



The Besorah

THE GOOD NEWS · DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

MAY 2026

† LIGHTED TO LIGHTEN †

VOL. XXVI · ISSUE V

FROM THE EPISCOPA



Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa
Diocesan Bishop, North America

EASTERTIDE

Christ is Risen!

From Resurrection Sunday through Pentecost — the longest festal season of the Church.

What is The Besorah? The Hebrew word *besorah* is translated as message or report. This newsletter includes a brief report of the Diocesan activities.

CALL TO MINISTRY

Full-time Ordained Ministry

Members interested in pursuing theological studies may contact the Diocesan Office.

marthomadiocese@gmail.com

Bishop's Message

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives."

— St. John 14:27

Dearly beloved in Christ, *Christ is Risen!* The church all over the world is observing the season of Resurrection of Christ. The event gives renewed spirit to the faith community, by sharing the painful experiences in life as well as the hope of new life that we receive. The risen Christ gives peace and hope to the perplexed and disheartened. We need to continue to pray for peace in various parts of our world.

The peace that Christ brings transcends human barriers. The continued presence of the 'risen Lord' in the life of people is an inspiration to move on in peace with confidence and courage. The ministry of Jesus Christ affirmed the centrality of life because Jesus had given himself, as a living sacrifice, for the life and renewal of God's creation. Thank God for the blessings that we receive and pray that God may continue to guide us in our way forward.

— With prayerful regards, Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa - Diocesan Bishop

FEATURE · MAY 29-30

Diocesan Assembly 2026

The 2026 Diocesan Assembly convenes Friday and Saturday, May 29-30, at **St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church, New Jersey**. Members and clergy from across the seven regions will gather for worship, deliberation, and the work of charting our shared way forward.

2026

Lighted to Lighten

Carrying the light of the risen Christ into every community we serve — across parish, region, and diocese.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

MAY
2

MTVEA Inauguration

Diocesan Activities · 2026-2029

MAY
10

Sunday School Exam

Diocesan-wide · Mother's Day Sunday

MAY
17

FAMHI Webinar

"From Caregiver to Care Leader" · Online (Zoom)

MAY
29-30

Diocesan Assembly

St. Peter's MTC, New Jersey

MAY
29-31

NER Youth Conference

Lake Pleasant, NY · College & working youth

PENTECOST SCRIPTURE

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

ACTS 4:31

IN THIS ISSUE

Holy Week services · NZ visit · Aneste Choir Fest · LEAD valedictory · Transfer of new Achens.

SAVE THE DATE · ASSEMBLY · MAY 29-30



Aneste 2026 · 175+ choristers · Atlanta Mar Thoma Carmel Center · Easter 2026

SACRED MUSIC · SOUTHERN REGION · APRIL 2026

Aneste 2026 — A Resounding Easter Choir Fest

The Southern Region's 10th Choir Fest, "Aneste 2026," was held at the Atlanta Mar Thoma Carmel Center, Georgia, hosted by Atlanta MTC. Mar Thoma parish choirs from Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina participated in this celebration of Easter joy. **More than 175 choir members** took part.

HOLY WEEK PILGRIMAGE · ST. THOMAS MTC, VANCOUVER, CANADA

Vancouver Holy Week — Maundy Thursday & Good Friday



Maundy Thursday Holy Qurbana · St. Thomas MTC, Vancouver



Thirumeni with members of St. Thomas MTC, Vancouver



Holy Week fellowship · St. Thomas MTC, Vancouver · April 2-3

On April 2-3, 2026, Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Thirumeni led Holy Week services at **St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Vancouver, Canada**. Thirumeni led the Maundy Thursday Holy Qurbana and the Good Friday *Dukha Velli* services, and Holy Week was blessed by his visit to the members of the parish.

EASTER SUNDAY & BUILDING DEDICATION · THE CANADIAN MAR THOMA CHURCH, TORONTO

Toronto Easter — Foundation Stone Blessed for the New Community Hall



Foundation stone blessing · Easter Sunday · April 5, 2026



Easter Holy Qurbana · The Canadian Mar Thoma Church, Toronto

On April 5, 2026, Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Thirumeni led the Easter Holy Qurbana at **The Canadian Mar Thoma Church, Toronto, Canada**, and led a special prayer for the foundation stone blessing ceremony of the parish's Community Hall.

INTERNATIONAL VISIT · AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND · APRIL 26, 2026

St. Thomas MTC Auckland — Episcopal Communion Service

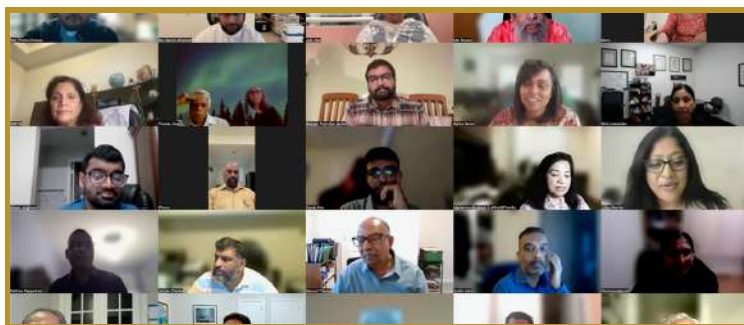


Congregation gathered for the Bishop's communion service · Auckland, NZ

Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Thirumeni visited the New Zealand Mar Thoma Churches, blessed members, and led the communion service at **St. Thomas MTC, Auckland**, on April 26, 2026.

FAITH FORMATION · ONLINE · APRIL 17, 2026

LEAD & Altar Boys / Covenant Girls — Valedictory



Online valedictory ceremony · 76 graduates across both programs

An online valedictory ceremony was held on Friday, April 17, 2026, for graduates of the **Lay Education & Development (LEAD)** program (50 students) and the **Altar Boys / Covenant Girls** program (26 students who completed all three phases of the course). Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Thirumeni gave the valedictory address. Rev. Dennis Abraham achen served as director of this faith-formation program.

DIOCESAN NOTICE · 2026 PASTORAL REASSIGNMENTS

Transfer of New Achens

We thank our Achens for their valuable ministry in the Diocese over the years. May the Lord's blessings rest upon them as they take up new responsibilities. Our prayers and best wishes are with each Achen and their families.

SOUTH FLORIDA MTC
Rev. Sheejo M. Abraham

NEW JERSEY · ST. STEPHENS MTC
Rev. Daiju George

LOS ANGELES · HOREB MTC
Rev. Shibi M. Abraham

HOUSTON TRINITY MTC · ASSISTANT
Rev. Sonu S. Varghese

PA YOUTH CHAPLAIN · SE / CORNERSTONE MT CONG.
Rev. Abraham Kuruvilla

NY · BETHANY MTC
Rev. Brijith John Koshy

NY · ST. THOMAS MTC
Rev. Jubin Varghese

STATEN ISLAND MTC
Rev. Lijo J. George

NY · EPIPHANY MTC
Rev. Prince Varghese

DETROIT MTC
Rev. Jobin Jose, Piravanthoor

BALTIMORE MTC
Rev. S. Manu Abraham

MTC DALLAS CARROLLTON
Rev. Justin Pappachan

HOREB MTC, COLORADO & PHOENIX MTC
Rev. Subin John Mathew

FLORIDA ST. LUKE'S MTC & JACKSONVILLE MT CONG.
Rev. Shiji Sam

NJ ST. PETERS MTC
Rev. Prijeesh P. Mathew

RIO GRANDE VALLEY MTC, MCALLEN & HOUSTON ST. THOMAS MTC
Rev. Geevarghese Kochummen

AUSTIN MTC
Rev. Koshy Kurian

DALLAS CROSSWAY MTC · DALLAS YOUTH CHAPLAIN
Rev. Arun Samuel Varghese

TORONTO ST. MATHEWS MTC · ASST. VICAR
Rev. Nebu K. Varghese

OKLAHOMA MTC
Rev. K. M. Mathew, Ranni

MAY 10, 2026 · DIOCESAN-WIDE

Mother's Day & Sunday School Exam

The Diocesan Sunday School Exam is held on Sunday, May 10, 2026 — the same Lord's Day on which the Church observes Mother's Day.

FAMHI WEBINAR · MAY 17, 2026

From Caregiver to Care Leader

The Diocesan Faith Ally for Mental Health Initiative (FAMHI) will be held on Zoom on May 17, 2026.

Zoom ID 849 2660 8763 · Passcode 221629

+ PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONS



Native American Mission

Mexico Mission

Southwest Border Mission

India Mission

Neighborhood Mission

Light to Life

marthomamission.org

marthomamissionboard@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD · SUMMER 2026

Conferences & Mission Trips

- JUN 19-21

Canadian Family Conference · Calgary
- JUN 25-28

SE Region Sunday School Conference · Philadelphia
- JUN-JUL

Native American Communities Mission · multiple states
- JUL 3-15

Diocesan India Mission Trip · Andhra Pradesh & S. Karnataka
- JUL 18-23

Mar Thoma Urban Mission Trip · Philadelphia
- JUL 23-26

Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference · Ascension MTC, PA
- AUG 14-16

Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam Conference · Salem MTC, NY
- AUG 20-23

Diocesan MTVEA Conference · Dallas, Texas

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."

— ST. JOHN 14:27

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Full-time Ordained Ministry candidates who are members of the Mar Thoma Church and interested in pursuing theological studies may contact the Diocesan Office.