
EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH

**NEWS LETTER
FEBRUARY 2016**



Jesus Loves You !

FAITH IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION.

35 Years

Executive Committee 2016

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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. M.C. Varughese	516.825.3895
Sevika Sanghom	Mrs. Sosamma Kurian	516.596.7514
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Roshan Alexander	516.808.7116
Youth Fellowship	Ms. Ancy Rose Oommen	516.616.4599
Choir	Mr. Shibu S Baby	347.623.1324

Representatives of Area Prayer Groups

Astoria/Jackson Hts./Flushing	Mr. Anil T Thomas	973.659.3414
Coney Island	Mr. Saji K Varughese	718.332.2751
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. 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. Abraham Thomas	717.343.7622
Mr. George Kuruvilla	516.616.4576

Vicar Message:

“He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot- come let us rejoice in him.” (Psalms.66:6)

It is a profound statement from a faith community that “through the waters”, the very place where they experienced fear and distress, there they witnessed the mighty hands of God. How many of us can relate to this experience? Who of us, right in the midst of our time of distress and sadness, have been able to triumph and rejoice, as the Israelites did? How close God is to us through His promise, and how brightly those promises shine! Yet during times of prosperity, we lose sight of their brilliance. In the way the sun at noon hides the stars from sight, His promises become indiscernible. But when night falls- the deep, dark night of sorrow- a host of stars begin to shine, bringing forth God’s blessed constellations of hope, and promises of comfort from His word. As travelers, we may pass through our Red Seas and Jordan River of earthly afflictions. There is an assurance in the scripture, we can pass through the waters on foot with the guidance of our Lord and make a joyful noise to our creator, “Let us rejoice in Him”. Our Lord Jesus never promised a life which is free from sufferings, but instills faith that is strong enough to face all sufferings.

Our church is entering to a season of Great Lent which begins from February 07th, Sunday. Lent is an annual celebration of God’s Salvation history. It is not just a ritual, but a reliving experience. Participation in Christ’s sufferings gives us vision of God’s greatness and share in His glory. Feasts and fasts are part of the tradition of the church and all the religious communities. It is a time set apart for prayer, fasting, and meditation. The Great Lent observance included a memory of the forty days fasting of Jesus in the wilderness of Judea. Then the 40th Friday to Easter are set apart to meditate on the passion, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. During the Lent season, church members are expected to spend more time for prayer and renounce special foods which are inevitable to the food code of individuals and families. The money that we save through special food should be utilize for helping the needy people through our parish or its organizations.

The 121st Maramon Convention begins on 14th and end on 21st February. This convention played a vital role in the missionary endeavors and development of the Mar Thoma Church. The messages have challenged

our church members to pray and give for the mission of the church. More over the convention made a remarkable role in the migration of Mar Thoma Christians from Kerala to other states in India and outside. As church members, it is our responsibility to pray for the success of the convention especially for the listeners, speakers and organizers.

As we enter in to new financial year, give thanks to God for the blessing and guidance we received during the past year. Let us focus on the spiritual values and Biblical principles which will equip us to lead a blessed life in accordance with the expectation of our creator. May the continuing presence and fellowship of the Triune God rest and abide with us in the forthcoming days.

With prayerful regards,
Shibu Mathew achen

January 23, 2016

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
Sunday February 7	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Pethrutha-Beginning of Great Lent
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday February 14	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Christ's Presence with the outcast.
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday February 21	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Release from the Burden of Sin
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday February 28	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Faith Expression of the Marginalised.
	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 07	Isa:58:1-14	Rom. 2:1-10	2 Cor.5:16-21	St.John. 2:1-11
February 14	Esther 4: 1-17	Acts 15:8-21	Rom.15:7-13	St.Mark.1:40-45
February 21	2 Sam.12:1-14	Acts.8:9-17	Gal.3:10-14	St.Mark.2:1-12
February 28	Isa.45:1-8	Acts 10:24-33	1 Cor.1:20-25	St.Mat.15:21-28

ASSISTANCE & USHERING -2016

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
February	Coney Island
March	Ridgewood/Wyckoff
April	Bellerose/Queens Vill./Glenoaks

<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>		
<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
February 2016	Every Sunday 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Sunday School Classes

<u>AREA PRAYER MEETINGS</u>		
<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Sunday February 7	Bellerose Queens Village Glenoaks	TBA
Sunday February 7	Floral Park	TBA
Saturday February 13	Coney Island	TBA
Sunday February 14 5.00 PM	Ridgewood Wyckoff	Skaria Varghese 118-15 103 rd Avenue Richmond Hill, NY 11419 718-847-4632
Sunday February 21	New Hyde Park	TBA
Sunday February 21 6.00 PM	Garden City Park	Jacob K Mathew 201 Park Ave Garden City Park, NY 11040 516-741-1471
Saturday February 27	Elmont/Rosedale/ Valley Stream	TBA
Sunday February 28 7.00 PM	Long Island	Ranjit Jacob 1483 Prospect Ave East Meadow, NY 11554 516-481-0308

1 Corinthians 13:2 *And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

SEVIKA SANGHOM

<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
Thursday February 4 10.00 AM	Coney Island Bible Study	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham 629 Avenue Y Brooklyn, NY 11235 (718)769-1015
Friday February 5 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer	Mrs. Sosamma Varghese 1700 Bushwick Ave Merrick, NY 11566 (516)378-7235
February	Queens Village Bellerose Floral Park Bible Study	TBA
Thursday February 25 10.00 AM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream Long Island Bible Study	Mrs. Leelamma Thomas 16 Fairmount St Valley Stream, NY 11580 (516)-285-3985
February	New Hyde Park Garden City Bible Study	TBA
February	Fasting Prayer (Joint meeting with Edavaka Mission)	TBA

MARAMON CONVENTION:
From February 14-21, 2016.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.

February 6th at 3:00 PM: Card Making Volunteer Activity at Church
February 12-14th: NERYF Retreat at Camp Pinnacle, NY. Theme: "Do Something"
February 19th at 6:30 PM: BASIC Meeting at 7 Paul Ave New Hyde Park, NY
February 20th at 6:30 PM: Men's Fellowship Meeting at 514 North 11th St New Hyde Park, NY
February 20th at 5:00 PM: Women's Fellowship Meeting at 256-10 83rd Ave Floral Park, NY

MALAYALAM CHOIR

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays: February 7th and 21st at 9.00 AM in the church. All choir members are requested to attend the practice.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: Congratulations to Benjamin George Varghese and Jasmine Varghese, 82-105 Country Pointe Circle, Queens Village, NY., on the birth of their new born son Micah George Varghese on January 15.

EDAVAKA MISSION PRAYER MEETINGS:

Wednesday, February 10th at 7.00 PM at the residence of Mr. Alexander P. Chandy, 1524 Spring Street, East Meadow, NY. 11554 Ph: 516-640-5588

Friday, February 19th, at 7.00 PM at the residence of Mrs. Rajamma John, 162 Nevada Street, Hicksville, NY.11801 Ph: 516-938-6752

Friday, February 26th Fasting Prayer at 10.00 AM in the church.

Condolences: 1. Mr. Mathai Abraham (65 Yrs), our beloved member who was residing in Astoria, NY passed away on January 10th 2015. Viewing service was held on Thursday, Jan 14th at Quinn funeral home in Astoria and home going service was held on Saturday, Jan 16th in our Church followed by burial at St. Michael's cemetery in East Elmhurst, NY. The Vicar and members of Epiphany Mar Thoma Church express our deep felt condolence to the bereaved family and please uphold this family in our prayers.

2. Mrs.Lilly Philips (84 Yrs), mother-in-law of our member Mr. Samuel P Abraham, 39 Pilgrim Street, New Hyde Park, NY 11040 (Molly's mother), passed away at Kodumon, Adoor, on December 24th morning. Funeral was held there on December 26th. The Vicar and members of the parish express our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family and please uphold this family in our prayers.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Suja Abraham	Woodside	02-01
Tom Mathai	Elmont	02-02
Libu Abraham	Brooklyn	02-02
Mary Mani	Melville	02-02
P. V. Mathew	Brooklyn	02-02
Sheena Mariam Abraham	New Hyde Park	02-02
Thomas Pothen	Floral Park	02-02
Jeson Thomas	Brooklyn	02-02
Riya Marie Mathew	New Hyde Park	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
Sarala Elisha Marie John	Hicksville	02-05
George Thomas	Hicksville	02-05
Mini J. Mathew	New Hyde Park	02-05
Jaimini Varghese	New Hyde Park	02-06
Jessica Varghese	Syosset	02-07
Baby George Thomas	Garden City Park	02-07
Geobey Abraham	Floral Park	02-07
Lalimma Thomas	Bellerose	02-08
Jiby Varughese	East Meadow	02-09
Aileen Philip	Elmont	02-09
Justin V. Thomas	Woodside	02-09
Reuben K. George	Queens Village	02-10
Diya R. Regy	Commack	02-10
T. C. Kurian	Floral Park	02-10
Ashlin Philip	Elmont	02-10
Sajee George	New Hyde Park	02-10
Susan Thampan	Manhasset Hills	02-11
Thomas V. Mathews	Merrick	02-11
Roshan T. Varughese	New Hyde Park	02-11

Ammini Jose	Glen Oaks	02-11
Alvin George C. Mathew	Farmingdale	02-12
Stanley Jacob	Floral Park	02-12
C. C. Mathai	New Hyde Park	02-12
Joseph Thomas	Queens Village	02-13
Jerrill Mathew	Manhasset Hills	02-13
Manoj Mathai	Floral Park	02-13
Roshan Alexander	Queens Village	02-14
Mathai M. Varghese	New Hyde Park	02-14
Liju Abraham	Brooklyn	02-15
Dr. Santhosh M. Cherian	Floral Park	02-15
Saramma Chacko	Bellerose	02-15
George Mathai	Floral Park	02-15
Lauren Elizabeth Philip	Elmont	02-15
Joshua Daniel	Manhasset Hills	02-18
Steven David Jacob	West Hempstead	02-18
Thomas C. Varghese	Floral Park	02-18
Priya Philip Mathai	East Meadow	02-18
Winnie Elma Roy	Bronx	02-18
Varghese Pothan	Elmont	02-18
Jensen George Thomas	Albertson	02-19
Roshan Varughese	New Hyde Park	02-21
Saju Idicula Varghese	West Hempstead	02-22
Anson George	Floral Park	02-22
Milen Mathew Sanjay	Floral Park	02-22
Aleykutty Thomas	Bellerose	02-24
Priya R. Samuel	Dix Hills	02-24
Nidhin Ignatious	New Hyde Park	02-25
Leah Ann Mathew	New Hyde Park	02-25
Jacob K. Mathew	Garden City Park	02-25
Iype P. Abraham	Brooklyn	02-26
Dr. Varughese Cherian	Dix Hills	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

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

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

FROM DIOCESAN EPISCOPA:

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is saddening that our Senior Suffragan Metropolitan, Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus was called to eternity by the Heavenly Father soon after Christmas Day 2015. I boarded the next available flight to India when I heard that Zacharias Thirumeni was hospitalized and critically ill. So many of the members of our Church, friends and dear ones constantly prayed for his immediate recovery, but Thirumeni's physical condition turned from bad to worse and he breathed his last on Sunday, December 27th, afternoon. By the time I landed in Trivandrum on Monday, his body was taken to S.C.S. Church, Thiruvalla, for the public viewing. What we heard was the cry of so many people who loved Thirumeni and who stayed strong in their walk with God asking, "Is God listening to our prayer?" Yes, He is. We need to learn this from Jesus who prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane intensely and passionately, when He felt that His Heavenly Father had forsaken him, yet He trusted that God was listening. We must



therefore relinquish our rights and let God do what is best and in accordance with His divine purpose. Our Zacharias Thirumeni came to us as a gift from God. God owns him, and he has been called to our Father's heavenly abode.

One of the remarkable things I observed on that Monday and Tuesday was the presence and attitude of our senior-most bishop the Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan who is 98 years old. He was near the body of Zacharias Thirumeni, expressing his feelings and relating to the sorrow of the immediate family and the countless number of people who came to view the departed Zacharias Thirumeni for the last time. It is our practice that we take the body in a procession called 'Nagarikanikkal' (seeing the city for the last time) to the temporary Madbaha (altar) for the funeral service. It was touching to witness Chrysostom Thirumeni following the procession in his wheelchair, attending the entire funeral service and kissing Zacharias Thirumeni passionately as he bid farewell to him. *"Love never fails.... these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of all these is love" (1 Cor. 13: 8, 13).*

Our Church is going through a time of bereavement. As a diocese, we miss Zacharias Thirumeni. We are indebted to him. He was our first resident

diocesan bishop. Our greatest comfort is to know that God is in control. Zacharias Thirumeni has finished his race, fought the good fight and kept the faith. He has gone ahead of us to receive the crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:6-8). He has left a legacy and a mark in history. Let us cherish the good ideals; run the race with perseverance, keep the faith and live with strong hope, all for God's glory. *"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen"* (Eph. 3:20, 21).

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.

(I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
Rom:12:1)

YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S CORNER.

February 7th is the beginning of the 'Great Lent.' In the Mar Thoma Church, we observe 50 days of Lent before Easter. We include 40 days in which our Lord fasted and prayed and 10 days to commemorate the passion and death of Christ. The purpose of Lent is not just to give something up, but to prepare us. To prepare our bodies, minds, and souls. A time for us to further our relationship with God and with all of his children; especially those who are materially less fortunate than us.

During the season of Lent every member of the Church is expected to set apart a time for serious reflection, self-examination and renewed commitment. This is usually done with fasting and prayer. Our late Suffragan Metropolitan, Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus, in the book *Roots and Wings* stated, "Fasting should never be observed with ostentation or spiritual pride. Neither is it intended to win favors from God by changing his mind. This is a time in which we especially wait upon the Lord in fellowship and are transformed to fulfill his will. Some restrictions regarding food may be observed as self-imposed discipline which would certainly facilitate concentration, (but) more importantly leading to a feeling of deep concern for the hungry and poor and a real sense of self-denial (*Roots and Wings* p. 60)"

Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness to prepare himself for His ministry. He sacrificed many 'worldly pleasures' to prepare himself for a ministry where He would be faithful to God. He deliberately took time to stop and experience the presence of God. This enabled him to do a ministry that constantly required him to give to others, it meant suffering and painfully dying for others. This is the same ministry that Jesus is calling each and every one of us to accept.

As we are about to enter another Lent season, let us spend time preparing ourselves to have the proper relationship with God. To have a right relationship with God means that we need to have the right relationship with others.

Rev. Shibi Abraham.

Sunday school Committee 2016

Superintendent	Mr. Oommen K. Varughese	
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	

Yuvajana Sakhyam Committee 2016

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

Youth Fellowship Committee 2016

Vice President	Miss. Asha Jacob	
Secretary	Miss. Ancy Oommen	
Treasurer	Mr. Alvin Mathew	
Joint Secretary	Mr. Joshua Mathew	

Malayalam Choir Committee 2016

Leader	Mr. Shibu S Baby	
Assistant Leader	Mrs. Susan Saji	
Secretary	Mr. Abraham K Daniel	
Treasurer	Mrs. Mariamma John	

English Choir Committee 2016

Leader	Mr. Joshua Mathew	
Assistant Leader	Miss. Annie Jacob	
Secretary	Miss. Gilsy Saji	
Treasurer	Mr. Roshan Varughese	

Senior Citizens Fellowship Committee 2016

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

Young Family Fellowship Committee 2016

Secretary	TBD	
Treasurer	TBD	

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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