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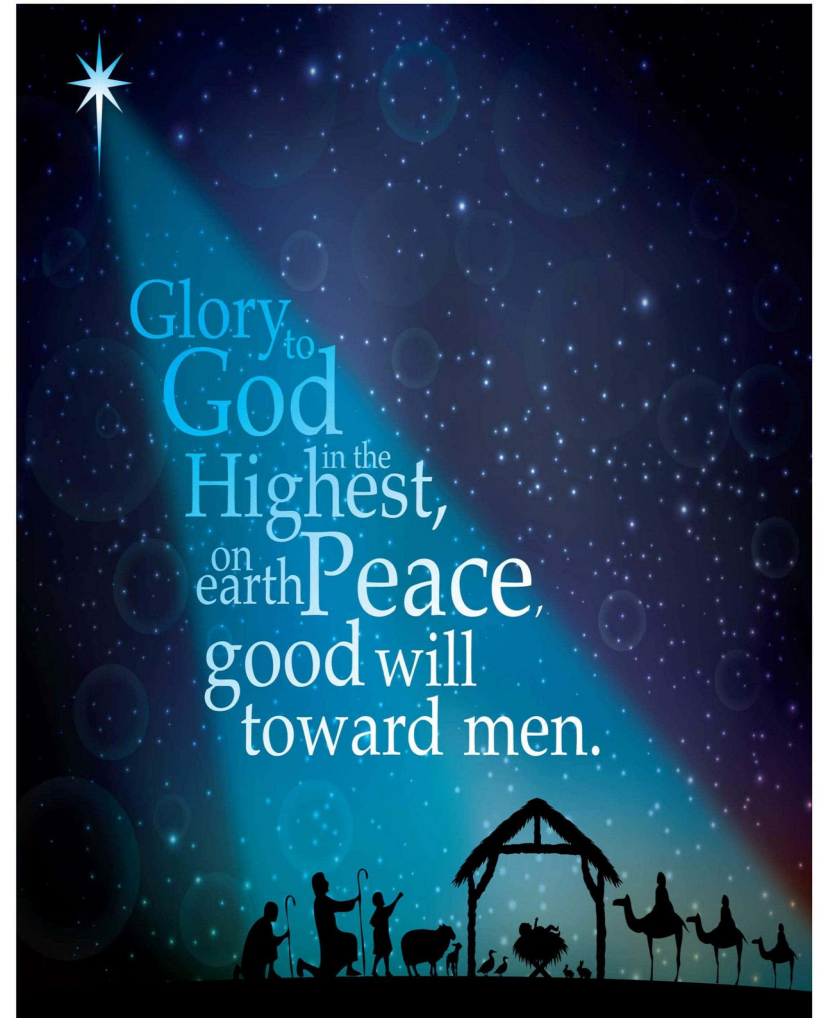


(This newsletter is for private circulation only)
Published by **P. M. Jacob**, Parish Secretary
For and on behalf of Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston
Cell: 832.567.0745, email: Secretary@immanuelmtc.org



Immanuel Mar Thoma Church

Houston, TX



Merry Christmas

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

WORSHIP SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2024

Dec. 01	Beginning of 25 Days Lent; Meeting of Virgin Mary & Elizabeth		
8:00 AM	English HQ assisted by Horeb Area Prayer Group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Exod. 7:1-7 Acts. 9:26-31 Rom. 15: 5--9 Luke 1: 39-45
10:30 AM	Malayalam HQ assisted by Jerusalem Area Prayer Group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Exod. 7:1-7 Acts. 9:26-31 Rom. 15: 5-9 Luke 1: 39-45
Dec. 08	Birth of John the Baptist: the child set apart for the divine plan		
8:00 AM	G3 & English HQ assisted by YF	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Mala. 3: 1-4 Acts. 16:1-5 2 Tim. 1:3-10 Luke 1:57-66
10:30 AM	Malayalam HQ assisted by Salem Area Prayer Group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Mala. 3: 1-4 Acts. 16:1-5 2 Tim. 1:3-10 Luke 1:57-66
Dec. 15	Annunciation to Joseph: Joseph - the model of discipleship		
10:30 AM	English HQ assisted by Sehion Area Prayer Group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Isa. 7: 10-17 1Thess 5:12-22 2 Peter 1: 5-11 Matt 1:18-23
Dec. 22	Arrival of the Savior of the World		
8:00 AM	G3 CFF & English HQ assisted by CFF	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Isa. 11: 1-9 Acts. 3:19-26 Heb. 1:1-12 John 1:9-18
10:30 AM	Malayalam HQ assisted by Sharon Area Prayer Group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Isa. 11: 1-9 Acts. 3:19-26 Heb. 1:1-12 John 1:9-18
Dec. 25	Birth of Jesus Christ: Peace on Earth		
9:00 AM	English HQ assisted by Sinai Area Prayer Group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Mic. 5: 1-9 Gal. 4: 1-7 Phil. 2:5-11 Luke 2:1-14
Dec. 29	God who led us till now		
10:30 AM	English HQ assisted by YF	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	1 Sam. 7: 1-12 Rom. 8: 31-39 2 Thess. 2:13-15 Matt. 11:25-30
Dec. 31	Into the New year with the God of Hope		
6:00 PM	G3 & English HQ assisted YF	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle Gospel	Jer. 29: 8-14 Jude 20: 25 Eph. 4:17-24 Matt. 7:7-12
9:00 PM	Retreat / Malayalam HQ assisted by Tabor Area Prayer Group	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Epistle	Jer. 29: 8-14 Jude 20: 25 Eph. 4:17-24

30TH PARISH DAY EVENTS



Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, **“Thus far the LORD has helped us.”** 1 Samuel 7:12

THE BIBLE

The Bible has 3,566,480 letters, 810,677 words, 31,175 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 Books. The longest chapter is the 119th Psalm. The middle verse is in the 8th verse of 118th psalm. The longest name is in the 8th chapter of Isaiah; it contains 18 letters.

The word “and” occurs 46,627 times, the word “Lord” 1855 times. The 37th chapter of Isaiah and the 19th chapter of 2 Kings are alike. The longest verse is Esther 8:9, the shortest is John 11:35. Ezra 7:12 has all the letters of the alphabet except the letter J. The name of God is not found in Esther. The word “boy” occurs in the Bible three times and the word “girl” two times.

Christ is the key to the entire book.

2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
OFFICE BEARERS		
Vicar	Rev. Joseph John	713.330.5299
Assistant Vicar	Rev. Santhosh Thomas	832.837.4721
Vice President	Mr. Mathew T. Scaria	281.857.5611
Secretary	Mr. P.M. Jacob	832.567.0745
Treasurer	Mr. Joy N. Samuel	832.606.5697
Accountant	Mr. Johnny M. Mathew	281.704.6901
Lay Leader (Malayalam)	Mr. Jeffrin. C Varghese	346.888.7189
Lay Leader (English)	Mr. Ajel John	281.854.8078
AREA REPRESENTATIVES		
Bethel	Mr. Mathews Varghese	832.205.6860
Bethlehem	Mr. Varghese Rajesh Mathew	832.630.0748
Carmel	Mr. Mathew P. Varghese	832.771.4723
Ebenezer	Mr. Jacob Kunnumpurathu	713.254.9448
Hebron	Mr. John K. Philip	832.744.0271
Horeb	Mr. Rajan Daniel	832.628.5481
Jerusalem	Mr. Abraham Komattu	281.750.5837
Salem	Mrs. Annamma Jacob	832.332.1007
Sehion	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	516.467.7926
Sharon	Mr. Thomas Thyparampil	832.488.0545
Sinai	Mr. Philip Mathew	682.246.1255
Tabor	Mr. John Varghese	281.746.0005
CHURCH ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES		
Choir	Mr. Bibin George	713.922.8232
Edavaka Mission	Mr. Alexander Jacob	469.982.1576
Senior Fellowship	Mrs. Sara Philip	281.889.8566
Sevika Sanghom	Mrs. Lata Mathews	832.205.6861
Sunday School	Dr. Anita Joy Thomas	630.864.1375
Young Family Fellowship	Mr. Ajay Thomas	281.948.5114
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Daniel Kalathoor	281.967.0607
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Christopher George	832.851.3597
DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY & MANDALAM MEMBERS		
Diocesan Assembly	Mr. Binu Pappachan	405.922.5716
Diocesan Assembly	Ms. Jewel Zachariah	832.334.8622
Diocesan Assembly	Mr. Siju Philip	516.503.5589
Sabha Mandalam	Mr. M.G. Mathew	281.857.3088
OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS		
IMC Administrator Scheduler	-	-
IMC Facility Manager	Mr. John Varghese	832.938.8664
IMC Facility Manager	Mr. John P. Mathew	832.656.1836
Technology Director	Mr. Abraham Kurien	832.623.2330
AUDITORS		
Auditor	Mr. Sam Thomas	832.868.5465
Auditor	Mr. Aji Daniel	214.995.4232

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK



Message from the Vicar

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

As a faith community, we are invited during this season of Advent to meditate on the profound event of "Word becoming flesh," - the mystery of Incarnation. Does this event pose any implication to our notions concerning God and how does it shape our life and witness as Christians? The Incarnation reminds to us that the ways of God are wonderful and surpass human comprehension. The birth of baby Jesus in the humble manger reminds us that, "God is so great that he can become small. God is so powerful that he can make himself vulnerable and come to us as a defenseless child, so that we can love him." Greatness is no longer about power, prestige, worldly grandeur and extravaganza, but about humility self-giving love and accessibility to others. God in Christ Jesus identifies the divine self with the poor, homeless, migrants, vulnerable and dependent. Therefore, it is among those at the margins that we need to seek the presence of the divine. But, if our focus is elsewhere, on success, influence, power and luxury, we risk missing the true presence of God. If our Christmas celebration is overshadowed by excessive consumerism, overindulgence in partying, merry-making and feasting, without deeper reflection on the meaning of Incarnation, it is reduced to a mere cultural festivity. May our Christmas celebrations reflect the true meaning of Christmas.

Let us pray and meditate this old prayer: "Lord, fill our hearts with the quite silence of the night on which your Almighty Word leapt down out of your royal throne, and came to visit us in great humility."

We, the Vicars, and our families, wish you all a Blessed Christmas!

Rev. Joseph John

JUBILEE PROJECT UPDATE

Construction activities are progressing per schedule. Waterproofing and insulation of the gymnasium have been completed and the masonry has started. Exterior work for both the extension and gymnasium should be completed by the end of December. After this the construction activities will focus on interior work. As we have utilized most of the funds raised for the project, we have started making payments using the loan from the bank. As per the General Body's decision, each family is to contribute a minimum of \$5000 towards the project. Please continue to support the project financially so that we can minimize the loan amount from the bank.

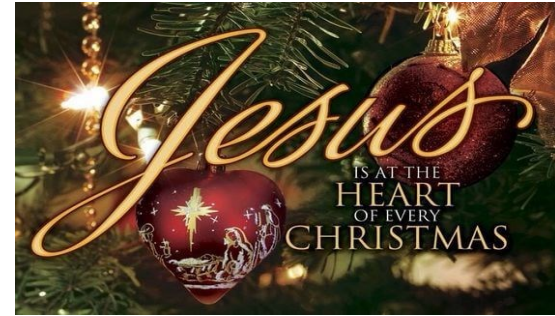
Above all, please continue to remember the project in your daily prayers.

HOUSE TO HOUSE CHRISTMAS CAROL ROUNDS 2024

Date	Day	Area
WEEK 1		
12/06/24	FRIDAY	Ebenezer
12/07/24	SATURDAY	Hebron
12/08/24	SUNDAY	Carmel/Bethlehem/Horeb
WEEK 2		
12/13/24	FRIDAY	**Optional**
12/14/24	SATURDAY	Jerusalem
12/15/24	SUNDAY	Tabor/Salem
WEEK 3		
12/20/24	FRIDAY	Sharon
12/21/24	SATURDAY	Sinai
12/22/24	SUNDAY	Sehion/Bethel

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

AREA PRAYER GROUPS	<p>Sharon area prayer meeting is arranged to be held on Saturday December 28th at 6:00 pm at the residence of Mr. Thomas Thyparampil (ID # 190). Address: 10915 Ashland Bridge Ln., Sugar Land, TX.</p> <p>Hebron area prayer meeting is arranged to be held on Sunday December 29th at 6:30 pm at the residence of Mr. Jama Sam (ID # 474). Address: 3115 Aldridge Dr., Missouri City, TX 77479.</p>
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UPCOMING EVENTS

12/06 - House to House Christmas Caroling starts
 12/24 - Christmas Carol Service
 12/30 -12/31 – Year End Retreat



WWW.IMMANUELMTC.ORG

We invite members to check out the updated church website with new features and functionalities at www.immanuelmtc.org. There are several new features like updated lectionary, Bible Verses in three different languages, various channels for our organizations, exclusive channels for media that include podcasts, video and photo galleries, exclusive section for our church history, and that of the North American Diocese.

AN APPEAL FROM THE TRUSTEES

As every one knows, the sole source of funding for operating the church is through the generous donations of its members. We are in the last month of the year, yet it's worrisome that we have collected only 40% of the budgeted annual contributions. Out of the 515 families, only 336 families have paid any subscription at all. 178 families shows zero amount.

Kindly do your part to support the church financially. Please pay your subscriptions, One Day income, and other dues now rather than wait till the end of December.

ONE CALL NOW

Apart from announcements during service and newsletters, we use **One Call Now** communication platform to disseminate key information regarding church service and other activities. If you are not receiving regular emails or voice calls from parish, please contact the parish secretary.

ZELLE PAYMENTS

Email address for the transaction is:

Immanuelmtconline@gmail.com



DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Nikhil George & Lincy George	8-Dec
Riju Kuruvilla & Leena Riju Kuruvilla	11-Dec
Regi C. Pappachan & Joice Regi	14-Dec
Aju Abraham John & Jopy Jacob	15-Dec
Mathew Zachariah & Rosie Mathew	17-Dec
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Roy Thomas & Asha Roy	19-Dec
Raju John & Rebecca Raju	21-Dec
Robin M. Thomas & Dr. Sheila Mary Thomas	21-Dec
Monzy Mathews Anaghan & Dimple Monzy	22-Dec
Thomas V. Cheriyan & Elizabeth Thomas	23-Dec
Gigi V Mannil & Saleen V. John	25-Dec
Jim Sam Green & Simi M. John	26-Dec
Thomas V. Mathew & Achamma Mathew	27-Dec
Ajay Thomas & Anna George	27-Dec
Prasanth K Krasta & Susmy Susan Koshy	27-Dec
Varghese Kunchacko & Dolly Varghese	27-Dec
Thomas Daniel & Jainy Joseph Daniel	27-Dec
Shiju T. Abraham & Pamela Abraham	27-Dec
V.C. Abraham & Mariamma Abraham	27-Dec
Jereesh T. John & Nisha Jereesh	27-Dec
Jacob John & Annamma John	28-Dec
Abraham Philip & Daisy A. Philip	29-Dec
Dijo Mathews & Cristelle Mary Mathew	29-Dec
Daniel Thomas & Annamma Daniel	30-Dec
Oommen Zachariah & Marykutty Varghese	30-Dec
Varghese K. Oommen & Elizabeth Varghese	30-Dec
Reji Eapen & Sajini Reji	30-Dec
Varghese Rajesh Mathew & Sissimol Easo	30-Dec
Aby Joy & Mini Joy	31-Dec
John Jacob & Geethu Angel Jacob	31-Dec
Thomas P. John & Elizabeth Thomas	31-Dec
Thomas Chacko & Jessy Thomas	31-Dec

ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School	9:30 am: Sunday school starts Jan. 12: Sunday school Exam
Senior Fellowship	Dec. 07: Monthly Prayer Meeting @ 10 am Dec. 12: Pakalveedu Fellowship @ 10 am Dec. 19: HQ in Malayalam @ 10 am
YFF	Dec. 14: Prayer Meeting @ Ninan Kalloor's residence
Edavaka Mission	Dec. 30: Year End retreat @ 6 pm Dec. 31: Year End retreat @ 9 pm

CONDOLENCES

Mr. Kavanal Thomas, 78 years old, uncle of Mrs. Asha Thomas (ID # 445) of the Horeb area prayer group was called to eternal rest in Enathu, Kerala.

Mr. Kurian Thomas, 73 years old, brother of Mrs. Annamma John (ID # 113) of the Carmel area prayer group was called to eternal rest in Detroit, Michigan.

Mrs. Thankamma John, 80 years old, mother of Mr. John Varghese, (ID # 520) of the Hebron area prayer group was called to eternal rest in Puthencavu, Chengannur.

Mr. Abraham P. John, 70 years old, father of Mr. Mevin John Abraham (ID # 565) of the Bethlehem area prayer group, was taken to his heavenly abode in Houston, Texas

Mr. James George, 76 years old, brother of Mr. Jose P. George (ID # 171) of the Salem area prayer group, was taken to his heavenly abode in Pasadena, TX.

Mr. V.K. Samuel, 76 years old, father of Bindu Kalloor (ID # 509) of the Sehion area prayer group was taken to his heavenly abode in Ezhamkulam, Kerala.

Mrs. Mariamma George, 77 years old, mother of Mr. John G. Mathai (ID # 408) of the Bethlehem area prayer group was taken to her heavenly abode at Aranmula, Kerala

The Vicars and members of the Immanuel Parish express our heartfelt condolences. May our thoughts and prayers comfort and console the families during this time of bereavement.



DECEMBER 2024 BIRTHDAYS



Saramma Thomas	1-Dec	Lisa Mathew	8-Dec
Thomas Mathew		Princy Prasad	
Thomas Thyparampil		Pamela Abraham	
Mathew Varghese		Sneha Anish	9-Dec
Annamma M. G.		Teena M. Samuel	
Thankachan N. Samuel		Robin Thomas	
Darly Sam		Reena Joe Varghese	
Daisy Varghese		Shirin Mathai	
Andrew Ajit Koshy		Alina Varkey	
Fiji C. George		Royce Chankurethu Samuel	
Aleena Koshy	Jiana Saira Kuruvilla	10-Dec	
Elizabeth Benni	Kurian Varghese	11-Dec	
Hana Liz George	V.M Georgekutty	12-Dec	
Sheril Mathai	Raveena Sosa Jacob		
Susan Thomas	Peter V. John		
Marykutty Varghese	Sumy Jacob	13-Dec	
Jessy Thomas	Johnson G.Varughese		
Shiju T. Abraham	Aaron S. George		
Sandy Eapen	Noah Alex	14-Dec	
Isabella Marie Eype	Aaden James Abraham		
Sreya Varghese	Geethu Angel Jacob		
Benzy Thomas	Alexander Bennykutty	15-Dec	
Sunila Abraham	Shan M. Prem	16-Dec	
Gia Isabelle Abraham	Jacob K. Chacko		
Jomon Kurian Thomas	Mathew Arun Thomas	15-Dec	
Mikhael Mathew Karikottu	Justin J. Mathew		
Abraham Mathai	Aashna Susan Varkey		
Zachariah T. Kalathoor	Amit John Joseph	16-Dec	
Zaryan Mathew Sibin	Leena Riju Kuruvilla		
Sheen Reni Kavalayil	Mohan John Thomas		
Victor Varghese	Thomas Abraham	17-Dec	
Mariamamma Chandy	Jeff Abraham		
John G Mathai	Dr. Sajan K. Eapen		
Binu Pappachan	Sherin Ann Thomas	18-Dec	
Nevin Abraham	Christopher George		
Dancy John	Kevin Santhosh		
Siby Mathew baby	Anjaly Skaria	19-Dec	
Binson B Thomas		20-Dec	
George Eapen			
Reenu Sara Sam			



DECEMBER 2024 BIRTHDAYS



Dr. Leena Mary Abraham	17-Dec	Joseph Joseph	26-Dec
Dr. Ronnie Abraham		Cassie Thomas	
John Joshy		Sonia Babu	
Lally Thomas		Sion Samuel Alexander	
Jarren Chacko		Donia Ann Kurian	
Sophia A. James		Binoy Puthenmadathil	27-Dec
Binsu Oommen		Mathew Mammen	
Reni P Raju		Soumya Mariam Oommen	
Dr. Jessy Skaria		Aaron Thomas Samuel	
Saramma M. Philip		Reju Eapen	
Nimmy Annie Abraham	Dr. Anju Chacko	28-Dec	
Vinson Thomas	Reeba Elizabeth George		
Dona E. Varghese	Tom Mathew		
Joel J. Eapen	Thomas V. Cherian	29-Dec	
Vivek Samuel	Mila Ann Mathew		
V.C. Abraham	Arianna Ann Thomas		
Sonia Tom	Maia Johny	30-Dec	
Justin Thomas	Manoj Abe Varghese		
Mullasariil Abraham Joseph	Biya Aleena Mathew		
Serah Sabu	Shobid Varghese	31-Dec	
Shoba Sara Mathew	Binta C. Varghese		
Shaun M. Varghese	Nora Sam		
Sunil Thomas	Elizabeth Cherian	28-Dec	
K.John Abraham	Rio Ayun Roy		
Tinish Thomas	Thomas John		
Shreya Anish	Justin K. Varghese	29-Dec	
Sruthi Anish	Caleb Dennis Mathew		
David Mathew George	Melvin Abraham		
Mathews K. Alexander	Juliet Sarah Abraham	30-Dec	
Mathew Jacob	Princey Terish Mathew		
Samuel K. George	Ashley M. Jacob		
Sam M. George	Arun M Jayaprakash	31-Dec	
Nataliya Lynn Thomas	Crisvin T. Sajee		
Abraham Joseph	Ethan Eapen Titus		
Dr. Anish G. Mammen	Maggie Thomas Koshy	24-Dec	
Carol A. George	Thakadiyil V. Mathew		
Maya Grace Eype	Joel Zachariah Kalathoor		
Aida Mary George	Bibin Abraham Thomas	25-Dec	
Joshni M. John	Abigail Varghese		
John Jesson	Abiya Mariam Lijoy		
	Sheba A. Mathew	31-Dec	
	Layla Susan Cherian		
	Ivana Rency		