

From the Vicar

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ....

We are in the advent season. The Church is getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus the messiah. In John 14:8-9, when Philip, one of the disciples of Jesus asked Jesus to show them Father, who is invisible, Jesus told him, "he who seen me has seen the Father" as he was the image of the invisible God. Jesus came in to this world to reveal the humanity, who God is. The teaching of Jesus about God as the Father is a revolutionary concept at a time when Jews were so afraid of Him as a strict judge, "eye for eye and tooth for tooth" type of judgment and punishment. Yet Christ said he is like Father- forgiving, loving and caring humans who are His own children. The Father-hood concept of God was not considered widely in those days. An invisible God is made visible in the life of Christ. He came down to the level of man to live like one of them on the earth. We thank God, because He knows our problems and sufferings. Let us remind ourselves this year's Christmas season that our God is Immanuel. He is with us in all our circumstances. This is also a time for us to prepare our hearts to receive Christ as our Lord and Savior and a time for us to renew our commitment to seek holiness in our life.

Our door to door Christmas Carol singing shall begin on Saturday November 29. The schedule of Carol rounds published in this News Letter. Christmas Carol Service and Christmas Day Holy Communion will be on Dec.24, 5.30pm & Dec. 25, 9.30am respectively. I request all our members' cooperation and contributions in this year's Christmas programs.

We are at the close of the current financial year. The parish members who are yet to pay the subscription and other dues are requested to pay them before December 31. Those members who are yet to pay \$1,000 towards Church Rectory Fund are earnestly requested to remit the full amount to the trustees before the close of the current financial year.

As we are moving on in to the New Year 2015, what is our testimony? Let us cling on to the promises of God in His time; He shall make all things beautiful. I look forward to receive your whole hearted support in the days to come as you had extended to in the past. Let us work together and make our own parish a living one.

May the Almighty God help us to share the joy of Christmas with all our friends and neighbors.

Wish you all a merry Christmas and a blessed New Year

With prayerful regards,

Shibu Mathew achen

WORSHIP SCHEDULE			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
Sunday December 07	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Birth Of John The Baptist (Bible Sunday)
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday December 14	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Annunciation to Joseph
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday December 21	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Mar Thoma Church Day
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Thursday December 25	9.30AM	Holy Communion Malayalam	Yaldo-Feast of Nativity- Birth of our Lord-(End of Twenty Five Days Lent)
Sunday December 28	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Joyful Expectation of Christ's Coming
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Wednesday December 31	9.00 PM	Holy Communion (English)	Year ending-Watch Night Service-God our Helper and Redeemer.

LECTIONARY				
<u>Date</u>	<u>1st Lesson</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
December 07	Isa.55:6-13	Heb.4:1-13	Gal.1:11-17	St.Luke.1:57-66
December 14	Zeph.3:14-20	Rom.1:5-16	Phil.4:4-9	St.Mat.1:18-23
December 21	Isa.22:20-24	1Cor.1:18-25	Phil.3:12-21	St.John.14:1-7
December 25	Micah.5:1-9	Col.1:13-20	Gal.4:1-7	St.Luke.2:1-14
December 28	Mal.3:13-4:2	Acts.1:6-11	1Thes.4:13-8	St.Mark.13:28-37
December 31	1 Sam.7:5-17	1 Pet.5:6-11	Heb.13:7-11	St.Luke.12:22-34

ASSISTANCE & USHERING 2014

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
December	Elmont/Rosedale
2015 January	New Hyde Park
2015 February	Garden City Park

SUNDAY SCHOOL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
December 07	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
December 14	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
December 21	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
December 28	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes

SEVIKA SANGHOM

<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
Thursday December 4	Joint meeting	Epiphany Mar Thoma Church 103-05 103 rd Street, Ozone Park New York 11417
Friday December 12	Fasting Prayer	Mrs. Mary Mathunny 1030, North 1 st Street New Hyde Park NY11040

SEVIKA SANGHOM

A joint fellowship of the Center A Sevika Sanghom North East Region will be held on Thursday, December 4th, 2014 at 10.00 am at Epiphany Mar Thoma Church, Main Speaker will be Rev. John Mathew. All Sevika Sanghom members are requested to attend this meeting. There will be no registration fees.

SENIOR CITIZEN FELLOWSHIP

*Senior Citizens Fellowship cottage prayer meeting will be held on Saturday, December 6th at 10:30 am, at the residence of Mr. John K. Samuel, 157 Cellar Avenue, New Hyde park, New York 11040.

*Thanks giving Holy Communion: Dec.09, Tuesday, 9.00am at Church.

MALAYALAM CHOIR

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays, December 7th, 21th, and 28th 2014 morning at 9:00 am in the church. All choir members are requested to attend this practice.

YOUNG FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP

REGIONAL YOUNG FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP MEETING ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH FROM 9:30 AM TO 3:00 PM AT EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH. REGISTRATION IS \$30 PER FAMILY. THERE WILL BE ACTIVITIES & BABYSITTING FOR THE CHILDREN.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

CHRISTMAS CAROLS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD: 2014 DEC.21
SUNDAY 5.00 PM AT CHURCH

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 24TH AT 5.30 PM AT CHURCH. GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE REV. DR. PHILIP VARGHESE

ST.THOMAS ECUMENICAL FEDERATION

THIS YEAR'S ECUMENICAL X¹ MAS CAROL CELEBRATION, THAT WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 28TH OF DECEMBER 2014 AT 4.30 PM AT GLEN OAKS HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 74-10 COMMONWEALTH BLVD, GLEN OAKS, NY. THERE WILL BE CAROL SONGS, SKITS AND ENTERTAINMENTS FROM VARIOUS CHURCHES IN THIS REGION.

CONDOLENCE

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

Glory Chacko, New Hyde Park, NY. Brother of Mrs. Glory Chacko Mr. Ittycheria Philip (Roy) passed away on Tuesday, November 4th in Kidangannoor, Kerala. He was 66 years old. Funeral service was held on Friday November 7th in India.

Let us uphold this family in our prayers.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

ASHLEY VARGHESE	VALLEY STREAM	12-01
JULIA K. JINU	FLORAL PARK	12-01
MARIAMMA THOMAS	WOODSIDE	12-01
MATHEW PARAYIL ALEX	GARDEN CITY PARK	12-01
NOAH PHILIPOSE	BROOKLYN	12-01
JESSICA JOY	NEW HYDE PARK	12-02
MARIAMMA VARGHESE	NEW CITY	12-02
SIJU MATHEWS	FLORAL PARK	12-02
ANCY MATHEW	EAST MEADOW	12-03
HANNAH SUSAN JOH NKUTTY	JAMAICA ESTATES	12-03
JOHN KURIAN	FLORAL PARK	12-03
SOSAMMA KURIAN	ELMONT	12-03
THOMAS V. THOMAS	WANTAGH	12-03
ABRAHAM MATHAI	ELMONT	12-04
ALBY JACOB	NEW HYDE PARK	12-04
ASHA JACOB	ELMONT	12-04
P.V. THOMAS	ALBERTSON	12-05
THOMAS K. VARGHESE	BALDWIN HARBOR	12-06
IVY ANN VARGHESE	FRANKLIN SQUARE	12-06
SIJI JOHN	BROOKLYN	12-08
ANNIE JACOB MATHEW	FRESH MEADOWS	12-10
ANUP T. GEORGE	MINEOLA	12-10
LIJO DAN ABRAHAM	BROOKLYN	12-10
PHILIP VERGHESE	FLORAL PARK	12-10
SELENA ALEX THOMAS	ELMONT	12-10
ANDERW NAVEEN JOHN	SYOSSET	12-10

SARAMMA GEORGE	NEW HYDE PARK	12-11
SHERLYN ALEX	EAST MEADOW	12-11
ABRAHAM THOMAS	MUTTON TOWN	12-12
GEORGE C. GEORGE	EAST MEADOW	12-12
MATHEW M. KANDATHIL	WOODHAVEN	12-12
SAMUEL T. OOMMEN	RICHMOND HILL	12-12
DR. JAY IYPE	MELVILLE	12-13
DEEPTHI JIMMY	NEW HYDE PARK	12-14
SANGEETHA S. ABRAHAM	RIDGEWOOD	12-14
SNEHA E. GEORGE	NEW HYDE PARK	12-14
AJISH MATHEW	FLORAL PARK	12-15
TYSON PHILIPOSE	FLUSHING	12-15
MELISSA MATHEW	MANHASSET HILLS	12-16
BRYAN V. JOSEPH	NEW HYDE PARK	12-17
SANJAY J. ABRAHAM	RIDGEWOOD	12-17
BRADLY B. VARGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	12-19
JINU GEORGE	ALBERTSON	12-19
SOWMYA ALEX	EAST MEADOW	12-19
V.C. ABRAHAM	WOODMERE	12-19
DR. JOJU V. THOMAS	PORTSMOUTH	12-20
SHERLEY ABRAHAM	JACKSON HEIGHT	12-20
SUNIL M. THOMAS	ELMONT	12-20
RUTH M. VARGHESE	BELLEROSE	12-21
ABRAHAM P. CHACKO	FLORAL PARK	12-22
ALLEN VARGHESE	FLORAL PARK	12-22
SARA E. THOMAS	BELLEROSE	12-22
BIJOU MATHEW	NEW HYDE PARK	12-23
BINI PHILIP	MERRICK	12-23
SMITHA D. GEORGE	BELLEROSE	12-23
ASHISH MATHEW	FLORAL PARK	12-24
GEORGE MATHEW	GLEN OAKS	12-24
JENNY MARY PHILLIPS	WESTBURY	12-24
MARIAMMA KOSHY	PELHAM	12-24
NOBLE A. THOMAS	RANDOLPH	12-24
SHEENA KURIAN	ELMONT	12-24
AJI T. BABY	BROOKLYN	12-25
AMY VARGHESE	ELMONT	12-25
ANNAMMA MATHEW	GARDEN CITY PARK	12-25
JAIN R MATHAI	FLORAL PARK	12-25
SANJAY MATHEW	QUEENS	12-25

SUZANNA ANCY MATHEW	ALBERTSON	12-25
THOMAS VARGHESE	ELMONT	12-25
ABRAHAM PARAYIL ALEX	GARDEN CITY PARK	12-26
CHRISTOPHER J. MATHEW	CHARLOTTE	12-26
CHRISTIANA SNEHA JOHN	SYOSSET	12-27
GEORGE MANGALATHIL	ELMONT	12-27
KEVIN JOHN SAMUEL	MANHASSET HILLS	12-27
KEVIN SAJU IDICULA	WEST HEMPSTEAD	12-27
SAJI MATHEW	QUEENS VILLAGE	12-27
SUDHA CHACKO	NEW HYDE PARK	12-27
AARON PHILIP MATHAI	EAST MEADOW	12-28
ANNAMMA VARGHESE	ELMONT	12-28
JINU M. JOY	FLORAL PARK	12-28
AIDAN SHIBU VARUGHESE	ELMONT	12-29
AIDEN T. GEORGE	MINEOLA	12-29
ANNAMMA CHACKO	GARDEN CITY PARK	12-29
JACOB IDICULLA	ELMONT	12-29
LEENA DANIEL	MANHASSET HILLS	12-29
SHAWN V. THOMAS	EAST SETAUKET	12-29
GEORGE C. MATHEW	FARMINGDALE	12-30
SAMKUTTY VARGHESE	FLUSHING	12-30
RYAN JACOB	NEW HYDE PARK	12-31
JENSON AMOS	MERRICK	

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

CHACKO M. JACOB	ELMONT	12-01
JOHN K. SAMUEL	NEW HYDE PARK	12-14
BABU VARGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	12-17
SHAJI VARGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	12-18
KURIAN JACOB	CHARLOTTE	12-25
GEORGE MATHAI	FLORAL PARK	12-26
JOHN MATHEW	FLORAL PARK	12-28
JACOB VARGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	12-29
V.C. ABRAHAM	WOODMERE	12-29
RAJAN THOMAS	FLORAL PARK	12-30
THOMAS T. DANIEL	ELMONT	12-31

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.	Mrs. Jaya K. Varghese	516.327.0159
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
Assistant 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
Assistant Leader	Mr. Joshua Mathew	516-348-4446
Secretary	Miss. Sherin Shibu	347-623-1324
Treasurer	Miss. Reena Varughese	516-302-7815

PARISH YEAR PLAN-2014

MONTH	PROGRAM
November 29, 2014 to December 20, 2014	Christmas Door to Door Carol Rounds
December 24, 2014	Christmas Carol Service
December 25, 2014	Christmas Day Service
December 31, 2014	Watch Night Service

December 09, 2014	Episcopal Consecration Silver Jubilee Thanks Giving Holy Communion Service in Malayalam At Epiphany MTC, New York Time: 9.00am
January 1-4, 2015	National Leadership Conference, Boston Host Parish: Carmel MTC, Boston Theme: Rooted in Christ.

Christmas Door- to-Door Schedule for 2014

No:	Day/Date	Area
1	Saturday 11-29-2014	Parsonage, Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, Woodhaven, Ridgewood, Kew Gardens.
2	Sunday 11-30-2014	Flushing, Maspeth, Astoria, Jackson Heights, Fresh Meadows, Vally Stream, Woodmere, Rosedale, Pelham, Yonkers, New City, Randolph, Connecticut.
3	Friday 12-05-2014	Bellerose, Queens Village, Glen Oaks, Jamaica.
4	Saturday 12-06-2014	New Hyde Park (Nassau).
5	Sunday 12-07-2014	Garden City, Manhasset Hills, Albertson, Williston Park, Glen Cove, Mineola.
6	Friday 12-12-2014	Elmont.
7	Saturday 12-13-2014	Merrick, West Hempstead, Franklin Square, Westbury, Baldwin, Hicksville, Wantagh, East Meadow.
8	Sunday 12-14-2014	East Setauket, Dix Hills, Melville, Mutton Town, Farmingdale, Syosset, Plainview, Deer Park, Bethpage.
9	Friday 12-19-2014	Floral Park, New Hyde Park (Queens).
10	Saturday 12-20-2014	Bay Ridge, Coney Island.

Treasure in the jars of clay

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay" 2 Corinthians 4: 7

Paul in his letter to Corinthians presents himself as a Jar of clay. He is of the opinion that it is the best way to explain who a Christian is. But he says even though the jar is made of clay but still God kept a treasure in this. In the first century context many people kept their treasures, especially their coins in a clay jars and kept inside the ground so that they can keep their treasure safely from Wars and robberies. In that context Paul explained this great spiritual thought to explain who a Christian is. When we study this concept I think three concepts are to be discussed

Creativity

A clay jar is always a creation of a creator. Every potter who makes a vessel has an intention when he makes it. So for that purpose he/she designs that vessel. So every vessel has a purpose that the creator intended for that Jar. In Jeremiah chapter 18 we read about a potter who molds the clay according to his will and wish for a particular purpose. Paul is saying every Christian is a jar of clay which was molded by our creator, the almighty God. When he designed us like this He has a special purpose in us. We live in this world to fulfill that purpose.

Fragility

The second word that we need to remember when we think about the jars of clay is fragility. Human is a fragile being and God has taken a risk to keep the treasure in that fragile jar. Just like any other clay jar every human is prone to many destructing experiences in life. But Paul explains that in verse 8 and 9; "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.". But those who have this treasure at our clay jars we will have the assurance that we will not be destroyed even though we face all kinds of difficulties in our lives.

Humility

This word reminds us about another aspect when we think about jars of clay. God came down into this form of clay jars to identify with everyone one. Philippians chapter 2 " though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross!" This clay jars remind us about the humbleness of Jesus and challenge us to follow the life style of humility. We are once again on the Advent season. Christmas is always reminding us about this humility where Jesus became human to redeem this whole world. When we celebrate Christmas this year let us remember that God became jar clay to bring this Gospel to us.

God has placed this treasure, the gospel in our clay jars. So we are the clay jars and we need to remember who our creator is and what purpose in this world is. We must understand how fragile we are but still under the protection of God almighty our creator. And also this clay jars reminds us about the about the humility that we need to have in our lives to imitate the life style of Jesus. God wants to place this treasure in our clay Jars. But are we ready to carry it in our lives.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

V. M. Mathew achen, Youth Chaplain

Dear Friends in Christ,

According to our church calendar, the World Sunday School Day is celebrated after the observation of Family Sunday. It speaks of the relationship between the two: family and children. Through wedlock a child is born in love and into love. God is the Creator, and therefore, God owns every life. At the same time, humans are called to be partners in creation with God with what God has given. Human beings are called for the right use of the divine gifts, and God the Creator shares in their joy.

A child is a gift of God to the parents and to the whole world. We read about baby Jesus in Luke 2: 40 that the child grew and became strong filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him. It is a God-given responsibility of parents to see that each child is nurtured in the above manner (cf. Luke 1: 80). When John the Baptist was christened, the people gathered and pondered, “What then will this child become?” This should be the question that the teachers should be asking when the parents send their children to Sunday school to come closer to Jesus. When the public had questions about spiritual life, Jesus pointed to a child and said, “...for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

We hear lots of incidents where children are misused, abused, neglected, and forgotten. Malala Yousafzai, this year’s Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, is a teenager who lives and fights for the rights of female children’s education. She has found her vocation before she turned 18 years old. Can our homes and Sunday Schools nurture our children to find their vocation while they are in their adolescent years? May God help us!

–Mar Theodosius (From November Besorah)