



June 2024 | VOL. XII

NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHNS MARTHOMA CHURCH



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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!

Let us thank God for all the blessings in our life. As we enter the summer months, many of us are happy with the change in weather and the prospects to vacation in the next few months. The Psalmists often wrote of the beauty of nature. They saw the creative "fingerprints" of God all through the marvel of creation. Let us also marvel at God's handiwork as we travel and enjoy the summer months.

Remember the Faithful

Memorial Day was observed on the 27th of May. As a federal holiday, many people were able to enjoy the day off. Yet, in the traditions of barbeque, fireworks, and trips to the beach, did we remember the true meaning of the day? A day to commemorate those who served in the military, especially those who died in war, was first observed nationally on 30th May 1868 and became a national holiday in 1971. With the devastation of World War II and the wars in Vietnam and Korea in the 20th century, a majority of families had someone who fought and/or died in battle. In the past decades, there has been a decline in those who serve in the military so many people do not understand the significance of Memorial Day. The men and women of the military have played an important role in the nation. This is not a political statement but an acknowledgement of the sacrifice of many lives in order that we may live in a land of many freedoms and opportunities.

To remember certain individuals in a community has been an intrinsic part of human society from the beginning. In the Book of Genesis, Abel was murdered by his brother Cain (Gen 4). When the Lord confronts Cain, He says, "Listen, your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground." In Matthew 23, the Lord Jesus denounces the Pharisees and religious leaders for their failure to heed the messengers sent by God. Regarding Abel, Jesus says that the blood of the righteous stands as a testimony against those who ignore God: "so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah. (Matt 23:35)" In the Letter to the Hebrews,



the lives of those who lived by faith are remembered (Heb. 11). The lives and words of the faithful who have gone before us are meant to remind us of our relationship with God, as they themselves understood and lived out in their walk of faith. It is no different than commemorating the men and women of the armed forces who put their lives on the line for our security. As a Christian community, we commemorate and remember the faithful men and women of God, the messengers who spoke the word of God, the prophets and Apostles, and faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus who testified to the Son of God, His salvific Sacrifice, and His glorious Resurrection and Ascension. We remember them as we read the Scriptures and pray that the light of the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ, which they testified of, may also illuminate us. The Mar Thoma Church commemorates the Apostles of Jesus Christ from Jun 16 – 29 on the Fast of the Apostles. Let us remember their witness of Jesus Christ and live as faithful disciples wherever we are.

Looking Ahead

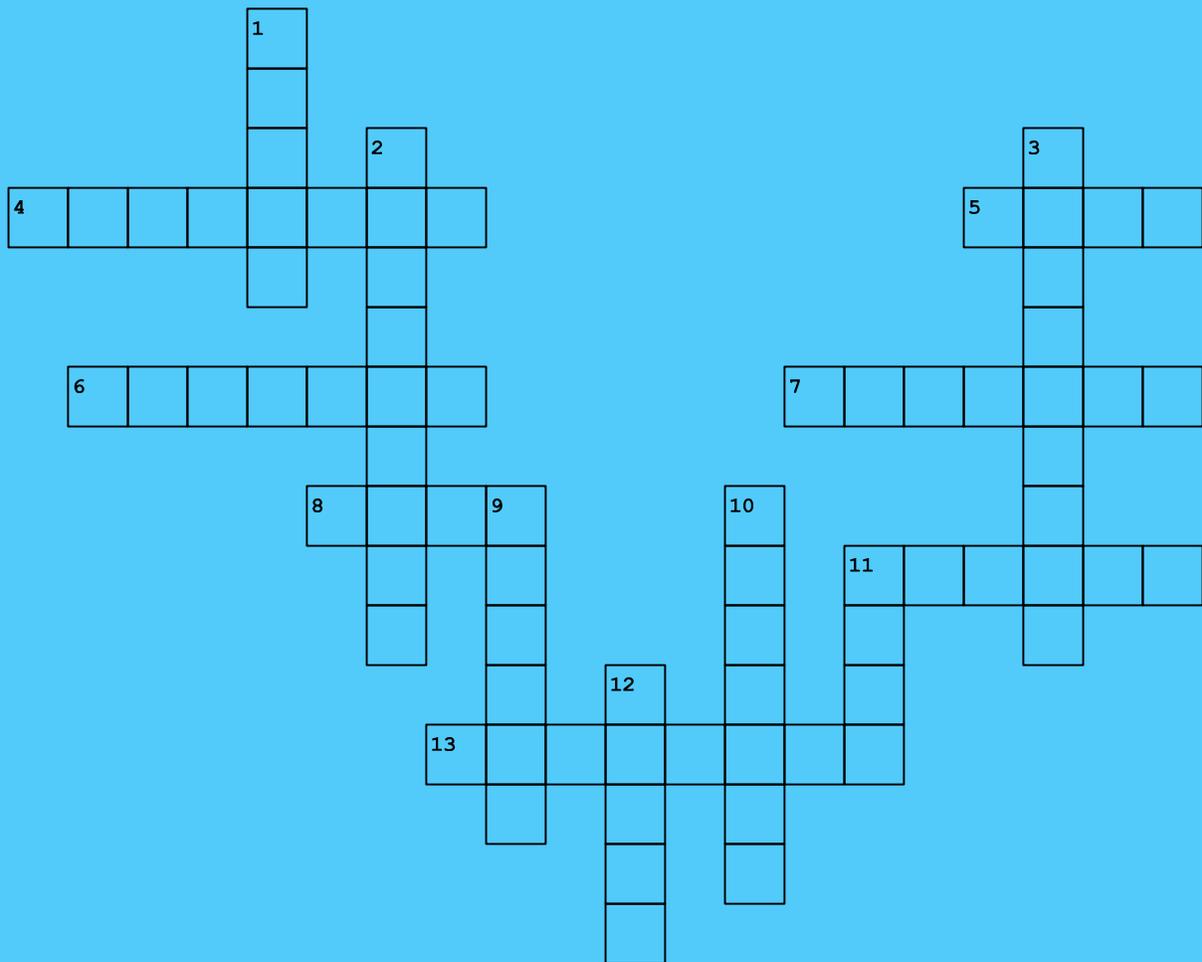
I thank and praise God that I have been able to move my residence in May to Troy, MI and begin service as the resident Vicar of St. John's MTC. Let us remember that we are a family and community, joined in unity by the blood of Jesus Christ. The role of the Church is to strengthen our spiritual life and our relationships with one another. Let us prayerfully serve together in building our families and community so that we may share the love of the Savior to all around us. I'm happy to be part of this blessed task and look forward to greater cooperation with all the families at St. John's MTC.

Our Youth Fellowship is planning regular monthly meetings, at least one at church and one online. The Yuvajana Sakhyam and Sevika Sanghom are continuing with monthly prayer meetings and other activities. We hope to have monthly prayer meetings for the North and South prayer groups. As Sunday School winds down for the summer, we are working on making this year's VBS (June 19 – 22) a blessed time for all the children. May they come to a greater knowledge of our Lord Jesus. Let us prayerfully participate in the worship and prayers. May the Lord God bless us all. Amen.

May 29, 2024

Rev. Jeswin S. John
Vicar

June 2024



Across

- Michigan island written one way and pronounced another way
- A Michigan ___ is also called a p-turn
- Draper's hymn "All creatures of our God and King" originally a poem by an Italian monk
- List of faithful is found in this Epistle
- Last word in Psalms
- Holy Spirit, 3rd ___ in Trinity
- Holiday originally called "Decoration Day"

Down

- Memorial Day originally commemorated American ___ War
- St. Paul calls humans this in Eph. 2
- 50 days after Easter
- VBS theme this year based on this person
- "Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you ___ stars" (a Psalm)
- Least of the Apostles
- Michigan State Bird

Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Egg Hunt was organized for all Sunday School children on March 30th at the Evanswood Church

Mother's Day and Father's Day



Sunday school had a Mother's Day program on May 12th and a Father's Day program on June 16th.



Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa visit And Parish Day Celebration



Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa visited St. John's Mar Thoma Church Michigan.



Youth Group Weekend



DMTC Youth Group had invited the STJMTC Michigan Youth Group to their Youth Group Weekend, which was on Memorial Day weekend, picnic taken place at Kensington Metropark

First Resident and Full Time Vicar



Achen is moved to Michigan as our resident vicar starting May 1st, the Parsonage has been rented at the Preserves apartments.

Welcoming Aiswarya Samuel Kochamma



St. John's Mar Thoma Church
Michigan has welcomed Aiswarya
Samuel Kochamma on June 2nd.

VBS



The VBS was held from
June 19th to June 22nd
The theme was
Babylon Daniel's Courage
in Captivity

Upcoming Events

13-Jul	Church Picnic Held at Thelma Spencer Park, 3701 John R Road, Rochester Hills at 10AM
27-Jul	Choir Festival Held at St Mathew's Mar Thoma Church, Toronto at 4PM
4-Aug	Mission Sunday
9-11 Aug	Church Retreat Echo Grove Camp 1101 Camp Rd, Leonard, MI 48367
18-Aug	Frist Fruit Auction
24-Aug	Cultural Fest

Birthdays

7/9	Tessa Mary Mathews
7/10	Aden Thomas
7/10	Asher Thomas
7/13	Tina Mary Mathews
7/14	Vin Joe Varghese
7/17	Aquino Dominic
7/18	Kurian Palathinkal Jacob
7/20	Reuel Cherian Abraham
7/24	Cherry Thomas
7/24	Jaya Susan Mathew
7/25	John Varughese
7/26	Sarah Kurian
7/27	Aleyamma Mathai

8/1	Rajumon George
8/8	Charls Thomas
8/11	Sneha Mathew
8/12	Rijo Kurian John
8/12	Stephy M. Shaji
8/17	Mariamamma Thomas
8/20	P. V. Cherian
8/24	Soumia Thomas
8/30	Alexandru Versin
9/5	Mariamamma Abraham
9/6	Isabel Maria Sam
9/9	Sony Mathews
9/10	Aleyamma Cherian
9/12	Jennifer Mathew
9/18	Manaloor Eapen Eapen
9/18	Shaji Mathew Mannoorethu
9/18	Rocky Abraham Cherry
9/22	Rachael John
9/23	Rejeesh Rajan
9/23	Brandy Lee Goebel
9/26	Saramma Eapen
9/28	Naomi Liza Issac

Anniversaries

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
Mr. Charls Thomas & Mrs. Saumya Kuriakose	8/5
Mr. Kurian Palathinkal Jacob & Mrs. Renu Elizabeth Thomas	8/20
Mr. George Chacko & Mrs. Annamma Chacko	8/20
Mr. Roy Mathews and Mrs. Jolly Mathews	8/20
Mr. Shaiju Manaloor Eapen & Mrs. Shinu Kuriakose	8/21
Mr. Sunil Koshy Babu & Mrs. Sona Susan Mathews	8/21
Mr. Mathew Cherian & Mrs. Aleyamma Mathew	8/21
Dr. George Koshy Vilanilam & Dr. Priya Ann Mathews	8/22
Mr. Alexandru Versin & Mrs. Sarah Kurian	8/22
Mr. Rejeesh Rajan & Mrs. Bincy Joshua	8/30
Mr. Thomas Panamootil Jacob & Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas	9/7
Mr. Sony Mathews & Mrs. Tina Mary Mathews	9/16