel	Romans 12: 9-21	St. Mark 2: 1-12
<p>08 March <i>Malayalam Service</i> <i>(Senior Citizens)</i></p> <p>Assisted by Mr. Joseph K. Thomas</p>	Theme	Call to be Inclusive - Fourth Sunday of Great Lent	
	Lessons	Isaiah 56: 1-8	Revelation 7: 9-17
	Epistle & Gospel	Galatians 3: 23-29	St. Matthew 15: 21-28
<p>15 March <i>English Service</i> <i>(Yuvajana Sakhyam)</i></p> <p>Assisted by Mr. Thomas K. Varghese</p>	Theme	Call to be Liberative - Fifth Sunday of Great Lent	
	Lessons	Isaiah 1: 12-17	Ephesians 6: 5-9
	Epistle & Gospel	2 Corinthians 1: 3-11	St. Luke 13: 10-17
<p>22 March <i>Malayalam Service</i> <i>(Lanham/Bowie prayer group)</i></p> <p>Assisted by Mr. Joseph K. Thomas</p>	Theme	Cross: Manifestation of Grace - Sixth Sunday of Great Lent	
	Lessons	Micah 7: 15-20	Romans 5: 8-21
	Epistle & Gospel	1 Peter 2: 17-24	St. Mark 10: 46-52
<p>29 March <i>English Service</i> <i>(Youth Fellowship)</i></p> <p>Assisted by Mr. Thomas K. Varghese</p>	Theme	<i>Hosanna - Vaideeka Seminary Day</i> Entry of the King of Peace	
	Lessons	Zechariah 9: 1-12	Ephesians 2: 11-22
	Epistle & Gospel	Colossians 3: 12-17	St. Mark 11: 1-11

SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR FIRST QUARTER

February 15

Beginning of Lent

March 6

World Day of Prayer

March 11

Mid-Lent

March 29

Palm Sunday

SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR FIRST QUARTER

Sevika Sanghom Meetings

Bible study - Friday, January 09
at 8 pm on zoom

Bible study - Friday, February 06
at 8 pm on zoom

March - TBD

Senior Citizens Fellowship

Thursday, January 22
at 10 :30 am on phone line

Thursday, February 19
at 10:30 am on phone line

Thursday, March 19
at 10:30 am on phone line

Parish Mission Cottage Prayer

January - TBD

February 21st, Saturday, @ 4 pm at the
residence of
Mr. George V. Samuel & Mrs. Anju Samuel

March 21st, Saturday, @ 4 pm at the
residence of
Mr. Thomas K. Varghese &
Mrs. Annamma Thomas

Youth Fellowship Cottage Prayer

January 17th Saturday, @ 6 pm at the
residence of Siril Stephen and
Sariah Stephen



REMINDER

Evening Prayer
on Prayer line:
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm



OBITUARY

Mrs. Susamma Joshua, aged 66, sister of our member Mrs. Mariamma Chacko(Marykutty), was called to eternity on October 08, 2025.

Mrs. Leelamma Isaac, aged 84, paternal grandmother of our member Mr. Kristian Thomas, was called to eternity on October 09, 2025.

Our member, Mrs. Vimala Johncibel Roy, aged 82, was called to eternity on October 21, 2025.



Our member, Mrs. Mary Antony, aged 81, was called to eternity on November 4, 2025.



Mrs. Mary George (Ammini), aged 90, mother of our member, Mrs. Mary Abraham (Meena), was called to eternity on November 22, 2025.

Rev. George C. Mathew, aged 97, was called to eternity on November 24, 2025.



Mrs. Thankamma Mathai, aged 87, mother of our member, Mr. Thomas Mathew (Aniyankunju), was called to eternity on December 05, 2025.

The Mar Thoma Church of Greater Washington expresses our deepest sorrow and support for the bereaved families.





BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Our members, Mr. John Ayrookuzhiyil and Mrs. Sissy John were blessed with a baby grandson, Silas Jacob, born to Kripa Jacob and Manu Jacob, on December 19, 2025.

May God bless baby Silas with all His love, care, and happiness.



HOLY BAPTISM



Iliana Miriam Thomas, daughter of our member Dr. Selena Thomas, was baptized on October 12, 2025.

Elora Rae John, daughter of our members Mr. Kevin John and Mrs. Judy John, was baptized on October 26, 2025.

Noah Selwyn George, son of our members Mr. Selwyn George and Mrs. Christa George, was baptized on November 30, 2025.

May God's grace and blessings guide Iliana, Elora and Noah throughout their lives..





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January

February

Ms. Krista Aleah Mathew	01/01
Mrs. Thankam Paul	01/03
Mr. Daniel Santosh Philipose	01/04
Mrs. Mini Rajan	01/04
Ms. Shawna Ann Geevarghese	01/06
Mrs. Pamela S. Kurian	01/07
Mr. Abraham Thomas (Biju)	01/07
Mrs. Mittu Mathew	01/09
Mr. Jacob George (Achu)	01/10
Mr. Geevarghese Manaloor Puthenparampil	01/11
Mrs. Beena S. Philipose	01/11
Ms. Mariam G. Veppumthara	01/11
Mr. Saji Thomas	01/11
Mrs. Sissy Ambily Samuel (Ambily)	01/14
Mrs. Annie T. Veppumthara	01/14
Mr. Stanley Joy (Reji)	01/14
Ms. Sofy Elizabeth Shibu	01/14
Ms. Jothsana Danielle Varghese	01/15
Mr. Nikhil V. Thomas	01/16
Mathai Roshin Joseph	01/21
Dr. P.K. Poullose	01/22
Mr. Siril Stephen	01/22
Mr. Subin M. Jacob	01/23
Mr. Ajay Abraham	01/23
Mrs. Annamma Thomas (Mini)	01/25
Ms. Rachel Ann Thomas	01/25
Mr. Joel T. Johnson	01/25
Mrs. Valsa Stephen	01/27
Ms. Sahana Tharakan	01/28
Mrs. Susan Poullose	01/29
Mrs. Ammini Abraham	01/30
Mrs. Roshine Varghese	01/31

Ms. Michelle M. Thomas	02/03
Mr. Stacen Varghese	02/03
Liam Abraham	02/04
Mrs. Dolly Attumallil	02/05
Hailey Susan Daniel	02/05
Mr. Paul Mathew	02/06
Mr. Johnson Abraham	02/06
Ms. Sharon Aleya Geevarghese	02/06
Dr. Cherian Joseph	02/08
Leander Sunny Sunith	02/08
Mrs. Rachel Verghese (Usha)	02/10
Dr. Dave Holland	02/11
Ms. Roshni Ravikumar	02/13
Ms. Stephy Thomas Chandy	02/13
Mr. Varughese Thomas (Joy)	02/17
Mrs. Laya Joseph	02/17
Ms. Alice M. Varughese	02/17
Aidan Varghese	02/17
Mr. Manoj Kurian	02/18
Ms. Mira Danielle Thomas	02/21
Mrs. Simi Paul	02/21
Ms. Gisele S. Mathew	02/22
Mr. Josh C. Abraham	02/25
Ms. Amelia Mammen	02/25
Mr. John Varghese	02/26
Mrs. Susy Attumalil	02/27
Ms. Johana C. Johnson	02/27
Ms. Joanna Miriam Jacob	02/28
Mr. Daniel Thomas (Danny)	02/28
Dr. Thomas Ninan (Aniyan)	02/28





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



March

Mrs. Anju Vergheese	03/01
Mr. Noel Abraham John	03/01
Mr. John C. Attumalil (Kunjumon)	03/02
Mrs. Sheeja John	03/02
Aria Veppumthara	03/02
Ms. Johana S. Thomas	03/03
Dr. Ruby Thomas	03/03
Nathan George Vergheese	03/06
Mrs. Tessy Flora Varghese	03/07
Mrs. Annie Thomas	03/08
Dr. Timothy V. Joseph	03/09
Ms. Ancy K. Joy	03/09
Mrs. Nidhi Gupta	03/10
Ms. Roshana R. Varghese	03/10
Mr. Nathan Kattapuram	03/10
Mrs. Elizabeth Varghese (Titty)	03/12
Mr. Vijil Vergheese	03/12
Mr. Ryan Michael Sam	03/12
Mr. Cherian K. Abraham	03/13
Mr. Sony Ninan	03/15
Elena May Veppumthara	03/15
Jordan Thomas Tinu	03/16
Zeah John Noel	03/16
Mrs. Sosamma G. Veppumthara	03/18
Mr. Abraham C. Samuel	03/19
Mr. Abey Thomas	03/21
Mrs. Mariamma Easo	03/23
Mr. Thomas Verghese	03/23
Johana M. Abraham	03/23
Mrs. Mariya Thampi	03/24
Ms. Sara A. Thomas	03/25
Mrs. Simi Stephen	03/26
Mr. Ethan Varghese	03/26
Mrs. Kezia Anna Boban	03/28
Joshua P. John	03/29
Ruth E. John	03/29
Mrs. Shana E. Shibu	03/30
Mrs. Mariamma Philip (Kunjunamma)	03/31





Wedding Anniversary



January

Mr. Roshin Mathai Joseph & Mrs. Nidhi Gupta	01/03
Mr. John Kurian & Mrs. Saramma Kurian	01/05
Mr. Thomas V. Samuel & Mrs. Sissy Ambily Samuel	01/09
Mr. Sudeep Abraham Mathew & Mrs. Smitha Mathew	01/10
Mr. Abraham Thomas & Mrs. Moncy Abraham	01/14
Mr. Shibu Varghese & Mrs. Mariayamma Shibu	01/18
Mr. Johnson Abraham & Mrs. Mary Abraham	01/19
Mr. Johnson Thankachan & Mrs. Sibi Johnson	01/19
Mr. Bobby Mathews & Mrs. Soma Bobby	01/20
Dr. George Vergheese & Mrs. Lizy Vergheese	01/22
Mr. Pence P. Jacob & Dr. Annie Philip Jacob	01/26
Dr. Paul Panavelil & Mrs. Thankam Paul	01/27
Mr. Chacko Daniel & Mrs. Rosamma Chacko	01/28

February

Mr. Tinu Jacob & Mrs. Sneha Sara Tinu	02/01
Mr. Mathew P. Kuruvilla & Mrs. Leelamma Mathew	02/04
Mr. Joy Kaippallil & Mrs. Aleyamma Kaippallil	02/07
Mr. Thadathel Thomas Chandy & Mrs. Jolly Chandy Thadathel	02/07
Mr. C. P. Mathew & Mrs. Leelamma C. Mathew	02/10
Mr. Sunith Sunny Mathew & Mrs. Kezia Anna Boban	02/16
Mr. Sidney Konda and Mrs. Susamma George Konda	02/16
Mr. Joji Mathew Thomas & Mrs. Fousy P. George	02/18
Mr. Thomas K. Abraham & Mrs. Sosamma Thomas	02/19
Mr. Jacob Mathew & Mrs. Mariamma Jacob	02/24

March

Mr. Samuel C. George & Mrs. Saramma George	03/14
Mr. Stephen Joy & Mrs. Simi Stephen	03/14
Mr. Jiju Mathew Kuruvilla & Mrs. Juliet Kuruvilla	03/27



Highlights from the fourth quarter of 2025



**Parish Day -
October 2025**

**Youth Fellowship
Cottage Prayer -
October 2025**



**Cornerstone blessing of parsonage by
Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos
Diocesan Episcopa,
at Sinai Marthoma Center -
23rd October, 2025**



Highlights from the fourth quarter of 2025



World Sunday School day and Sunday School Anniversary- November, 2025

Cornerstone laying of the parsonage - 2nd November, 2025



Youth Fellowship Trunk or treat- November 2025

Youthsgiving - November 2025



Highlights from the fourth quarter of 2025



**ECKC Christmas Carol -
December 2025**



Christmas Program



**New Year's eve
watch night service -
December 31, 2025**

Mar Thoma Church of Greater Washington

2025 Executive Committee

Office Bearers

Vicar/President	Rev. Liju T. Varughese	301-655-9080
Vice President	Dr. Thomas Ninan	240-426-4355
Secretary	Mr. Reuben Abraham	240-751-5099
Trustee (Finance)	Mr. John Ayrookuzhiyil	240-328-0479
Trustee (Accounts)	Mr. Varughese Thomas	301-648-3888
Lay Ministrant (English)	Mr. Thomas K. Varghese	703-728-6846
Lay Ministrant (Malayalam)	Mr. Joseph K. Thomas	301-408-6338

Diocesan Assembly/ Mandalam representatives

Assembly Member	Mr. Pence Jacob	614-537-0753
Mandalam Member	Mr. Shibu Samuel	301-346-6133

Area Prayer Representatives

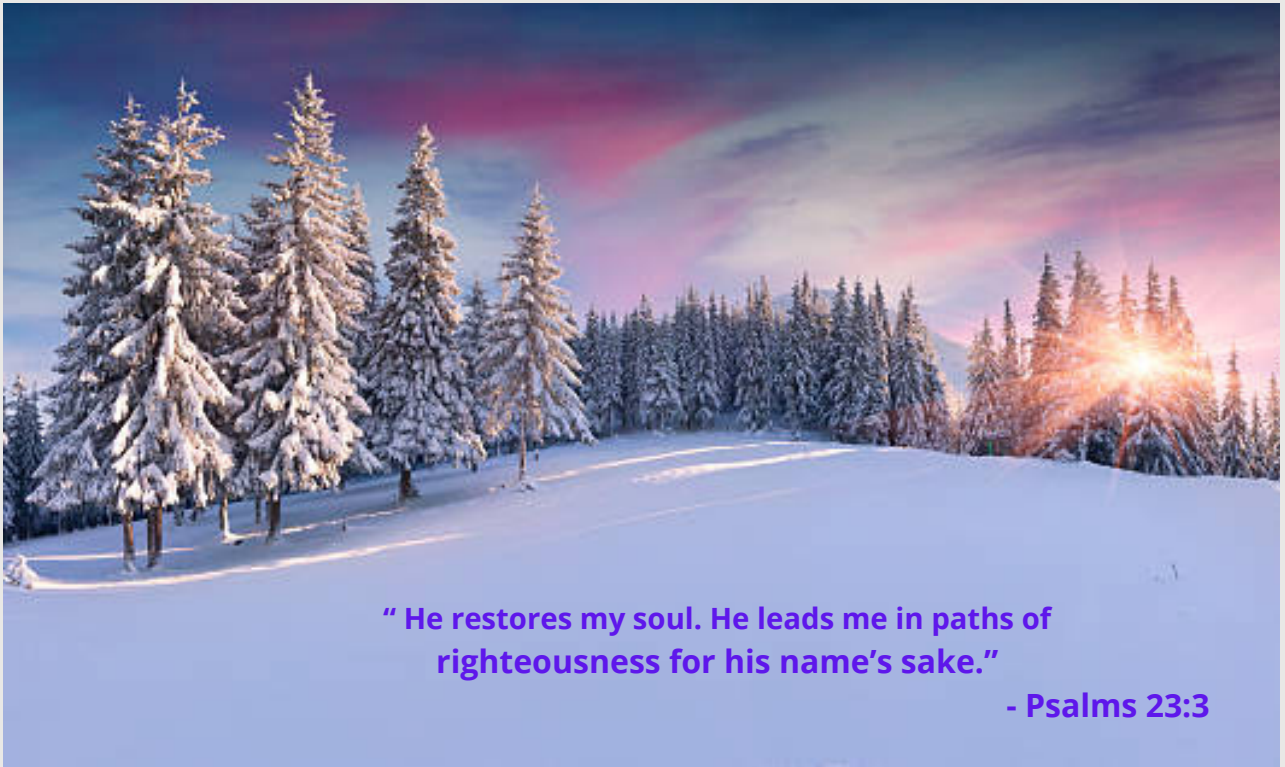
Silver Spring	Mr. Babu Kottakuzhiyil	301-792-0207
Silver Spring	Mrs. Mariamma Ninan	240-535-8721
Lanham/Bowie	Mr. Chacko Daniel	301-346-7051
Lanham/Bowie	Mr. George Samuel	240-535-1006
Gaithersburg/Rockville	Dr. Annie Jacob	925-305-0403
Gaithersburg/Rockville	Mrs. Liji Samuel	240-429-1599
Northern Virginia	Mrs. Annamma Thomas	703-731-4275
Northern Virginia	Dr. Dennis Cherian	202-489-2380
Richmond	Mr. Bobby Mathews	804-454-6398
Richmond	Mr. Blessey Kanjiracal Jacob	443-859-1960

Organization Representatives

Choir	Dr. Elizabeth Thomas	703-994-9952
Parish Mission	Mr. George Philip	301-741-5358
Senior Citizens	Dr. P. P Chacko	301-906-0215
Sevika Sanghom	Mrs. Elizabeth Varghese	301-542-3744
Sunday School	Mrs. Mary Samuel	240-505-1705
Young Families	Mr. Kristian Thomas	631-836-9123
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Soju John	240-579-5965
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Abey Thomas	301-728-1284

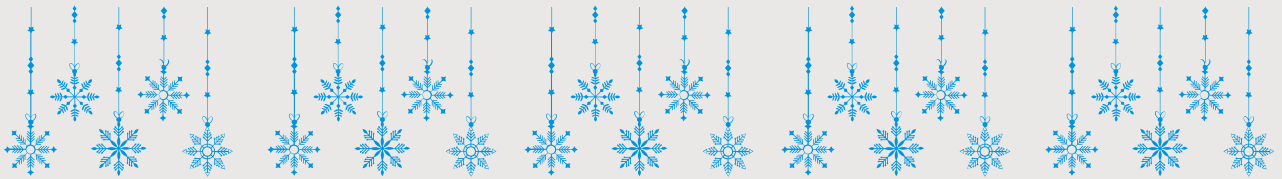
2025 Non-Committee Representatives

Auditor	Mr. Sanu Mathew	973-914-9195
Auditor	Mr. Abraham Parangot	410-798-8174
Ecumenical	Dr. Mathew T. Thomas	301-526-8723
Ecumenical	Mrs. Pushpa Thomas	301-648-8666
Ecumenical	Mr. Jobi Joseph	240-917-8268
Webmaster	Mr. Soju John	240-579-5965
Audio/Visual	Mr. Sonu John	301-281-3740
Audi/Visual	Mr. Stacen Varghese	240-615-7492
Newsletter Editor	Mrs. Liji Samuel	240-429-1599



“ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

- Psalms 23:3



**May this winter remind us that God has a reason for our struggle,
and a reward for our faithfulness.**

