

From the Vicar:

Jan.20, 2015

“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” (Psalms.23:4).

In a Sunday School class a boy asked a question to the teacher:” What does the voice of God sound like?” The teacher was not prepared for this kind of a question. She was taken by surprise. All were waiting to see how their teacher would answer the question. She began slowly, saying, the voice of God sounds like...” and drew the words out as long as she could while she prayed desperately that God would speak and give her an answer. She started once again: “The voice of God sounds like...like your best friend, like someone you trust, someone you can really talk things over with. The voice of God sounds like your mother or your father or your favorite sister when they comfort you because you’re having a bad dream in the night. You hear them next to your bed, calling, “Everything is all right, I am right here beside you.” Jesus said “...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew.28:20b). Really Jesus is the voice of God, In that voice we can hear the consolation of a friend, the words of strength and courage from a superior, words of peace and forgiveness from God. We can hear His voice and feel His presence in our day today life. Our personal and family prayer, meditation on the Word of God and corporate worship will help us to discern His voice.

The 50 days Great Lent begins from February 15.Lent is a special time of self-examination and penitence, a time for self-discipline, prayers, meditation, Bible Study and fasting. Lent speaks clearly God’s inestimable love to human beings and narrates that Christian life is not devoid of sufferings. Jesus never promised a life which is free from sufferings, but instills faith that is strong enough to face suffering. Jesus enjoyed his life on the cross and challenges us by inviting us to take up cross. In the midst of hopelessness and despair, there is a hope for a better tomorrow, because death lost its power and Jesus is the Victor. In this victory, we can claim victory over all forces of evil and death. Let us observe the Great Lent for reconciliation, self- purification of body and minds, manifestation of faithful prayerful cry for the providence of God’s Grace.

The 120th Maramon Convention begins on 08th and end on 15th February. This is one of the biggest Christian gatherings in Asian continent and an annual get together of the Mar Thoma Christians too. Even if we are away from there, we have a spiritual responsibility to pray for the listeners, speakers, and organizers of the convention so that God can transform the life of believers for a better harvest.

Another financial year has rolled past. God has graciously selected us to witness the new financial year so as to challenge us to double our efforts with hard work, dedication and new initiatives. Let us praise God for having showered His manifold blessings up on us in the past year. Hope that the New Year will be a year of God’s further providence in our lives.

May God Bless you all.....

With prayerful regards
Shibu Mathew achen

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
Sunday February 01	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Healing and Wholeness (Medical Mission Sunday)
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday February 08	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Beginning of 120th Maramon Convention
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday February 15	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Pethrutha: Beginning of Great Lent A time of reconciliation End of 120th Maramon Convention
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday February 22	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Touching the Untouchable (2nd Sunday in Lent)
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	

LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>1st Lesson</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
February 01	Job. 42:1-12	Rev. 22:1-5	2 Cor. 12:1-10	St. John 5:1-9
February 08	Gen. 1:24-31	Acts.10:9-16	Eph. 1:3-14	St.Luke.18:31-34
February 15	Gen. 45:1-15	Eph. 2:11-22	2 Cor. 5:16-21	St. John. 2:1-11
February 22	2 Kings. 5:1-10	Heb.13:7-17	Rom. 15:7-13	St.Mat.8:1-4

ASSISTANCE & USHERING 2015

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
February	Garden City Park
March	Long Island
April	Astoria/Jackson Heights

SUNDAY SCHOOL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
February 01	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
February 08	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
February 15	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
February 22	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Sunday February 01 7:00 PM	Bellerose Queens Village	Mr. Vadackedathu T. Thomas 91-03 217 th Street Queens Village, NY 11428 (718) 464-3595
Sunday February 01 5:00 PM	Floral Park	Mr. Mathew Varughese 78-44 269 th Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040 (718) 347-7135
Saturday February 07 7.00 PM	Coney Island	Mr. Thomas Mathew 2612 West 2 nd Street, Suite 1A Brooklyn, NY 11235 (718) 676-6546
Sunday February 08 5.00 PM	Ridgewood Wyckoff	Mr. Abraham K Daniel 1717 Starr Street Ridgewood, NY 11385 (718) 417-8441
Sunday February 15 6:00 PM	Garden City Park	Mr. V.C. Abraham 675 Flanders Drive Woodmere, NY 11581 (516) 812-9148
Sunday February 22 6.00 PM	Long Island	Mr. Philip Mathai 232 Belmont Avenue East Meadow, NY 11554 (516) 794-9143
Saturday February 28 6.30 PM	Elmont Rosedale	Mr. P. G. Varghese 1357 Sweetman Ave, Elmont, NY 11003 (516) 233-1401

<u>SEVIKA SANGHOM</u>		
<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
Thursday February 5 10.00 AM	Coney Island Prayer Bible study	Mrs. Gracy Mathew 787A Ave Z, Brooklyn, NY 11235 (718) 648-6307
Thursday February 12 10.00 AM	Queens Village Bellerose Prayer Bible Study	Mrs. Sosamma Thomas 79-07 267 th Street Bellerose, NY 11040 (718) 646-4993
Thursday February 26 10.00 AM	Elmont Rosedale Prayer Bible Study	Mrs. Susan Kurian 701 Crane Street, Elmont, NY 11003 (516) 596-7154
Thursday February 26 7.00 PM	New Hyde Park Garden City Prayer Bible Study	Mrs. Tessy Alexander 40 North 10 th Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040 (516) 328-0428

<u>31ST FAMILY CONFERENCE</u>
<p>DATE: 2015 JULY 02, 2015 TO JULY 05, 2015</p> <p>VENUE: THE HILTON STAMFORD & EXECUTIVE MEETING CENTER, CT 06902</p> <p>THEME: HARVEST IN THE FAMILY OF FAMILIES HOPE FOR HUMANITY (HOSEA 8:11)</p> <p>LEADERS: THE MOST REV. DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA METROPOLITAN, RT. REV. GEEVARGHESE MAR THEODOSIUS EPISCOPA, REV. DR. SHAM P THOMAS (BANGALORE).</p> <p>THE CUTOFF DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS MARCH.31,2015</p> <p>MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE ON THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE: WWW.MTFC2015.ORG</p>
<u>NORTH EAST REGION YOUTH FELLOWSHIP RETREAT-2015</u>
<p>The 2nd Annual NERYF Retreat will be taking place on February 20th – 22nd, 2015 at the Liebenzell Retreat Center, New Jersey. Parish youth fellowship members who are currently in the 12th grade and above can attend the meeting. For more details contact achen/ YF secretary.</p>

MALAYALAM CHOIR

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays, February 1st, and 15th 2015 morning at 9:00 am in the church. All choir members are requested to attend this practice.

120th MARAMON CONVENTION

From Feb.08 to 15, 2015

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

	<u>Old address</u>	<u>New address</u>
Mr. Thomas K Mathew	54 Pubins Lane Garden city park NY 11040	1697 Attilburgh Blvd. West Melbourne, FL 32904
	<u>Old address</u>	<u>New address</u>
Mr. Samkutty Varghese	78-41 162 Street Flushing NY 11366 Ph.718-380-0546	77 Maple Dr. New Hyde Park, NY 11040
	<u>Old address</u>	<u>New address</u>
Mr. Shibu Varughese	133 Benson Av. Elmont, NY 11003	419 Clear Meadow Drive. East Meadow Ph.516-352-1261

CONDOLENCE

The following persons enter in to eternal life

1. Our member Mrs. Aleyamma Varghese (Lizy) 58 years, W/O Mr. Oommen K. Varghese (Jose) & M/O Justin & Joshua, passed away on 01-25-2015. She was an active member of our Parish. All her service to the parish is remembered with gratitude at this time. May God comfort the bereaved family.
2. Mr. M. M Thomas (84), Father of Mrs. Saramma Chacko (w/o Mr. Chacko Varghese), 1733 Bard Lane, East Meadow, NY passed away on 01-10-15.

Parish expresses heartfelt condolence to the bereaving families....

BIRTH

A. Congratulations to Edward (Teddy) and Susan Varghese, 421 Elm Drive, Roslyn, NY 11576 on the birth of their son Philip Cherian Varghese on January 15, 2015.

B. Congratulations to Subash & Lijo Thomas on the birth of their daughter Rebecca Thomas on January 15, 2015.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Betsy Varghese	Franklin Square	02-01
Suja Abraham	Woodside	02-01
Aiden K Varghese	Floral Park	02-01
Jeson Thomas	Brooklyn	02-02
Libu Abraham	Brooklyn	02-02
Mary Mani	Melville	02-02
P.V. Mathew	Brooklyn	02-02
Tom Mathai	Elmont	02-02
Nisha S. Joseph	Bellerose	02-04
Sherly George	Kew Gardens	02-04
Julia Varghese	Queens Village	02-04
Alexander P. Chandy	East Meadow	02-05
George Thomas	Hicksville	02-05
Mini J. Mathew	New Hyde Park	02-05
Sarala Elisha Marie John	Hicksville	02-05
Jaimini Varghese	New Hyde Park	02-06
Baby George Thomas	Garden City Park	02-07
Geobey Abraham	Floral Park	02-07
Jessica Varghese	Syosset	02-07
Lalimma Thomas	Bellerose	02-08
Aileen Philip	Elmont	02-09
Jiby Varughese	Elmont	02-09
Justin V. Thomas	Woodside	02-09
Ashlin Philip	Elmont	02-10
Diya R. Regy	Brooklyn	02-10
Reuben K. George	Queens Village	02-10
Sajee George	New Hyde Park	02-10
T.C. Kurian	Floral Park	02-10
Aaron Mathew Thomas	Lithia	02-11
Ammini Jose	Glen Oaks	02-11
Roshan T. Varughese	New Hyde Park	02-11
Susan Thampan	Manhasset Hills	02-11
Thomas V. Mathews	Merrick	02-11

Alvin George C. Mathew	Farmingdale	02-12
Stanley Jacob	Floral Park	02-12
Thomas Pothen	Floral Park	02-12
Mathai C.C	Floral Park	02-12
Jerrill Mathew	Manhasset Hills	02-13
Katharine Ammini Thomas	Weston	02-13
Manoj Mathai	Floral Park	02-13
Joseph Thomas	Queens Village	02-13
Mathai M. Varghese	New Hyde Park	02-14
Roshan Alexander	Franklin Square	02-14
George Mathai	Queens Village	02-15
Lauren Elizabeth Philip	Elmont	02-15
Liju Abraham	Brooklyn	02-15
Santhosh M. Cherian	Floral Park	02-15
Saramma Chacko	Bellerose	02-15
Riya Maria Mathew	Floral Park	02-17
Ashley Ann John	New Hyde Park	02-18
Joshua Daniel	Manhasset Hills	02-18
Priya Philip Mathai	East Meadow	02-18
Steven David Jacob	West Hempstead	02-18
Thomas C. Varghese	Floral Park	02-18
Varghese Pothen	Elmont	02-18
Winnie Elma Roy	New York	02-18
Jensen George Thomas	Albertson	02-19
Stephanie Ann Alex	Floral Park	02-19
Roshan Varughese	New Hyde Park	02-21
Anson George	Queens Village	02-22
Milen Mathew Sanjay	Floral Park	02-22
Saju Idicula Varghese	West Hempstead	02-22
Aleykutty Thomas	Bellerose	02-24
Jacob Mathew	Merrick	02-24
Priya R. Samuel	Dix Hills	02-24
Jacob K. Mathew	Garden City Park	02-25
Leah Ann Mathew	New Hyde Park	02-25

Nidhin Ignatious	New Hyde Park	02-25
Dr. Varughese Cherian	Dix Hills	02-26
Iype P. Abraham	Brooklyn	02-26
Aleyamma Kurian	Merrick	02-28
Jimmy M. Joy	New Hyde Park	02-28
Sosamma Johnkutty	Jamaica Estates	02-29
Swaroop George	New Hyde Park	02-29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

Mr. & Mrs. Anu Abraham	Ridgewood	02-02
Mr. & Mrs. K.P. Varghese	Floral Park	02-02
Mr. & Mrs. Yohannan Cherian	Floral Park	02-03
Mr. & Mrs. George Thomas	Hicksville	02-04
Mr. & Mrs. Johnson John	Ronkonkoma	02-04
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Verghese	Floral Park	02-04
Mr. & Mrs. Lijo Daniel Abraham	Brooklyn	02-06
Mr. & Mrs. Eapen Mathews	Ridgewood	02-09
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Mammen	Glen Oaks	02-09
Mr. & Mrs. Skariah T. Samuel	Mineola	02-09
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander P. Chandy	East Meadow	02-10
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel P. John	New Hyde Park	02-10
Mr. & Mrs. Biju Thomas	Valley Stream	02-12
Mr. & Mrs. George T. Thomas	New Hyde Park	02-12
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Mathew	Elmont	02-15
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Oommen	Queens Village	02-19
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham K. George	Floral Park	02-23
Mr. & Mrs. George C. Abraham	Queens Village	02-23
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Mathew	Manhasset Hills	02-26
Mr. & Mrs. George K. Thomas	Queens Village	02-26
Mr. & Mrs. Sajee George	New Hyde Park	02-28
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese George	New City	02-28

Youth Chaplain' Corner

One Lord and one sheep: Unity or division “.....and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.” (John. 10:16)

One of the great visions that Jesus wanted to explain to His disciples is one Lord and one sheep. The oneness of Christians amidst of the diversities is the Lordship of Jesus. But many a time it became a force of division among Christians in the history. Even this was evident in the first century church where Paul asked the question ‘is Christ divided’? When he was writing to the Ephesians Paul clearly explained what is the unity of Christians , “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all”. (Eph. 4. 4, 5) But most of the oneness that Paul is trying to emphasize in these verses became forces of division in the church.

Jesus is telling us today that every Christian is part of His flock and He is the only Lord. Chapter 10 describes this unique relationship a shepherd has with sheep for the unity. The shepherd owns, knows and gives life to these flocks. This is an intimate and unique relationship that a shepherd is having with his sheep. All the sheep have the privilege to believe that there is someone who owns them, knows them and gives life in abundance and that is their shepherd. This intimate relationship should be the catalyst for our unity in Christ. We are one in Christ. John Chapter 10 also talks about the unique characteristics of the sheep that is part of this unity. They listen to the shepherd and will not listen to any other false shepherds because they recognize the voice of the shepherd. They know the shepherd and enter through the gate of Jesus for the salvation. They have no confusions on what they believe and who are the right prophets. Jesus clearly warns about the false teachers and heresies that can come on our way when we live in this world. If we don't listen and know our shepherd then we will easily fall into the trap of division and hatred. Jesus said we will discern the false prophets by their fruits. So teachings and the fruits are to go hand in hand. The question is do we listen to our shepherd and shepherd alone? Do we know Him personally?

All the diversities that we have among Christianity should not be the forces of division and hatred among us but should a unifying force because we have only one Lord. But today it is sad to understand that a lot hatred and division is in the Christian community on what we believe and what we practice. The best answer to find a solution to these divisions is to listen to our shepherd and not be cheated by the false teachings. Let us know him personally then the diversities that we have is a blessing in our growing together. Let us enter through the gate of our Lord and He said ‘I am the gate’.

V. M. Mathew achen

Youth Chaplain

From Diocesan Episcopa:

Our diocese started the New Year with the Leadership Conference which was attended by about 100 delegates representing various parishes from North America. The youth Fellowship members of the Carmel Mar Thoma Church, Boston, organized the conference very well with the help of the Youth Chaplains in the Diocese and the Diocesan Council Members. The conference was a blessing to all who attended.

The theme was rooted in Christ, based on Col 2: 6-7, which says, “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” St. Paul is talking about “Life in Christ” and the need to grow with deep roots. A plant with deep roots will stand strong and will have leaves and fruit in its branches. It reminds us of Psalms 1: 3 “He (the blessed man) is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.” (Reflect on St. Jn. 15 as well). St. Paul is telling his audience to grow in the Christian doctrines and to find the meaning and relevance of a Christian life. The conference in Boston was the 18th Leadership Conference and was meant for training youth members who are above the age of 21 years to become spiritual leaders in the diocese. Hence the delegates are selected from each parish by the respective Vicars. The Conference has a curriculum that extends over 3 years. Spiritual leaders are identified from among those who (1) are regular communicant members of the Diocese, (2) have completed both courses of the LEAD program, (3) have attended 3 leadership Conferences, (4) have expressed commitment to the ministry in the Mar Thoma Church through a written statement and (5) are above the age of 24 years. St. Paul said to Timothy, in 1 Tim.3:1 that to aspire to leadership is an honorable ambition. In the first century, while St. Paul was ministering, every Christian leader was going through hardship, contempt, rejection and even death. Hence, Christian Leadership is not a position of prestige and respect but the quality of one giving his/her self in service to others, bringing glory to God.

God makes leaders. The personal relationship with God makes a leader humble. When God calls, we cannot refuse due to a sense of inadequacy. The spiritual leader will approach the ministry of leadership willingly and with commitment. Jesus is our model (Mk 10: 38-43). His commandment is to “love as Jesus has loved us.” I wish you all a very blessed and fruitful New Year!

-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.

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. Roshen 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. Asha Jacob	

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	