



EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH
MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER



33
Years

Theme of the Year

Church: Journeying With Christ

Executive Committee 2014

President / Vicar	Rev. Shibu Mathew Shibuachan2412@rediffmail.com	718.845.2920 718.612.1891
Vice President	Mr. Cherukara Philipose pcpbabu@hotmail.com	718.359.3158
Secretary	Mr. Shibu John johnmss@optonline.net	718.336.0849 718-496-7308
Treasurer	Mr. Saji. K Varughese Saji11235@yahoo.com	718.332.2751
Accountant	Mr. Thomas Chacko Thomaschackony@gmail.com	516.775.0464
Lay Leader (Malayalam)	Mr. Thomas Mathew	516.869.9607
Lay Leader (English)	Mr. Alvin Mathew	631.847.3431
Mandalam Rep.	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	516-812-9148
Diocesan Assembly Rep.	Mr. James Alex	516-640-5588
Diocesan Assembly Rep.	Mr. Jason Thomas	516-437-0015

Representatives of Organizations

Sunday School	Mr. Chacko Varughese	516.745.0050
Edavaka Mission	Mr. E.P. Philip	516.223.0752
Sevika Sanghom	Ms. Sosamma Kurian	516.596.7514
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. James Alex	516.640.5588
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Asha Jacob	516.233.1521
Choir	TBD	

Representatives of Area Prayer Groups

Astoria/Jackson Hts.	TBD	
Coney Island	Mr. Aji T. Baby	718.891.0844
Ridgewood/Wyckoff	Mr. Eapen Mathew	718.381.4549
Bellerose/Queens Village	Mr. George C. Abraham	718.465.7170
Floral Park	Mr. Mathew Varughese	718.347.7165
Elmont/Rosedale	Mr. Mathew N. Varughese	516.285.5753
New Hyde Park	Mr. Rinu Varughese	516.673.4583
Garden City Park	Mr. John Mani	516.414.4986
Long Island	Mr. Biju M. Varughese	516.750.5474

Auditors

Mr. Cherian K. Thomas	718.347.1928
Mr. Thomas Vadakedathu	718.464.3595

Vicar's Message:

“But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting , but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your father ,who sees what is done in secret ,will reward you.(Matthew.6:17,18)

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

For Eastern Churches these two months are very important because 50 days of Great Lent begins from March 2nd and ends on April 20th. Lent is the season to develop greater spiritual discipline and it is a time of repentance and renewal. The great pillars of Lent are Fasting, Prayer and Alms giving and these three complement one another and work together to pull us back to a new life in Jesus.

Here the idea of fasting is not just to deprive oneself of food and water for a certain number of hours in a day. It is more to combine it with time in the Word of God and prayer. Fasting help us to breaking ourselves before the Lord resulting in empowerment by the Holy Spirit. Fasting is not twisting God's arm to get our way or a manner of demanding something for ourselves .We should be careful to pray according to God's will not our whim and fancy. Additionally, fasting reveals God's truth and helps in dealing with our unbelief. Fasting is for us not for God-we have been saved by His grace alone. Really it is a time of introspection also so we need fast from undesirable qualities, from judging people, from fear, worry, and pessimism and discouragement, from complaining and gossiping and from selfishness. Pray that God would guide us in to eternal truth and teach more about self-denial and self-control. We need to fast and pray that God would enable us to be cheerful givers. May God help us to experience His Love in a new way through our meditation; fasting and prayer .It is our responsibility to express God's Love through cheerful giving. So I request all parish members to take this year's Lent observation seriously. Those who observe fasting during these days please donate the amount that saves through fasting as 'self-denial'.

Our Parish Annual General Body meeting is planned to be held on March --- to approve the Annual Report, Accounts and Budget. New executive committee will take in charge after the GB meeting. Let us uphold them in our prayers to do their duties in a most effective and God fearing way. I take this time to express thanks and appreciation to all of you who have done your part in the growth and development of the Parish, God bless your humble efforts. As we move on, I seek your wholehearted co-operation and support in making our parish a living one.

May God bless you, with love and prayers.

Shibuachen

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
Mar. 02	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Transformation of Creation
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Mal)	
Mar. 09	9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer (Mal)	Cleansing Christ (2nd Sunday in Lent)
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Mar. 16	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Forgiving Christ (3rd Sunday in Lent)
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Mal)	
Mar. 23	9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer (Mal)	Accepting Christ (4th Sunday in Lent)
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Mar. 30	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Redeeming Christ (5th Sunday in Lent)
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Mal)	

LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>1st Lesson</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Mar. 02	Isa.44:21-28	1 Tim.1:12-17	Rom.11:13-24	St.John.2:1-11
Mar. 09	Zech.13:1-9	1 John.1:5-10	Eph.2:1-10	St.Mark.1:40-45
Mar. 16	Gen.4:8-16	Acts.16:11-18	Rom.5:6-11	St.Mark.2:1-12
Mar. 23	Hos.2:14-23	Phile.1-21	Gal.6:1-5	St.Math.15:21-28
Mar. 30	Exo.3:1-10	Rom.8:31-39	Gal.5:1-12	St.Luke.13:10-17

ASSISTANCE & USHERING 2014

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
March	Elmont / Rosedale
April	New Hyde Park
May	Long Island

SUNDAY SCHOOL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
March 02	9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Assembly & Classes
March 09	9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Assembly & Classes
March 16	9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Assembly & Classes
March 23	9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Assembly & Classes
March 30	9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Assembly & Classes

MALAYALAM CHOIR

Choir practices will be held on Sunday March 2nd, 2014 morning at 9.00 AM and on Saturday, March 15th, 2014 at 7:30 PM, and on Saturday 29th, 2014 at 7.30 PM in the church. All choir members are requested to attend.

SEVIKA SANGHOM

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Thursday March 6 10:00 AM	<u>Bible Study</u> Coney island	Mrs. Elizabeth Jacob 2676 Hubbard Street Brooklyn, NY 11235 718-743-6160
Friday March 7 10.00 AM	<u>Fasting Prayer</u> New Hyde Park	Mrs. Mary Mathunny 1030 North First Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040 516-775-5712
Saturday March 8 8.30 AM – 2.00 PM	<u>Sevika Sanghom</u> <u>Regional</u> <u>Conference</u>	Epiphany Mar Thoma Church 103-05 103 rd Street Ozone Park, NY 11417
Thursday March 13 10.00 AM	<u>Bible Study</u> Queens Village Bellerose	Mrs. Mariamma Thomas 91-03 217 th Street Queens Village, NY 11428 718-464-3595
Thursday March 20 10:00 AM	<u>Bible Study</u> Elmont Rosedale	Mrs. Aleyamma Varghese 72 De Mille Avenue Elmont, NY 1003 516-825-3895
Thursday March 20 7:00 PM	<u>Bible Study</u> New Hyde Park Manhasset Hills	Mrs. Susan J. Daniel 25 3 rd Avenue Garden City Park, NY 11040 516-747-2102

EDAVAKA MISSION

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Friday March 14 7:00 PM	Weekly Meeting	Mr. Jacob Chacko 2676 Hubbard Street Brooklyn, NY 11235 718-743-6160

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Saturday March 1 12 Noon – 2.00PM	Community Outreach Project	Aqueduct Race Track Gate Six Aqueduct on 150 Ave. and 114th St, Ozone Park, NY
Friday March 14 6:30 PM	Basic Bible Study	Asha Jacob's house 1971 Stewart Ave, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Saturday March 15 5:00 PM	Women's Fellowship	Ms. Tanya Alexander 40 North 10th St, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Friday March 28 6:30 PM	Basic Bible Study	V.M. Mathew Achen 194 Bregman Ave, New Hyde Park, NY 11040

CONDOLENCE

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

- Mr. Nikhil Philip and Family (East Meadow) on the demise of Mr. Philip Abraham (74 years). Mr. Philip Abraham was the husband of Mrs. Annamma Philip and father of Mr. Nikhil Philip.

-Ms. Mercy Philip Koyickelath (65 year) passed away she was the first cousin of Mr. Abraham Thariath, Mathew Abraham, George Abraham and Elsy Ignatious.

-Mrs. Thankamma Philip (83 year) passed away. She was the grandmother of Mr. Joe P. Thomas and Mrs. Mincy Aji (Coney Island)

-Mr. M. I. Thomas Vadasserikara passed away. He was the brother of Mr. Iype Philip (Elmont)

-Mr. Mani Kurian (57 year) passed away. He was the brother-in-law of Mr. Cherian Moolakkal (Ridgewood)

Let us uphold this family in our prayers.

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Sunday March 2 5:00 PM	Bellerose Queens Village	TBA
Sunday March 2 7:00 PM	Floral Park	TBA
Saturday March 8 7:00 PM	Coney Island	Mr. Thomas Thannickal 733 Desmond Court Brooklyn, NY 11235 718-332-4121
Saturday March 15 5:00 PM	Ridgewood Wyckoff	Shibu S. Baby 78-18 82 nd Street Glendale, NY 11385 347623-1324
Sunday March 16th 5:00pm.	New Hyde Park	Mr. Rinu Varughese 113 Patton Blvd New Hyde Park, NY 11040 516.673.4583
Sunday March 16 7:00 PM	Garden City Park	Mr. Thomas Mathew 71 Royal Way Manhasset Hills, NY 11040 516-869-9607
Saturday March 22 7.00 PM	Elmont Rosedale	Mrs. Sosamma Kurian 701 Crans Street Elmont, NY 11003 516-596-7514
Sunday March 23 6:30 PM	Long Island	Mr. P. C Mathew 1757 Remson Avenue, Merrick, New York 11566 516-208-5323

YOUNG FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP

Sunday March 23 Immediately after Holy Communion	Young couples fellowship Meeting	103-05 103 rd Street Ozone Park, NY 11417
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BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Erin Philip	Elmont	03-01
Reju Mathew George	New Hyde Park	03-01
Rincy Johnson	Glen Cove	03-01
Samma Amos	Merrick	03-01
Shyno Merin Varghese	Ridgewood	03-01
Annamma Mathew	New Hyde Park	03-02
Thomas Chacko	New Hyde Park	03-02
Achamma Varghese	New Hyde Park	03-03
Beena G. Jacob	New Hyde Park	03-03
Keziah Ann Philip	East Meadow	03-03
Sissy Chacko	New Hyde Park	03-03
Abigail Merin Varghese	Ridgewood	03-04
Alvin Shaji Varghese	New Hyde Park	03-04
Jeffy John	Elmont	03-04
Katherine Sara Varghese	West Hempstead	03-04
Shaji Samuel	Dix Hills	03-04
Thomas Mathew	Mineola	03-04
Viji Thomas	East Setauket	03-04
Achamma Mathew	Manhasset Hills	03-05
Alexander Varughese	West Hempstead	03-05
Alvin Mathews	Glen Oaks	03-05
Jessy Y. Mathunny	New Hyde Park	03-05
Mathew M. Thannickal	New Hyde Park	03-05
P.V. Abraham	Ridgewood	03-05
Dr. Linie Thomas	Fresh Meadows	03-06
Thomas M. Thannickal	Brooklyn	03-06
Alvin Samuel Abraham	New Hyde Park	03-07
Beena Joseph	Queens Village	03-07
Jaycy Thomas	Floral Park	03-07
Sini Ann Unni	Little Neck	03-07
Hannah Kurian	Charlotte	03-08
Annamma John	Merrick	03-09
Bincy Jinu	Floral Park	03-09
Valsa Mammen	New Hyde Park	03-09
George P. Jacob	New Hyde Park	03-10
Joel Thomas Mathew	Hicksville	03-10

Mariamamma J. Koruthu	Jackson Heights	03-11
Philipose Oommen	Elmont	03-11
Roselin J. Mammen	Floral Park	03-11
Beena Samuel	Manhasset Hills	03-12
Koshy Mathew	Elmont	03-12
Noel A. Thomas	Randolph	03-12
Sarah Ann Johnkutty	Jamaica Estates	03-12
Sosamma Thomas	Glen Oaks	03-12
Anna Maria Varghese	Elmont	03-14
Jonah Mathew	New Hyde Park	03-14
Reuben Philipose	Brooklyn	03-14
Thomas Philip	Monroe	03-14
Abraham C. Abraham	Brooklyn	03-15
Aleyamma Mathai	Elmont	03-15
Seema Kurian	Elmont	03-15
Silu M. Varghese	Glen Oaks	03-15
Angel Mathew	Abingdon	03-16
Jacob Thomas	Brooklyn	03-16
Robin T. Varughese	New Hyde Park	03-16
Sherry D. George	Bellerose	03-16
Anupama Kuruvilla	Little Neck Park	03-17
M.M. Cherian	Henrico	03-17
Ranjit Jacob	East Meadow	03-17
Sosamma C. Kottackel	Floral Park	03-17
Thomas P. Thomas	Bellerose	03-17
Unni Abraham	Little Neck	03-17
Varughese George	Elmont	03-17
Thomas P. Abraham	Floral Park	03-18
Alex Mathew	Abingdon	03-19
Gracy Thomas	New Hyde Park	03-19
Mathew Thomas	Mineola	03-19
Shari Elizabeth John	New Hyde Park	03-19
Shiny John	Floral Park	03-19
Anil Jacob	Elmont	03-20
Kunjamma Abraham	New Hyde Park	03-20
Sheeba Jacob	Deer Park	03-20
Toby Varghese Chacko	New Hyde Park	03-20
Chacko Varghese	Brooklyn	03-21

Cherian M. Kottackel	Floral Park	03-21
John Daniel	Garden City Park	03-21
Philips P. Mathai	Westbury	03-21
Bobby Thariath	Rosedale	03-22
Kunjamma Philipose	Brooklyn	03-22
Sam T. Varghese	Baldwin Harbor	03-22
Dr. Thomas Bains	Elmont	03-24
Ebbie Kurian	Merrick	03-24
Chacko C. Abraham	Bellerose	03-25
George Mathew	Merrick	03-25
Varughese Mathew	Floral Park	03-25
Jessy Chacko	New Hyde Park	03-26
Sage J. Regy	Brooklyn	03-26
Amos Mathai	Merrick	03-29
Faith Ann Mathew	New Hyde Park	03-29
Isabella Iype	Melville	03-29
Jenson George	New Hyde Park	03-29
Sukhai N. Tabitha	Brooklyn	03-29
Alisha Susan Alex	Floral Park	03-30
Latha Thomas Mathew	Williston Park	03-30
Shivone Mary John	New Hyde Park	03-30
Aleyamma Ignatious	New Hyde Park	03-31
Aleyamma Mathai	New Hyde Park	03-31
Geena Saji	Brooklyn	03-31
Jacob Chacko	New Hyde Park	03-31

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

Mammen Mathew	Brooklyn	03-01
Alexander Jacob	Forest Hills	03-04
Koshy P. Oommen	Queens Village	03-06
Anil T. Thomas	Randolph	03-11
Chacko K. Jacob	Brooklyn	03-11
Samuel T. Oommen	Richmond Hill	03-12
Mathew N. Varughese	Elmont	03-15
Carlos Espejo	Brooklyn	03-17
Mathew George	Glen Oaks	03-18
C. Alexander	Franklin Square	03-22
Jacob D. Koshy	Kew Gardens Hills	03-29

Sunday school Office Bearers 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	

Edavaka Mission Office Bearers 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 Office Bearers 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	

Yuvajana Sakhyam Office Bearers 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	
Treasurer	Mr. Biju Mathew Varghese	516.750.5474

Youth Fellowship Office Bearers 2014

Parish Comm. Rep.	Miss. Asha Jacob	516.233.1521
Vice President	Miss. Remy 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 Office Bearers 2014

Epiphanymtmc@gmail.com

Parish. Comm. Rep.	TBD	
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 Office Bearers 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

Message from the Diocesan Secretary

I am pleased to announce the launch of the “Going Green” project throughout the Diocese of North America and Europe. This project is being launched in conjunction with Mar Theodosius Thirumeni’s 25th anniversary of Episcopal consecration to acknowledge his passion and dedication for protecting the environment. The key goals of the projects are to help educate and engage our church members in sustainable practices, and to provide information one can use to improve the health of our planet.

All parishes and parishioners are requested to consider the following matters for implementation in their respective parishes and in their homes: (1) Installing recycling bins to promote the recycling of reusable products; (2) Avoiding or eliminating the use of products that diminish the quality of the environment; (3) Minimizing the use of paper and paper products and considering greater use of electronic technology; (4) Minimizing or avoiding the wastage of food, water, gas, and electricity; and (5) Planting trees that are environmentally friendly.

In addition, parishes could consider celebrating Earth Day on April 22, 2014, with the following suggested programs: (1) Conducting a poster/painting/drawing competition on “Protecting the Environment” for Sunday School children up to the age of 12, and rewarding participants and winners with appropriate prizes; (2) Encouraging the youth (ages 12 to 20) to participate in an essay writing competition on “Christian Response to Climate Crises,” and rewarding participants and winners with appropriate prizes; (3) Encouraging the adults and youths to develop their own programs to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment; and (4) Encouraging parishioners to write articles in Malayalam and English, which if selected for publication by the editorial committees, could be published in the Sabha Tharaka, and Mar Thoma Messenger.

Participation in the above mentioned programs should be entirely voluntary, and only involve individuals who wish to serve God by caring for the environment that He has provided for us.

Thank you for your support for the “Going Green” project where we make “Small Changes for a Big Difference.”

With prayerful regards, Diocesan Secretary

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.

A servant Leader

Isa 42:1-7 is the first of four "Servant Songs" in Isaiah, referring to God's Servant, the Messiah. The leadership model that we receive in this servant song is a unique one. This is pointing to the messianic arrival and the way of His functioning but definitely a leadership model that Christian leader should follow. Isaiah is presenting this leader entirely different from the leadership models that we see in the Christian leadership today. Today many perceive and follow a leadership that is attached to the brutal greed of power, money and favoritism. So we experience a considerable reduction of leadership models that is to be looked up or to be followed. Isaiah is clearly presenting to us the best leadership model in this servant song. A leader must be a servant and that is the clear model of the leadership that we receive from this passage. This servant image is something that we all are lacking in our leadership in the church and society. Jesus literally practiced this model when he was in His ministry and confirmed this prophesy of a servant leadership. Where do we see this servant image of leadership today? I believe that is the greatest virtue a leader should follow as a Christian leader. This passage clearly says that God will put his spirit upon this servant leader. This is the promise that the bible gives to the servant leaders; they are not by their spirits but the spirit of the Lord will be their strength. What are the functions of a servant leader? This passage the servant leader will be the one that uphold justice and righteousness. That will be the basic guideline for the functioning of this leader; he or she will be a carrier of Justice and righteousness. Verse 2 is talking about

another aspect of the leadership. “He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.” This gives a different perspective on leadership without any pomp and noises. Many a time the leaders are becoming like people who lives in name and fame, looking only to live with clamor and shows. But a servant leader leads with humility and meekness.

Verse 3 clearly portrays the focus of this leader. The purpose of this servant leadership is to focus on what is fragile and vulnerable, what is weak and unsupported, what is dying and experiencing inequality. We, as leaders, are mostly guided by the powerful forces and we normally stand with them. In his recent apostolic exhortation called *Evangelic Gaudium*, Pope Francis wrote: “as long as the problems of the poor are not radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation and by attacking the structural causes of inequality, no solution will be found for the world’s problems or, for that matter, to any problems” The servant leader will focus his/her leadership in resolving the problem of the poor, weak and fragile. Verse 4 talks about the mission that is entrusted to a leader and that has to continue until the justice is to be established. Many of us are complacent and lethargic in our mission and ministry. We are satisfied with the status quo and want to be stereotyped always. But this passage says that the servant leader will be in the field until the justice is established.

This passage is challenging every Christian to follow the paths of servant leadership. God expects us to be servant leaders in the various leadership roles that are entrusted to us. May God bless us all.

Rev. V. M. Mathew
Youth Chaplain - New York
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New Hyde Park, NY – 11040
Tel: 001 5164370425
Cell: 001 5165326115

Visit me on the blog: <http://youthchaplainny.blogspot.com/>

Notice from the Secretary

1. If anyone is not receiving Birthday or Wedding Anniversary card, it must be notified to the Secretary or the Vicar Rev. Shibu Mathew Achan as soon as possible to correct the miscommunication. Also please notify any change in address, phone number etc.
2. Epiphany Mar Thoma Church web site is active now. Everyone will be able to access the web site by entering www.epiphnymarthoma.org into the search engine. Once you reach the website you will be able to see current events, newsletter, achen' profile and more. All organizations are hereby notified to send in their current events and any other publications as soon as possible so that we can update the website

Secretary

Shibu John

Epiphany Mar Thoma Church News Letter
Published by: Epiphany M.T. Church
Phone (Church): 718-848-5231
Phone (Rectory): 718-845-2920
Website: <http://www.epiphanymarthoma.org>

(For private circulation only, E&OE)