
EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH

**NEWS LETTER
DECEMBER 2016**



**FOR THE JOY OF THE LORD IS
YOUR STRENGTH.**

FAITH IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION.



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Vicar's message:

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”(John 3:16). Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As we enter into the month of December and let us thank God for His countless blessings and guidance that we have been experiencing the last 11 months of the financial year 2016.

Last month we had many memorable programs especially thanks giving program, world Sunday School Day and Family Meet arranged by Epiphany Seviha Sangom. Thanks Giving Day is a Harvest Festival. People in many parts of the world celebrate a good harvest. The American Thanks Giving Day originated from a tradition which the group of pioneering immigrants from England, who came on the ship called Mayflower, celebrated a good harvest after a very harsh winter as a coastal area in Cape Cod bay in Massachusetts where they landed. They named the area Plymouth after the town in England from where they came. The settlers were joined in the celebration by some indigenous Indians of the Wampanoag tribe. The region was home to the tribe for more than 12,000 years. As a part of this celebration our church had conducted few programs like 24 hours chain prayer, special meeting for youth fellowship, and a special Holy Communion Service on 24th. Thank you for prayers and participation in all these programs.

Once again a joyous occasion of Christmas has arrived – a season of gifts and greeting, sharing of Joy, love and affection. All that point to the central message of Christmas : God's invaluable gift to the world. The first Christmas which is our point of reference to all celebration, was a culmination of so many incidents. “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to us, He is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).Our door to door Christmas Carol singing shall begin on November 27th and ends on December 18. The schedule of Carol rounds published in this News Letter. It is my request to all our families to receive the message of Joy and hope of X'mas by admitting and encouraging the carol group in our houses.

As per the Church calendar the 1st of December is observed as the *Beginning of Twenty Five Day's Lent*. The theme for the first Sunday is *Birth of John the Baptist – Word of God*. The theme for the second Sunday is *Annunciation to Joseph*. The theme for the third Sunday is *Our Lord Comes* and the fourth Sunday is being observed as “*Yaldo – Feast of Nativity*” (End of 25 Days Lent) with the theme *A New Dawn – Grace upon Grace*. 31st Saturday is observed as “*Year Ending – Watch Night Service*” with the theme *Taste and See the Lord is God*. We have to make time to meditate and reflect on these themes, so that these divinely inspired ideas for life will provide us all the spiritual nourishment and strength in the days to come.

We are nearing the close of a financial year and I request your sincere cooperation in clearing your dues such as Subscription, other Cover Collections, Thanksgiving Offertory, Good Samaritan fund etc., before December 31st. We are bidding farewell to one more year of our life. This is the time of self evaluation. Looking back, can we say that we were faithful in our life such as time, money, opportunities, skill and talents? Our life is also a journey with God, towards the full realization of our call and commitment. Chances of misguiding and missing of targets are many. May each and every aspect of this Christmas be powerful signals to move in the proper direction towards the ultimate target of completing God's will in our lives.

“WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A BLESSED NEW YEAR”.

Prayerful Regards,

Jogy achen

November 22, 2016

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
Sunday December 4	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Birth of John The Baptist (Bible Sunday)
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday December 11	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Annunciation to Joseph
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday December 18	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Our Lord Comes
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday December 25	9:30 AM	Holy Communion (English)	Feast of Nativity A New Dawn Grace upon Grace
Saturday December 31	9:30PM–1:00PM	Praise & Worship (Eng. & Mal.) Holy Communion (English)	Year End Watch Night Service- Taste and see the Lord is God

LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>1st Lesson</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Dec. 04	1 King:19-1-21	Rev.10: 1-11	Gal. 1:11-17	St.Luke 1:57-66
Dec. 11	Isa.7:10-17	1 Pet.3:8-16	Titus.2:11-15	St.Mat. 1:18-23
Dec. 18	Isa.11:1-10	1 John 4:7-21	Rom. 1:8-17	St.John 1:1-14
Dec. 25	Isa.9:1-7	Heb.1:1-14	2 Tim. 2: 8-13	St.Luke 2:1-20
Dec. 31	Deut.28:1-14	Heb.12:1-13	1 Pet.5:6-11	St.John 7:37-39

ASSISTANCE & USHERING : 2016-17

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
December	Ridgewood/Wyckoff
January	Bellerose/Queens Village/Glenoaks
February	Floral Park

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Sunday December 4 5.00 PM	Floral Park	TBA
Sunday December 4 7.00 pm	Bellerose	TBA
Saturday December 10 7.00 PM	Coney Island	TBA
Sunday December 11 5:00 PM	Ridgewood/Wyckoff Richmond Hill	TBA
Sunday December 18 5:00 PM	New Hyde Park	TBA
Sunday December 18 7:00 PM	Garden City Park	TBA
Saturday December 24 6:30 PM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream	TBA
Sunday December 25 6:30 PM	Long Island	TBA

EDAVAKA MISSION

**NORTH EAST CENTER A FELLOWSHIP MEETING.
DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016. TIME 7.00 PM
VENUE: EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH**

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP MEETING: TBA

SEVIKA SANGHOM

<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
Thursday December 1 10.00 AM	Coney Island Bible Study	TBA
Friday December 2 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer	TBA
Thursday December 8 10.00 AM	Queens- Village/Bellerose Floral Park Bible Study	TBA
Thursday December 15 10.00 AM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream Long Island Bible Study	TBA
Thursday December 22 7.00 PM	New Hyde Park Garden City Park Bible Study	TBA
Friday December 23 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer	TBA

SUNDAY SCHOOL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
December 2016	Every Sunday 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Sunday School Class

MALAYALAM CHOIR

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays: December 4th & 18th at 9:00AM. All choir members are requested to attend these practices.

CHURCH YEAR PLAN-2016

Dec. 24, Saturday : Christmas Carol in the Church at 6:00 PM.
Dec. 31, Saturday : Watch Night and New Year service
9:30 PM – 10:30 PM – Praise & Worship/Testimony – English
10:30 PM - 11:30 PM – Praise & Worship/Testimony – Malayalam
11:30 PM - 1:00 AM - Holy Communion service (English)

CHRISTMAS DOOR TO DOOR CAROL 2016

Sunday, Nov. 27 - 5:00 PM Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, Woodhaven, Ridgewood, Kew Garden, Flushing, Astoria, Jackson Heights.

Friday, Dec. 2 – 6:00 PM Bellerose/Queens/Village/Glenoaks/Jamaica
Saturday, Dec 3 – 4:00 PM Garden City, Manhasset Hills, Albertson, Williston Park, Glencove, Mineola
Sunday, Dec 4 - 4:00 PM Floral Park, New Hyde Park(Queens)

Friday, Dec 9 – 6:00 PM West Hempstead, Franklin Square, Fresh-Meadows, Valley Stream, Woodmere, Rosedale.

Saturday, Dec 10 – 4:00 PM Long Island City, Bay Ridge, Coney Island.
Sunday, Dec. 11 – 4:00 PM New Hyde Park (Nassau)

Friday, Dec. 16 – 6:00 PM Elmont
Saturday, Dec 17 – 4:00 PM Long Island-Baldwin, Merrick, Westbury, Hicksville, Wantagh, East Meadow.

Sunday, Dec. 18 – 4:00 PM Long Island-East Setauket, Dix Hills, Melville, Muttontown, Syosset, Plainview, Deer Park, Bethpage, Farmingdale.

Weekend Morning – Connecticut, Randolph, Yonkers, New City, Pelham.

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
P. V. Thomas	Albertson	12-05
Thomas K. Varghese	Baldwin Harbor	12-06
Ivy Ann Varghese	Franklin Square	12-06
Erynn Ajish	Bellerose	12-07
Siji John	Brooklyn	12-08
Philip Verghese	Floral Park	12-10
Annie Jacob Mathew	Fresh Meadows	12-10
Andrew Naveen John	Syosset	12-10
Selena Alex Thomas	Elmont	12-10
Anup T. George	Glen Oaks	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
Samuel T. Oommen	Richmond Hill	12-12
Sanjay Mathew	Floral Park	12-12
Dr. Jay lype	Melville	12-13
Sneha E. George	New Hyde Park	12-14

Sangeetha S. 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
Jinu George	Albertson	12-19
V. C. Abraham	North Woodmere	12-19
Dr. Sherley Abraham	Woodside	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
Sara E. Thomas	Bellerose	12-22
Allan K Varghese	East Meadow	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
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
Thomas Varghese	Elmont	12-25
Suzanna Ancy Mathew	Albertson	12-25

Christopher J. Mathew	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 Varughese	East Meadow	12-29
Annamma Chacko	Garden City Park	12-29
Jacob Idiculla	Elmont	12-29
Aiden T George	Glen Oaks	12-29
George C. Mathew	Farmingdale	12-30
Samkutty Varghese	New Hyde Park	12-30
Thomas Mathew	Long Island City	12-30

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

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. Mathew 1: 18-25

Matthew 1:21

"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Luke 2:15-16

When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

Luke 1:35

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

Luke 2:12

"This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:9-12

And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Psalms 107:1

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His loving kindness is everlasting.

Luke 2:7

And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 1:14

"You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S CORNER.

"...My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.. "Luke 1:46-48

I always admired the faith and obedience of Mary as she accepted the will of God. Despite the fact that she knew that there would be problems, she happily accepted the role and mission that God gave her. Even though she knew that the mission would be very difficult for her, she considered it a great blessing. She was willing to offer her body as an offering to the Lord, knowing that God would use her for His Glory.

This is a challenge to all of us. During the Christmas season we are all concerned with getting gifts for family members and friends. How many of us even consider getting a gift for God to show our love for Him? So what is it that the Lord wants from us????

Hosea 6:6 - For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

The Lord wants us to have steadfast love toward Him and all the people and creatures around us. This love is not to be shown just on Christmas, but it has to be shown the entire year. Without such love, our prayers, our songs, and our worship have no meaning. During the time of the prophet Amos, the people did not have a steadfast love for God or for the people around them. So God commanded Amos to say:

Amos 5:21 – 24 – I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

For our songs, prayers, and worship to have meaning we need to love! We need to have a steadfast love. This love has to be demonstrated. Jesus spent his entire ministry trying to bring justice and salvation into this world. He helped those who could not help themselves, and He also gave His body as a sacrifice to God. Jesus willingly sacrificed his body to do the will of God.

Like Jesus and Mary, let us love God and those around us. Let us be willing to sacrifice things, including our own bodies to do the will of God. Let us work to establish justice and bring salvation into this world. I and my family would like to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the good Lord look with favor on you, as He looked with favor on Mary.

Yours in Christ's Service, Rev. Shibi Abraham

Sunday School Committee 2016

Superintendent	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	
Secretary	Miss. Sherin J Daniel	
Treasurer	Mr. Jinu M Joy	

Edavaka Mission Committee 2016

Vice President	Mr. George T Thomas	
Secretary	Mr. M. C. Varughese	
Treasurer	Mrs. Mariamma Lukose	

Sevika Sanghom Committee 2016

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

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Vice President	Mr. James Alex	
Secretary	Mr. Roshan Alexander	
Treasurer	Mr. Shibu Cheriyan	

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Secretary	Miss. Ancy Oommen	
Treasurer	Mr. Alvin Mathew	
Joint Secretary	Mr. Joshua Mathew	

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Treasurer	Mrs. Mariamma John	

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Assistant Leader	Miss. Annie Jacob	
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Young Family Fellowship Committee 2016

Secretary	Mr. Shibu Mathew	
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

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