



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 discourage, 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 Mach --- 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 |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|

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. 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 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
194, Bregman Ave
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

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