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# EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH

**NEWS LETTER  
DECEMBER 2015**



THEME OF THE YEAR: "HARVEST IN THE FAMILY  
OF FAMILIES-HOPE FOR HUMANITY"

**FAITH IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION.**



### **Executive Committee 2015**

President / Vicar	Rev. Shibu Mathew Shibuachen2412@rediffmail.com	718.845.2920 718.612.1891
Vice President	Mr. Mathew K. Lukose mlukose77@gmail.com	516.932.7606
Secretary	Mr. George C Abraham georgecabraham23@gmail.com	516.358.4020
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. M.V. Varghese	516-673-4583
Lay Leader (English)	Mr. Alvin Mathew	631.847.3431
Mandalam/Sabha Council Rep:	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	516.812.9148
Diocesan Assembly Rep.	Mr. James Alex	516.640.5588
Diocesan Assembly Rep.	Mr. Jason Thomas	917.414.8924

### **Representatives of Organizations**

Sunday School	Mr. Oommen K. Varghese	516.285.9142
Edavaka Mission	Mr. E.P. Philip	516.223.0752
Sevika Sanghom	Mrs. Sosamma Kurian	516.596.7514
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Roshan Alexander	516.808.7116
Youth Fellowship	Ms. Sherin J. Daniel	516.747.2102
Choir	Mr. Shibu S. Baby	347.623.1324

### **Representatives of Area Prayer Groups**

Astoria/Jackson Hts./Flushing	Mr. Cherukara Philipose	718.359.3158
Coney Island	Mr. Chacko K Jacob	718.743.6160
Ridgewood/Wyckoff	Mr. Eapen Mathew	718-381-4549
Bellerose/Queens Village	Mr. Thomas Vadakedathu	718.464.0695
Floral Park	Mr. Mathew Varughese	718.347.7165
Elmont/Rosedale/Valley Stream	Mr. M.C Varughese	516.825.3895
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. P.V. Varghese	516.379.8046
Mr. George C. Mathew	631.847.3431

## **From the Vicar:**

**“Today in the town of David a savior has been born to us, He is Christ the Lord” (Luke.2:11)**

Greetings in the exalted name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.....

We are approaching yet another season of Christmas. This is a celebration of God’s great promise of a Savior, the redeemer of the whole world. Bible says, He redeems us from our transgressions. According to St.Paul (Romans 3:23) , “ all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. When we disobey God and his commandments, we no longer meet His righteous standards. Out of His compassion God sent His only begotten son and through His life, death and resurrection we are redeemed. Through the savior we got a victory from sin and death. We become a new creation, the old is gone and the new is born. The birth of Jesus was the beginning of the end for death. There is a famous statement, “The birth of Christ brought God to man; the cross of Christ brings man to God”. Hence Christmas is God’s intervention in history and fullness of salvation. During this Christmas season, let take God’s gift of His son Jesus Christ to give us redemption from our sins and victory over death.

As we enter in to the month of December, many important programs are awaiting. Our door to door Christmas Carol singing shall begin on Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup> and continue during the weekends till Dec.20<sup>th</sup>. The schedule of Carol rounds published in this News Letter. It is my humble request to all our families to open your door for receiving a message of joy and hope. Christmas Carol Service and Christmas Day Holy Communion will be on Dec.24, 5.30pm and Dec.25, 9.30am respectively. We expect all our members prayerful participation and contribution in this year’s Christmas programs. Having come to close the financial year, all

members are requested to clear off the subscription and other payments toward the parish.

Our General Body elected new office bearers and executive committee members for the year 2016. I whole heartedly welcome them and wish them all the best in their service in the courts of the Lord.

The year 2015 will conclude in few days. God willing, we will move in to a new year 2016. As we conclude this year what is going on in our mind ? Are we thankful to God for the year gone by ? Looking back, can we say that we were faithful in all things God entrusted us with like time, money, opportunities, skills and talents. Will the Lord rejoice that we used these for the extension of His Kingdom ? Let us remember God's faithfulness in the past that will bring us hope for the future.

May God bless you all and wish you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR...

With prayerful regards,

Rev. Shibu Mathew

Vicar

11-23-2015

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
Sunday December 6	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Birth of John The Baptist
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday December 13	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Annunciation to Joseph
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday December 20	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Sunday Before Christmas
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Friday December 25	9.30 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	Christmas Feast of Nativity
Sunday December 27	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Our Lord is Coming again.
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Thursday December 31	9:00-12:30 PM	Praise & Worship (Eng. & Mal.) Holy Communion (English)	Year End Watch Night Service

## LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
December 6	1 King 19:1-21	Rev. 10:1-11	Gal 1:11-17	St.Luke. 1:57-66
December 13	Isa 40: 1-11	Acts 20:17-25	Phil.4:4-9	St.Mat.1:18-23
December 20	Isa.11:1-10	1 John.5:1-12	Rom.1:8-16	St.John.1:1-14
December 25	Micah. 5:1-9	Col 1:15-20	1 Tim.1:14-17	St.Luke.2:1-20
December 27	Zech.14: 1-5	Acts 1:6-11	1 Thes.4:13-18	St.John.14:1-7
December 31	1 Sam 7:5-17	Heb 13:7-21	1 Pet 5:6-11	St.Luke 13:6-9

**ASSISTANCE & USHERING 2015-2016**

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Prayer Group</u></b>
December	Long Island
January	Astoria/Jackson Hts/Flushing
February	Coney Island

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>
December 2015	Every Sunday 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Sunday School Classes

**AREA PRAYER MEETINGS**

<b><u>Date &amp; Time</u></b>	<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Residence</u></b>
Sunday December 6	Bellerose Queens Village Glenoaks	(till Dec. 20 – Carol Rounds)
Sunday December 6	Floral Park	Carol Rounds
Sunday December 13	Astoria/Jackson Hts Flushing	Carol Rounds
Sunday December 13	Ridgewood Wyckoff	Carol Rounds
Saturday December 19	Coney Island	Carol Rounds
Sunday December 20	New Hyde Park	Carol Rounds
Sunday December 20	Garden City Park	Carol Rounds
Saturday December 26	Elmont/Rosedale/ Valley Stream	
Sunday December 27	Long Island	

**SEVIKA SANGHOM**

<b><u>DATE &amp; TIME</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>RESIDENCE</u></b>
Thursday December 3 10.00 AM	Coney Island Bible Study	Mrs. Lisamma Abraham 737 Desmond Court Brooklyn, NY 11235 (718) 769-2773
Friday December 11 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer	Mrs. Sally Abraham 116 Sylvia Lane New Hyde Park, NY 11040 (516)358-4020
	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream Bible Study	TBA
	New Hyde Park Garden City Bible Study	TBA

A PRAYER MEETING OF THE CENTER A SEVIKA SANGHOM NORTH EAST REGION WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY DEC. 23 , 2015 AT 10.00 AM AT ST. JOHNS MAR THOMA CHURCH, 90-33, 213 STREET, QUEENS VILLAGE, NEW YORK.

**MALAYALAM CHOIR**

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays: December 6th and 20th at 9.00 AM in the church. All choir members are requested to attend the practice.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SONG PRACTICE:**

Sunday 12/06/15 - After the Church Service

Sunday 12/20/15 - After the Church Service

Wednesday 12/23/15 – In the Church at 7.00 PM (Final Practice)

**SENIOR CITIZEN PRAYER MEETING**  
**TO BE ANNOUNCED**

## **CHURCH - 2015 YEAR PLAN**

Dec. 24, Thursday – Christmas Carol Service in Church at 5:30 PM  
Dec. 31, Thursday – Year Ending & New Year Service  
9.00 PM – 10.00 PM – Praise & Worship/Testimony - English  
10.00 PM – 11.00 PM – Testimony – Malayalam  
11.00 PM - 12.30 AM – Holy Communion (English)

## **EDAVAKA MISSION PRAYER MEETINGS:**

- 1. Wednesday , December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 PM at the residence of Mr. Varghese Daniel, 245 Court House Rd, Franklin Square, NY .  
Ph: 516-358-0279**
- 2. Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 PM at the residence of Mr. Rajan Thomas, 145 Irving Ave, Floral Park, NY .  
Ph: 516-519-8374**

### **Change of Address:**

#### Old Address

#### New Address

George C Abraham  
88-27, 214 Street  
Queens Village, NY 11427

116 Sylvia Lane  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040  
Ph: 516-358-4020

**NEW ADDITION TO FAMILY: CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. BOB MATHAI & JAIN MATHAI (NEW HYDE PARK) ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR NEW DAUGHTER ISABELLA ALISSA MATHAI ON OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> 2015.**



## **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

Mathew Parayil Alex	Garden City Park	12-01
Mariamamma Thomas	Woodside	12-01
Julia K. Jinu	Floral Park	12-01
Ashley Varghese	Valley Stream	12-01
Noah Philipose	Brooklyn	12-01
Jessica Joy	New Hyde Park	12-02
Siju Mathews	Floral Park	12-02
Mariamamma Varghese	New City	12-02
Thomas V. Thomas	Wantagh	12-03
Ancy Mathew	East Meadow	12-03
Hannah Johnkutty	Jamaica Estates	12-03
Sosamma Kurian	Elmont	12-03
John Kurian	Floral Park	12-03
Asha Jacob	Elmont	12-04
Abraham Mathai	Elmont	12-04
P. V. Thomas	Albertson	12-05
Ivy Ann Varghese	Franklin Square	12-06
Thomas K. Varghese	Baldwin Harbor	12-06
Siji John	Brooklyn	12-08
Philip Verghese	Floral Park	12-10
Annie Jacob Mathew	Fresh Meadows	12-10
Andrew Naveen John	Syosset	12-10
Anup T. George	Glen Oaks	12-10
Selena Alex Thomas	Elmont	12-10
Lijo Dan Abraham	Brooklyn	12-10
Sherlyn Alex	East Meadow	12-11
Saramma George	New Hyde Park	12-11
George C. George	East Meadow	12-12
Abraham Thomas	Muttontown	12-12
Sanjay Mathew	Floral Park	12-12
Samuel T. Oommen	Richmond Hill	12-12
Dr. Jay Iype	Melville	12-13
Sneha E. George	New Hyde Park	12-14

Sangeetha Abraham	Ridgewood	12-14
Deepthi Jimmy	New Hyde Park	12-14
Ajish Mathew	Bellerose	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
Sowmya Alex	East Meadow	12-19
Bradly B. Varghese	New Hyde Park	12-19
V. C. Abraham	North Woodmere	12-19
Jinu George	Albertson	12-19
Dr. Sherley Abraham	Bayside	12-20
Sunil M. Thomas	Elmont	12-20
Dr. Joju V. Thomas	Coal Grove	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
Smitha D. George	Bellerose	12-23
Bini Philip	Merrick	12-23
Ashish Mathew	Bellerose	12-24
Noble A. Thomas	Randolph	12-24
Mariamamma Koshy	Pelham	12-24
George Mathew	Glen Oaks	12-24
Jenny Mary Phillips	Westbury	12-24
Rev. Shibu Mathew	Ozone Park	12-24
Sheena Kurian	Elmont	12-24
Annamma Mathew	West Melbourne	12-25
Amy Varghese	Elmont	12-25
Christy John	Little Neck	12-25
Jain R Mathai	New Hyde Park	12-25
Aji T. Baby	Brooklyn	12-25
Suzanna A Mathew	Albertson	12-25

Thomas Varghese	Elmont	12-25
Sanjay Mathew	Floral Park	12-25
<b>Christopher J. Mathew</b>	Charlotte	12-26
Abraham Parayil Alex	Garden City Park	12-26
Sudha Chacko	New Hyde Park	12-27
Christiana Sneha John	Syosset	12-27
Kevin John Samuel	Manhasset Hills	12-27
George Mangalathil	East Meadow	12-27
Saji Mathew	Queens Village	12-27
Kevin Saju Idicula	West Hempstead	12-27
Jinu M. Joy	Floral Park	12-28
Aaron Philip Mathai	East Meadow	12-28
Annamma Varghese	Elmont	12-28
Shawn V. Thomas	East Setauket	12-29
Aidan Shibu Varghese	East Meadow	12-29
Annamma Chacko	Garden City Park	12-29
Jacob Idiculla	Elmont	12-29
Leena Daniel	Manhasset Hills	12-29
Aiden T George	Glen Oaks	12-29
Olivia Mariam Espejo	Ridgewood	12-29
George C. Mathew	Farmingdale	12-30
Samkutty Varghese	New Hyde Park	12-30
Thomas Mathew	Long Island City	12-30

Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life. Happy Birthday !

## **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
George Mathai	Floral Park	12-26
John Mathew	Little Neck	12-28
V. C. Abraham	North Woodmere	12-29
Rajan Thomas	Floral Park	12-30
Thomas T. Daniel	Elmont	12-31

**MAY TODAY BE FILLED WITH HAPPY MEMORIES  
OF THE PAST AND BRIGHT HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.  
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY !**

**Condolence:** Mrs. Thankamma Samuel (83 yrs), mother of our member Mr. John K Samuel, 137 Cellar Ave, New Hyde Park, NY., passed away in New York on 11/23/15. Funeral Services was held on 11/28/15. The Vicar and members of the Parish express our deep felt condolence to the bereaved family.

**Condolence:** Mr. M.M. Thomas (86 yrs), Father of our member Mrs. Sheela Varghese (W/o Thundil Varghese), 46 Wilton St, New Hyde Park, NY., passed away in Bhopal/India on 11/10/15. Funeral services was held in Bhopal on 11/14/15. The Vicar and members of the Parish express our deep felt condolence to the bereaved family.

Please uphold both these families in our prayers.

## **FROM DIOCESAN EPISCOPA:**

Dear Friends in Christ, “Let little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these...” Luke 18:16

When Jesus sees His disciples rebuking those who were trying to bring children to be touched by Him, He asks His disciples to allow them to come to Him. Children are a gift from God. Therefore, as a community, we gather to thank God while rejoicing the birth of a child and when celebrating birthdays. Parents are generally keen about celebrating a child’s birthday, but tend to overlook the status of the child’s spiritual growth. Regular attendance of Sunday school classes and worship services is important for a child’s spiritual development. Regardless of the parents’ hectic schedules, it is their God-given responsibility to raise children in the fear of the Lord, and it is a matter that should not be neglected ( Deut. 6:4-7; 2 Tim. 1:5).

David Smith Daye, aged 8, living in the Bronx, NY, has a rare genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow in the brain. He undergoes chemotherapy which weakens his immune system. His mother Ms. Scott aged 27, attends to him. She says, “Every time I get work, my son has a doctor’s appointment... I know I need money, but my son comes first”. In an age where we hear that new born babies are thrown out of the window from apartments (several such incidents occurred in NY recently), and little children are left unattended by the wayside and in forested areas (several such children have been picked up by the police), the above-mentioned relationship between David and his mother draws our attention.

Jesus, during His public ministry (Matt. 18:2-3 and Luke 18:17) exhorts all to receive the Kingdom of God like a little child. Bringing up children is also a spiritual exercise and provides an opportunity to learn from them. Ms. Michelle Moon has a child Juliana Snow, aged 5, who suffers from an incurable disease. As Julianna was struggling with her tiring routine of making trips between the home and the hospital, she expressed her desire to remain at home and not go to the hospital. Her mother told her, “Juliana, you’ll go alone to heaven sooner if you don’t go to the hospital”. Julianna replied, “Don’t worry mom; God will take care of me”. Tears trickled down the mother’s cheeks. Controlling her emotions, Michelle said, “Then I will miss you so much”. The five year old replied, “That’s ok. God will take care of me. He’s in my heart”. This is the kind of faith that our children should develop from a very young age, irrespective of whether they face successes or adversities.

Let us not neglect children. They carry God-sent spiritual messages to us.

Mar Theodosius+

(From Diocese of North America and Europe The Mar Thoma Besorah)

The Besorah is an Official Publication of the Diocese of North America and Europe.

## **YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S CORNER.**

One of the stories we associate with Christmas is the story of the wise men traveling to see Jesus. One part of the story that we never really discuss is the deaths of the children who were two and under.

**A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled,  
because they were no more. ~ Matthew 2:18**

A similar wailing, lamentation, and weeping can be heard today, throughout the world. Parents are weeping for their children because they are no more. They are no more because of war, terrorist attacks, drugs, violence, etc. People lamenting about losing their jobs, their homes, and their families. Within the past month we have seen the reports of the attacks in Paris and other parts of the world, as well as threats against cities in America. It is in times like this that the true Christmas message needs to be given to the world. People need to understand that Emmanuel means "God is with us." Jesus (whose name means savior), came here to save us and to support us all the days of our lives. He was born in a manger because no one would give him space. He was wrapped in bands of cloth because his parents could not afford anything better. He and his family had to flee to another country to escape death. Jesus the Christ is able to save us and support us, because he has endured the worst situations that this world can give. He has endured poverty, hunger, persecution, violence, and death.

But despite all that, he is still able to love other people, even those who committed these acts of oppression against him. Regardless of the way other people treat him, he still loves them and was willing to die for them. His acts of love, compassion, and forgiveness are what the world needs today. The people of the world need to understand that violence begets violence. Further, some claim that they have a right to do certain things or demand that things be done a certain way, no matter who they hurt. Jesus gave up his rights for others, and he was constantly supporting others.

In Matthew 9:13, Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Go and Learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'" This is a quote from Hosea 6:6 and this same theme is in most of the books of the prophets. What God truly desires is steadfast love which has to be demonstrated. The best way to demonstrate this is by showing mercy and compassion to those around us. This is the only real gift that God wants us to give to all those around us, not just to our family or friends, but to everyone including those we do not like. The gift of love, mercy, and compassion. As we have freely received so much love, mercy, and compassion from the Lord, may the Holy Spirit enable all of us to show love, mercy, and compassion to all those we meet, all the days of our lives. May we always remember that God is with us, to help, comfort, and save us. Merry Christmas.

**Rev. Shibi Abraham.**

### **Sunday school Committee 2015**

Superintendent	Mr. Oommen K. Varughese	
Secretary	Miss. Reena Varughese	
Treasurer	Mr. Jinu M Joy	

### **Edavaka Mission Committee 2015**

Vice President	Mr. E.P Philip	
Secretary	Mr. M. C. Varughese	
Treasurer	Mrs. Mariamma Lukose	

### **Sevika Sanghom Committee 2015**

Vice President	Mrs. Mariamma John	
Secretary	Mrs. Susan Kurian	
Treasurer	Mrs. Aleyamma Thomas	

### **Yuvajana Sakhyam Committee 2015**

Vice President	Mr. Shibu Cherian	
Secretary	Mr. Roshan Alexander	
Treasurer	Mr. Biju Mathew Varghese	

### **Youth Fellowship Committee 2015**

Vice President	Mr. Noble G. Abraham	
Secretary	Mr. Christin Mathew	
Treasurer	Miss. Asha Jacob	
Joint Secretary	Miss. Melissa Anne Thomas	

### **Malayalam Choir Committee 2015**

Leader	Mr. Shibu S Baby	
Assistant Leader	Mrs. Susan Kurian	
Secretary	Mr. Biju M Varghese	
Treasurer	Mrs. Mariamma John	

### **English Choir Committee 2015**

Leader	Mr. Robin K Varughese	
Assistant Leader	Miss. Sherin S Shibu	
Secretary	Mr. Alvin Mathew	
Treasurer	Miss. Gilsy Saji	

### **Senior Citizens Fellowship Committee 2015**

Secretary	Mr. M. V. Varghese	
Treasurer	Mr. John K. Thomas	

### **Young Family Fellowship Committee 2015**

Secretary	Mr. Jason Thomas	
Treasurer	Mr. Jacob D. Koshy	

Even though I  
walk through the  
valley of the  
shadow of  
death, I will fear  
no evil, for you  
are with me;  
your rod and  
your staff, they  
comfort me.



Psalm 23:4

Epiphany Mar Thoma Church News Letter

Published by: Epiphany Mar Thoma Church Inc.

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