

**Vicar's Message:** “Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight” (Luke.24:31)  
Dearly beloved in Christ,

The Great Lent is almost over and during the lent we meditate specially on the passion we meditate specially on the passion, the death and resurrection of Christ which speak clearly of God’s inestimable love to human beings. “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son..... (John.3:16). Thanking God for enabling us to set apart this time for prayer, meditations, Bible study and fasting. As we attend the special services during the Passion Week, which culminate with Easter Sunday, let us challenged by the invitation of Jesus to “take up cross”. Church being the body of Christ is called to appropriate the challenges of Cross in its ministerial pursuits. Here I would like to quote Pope Francis' words about Church, “I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security”.

Cross and empty tomb fills us with hope. When crucified and risen Christ joined two disciples on the road to Emmaus, they were grieving over His death. “But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel” (Luke.24:21), they told Jesus, whom they didn't recognize. Later they realized they had been talking with Jesus. He was alive! When our dreams are shattered and our hearts are broken, we may feel that all has been lost and nothing has been gained. It takes the touch of God to open our eyes to the glory of His plan. In our times of loss, the risen Lord comes to us with comfort and peace, revealing his glory and eternal gain that is ours. Present pains can lead to permanent gains.

The first Resurrection Day began with gloom and despair for the disciples. We can imagine them huddled together behind closed doors as “they mourned and wept” (Mark.16:10). But John told us that before the day ended the disciples “were glad “(John.20:20). From mourning in the morning to gladness in the evening. What made the difference? Seeing their resurrected Lord made all the difference. It transformed mourning in to gladness, weeping in to joy. We too can have great reason to be filled with joyous, anticipation and hope as we confront real painful life experiences.

Let us pray in the words of Psalms.55:1-15-17 which says, O Lords open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God You will not despise.

May the Holy Spirit enable us to experience the transforming power of Resurrection in our lives so that we can lead a life with risen Christ, and become a witness of His Resurrection.

“The Lord is raised! He is risen indeed!”

With love and prayers..... Shibu Achen.

<b><u>LENT--PASSION WEEK - WORSHIP SCHEDULE</u></b>			
<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Program</u></b>	<b><u>Special Observance</u></b>
Apr. 06	9:30 AM	Holy Communion (Mal)	Restoring Christ (36 <sup>th</sup> Sunday)
Apr. 11	9.30 AM	Holy Communion (Mal)	40 <sup>th</sup> Friday
Apr. 13	9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer (Mal)	Palm Sunday (Hosanna) Christ the King of Peace
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Apr. 14	7.00 PM	Sandhya Namaskaram	Evening Service (Monday)
Apr. 15	7.00 PM	Sandhya Namaskaram	Evening Service (Tuesday)
Apr. 16	7.00 PM	Sandhya Namaskaram	Evening Service (Wednesday)
Apr. 17	7.00 PM	Holy Communion (Mal)	Passover (Thursday)
Apr. 18	9.30 AM	Good Friday Service (English & Malayalam)	Good Friday
Apr. 20	9.30 AM	Holy Communion (Mal)	Easter Sunday, Resurrection Celebrating New Life in Christ (End of Great Lent)
Apr. 27	9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer (Mal)	New Sunday-Affirmation of Christ as Lord and God
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	

<b><u>LECTIONARY</u></b>				
<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson</u></b>	<b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson</u></b>	<b><u>Epistle</u></b>	<b><u>Gospel</u></b>
Apr. 06	Job.42: 10-17	Phil.02: 05-11	Eph.02:01-10	St. Mark10:46-52
Apr. 13	Acts. 13:44-52	St. Mat. 22:34-23:12	Col. 01:15-23	St. Mat.23:13-22
Apr. 20	Isa. 60:01-22	1 Cor. 15: 42-58	1Cor.15: 20-28	St. Luke.24:01-12
Apr. 27	Exo.03:13-17	Col.03:01-11	Col.15:20-28	St. Luke.24:01-12

**ASSISTANCE & USHERING 2014**

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Prayer Group</u></b>
April	New Hyde Park
May	Garden City Park
June	Long Island

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>
Apr. 06	9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Assembly & Classes
Apr. 13	9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Assembly & Classes
Apr. 20	9:00 AM - 10:10 AM	Assembly & Classes
Apr. 27	9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Assembly & Classes

**MALAYALAM CHOIR**

Choir practice will be held on Sunday April 06, 2014 morning at 9.30 AM and on Saturday, April 19, 2014 at 7:30 PM in the church. All choir members are requested to attend.

**SEVIKA SANGHOM**

<b><u>Date &amp; Time</u></b>	<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Residence</u></b>
Thursday April 10 10:00 AM	<u>Bible Study</u> Queens Village Floral Park	Mrs. Aleyamma Mathew 78-44 269 <sup>th</sup> Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040 718-347-7165

**TRIP TO LANCASTER**

Sevika Sanghom plans to take a trip to Lancaster to watch the new show “Moses” on Tuesday July 8, 2014. Details will be announced later. Those who wish to go for this trip to Lancaster must register their name with Sevika Sanghom Secretary Mrs. Susan Kurian or Treasurer Mrs. Annamma Abraham.

**EDAVAKA MISSION**

<b><u>Date &amp; Time</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Residence</u></b>
Saturday April 5, 7:00 PM	Lent Prayer Meeting	Mr. Mathew K. Lukose Syosset
Sunday April 6, 7:00 PM	Lent Prayer Meeting	Mr. Mathew Varughese New Hyde Park
Monday April 7, 7:00 PM	Lent Prayer Meeting	Mr. M.V. Varughese New Hyde Park
Tuesday April 8, 7:00 PM	Lent Prayer Meeting	Mr. Subash Thomas Bellerose
Wednesday April 9, 7:00 PM	Lent Prayer Meeting	Mr. Biji Jacob West Hempstead
Thursday April 10, 7:00 PM	Lent Prayer Meeting	Mr. Thomas Mathew Manhasset Hills
Friday April 11, 7:00 PM	Lent Prayer Meeting	Mr. Jacob Idiculla Elmont
Saturday April 12, 7:00 PM	Lent Prayer Meeting	Aji T. Baby Coney Island
Sunday April 13, 7:00 PM	Lent Prayer Meeting	Rev. Shibu Mathew Rectory

**CONDOLENCE**

Epiphany Mar Thoma Church would like to express our heartfelt condolence to:

- Mrs. Susan Johnson, 51 Knott Drive, Glen Cove, NY and Family on the demise of her father Mr. Thomas Abraham who passed away on March 18, 2014. Funeral service was held on March 22, 2014 at Sacred Heart Malankara Catholic Church, Mylapra. Kerala.

- Mr. Iype Philip, 2070 Renfrew Avenue, Elmont, NY and Family on the demise of his younger brother Mr. M. I Mathew (69 years) at Vadasserikkara. Funereal service was held on March 12, 2014.

- Mr. Jacob Chacko, 1309 O Street, Elmont, NY and Family on the demise of his father Mr. Chacko Chacko (87 years) at Chengaroor, Mallappaly. Funeral service was held on 24, 2014

Let us uphold these families in our prayer.

**AREA PRAYER MEETINGS**

<b><u>Date &amp; Time</u></b>	<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Residence</u></b>
Sunday April 6 5:00 PM	Bellerose Queens Village	Mr. Thomas P. Thomas 249-08 82 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue Bellerose, NY 11426 347-548-5612
Sunday April 6 7:00 PM	Floral Park	Mr. Mathew Varughese 78-44 269 <sup>th</sup> Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040 718-347-7165
Saturday April 12 7:00 PM	Coney Island	Mr. Aji Thariyan Baby (Aji) 83B Brighton Court Brooklyn, NY 11235 718-891-0844
Sunday April 13 7.00 PM	Ridgewood Wyckoff	Rev. Shibu Mathew 103-10 104 <sup>th</sup> Street Ozone Park, NY 11417 718-845-2920
Sunday April 20 7:00pm.	New Hyde Park	Easter Sunday
Sunday April 20 7:00 PM	Garden City Park	Easter Sunday
Saturday April 26 7.00 PM	Elmont Rosedale	Mr. Thomas Daniel 2024 Byron Avenue Elmont, NY 11003 516-285-5998
Sunday April 27 6:30 PM	Long Island	Mr. Thomas V. Thomas 1097 Johnston Avenue Wantagh, NY 11793 516-826-4727

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<b><u>Date &amp; Time</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Sunday April 06 Immediately after the Holy Communion	<u>Sunday School Anniversary</u>	103-05 103 <sup>rd</sup> Street Ozone Park, NY 11417
Sunday April 27 During Sunday School Classes	<u>Second Semester Examination</u> for the Classes 5 to 10	Sunday School

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<b><u>Date &amp; Time</u></b>	<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Residence</u></b>
Thursday April 3 6.30 PM	<u>Basic</u> New Hyde Park	Ms. Asha Jacob 1971 Stewart Avenue New Hyde Park, NY 11040 516-233-1521
Saturday April 05 5.00 PM	<u>Women's Fellowship</u> New Hyde Park	Ms. Tanya Alexander 40 North 10th street New Hyde Park, NY 11040 516-328-0425
Friday April 25 6.00 PM	<u>Men's Fellowship</u> New Hyde Park	Mr. Jithin John 16 Bolton Road New Hyde Park, NY 11040 516-414-4986

**SPRING ONE DAY CONFERENCE**

St. John's Mar Thoma Church will be hosting the Spring One Day Conference on April 19, 2014 at 9 AM.

The youth fellowship committee kindly request all youth, ages 12 and up to attend these events. Thank you.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

JAIMEE THAMPAN	MANHASSET HILLS	04-01
BRADY BAINS	ELMONT	04-02
JESWIN J. CHACKO	ELMONT	04-02
KUNJAMMA VARGHESE	BROOKLYN	04-02
LIZA ABRAHAM	WOODMERE	04-02
ROSHEN MATHEW	NEW YORK	04-02
VARGHESE DANIEL	FRANKLIN SQUARE	04-02
ASHER J. JOHN	HICKSVILLE	04-03
JOBBY MATHEW	FLORAL PARK	04-03
MANOJ MATHEW	MANHASSET HILLS	04-04
MATHEW PUNNAMOOTIL	NEW HYDE PARK	04-04
SIBYL M. CHERIAN	FLORAL PARK	04-04
BINI GEORGE	FLORAL PARK	04-05
JASMINE O VARGHESE	QUEENS VILLAGE	04-05
M.C. VARUGHESE	ELMONT	04-05
JONATHAN JOHN	HICKSVILLE	04-06
LINI MATHEW	ABINGDON	04-06
BOBBY THOMAS	BELLEROSE	04-07
JAYDEN THOMAS CHERIYAN	EAST MEADOW	04-07
MARY POTHEN	FLORAL PARK	04-07
ABI TOM CHERIAN	FLORAL PARK	04-08
ANNGELLE MATHEW	QUEENS	04-08
BIJI JACOB	WEST HEMPSTEAD	04-08

CHACKO DANIEL	MANHASSET HILLS	04-08
ROSAMMA ALEX	GARDEN CITY PARK	04-08
JIBY JOSEPH	QUEENS VILLAGE	04-09
WILSON T. OOMMEN	FLORAL PARK	04-09
JOHN P. JOHN	QUEENS VILLAGE	04-10
KATELYNN MARY THARIATH	ROSEDALE	04-10
REJI PHILIPOSE	BROOKLYN	04-10
SUSAN THOMAS	HICKSVILLE	04-10
TIFFINY MATHEW	FRESH MEADOWS	04-10
CHRISTOPHER JADEN THOMAS	VALLEY STREAM	04-12
MERCY A. MATHEW	ALBERTSON	04-12
BINI MATHEW	NEW HYDE PARK	04-13
JOSLIN A. RIJU	BROOKLYN	04-13
BABU VARGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	04-15
JACOB C. MATHEW	GARDEN CITY PARK	04-15
THAMPANKUNJU VARKEY	MANHASSET HILLS	04-15
ANNIE JACOB	NEW HYDE PARK	04-16
JASMINE VARUGHESE	ELMONT	04-16
JESSY MATHEW	NEW HYDE PARK	04-16
MARCY MATHEW	NEW HYDE PARK	04-16
GEORGE KURUVILLA	NEW HYDE PARK	04-17
LUKAS PHILIPOSE	BROOKLYN	04-17
SOUMYA THOMAS	MANHASSET HILLS	04-17
BLESSY MARY ABRAHAM	MERRICK	04-18
CHEMPARATHIL THOMAS	ELMONT	04-18



MARYKUTTY THARIATH	ROSEDALE	04-18
JOSLYN THOMAS	ALBERTSON	04-19
ANNAMMA ALEXANDER	WEST HEMPSTEAD	04-20
ELIJAH GEORGE ABRAHAM	BROOKLYN	04-20
JOSE VARGHESE	JACKSON HEIGHTS	04-20
KAITLYN JOHN	GARDEN CITY PARK	04-20
ABRAHAM K. DANIEL	RIDGEWOOD	04-21
ANNAMMA THOMAS	ELMONT	04-21
CHACHIAMMA THOMAS	NEW HYDE PARK	04-21
IRENE SONY JOSEPH	BELLEROSE	04-21
ANDREW VARUGHESE ALEX	FLORAL PARK	04-22
MATHEW GEORGE	FLORAL PARK	04-22
REX VARGHESE	NEW CITY	04-22
STANLEY S. OOMMEN	RICHMOND HILL	04-23
DR. JOE PHILIP	ELMONT	04-24
JESSY JACOB	NEW HYDE PARK	04-24
MARY CHERIAN	FLORAL PARK	04-24
RYAN AJI	BROOKLYN	04-24
SHIBU K. CHERIYAN	EAST MEADOW	04-24
SHINY JOHN	HICKSVILLE	04-24
SNEHA MIRIAM GEORGE	NEW HYDE PARK	04-24
GEEVARGHESE JOHNSON	GLEN COVE	04-25
JONAH M. PHILIPOSE	BROOKLYN	04-25
ROSAMMA UNNI	LITTLE NECK	04-25
SANTHI GEORGE	BELLEROSE	04-25

BEVERLY B. VARGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	04-26
GEORGE K. THOMAS	QUEENS	04-26
SANAYA MARIA CHERIAN	DIXHILLS	04-26
SARAMMA ANIL THOMAS	RANDOLPH	04-26
EAPEN MATHEWS	RIDGEWOOD	04-28
CHERIAN MOOLAKKAL	RIDGEWOOD	04-29
ESTHER L. MATHEW	FLORAL PARK	04-29
LITTYMOL CHERIAN	RIDGEWOOD	04-29
MARIAMMA THOMAS	QUEENS VILLAGE	04-29
THOMAS DANIEL	ELMONT	04-29
MATHEW ABRAHAM	NEW HYDE PARK	04-30
SHEEBA GEORGE	NEW HYDE PARK	04-30

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

Thomas V. Varghese	Merrick	04-02
Abraham C. Abraham	Brooklyn	04-06
Aji T. Baby	Brooklyn	04-07
Dr. Abel John Cherian	Floral Park	04-10
E.P. Philip	Merrick	04-13
N.K. Mathew	Manhasset Hills	04-17
Mathew Varughese	New Hyde Park	04-18
Abraham K. John	Elmont	04-20
Gimmy M. Abraham	Brooklyn	04-22
Mathew Abraham	New Hyde Park	04-23
M.A. John	New Hyde Park	04-24
Philip Mathai	East Meadow	04-24
Rinu Varughese	New Hyde Park	04-24
Jacob Chacko	Elmont	04-25
Joe P. Thomas	Brooklyn	04-25
P.V. Mathew	Brooklyn	04-25
Koshy Thomas	Pelham	04-26
Shibu Mathew	Staten Island	04-29
Mathai M. Varghese	New Hyde Park	04-30
Mathew M. Thannickal	New Hyde Park	04-30
Thomas V. Thomas	Wantagh	04-30

### **Sunday school Committee 2014**

Parish Comm. Rep.	Mr. Chacko Varughese	516.745.0050
Superintendent	Mr. Chacko Varughese	516.745.0050
Secretary	Ms. Gilsy Mary Saji	718-332-2751
Treasurer	Mr. Jinu M. Joy	718-343-5904

### **Edavaka Mission Committee 2014**

Parish Comm. Rep.	Mr. E.P. Philip	516.223.0752
Vice President	Mr. E.P Philip	516.223.0752
Secretary	Mr. Mathew N. Varughese	516-285-5753
Treasurer	Mrs. Sosamma Kurian	516-596-7514

### **Sevika Sanghom Committee 2014**

Parish Comm. Rep.	Mrs. Sosamma Kurian	516.596.7514
Vice President	Mrs. Aleyamma Philipose	718-891-7395
Secretary	Mrs. Sosamma Kurian	516-596-7514
Treasurer	Mrs. Annamma Abraham	718-465-7170

### **Yuvajana Sakhyam Committee 2014**

Parish Comm. Rep.	Mr. James Alex	516.640.5588
Vice President	Mr. Shibu Joseph	516-358-2350
Secretary	Mr. James Alex	516.640.5588
Joint. Secretary	Mrs. Bessy Abraham	516-804-5977
Treasurer	Mr. Biju Mathew Varghese	516-750-5474

### **Youth Fellowship Committee 2014**

Parish Comm. Rep.	Miss. Asha Jacob	516.233.1521
Vice President	Miss. Reny Varughese	516-376-7165
Secretary	Miss. Michelle Mathew	516-808-7558
Treasurer	Mr. Robin Varughese	516-302-7806
Joint Secretary	Mr. Jithin John	516-366-8932

### **Malayalam Choir Committee 2014**

Parish. Comm. Rep.	Mr. Shibu S. Baby	347-623-1324
Leader	Mr. Shibu S Baby	347-623-1324
Ass. Leader	Mrs. Sosamma Kurian	516-596-7514
Secretary	Mr. Abraham K Daniel	718-974-0443
Treasurer	Mr. Subhash Thomas	917-715-3704

### **English Choir Committee 2014**

Leader	Mr. Noble Thomas	516-474-2798
Ass. Leader	Mr. Joshua Mathew	516-348-4446
Secretary	Miss. Sherin Shibu	347-623-1324
Treasurer	Miss. Reena Varughese	516-302-7815

## Cross the symbol of unfailing love

Jean Val jean, a convict on parole, coming to a town where the only person who'll give him a room and a meal is the local bishop, Bp Myriel. The bishop welcomes him into his house, feeds him and gives him a warm bed for the night. However, the riches of the bishop's house prove too much for Jean Val jean. He succumbs to temptation and steals the bishop's silver cutlery. He's soon apprehended, though, and when the gendarmes bring him back, the bishop is faced with a dilemma: should he tell the truth, that Jean Val jean has stolen the silver, in which case he'll be thrown back into prison, or should he show him the mercy of the gospel and make out that it was given to him as a gift? The choice he has to make is between mercy and justice. He can't have both. Well, as you probably know, he chooses mercy. He lies to the gendarmes. He says that the silver was a gift. In fact he insists that Jean Val jean takes not just the silver cutlery, but his silver candlesticks as well. But before Jean Val jean leaves, he's told that this gift of love requires a response. From now on he must reform his life, from now on he must begin to live as a law-abiding citizen.

What is the story of the cross? Why do we observe cross as the symbol of Christian spirituality?

We are once again in the Lenten season where we observe the passion of our Lord Jesus. Jesus gave us this beautiful symbol as the centre of our spirituality which always challenges us with the unfailing and unfathomable love of God, which he expresses through the cross. In the Old Testament we see a God who accompanies a murderer, who hears the cry of the little child in the wilderness, who loves his people who always prostituted their master, who marries an unfaithful wife, and finally sending his own son to die to conquer death. This love continues through the symbol of the cross. Once again we are meditating on this unfailing love which comes from the everlasting fountain of the cross of Jesus and that is our hope in this world of individualism and 'lovelessness'. The one thing that takes us forward in the world of hatred, retaliation, jealousy and selfishness is the love that flows from this fountain.

If God loves us like this, what should be our response to this cross? The hymn writer Frances Havergal is asking these words to us

“I gave My life for thee, My precious blood I shed,  
That thou might ransomed be, and raised up from the dead  
I gave, I gave My life for thee, what hast thou given for Me?  
I gave, I gave My life for thee, what hast thou given for Me?”

What is our response? Let this season of prayer and lent help us to fathom this fountain of love. Let this season takes us closer to Him.

V. M. Mathew Achen

Youth Chaplain

Dear friends in Christ,

We are in the Great Lent that lasts for 50 days. One of the purposes of observing lent is to draw ourselves closer to God so that we will carry out God's will in our lives. Jesus Christ is our model. He intimately kept Himself closer to God to know His will on every occasion and at every place. Though He studied the scripture thoroughly, He re-read it during every worldly encounter to confirm that He carried out the purpose of God. This led Him to abandon Himself by emptying Himself on the cross for the redemption of the whole creation. During this lent can we learn to abandon ourselves for God's purposes? Another purpose of lent is to develop the mind of Jesus. Phil 2:5. We see in Jesus that He did incarnate in the life situation of the people, especially those that were marginalized by reaching out to them. He was accessible to the beggar on the side of the road near Jericho, the Canaanite woman, the lepers who were cast out, the man living in the tomb, the Samaritan woman, the thief on the Cross and the like. How I wish that the lent teaches us to reach out with the Gospel in word and deed to the marginalized in our own neighborhood. May the season of lent become meaningful and transform our lives. God bless us all!

Mar Theodosius

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

April 3-4, 2014: Annual Clergy Conference at the Philadelphia MTC

April 4-5, 2014: Diocesan Assembly at the Philadelphia MTC

Excerpt from the Besorah, an official Publication of the Diocese of North America and Europe.