



Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.



Herald of Hope

Durham Mar Thoma Congregation Quarterly Newsletter

Greetings,

As we step into the vibrant season of summer, we are delighted to bring you the inaugural edition of our quarterly newsletter. This publication aims to keep our congregation informed, connected, and inspired as we journey together in faith.

With the closing of schools and the advent of summer, we extend our heartfelt wishes to all students, teachers, and school staff. This transition marks a time of well-deserved rest and rejuvenation for many in our congregation.

Amidst the changing seasons, our commitment to growing in faith remains steadfast. In these pages, you'll find reflections, scriptures, and memories that encourage us to deepen our spiritual journey.

We welcome your feedback and contributions to this newsletter. Thank you for being a part of our church family, and we hope you find this newsletter both informative and uplifting.

- Jeni & Sherin

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Vicar's Message

Dearly beloved in Christ,

It gives me great privilege and honor to write in the first Newsletter as the vicar of the Durham Mar Thoma Congregation. This Newsletter will be a quarterly publication mainly focusing on the day today affairs of the Congregation. Moreover it will help our members, especially children to express their talents and join in the proclamation of the word of God. I take this opportunity to congratulate all who worked behind this venture to make it a success.



Our parish is our spiritual family. It is in this spiritual family we had our second birth at our baptism. This is the place where we were raised to the dignity of children of God. In this way our parish has become our spiritual mother. When we become God's children a special bond is formed not only between us and our Lord, but also with one another. We should develop a sense of belonging with each other. Thus we are no longer strangers and aliens, but fellow citizens of the saint's and members of the household of God (Eph 2:17)

True belonging calls for an intimate faith fellowship with fellow parishioners. We cannot form such a fellowship by the occasional showing of one's face at Sunday services. On the other hand all members have an apostolate to do, the apostolate of witnessing the presence of Christ in our midst, such as feeding the hungry, healing the sick, reconciling the broken hearted, uplifting the downtrodden, and ministering to the most needy in our society, I pray and wish the Almighty Lord bless and encourage us with his power and guidance in all our future endeavors.

Love and Prayers,

Skariah Varughese Achen

Celebrations and Events

Upcoming Birthdays

July

Cherian Mathew
Mathew Varughese
Sajan George
Ziva Lalu

August

John Thomas
Lysa Philip
John John
Saadiq John Davis

September

Jayson Varughese
Jeftine Varughese
Zarah Marybeth Cheriyan
Tania Rosen-Cheriyam

Upcoming Anniversaries

July

Kurian & Susan Abraham

August

Richie & Jeni Thomas

Upcoming Church Events (July-September)

- Sevika Sanghom Meetings - Every Month
- Pothi-Choru
- Auction 2024
- Retreat 2024 - Aug 30-Sep 01 at the Trinity Centre, Pine Knoll Shores, NC
- Onam Celebration

Bible Trivia: Life of Jesus

- ❖ Where did the Pharisees claim Jesus got his power from?

Answer: Beelzebub See: Matthew 12:24

- ❖ Concerning which disciple did the rumor spread that he would not die?

Answer: John See: John 21:23

- ❖ At what age did Jesus begin his ministry?

Answer: 30 See: Luke 3:23

- ❖ How many thieves were crucified with Christ?

Answer: Two See: John 19:18

- ❖ The four Biblical accounts of Jesus' life are called:

Answer: The Gospels

- ❖ How many of the healed ten lepers returned to thank Jesus?

Answer: One See: Luke 17:18

- ❖ In the parable, what did the servant whose debt had been forgiven do?

Answer: Choked someone who owed him See: Matthew 18:28

- ❖ Who tried to kill Jesus soon after he was born?

Answer: Herod See: Matthew 2:13

- ❖ Who thought Jesus was a gardener when she saw Him after He had risen?

Answer: Mary Magdalene See: John 20:11

- ❖ Which disciple held a feast for Jesus and invited tax collectors and 'sinners'?

Answer: Matthew See: Matthew 9:10

Gallery



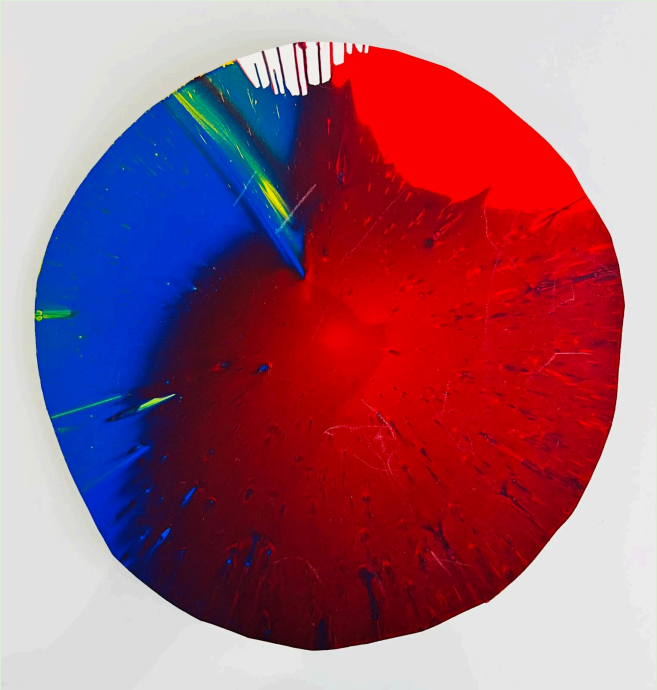
Into the Woods | Artist: Amelia Philip



Echoes of the Past | Photographer: Mary Phillip (Bincy)



Autumn Forest | Artist: Raina Thomas



Splash Art | Artist: Elaine Varughese

Sunday School Events



Easter Artwork | Artists: Sunday School Kids



Prize Distribution

Church Events



Bishop's Visit June 2024



Father's Day June 2024



Picnic June 2024