

## **VICAR MESSAGE:**

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gifts!” (2 Cor: 9: 15)

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Warm greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.....

Thanksgiving is a recurring theme in the Bible. Most of the Psalms in the Bible are formed as an expression of thanks giving .They thanked God for victory in war, for good harvest and for deliverance from killer diseases and epidemics. In every receiving we should remain thankful to God .The apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians.9:15, “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gifts”. Whether we thank or not, it does not change God, but it should transform our attitude and perspective. Even for simple receiving we should train our children to say thanks to God and to others. We can be thankful even for the small irritants in our life.

One of the saddest lives ever lived was that of the author of the famous hymn, “There is a fountain....” William Cowper. Early in life, Cowper developed a chronic melancholia and dependency which plagued him till death. In one state of mental torment, he decided to commit suicide by jumping the river Thames from the London Bridge. The man who drove the cab lost the way in the fog. Cowper got out the cab and began walking. After walking around without knowing the way, he finally landed up at his own door step. He realized that the only way out of despair was to look to God, and not to end the life. When he found peace in God, and got a new lease on life, he thanked God for the fog on that day which was the turning point of his life.

The early English settlers (pilgrims) in this country first celebrated Thanksgiving at Plymouth in the fall of 1621. They had to be thankful for the good Lord after a voyage that had been nine weeks of unending horror. The harsh voyage and the fierce winter of New England were taking their tolls. Nearly half of them died in the next few months. Yet the pilgrims did not lose hope or their steadfast faith in God. It is their triumphs all the Americans are now celebrating on the Thanksgiving Day. Our Diocese celebrates the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day as Diaspora Sunday. This observance helps us to remember our past in the spirit of thanksgiving, at the same time; it also reminds us to pass it on to our next generation.

In this month we will have World Sunday School Day Celebrations in Region and Parish level. This year’s Regional celebration is at our church on Nov.01st 2014; from 9.00am to 1.00pm.Please uphold our Sunday school teachers and students in your prayer. Thursday Nov.27 is the Thanksgiving Day. We will have Holy Communion Service at 9.30 AM. It is a time to express our solidarity and prayers towards our Nation. May I request all your prayerful participation. We are coming closer to the end of the financial year. Please remember to pay your monthly subscription and other contributions which are due. The parish and its organizations are having General Body meeting to elect the Office Bearers to shoulder the responsibility for the year 2015. May God guide us to elect appropriate people who are faithful to Christ and loyal to Church.

May the compassionate God be with you and bless you in your day today life.

With prayerful regards,

Rev. Shibu Mathew (Vicar)  
10-21-2014.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
November 02	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Kudosh Eetho : Sanctification of the Church (Beginning of the Liturgical Year) World Sunday School Day- Initiation of Children to the Faith and Practices
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
November 09	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Hudos Eetho : Renewal of the Church Festival of Unity of the Communion of Churches in India (CCI)
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
November 16	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Annunciation to Zechariah
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
November 23	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Annunciation to Virgin Mary
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
November 27	9.30 AM	Holy Communion (English)	Thanks Giving Day
November 30	9.30 AM	Holy Communion (English)	Good Samaritan Sunday Visitation of Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. St. Andrews the Apostle Day (Young Couples Fellowship)

## LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
November 02	Prov.23:15-26	Heb.12:1-13	1 John.2:7-17	St.John.6:1-14
November 09	Micah.6:1-8	2 Cor.4:7-15	1Cor.12:12-20	St.Luke.10:1-9
November 16	1Chro.24.1-19	Heb.5:1-10	2 Cor.2:12-17	St.Luke.1:5-23
November 23	Zech.2:10-13	1 John.3:1-16	Eph.1:3-10	St.Luke.1:26-38
November 30	Gen. 18:1-16	1 Pet.1:8-12	2 Cor.1:3-11	St.Luke.1:39-45

**ASSISTANCE & USHERING 2014**

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Prayer Group</u></b>
November	Floral Park
December	Elmont/Rosedale
2015 January	New Hyde Park

**AREA PRAYER MEETINGS**

<b><u>Date &amp; Time</u></b>	<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Residence</u></b>
Sunday November 2 5:00 PM	Bellerose Queens Village	Mr. T.C Kurian, 80-28 257th Street Floral Park, NY 11004
Sunday November 2 7:00 PM	Floral Park	Mr. Varughese Alex 82-26 263 <sup>rd</sup> Street Floral Park, NY 11004
Saturday November 8 7.00 PM	Coney Island	Mr. Samuel Philipose 714 Manor Court Brooklyn, NY 11235
Sunday November 9 7.00 PM	Ridgewood Wyckoff	TBD
Sunday November 16 5:00 PM	New Hyde Park	Mr. Thundil Varughese 46 Wilton Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Sunday November 16 7:00 PM	Garden City Park	Mr. John Samuel 139,Brich Avenue Manhasset Hills NY11040
Saturday November 22 6.00 PM	Long Island	Mr. P. V Cherian 685 Half Hollow Road Dix Hills, NY 11746
Sunday November 23 7:00 PM	Elmont Rosedale	Mr. M. C Varughese 72 De Mille Ave Elmont, NY 11003

<b><u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u></b>		
<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>
November 02	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
November 09	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
November 16	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
November 23	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
November 30	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes

<b><u>SEVIKA SANGHOM</u></b>		
<b><u>Date &amp; Time</u></b>	<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Residence</u></b>
Monday November 3 10.00 AM	<u>Fasting Prayer</u> Long Island	Mrs. Susan Jacob 307 Paul Place West Hempstead, NY 11552
Thursday November 6 10:00 AM	<u>Bible Study</u> Coney Island	Mrs. Mariamma Mathew 465 Ovington Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11209
Friday November 7 10.00 AM	<u>Fasting Prayer</u> Queens Village Bellerose	Mrs. Annamma Abraham 88-27 214 <sup>th</sup> Street Queens Village, NY 11427
Wednesday October 12 7.00 PM	<u>Bible Study</u> New Hyde Park Manhasset Hills	Mrs. Mariamma John 157 Cellar Avenue New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Thursday November 13 10.00 AM	<u>Bible Study</u> Queens Village Bellerose	Mrs. Mary Cherian 79-58 264 <sup>th</sup> Street Floral Park, NY 11004
Friday November 14 10.00 AM	<u>Fasting Prayer</u> Long Island	Mrs. Saramma Mathai 404 Chambers Avenue East Meadow, NY 11554

**SEVIKA SANGHOM**

The general body meeting of the Sevika Sanghom will be held on Sunday, November 16, 2014 immediately after the Holy Communion Service. Office bearers for the year 2015 will be elected during this meeting.

## **MALAYALAM CHOIR**

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 morning at 9:00 am in the church. All choir members are requested to attend this practice.

## **SENIOR CITIZEN FELLOWSHIP**

EPIPHANY MAR THOMA SENIOR CITIZEN FELLOWSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014 AT 10.00 AM TO 12.30 PM AT CHURCH. ALL SENIOR MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND THE FELLOWSHIP.

## **YOUNG FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP**

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 AT 4:00 PM AT THE RESIDENCE OF SHIBU & BETSY MATHEW 18 MULBERRY CIRCLE, STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314

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

## **EDAVAKA MISSION**

<b><u>Date &amp; Time</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>
Friday November 7 7:00 PM	Weekly Prayer	Mr. Cherian K Thomas 79-58 264 <sup>th</sup> Street Floral Park, NY 11004
Friday November 14 7.00 PM	Weekly Prayer	Dr. Cherian Alexander 40 North 10 <sup>th</sup> Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040

## **REGIONAL NEWS:**

### **SEVIKA SANGHOM**

THE REGIONAL COUPLES CONFERENCE OF THE NORTH EAST REGIONAL SEVIKA SANGHOM WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2014 SATURDAY AT ST. THOMAS MAR THOMA CHURCH, 34 MORRIS STREET, YONKERS, NY 10705. ALL THE MEMBERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN AT 8.30 AM AND THE REGISTRATION FEE WILL BE \$10.00 PER PERSON.

### **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

NORTH EAST REGIONAL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP FALL ONE DAY CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON 2014 NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY AT 9.00 AM TO 3.00 PM AT EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH, NEW YORK.

THEME : MISSION

SPEAKER : MS. HENCY VARUGHESE, SOUTH FLORIDA

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

#### **NORTH EAST REGION - WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY CELEBRATIONS**

DATE : SATURDAY, NOV 01, 2014 AT 9.00AM – 1.00PM

VENUE : EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH, NEW YORK

GUEST : REV. ABRAHAM KURUVILLA, PRINCETON

### **L.E.A.D-LAY EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

ON NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY 10.00AM TO 12.00 NOON

VENUE - EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH NEW YORK

TOPIC - INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE: OLD TESTAMENT

LEADER – REV: V. M MATHEW

## CONDOLENCE

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

Brother in-law of Mr. Thomas John (Kunjomachan), Mr. K. T George passed away. Funeral was held on October 20th Monday, 2014 at Malayalapurza Mar Thoma Church, Malayalapurza, Kerala.

Mr. K. T Itty (75years) passed away on Sunday 19, 2014; Mr. K. T Itty is the Brother in-law of Mr. Varghese Daniel (Achenkunju) Franklin Square and Mr. Chacko Daniel (Reji) Manhasset Hills. Funeral was held on Thursday 23, 2014 at St. George Orthodox Church, Pune, India.

Let us uphold these families in our prayers.

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

CHERIAN K. THOMAS	FLORAL PARK	11-01
JACOB VARGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	11-01
MATHEW N. VARUGHESE	ELMONT	11-01
JESLIN K. JOY	NEW HYDE PARK	11-01
ABIGAIL SHAJI VARGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	11-02
BIJU THOMAS	VALLEY STREAM	11-02
SHINAMOL JACOB	EAST MEADOW	11-02
ABRAHAM MAMMEN	NEW HYDE PARK	11-03
DANIEL GREGORY PHILIP MATHEW	CHARLOTTE	11-03
REENA T. VARUGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	11-03
SANDHYA T. JOHN	FLORAL PARK	11-03
ALEYAMMA SAJI	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-04
KAYLA SANDHYA VARGHESE	SYOSSET	11-04
MATHEW VARUGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	11-04
P.G. VARGHESE	ELMONT	11-04
BETTY CHACKO	RIDGEWOOD	11-05
CHRISTINE ANN JACOB	WEST HEMPSTEAD	11-05
THOMAS EAPPEN	MERRICK	11-05
VADACKEDATHU T. THOMAS	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-05
MATHEW P. VINSON	EAST MEADOW	11-05
DR. ROBIN MATHEWS	RIDGEWOOD	11-06
MARY MATHUNNY	NEW HYDE PARK	11-06
MATHEW KOSHY	NEW HYDE PARK	11-06
RAJAMMA THOMAS	MINEOLA	11-06
SHEENA SUSAN JOHN	MERRICK	11-06

SOPHIA GRACE PHILIPOSE	NORTH BELLMORE	11-06
SUSAN N. MATHEW	MANHASSET HILLS	11-06
ALLEN MATHEW	QUEENS	11-07
BILJI VARGHESE	FRANKLIN SQUARE	11-07
CARLOS IZHUR ESPEJO	BROOKLYN	11-07
CHACKO VARUGHESE	EAST MEADOW	11-07
SUNI M. MATHEW	CHARLOTTE	11-07
VARGHESE MATHEW	EAST MEADOW	11-07
ALLEN MATHEW	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-07
ANNAMMA JOHN	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-08
KRUPA P. THOMAS	BELLEROSE	11-08
LISA ANN VARGHESE	NEW CITY	11-08
NOEL JOHN	NEW HYDE PARK	11-08
BILLY THOMAS	BELLEROSE	11-09
GEORGE P. THOMAS	GARDEN CITY PARK	11-09
LISA PHILIPOSE	FLUSHING	11-09
PRINCE PHILIP	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-09
SARAH KURIAN	CHARLOTTE	11-09
ALEYAMMA MATHEW	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-10
BIJOY DANIEL	ELMONT	11-10
SOSAMMA VARUGHESE	RICHMOND HILL	11-10
ANNIE THOMAS	LITHIA	11-11
K.K. MATHEW	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-11
ROSAMMA PHILIP	FLORAL PARK	11-11
SELIN VARUGHESE	ELMONT	11-11
GEORGE MATHEW	FLORAL PARK	11-12
JOSHUA MATHEW	NEW HYDE PARK	11-12
SHYJA OOMMEN	YONKERS	11-12
SUDHIN IGNATIUS	NEW HYDE PARK	11-12
SUSAMMA THOMAS	ELMONT	11-12
THOMAS MATHEW	WILLISTON PARK	11-12
GEORGE MATHEWS	NEW HYDE PARK	11-13
MARY P. ROY	NEW HYDE PARK	11-13
SINDHU S. THOMAS	ELMONT	11-13
TOM CHERIAN	FLORAL PARK	11-13
DAVINE JOBBY MATHEW	FLORAL PARK	11-14
SHEELA VARUGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	11-14
PHILIPOSE CHACKO	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-15
REGI CHACKO VARGHESE	SYOSSET	11-15
SARAMMA MATHAI	EAST MEADOW	11-15
SOSAMMA GEORGE	MERRICK	11-15



THUNDIL VARUGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	11-15
CELINA PHILIP	ELMONT	11-16
RINU PHILIPOSE	NORTH BELLMORE	11-16
ANSU ABRAHAM	RIDGEWOOD	11-17
JOHN K. SAMUEL	NEW HYDE PARK	11-17
JULIA ANN IYPE	MELVILLE	11-17
RYAN T. JOHNSON	GLEN COVE	11-17
SHERIN MANI	MELVILLE	11-17
SKARIA VARUGHESE	RICHMOND HILL	11-17
JACOB MAMMEN	FLORAL PARK	11-18
PHILIP CHACKO	NEW HYDE PARK	11-18
AARVIN VARGHESE	DEER PARK	11-19
DR. CHERIAN ALEXANDER	NEW HYDE PARK	11-19
JACOB C. KORUTHU	JACKSON HEIGHTS	11-19
JASMIN J. CHACKO	ELMONT	11-19
JOHN VARGHESE	BROOKLYN	11-19
JONAH ITTY PHILLIPS	WESTBURY	11-19
JUSTIN JOHN	MUTTONTOWN	11-19
LJO H. THOMAS	BELLEROSE	11-19
MARIAMMA MATHAI	BELLEROSE	11-19
SANDY THOMAS MATHEW	WILLISTON PARK	11-19
ABRAHAM VARGHESE	HICKSVILLE	11-20
ALEX DANIEL	GARDEN CITY PARK	11-20
DAISY JOHN	GARDEN CITY PARK	11-20
THOMAS M. MATHEW	ELMONT	11-20
SARA THOMAS	ALBERTSON	11-22
SEAN UNNI	LITTLE NECK	11-22
SUSAN JOHN	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-22
VARUGHESE MATHAI	NEW HYDE PARK	11-22
HENDRIX JAMES CHERIAN	FLORAL PARK	11-23
JERRY GEORGE	ALBERTSON	11-24
NAVEEN THOMAS	WEST HEMPSTEAD	11-24
RACHEL KURIAN	MERRICK	11-24
SAJI GEORGE	MERRICK	11-24
RAKESH MATHEW	EAST MEADOW	11-24
ABRAHAM V. THOMAS	MERRICK	11-25
ALEYAMMA PHILIPOSE	BROOKLYN	11-25
C. ALEXANDER	FRANKLIN SQUARE	11-25
GEORGE C. ABRAHAM	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-25
GIGI MATHEW	EAST MEADOW	11-25
VINCY PHILIPOSE	FLUSHING	11-25

ANSON MATHEW SAJI	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-27
CHERIAN BABY THOMAS	FRESH MEADOWS	11-27
CHRISTINE SAMUEL	MANHASSET HILLS	11-27
JOSEPH P. OOMMEN	QUEENS VILLAGE	11-27
MINCY AJI	BROOKLYN	11-27
SHERMIL DANIEL	ELMONT	11-27
SIMON SAMUEL	BELLEROSE	11-27
CHINNAMMA GEORGE	GARDEN CITY PARK	11-28
GRACY MATHEW	MERRICK	11-28
JEREL CHACKO	EAST MEADOW	11-28
SOPHIA ABRAHAM	RIDGEWOOD	11-28
THOMAS VARGHESE	ELMONT	11-28
JACOB P. JACOB	NEW HYDE PARK	11-29
MARIAMMA KURIAN	FLORAL PARK	11-29
ALEYAMMA VARGHESE	ELMONT	11-30
GEORGE ABRAHAM	NEW HYDE PARK	11-30
JUSTIN J. EASOW	RICHMOND HILL	11-30

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

M.C. VARUGHESE	ELMONT	11-03
VARUGHESE GEORGE	ALBERTSON	11-03
MATHEW JOHN	HICKSVILLE	11-07
OOMMEN GEORGE	GARDEN CITY PARK	11-08
JOHNKUTTY V. KOSHY	JAMAICA ESTATES	11-11
MATHEW VARGHESE	ABINGDON	11-13
P.V. ABRAHAM	RIDGEWOOD	11-20
BIJUMON VARGHESE	GLEN OAKS	11-22
SHIBU K. CHERIYAN	EAST MEADOW	11-22
THOMAS JOHN	NORTH WOODMERE	11-22
JACOB C. KORUTHU	JACKSON HEIGHTS	11-24
MATHEW K. LUKOSE	SYOSSET	11-24
WILSON T. OOMMEN	FLORAL PARK	11-25
SHIBU VARUGHESE	ELMONT	11-26
THOMAS PHILIP	MONROE	11-26
VARGHESE MATHEW	ALBERTSON	11-27
PHILIPOSE OOMMEN	ELMONT	11-28
ROY P VARGHESE	NEW HYDE PARK	11-30
SONY JOSEPH	BELLEROSE	11-30

### **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.	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
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

## **Why do I hate alcohol?**

The immediate response that I am going to receive is 'hey you are a priest so you have to do that'. It is not only that I am an ordained minister that I hate alcohol but I am convinced and confident that a Christian should abstain completely from alcohol. Now I am ministering among the youth in New York and the frequent question that I receive is, is bible against alcohol? Is it sin to drink alcohol? I am also aware of the fact that among the Mar Thomites, my own people, there is a gradual increase in the consumption of alcohol as a part of social gathering.

Some people rank alcoholism as our second greatest health problem in America (others say 3rd or 4th). There are about 10 million alcoholics and 20 million persons who consume a moderate amount of alcohol. About 70% use alcohol as a beverage. As a result, alcohol contributes to 205,000 deaths each year. Life expectancy of the alcoholic is reduced by at least a decade. One-half of all traffic fatalities are the direct result of the abuse of alcohol. It is directly connected to one-half of the homicides and one-third of the suicides. It costs business alone 19 billion dollars a year. And now one out of every twelve marriages comes apart over drinking.

I hear people say, they drink occasionally, and some others say they drink only as a part of social gathering, some consume alcohol every day with a moderate quantity, and some others are struggling how to control the addiction of alcohol. Sure, there are those out there who can drink socially and in moderation. But every addicted person started drinking by looking at it in that perspective but gradually got addicted to it. Alcohol, even in moderation, takes away money and time that could be better spent elsewhere. Alcohol is a waste of time, money and positive energy and nothing you gain out of it.

I read a person explaining from his own life these consequences of drinking alcohol; 'Alcohol gives people the liquid courage to be cruel, to be bullies, to be violent and to humiliate the people they claim to love. Alcohol makes you look like a fool. Alcohol destroys families, weddings, reunions, holidays, birthdays, funerals, graduations, concerts, parties, and untold numbers of public events. Alcohol encourages criminality and causes suicides. Alcohol destroys businesses, ruins livelihoods, causes homelessness, devastates relationships and undermines trust'. I believe this is completely true, nothing we gain but loses many things.

I remember Thomas, who was one of our AA members and went back to his addiction after few months when I was a missionary in Wayanad. I took him twice back to our De-addiction centre but finally I saw him hanged himself on a public bus shelter, leaving behind a lot of debts, a sick wife and two children. I can narrate many other pathetic stories like this that I saw as a result of alcohol. After coming to New York and working with the youth I saw many devastated lives, relationships and families due to the consumption of alcohol.

Some people has strong will power and self-control but not many others have the same qualities so I believe in what Paul said “ Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall” (I Cor 8:13). If I am a stumbling block to my weak brothers and sisters then I am distorting the body of Christ. I saw many of our brothers and sisters drink only when alcohol is served in our parties. Are we making others to fall into sin by providing it? I make a humble request to all those who drink, occasionally or regularly, to abstain from it because we are not gaining anything out of it but loses many things, money, time, thinking capacity, health, family relations so on and so forth. In 1 Cor: 6-19 Paul is reminding us “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own”. Our body is created in the image of God and with a purpose and whatever destroys that image needs to be avoided. Then we will be able to witness him as a living sacrifice.

V. M. Mathew achen  
Youth Chaplain

**PARISH YEAR PLAN-2014**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
November 27, 2014	Thanks giving"-Special Worship
November 29, 2014 to December 21, 2014	Christmas Door to Door Carol Rounds
November 30, 2014	Good Samaritan Sunday
December 24, 2014	Christmas Carol Service
December 25, 2014	Christmas Day Service
December 31, 2014	Watch Night Service

November 19-21	<b>Diocesan Clergy Conference</b> Host Parish: Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Houston
January 1-4, 2015	<b>National Leadership Conference, Boston</b> Host Parish: Carmel MTC, Boston Theme: Rooted in Christ.