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# EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH

**NEWS LETTER  
JANUARY 2016**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR !**

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



### **Executive Committee 2016**

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. Cherukara P Philipose pcpbabu@hotmail.com	718.359.3158
Accountant	Mr. Shibu John johnms2453@gmail.com	718.336.0849
Lay Leader (Malayalam)	Mr. M.V. Varghese	516-673-4583
Lay Leader (English)	Mr. Roshan T Varughese	516.326.9138
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. 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	TBA	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

## From the Vicar:

**“Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far has the Lord helped us.” (1 Samuel.7:12)**

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

In 1 Samuel chapter 7:5-12, the prophet Samuel calls an assembly of the people at Mizpah for the purpose of interceding for the people’s sin. The Philistines hear of this assembly, and the lords of the Philistines bring a force up against Israel and attack them. But God of Israel save His people from their enemy’s hand. As a symbol of thanksgiving and remembrance, Samuel erects a stone and names it Ebenezer, “stone of help” .He makes a powerful testimony, “Thus far has the Lord helped us”. These words are like a hand pointing in the direction of the past, the ways God guided- whether through poverty or wealth, sickness or health, at home or abroad, trials or triumph. These words also point forward- there are still more trials, joys, temptations and battles, the Lord who thus far has helped you will help you all your journey through.

The shepherds of the Alps have a beautiful custom of ending the day by singing an evening farewell to one another. The air is so pure that the songs can be heard for very long distances. As the sun begins to set, they gather their flocks and begin to lead them down the mountain paths while they sing, “Thus far as the LORD helped us, let us praise His name!”. Finally, as is their beautiful custom, they sing to one another the courteous and friendly farewell “Goodnight! Goodnight!” The words began to echo from mountainside to mountainside, sweetly and softly until the music fades into the distance. Let us also call out to one another through the darkness until the night becomes alive with the sound of many voices encouraging God’s weary travelers.

Think about the moment that has just passed. That particular moment was all new, full of possibilities, decisive, uncertain... God in His grace has allowed us to see the light of the New Year without taking an account how we have fared last year. Let us thank God for His uncountable blessings and innumerable ways of guidance and dedicate ourselves unconditionally to serve God’s will in the days ahead.

Being the vicar of the Parish, I am grateful to our 2015 office bearers and executive committee members for their devoted and sacrificial services. I record my special thanks to Mr. Saji K Varghese(Treasurer) and Mr.Thomas Chacko (Accountant) who did their responsibilities as a team in a good and appreciable way & Mr. Alvin Mathew (Lay Leader- English) who rendered a dedicated service for the last two years. All our parish organizations have also functioned in a very good manner. Thank you very much for the dedicated service of all the outgoing office bearers. New office bearers and committee members will assume their offices from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. I would like to welcome and congratulate the new office bearers and executive committee members of our parish and it's organizations and wish them all the best in their service in His vineyard. I look forward all our parish members active and prayerful participation in our 2015 programs.

Let the God almighty empower and sustain us to live for the glory of His name and the furtherance of His kingdom.

Wishing you all a blessed and prosperous New Year.

With prayerful regards,

Rev. Shibu Mathew

Vicar

12-21-2015

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Program</u></b>	<b><u>Special Observance</u></b>
Sunday January 3	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Devine Revelation for Salvation
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday January 10	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Be Holy Temperance Sunday
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday January 17	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	One Body and One Baptism
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday January 24	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	United in Christs Love Ecumenical Sunday
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday January 31	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Lord: Worthy of Adoration
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	

## **LECTIONARY**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson</u></b>	<b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson</u></b>	<b><u>Epistle</u></b>	<b><u>Gospel</u></b>
January 03	Exod:3:1-17	Acts. 16:6-10	Acts 26:19-23	St.Luke. 10:1-11
January 10	Deut 7: 1-11	Eph 5:15-21	1 Pet.1:13-19	St.Luke.6:43-45
January 17	Hos.11:1-11	Eph.4:1-7	1 Cor.12:14-20	St.Mat.16:13-19
January 24	Deut.4:1-10	1 Cor 1:10-18	Eph.3:1-7	St.John.15:11-17
January 31	Exod.15: 1-18	Rev 7:9-12	Phil.2:1-11	St.Luke.10:21-24

**ASSISTANCE & USHERING -2016**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
January	Astoria/Jackson Hts/Flushing
February	Coney Island
March	Ridgewood/Wyckoff

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

**AREA PRAYER MEETINGS**

<u>Date &amp; Time</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Sunday January 3 5.00 PM	Bellerose Queens Village Glenoaks	Thomas Vadakedathu 91-03 217 <sup>th</sup> Street Queens Village, NY 11428 Ph: 718-464-0695
Sunday January 3 7.00 PM	Floral Park	TBA
Sunday January 10 5.00 PM	Ridgewood Wyckoff	Eapen Mathews 1862 Willoughby Ave Ridgewood, NY 11385 718-381-4549
Saturday January 16 7.00 PM	Coney Island	P.V. Mathew 465 Ovington Ave Brooklyn, NY 11209 718-836-1380
Sunday January 17 6.00 PM	New Hyde Park	Shaji Varghese 514 North 11 <sup>th</sup> Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040 (516)616-9661
Saturday January 23	Elmont/Rosedale/ Valley Stream	TBA
Sunday January 24 6.00 PM	Long Island	John Varghese 43 West 9 <sup>th</sup> Street Deer Park, NY 11729 631-940-7010

**SEVIKA SANGHOM**

<b><u>DATE &amp; TIME</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>RESIDENCE</u></b>
Thursday January 7 10.00 AM	Coney Island Bible Study	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham 629 Avenue Y Brooklyn, NY 11235 (718)769-1015
Friday January 8 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer	Mrs. Annamma George 43 Linden Ave Floral Park, NY 11001 (516)326-8270
Thursday January 14 10.00 AM	Queens Village Bellerose Floral Park Bible Study	Mrs. Saramma Chacko 82-69, 250 <sup>th</sup> Street Bellerose, NY (718)343-1980
Friday January 15 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer	Mrs. Mary Mathunny 1030 North 1 <sup>st</sup> Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040 (516)775-5712
	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream Bible Study	TBA
Thursday January 21 7.00 PM	New Hyde Park Garden City Bible Study	Mrs. Tissy Alexander 40 North 10 <sup>th</sup> Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040 (516)328-0425
Friday January 29 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer (Joint meeting with Edavaka Mission)	Church

**MALAYALAM CHOIR**

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays: January 3rd and 17th at 9.00 AM in the church. All choir members are requested to attend the practice.

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

**EDAVAKA MISSION PRAYER MEETINGS:**

**Friday, January 15, 7:00 PM at the residence of Mr. Chacko Varghese, 1733 Bard Lane, East Meadow, NY. Ph: 516-745-0050**

**Wednesday, January 20, 7:00 PM at the residence of Mr. Abraham Mammen, 534 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, New Hyde Park, NY. Ph: 516-488-1972**

**Change of Address:**

Old Address

New Address

John Varughese  
291 Stockholm Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11237

16 Elder Dr., #16  
Commack, NY 11725  
Ph: 917-862-5199

**Condolence:** Mr. K.M. Kurian (61 Yrs), brother of our member Mrs. Aleykutty Thomas, wife of Mr. K.O. Thomas, 83-03 249th Street, Bellerose, NY., passed away in Indore/India on December 18th, 2015. Funeral services was held in St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church in Indore/India.

Mrs. Annamma Abraham (81 Yrs), mother of our member Mrs. Annie John, Wife of Mr. Mathew John, 25 Border St, Hicksville, NY ., passed away in Kerala on 12/11/15. Funeral service was held on 12/14/15 at Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church, Nandncode/Trivandrum.

Vicar and members of the parish express our deep felt condolence to both bereaved families and please uphold these families in our prayers.



## **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

Rakesh Mathew	East Meadow	01-01
Rebecca Anson	Merrick	01-01
Anju Annie Mathew	Brooklyn	01-01
Elsy Thomas Philip	Monroe	01-01
Rosamma Mathews	Glendale	01-01
Kurian Abraham	Yonkers	01-02
Jacob D. Koshy	North Woodmere	01-02
Jeena Thomas	Albertson	01-02
Jacob D. Koshy	North Woodmere	01-02
Jacob Mathew	Fresh Meadows	01-02
Regin Samuel Abraham	New Hyde Park	01-03
Sosamma Varghese	Merrick	01-03
Nadiya Antony	New Hyde Park	01-03
Dr. Abel John Cherian	Floral Park	01-04
Anitha George	Merrick	01-04
Koshy Johnkutty	Jamaica Estates	01-04
Mariamamma Varghese	New Hyde Park	01-04
Chacko Varghese	Bellerose	01-05
Mariamamma Mathew	Ridgewood	01-05
Philip P. Varghese	Roslyn	01-05
Valsamma Mathew	Elmont	01-05
Jeeji Y. Mathunny	New Hyde Park	01-06
Mariamamma Mathew	Brooklyn	01-07
Mariamamma George	Albertson	01-07
Juby Thomas Eappen	Merrick	01-07
Mirian George	Elmont	01-08
Elizabeth Easow	Richmond Hill	01-08
Noble Thomas	West Hempstead	01-08
Shibu Mathew	Staten Island	01-09
Sharon K. Jayan	New Hyde Park	01-09
Christine John	Garden City Park	01-09
Saramma Mathew	Glen Oaks	01-10
Elizabeth Bobby Thariath	Rosedale	01-11

Mariamamma John	New Hyde Park	01-12	
Jaunita John	New Hyde Park	01-12	
Biju Mathew	New Hyde Park	01-13	
Roshan Abraham	Ridgewood	01-13	
Joseph K. Chacko	Garden City Park	01-13	
Sosamma Alexander	Elmont	01-14	
Aleena Elsa Joe	Brooklyn	01-14	
Kevin Samuel Abraham	New Hyde Park	01-15	
Mariamamma Chacko	Elmont	01-15	
Philip Cherian Varghese	New Hyde Park	01-15	
Mary Vijaya Mathew	Farmingdale	01-15	
Dickey Varghese	Ridgewood	01-15	
Mathew T. Mathew	Garden City Park	01-16	
Reji Mathew	Elmont	01-16	
Seena Mathew	New Hyde Park	01-17	
Saramma Varughese	New Hyde Park	01-17	
Abraham D Kochalumuttil	Ridgewood	01-18	
Amoolya Ann Varghese	Elmont	01-18	
Johnson P. Varghese	Elmont	01-18	
Terri John Thomas	North Woodmere	01-18	
Lebha Mathew	Hicksville	01-19	
Sonu Wilson Oommen	Floral Park	01-19	
Jobin Thomas	Brooklyn	01-19	
Saji K. Varghese	Brooklyn	01-19	
Mary Saji	Brooklyn	01-20	
Julie George	Floral Park	01-21	
Tissy Alexander	New Hyde Park	01-21	
Karina Alex Thomas	Elmont	01-21	
Jaison Amos	Merrick	01-22	
Gracy C. John	New Hyde Park	01-22	
Hannah S. Thomas	Bellerose	01-22	
Jessy S. Oommen	Richmond Hill	01-23	
Mani N. Mani	Melville	01-23	
Nidhi Jacob	Brooklyn	01-23	

Benjamin Thariath	Rosedale	01-23	
Abraham M. Thannickal	Brooklyn	01-23	
Thomas K. Mathew	West Melbourne	01-23	
Rev. P.M. Thomas	Manhasset Hills	01-24	
Nikhil Philip	East Meadow	01-24	
Aleyamma Jacob	Elmont	01-25	
Aleyamma Abraham	Glenoaks	01-25	
Chinnamma Thomas	Wantagh	01-25	
Rexel Varghese	New City	01-26	
Sosamma Mathews	Floral Park	01-26	
Annamma Thomas	Manhasset Hills	01-26	
Samuel John	Manhasset Hills	01-26	
Jeremiah E. Mathew	Oilville	01-26	
K. P. Varghese	Floral Park	01-26	
Marykutty Philipose	Queens Village	01-27	
Mariamamma Abraham	North Woodmere	01-27	
Gabrielle Marie Daniel	Elmont	01-28	
Johnson John	Syosset	01-28	
Renzy M. Mani	Melville	01-29	
Alex Thomas	Elmont	01-30	
Jency Mammen	Floral Park	01-31	

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

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

Ansu Abraham	Ridgewood	01-01
Sanjay Mathew	Floral Park	01-01
Jose M. Nalonnil	Manhasset Hills	01-01
John Daniel	Garden City Park	01-02
Koshy Mathew	Elmont	01-08
Abraham M. Thannickal	Brooklyn	01-08
Samuel John	Manhasset Hills	01-09
Subash Thomas	Bellerose	01-10
Mathew Varghese	Valley Stream	01-11
George C. George	East Meadow	01-12
Liju Abraham	Brooklyn	01-12
Thomas Varghese	Brooklyn	01-12
Fredy Varghese	New Hyde Park	01-12
Chacko Daniel	Manhasset Hills	01-14
Abhilash V Abraham	Yonkers	01-15
Philip Varghese	Elmont	01-16
Mathew Koshy	New Hyde Park	01-17
James Mathew	Manhasset Hills	01-18
Thomas Easow	Richmond Hill	01-18
Anup T. George	Glen Oaks	01-19
Thomas K. Thomas	Valley Stream	01-21
George Kuruvilla	New Hyde Park	01-21
Shaji Varghese	New Hyde Park	01-23
Mani N. Mani	Melville	01-23
Sanjay Mathew	Floral Park	01-24
George P. Jose	Glen Oaks	01-26
Thomas Pothan	Floral Park	01-26
John Varghese	Deer Park	01-26
Varughese George	Elmont	01-29

FROM DIOCESAN EPISCOPA:

***“The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life.” - Proverbs 15:4  
“Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.” - James 3:10***

Dear Friends in Christ,

Conversations! We all engage in conversations almost every day. Speaking could encourage others to listen, and listening could encourage others to speak. Elkanah spoke to his wife Hannah, as we read in 1 Samuel 1:8, and that good conversation energized Hannah to gain courage and stop fasting. Rebecca spoke to her son Jacob, as we read in Genesis 27:6, and that conversation brought many struggles and difficulties to Jacob’s life. Hence, conversations can either be good or bad and can produce either positive or negative outcomes.

We now enter into the Advent season. Christmas reminds us of two women - Elizabeth and Mary. We note that they met each other in Zachariah’s house (St. Luke 1:39-45), when Mary went in search of Elizabeth who was in hiding for about 5 months. Mary then stayed with Elizabeth for 3 months. Both were pregnant, and both had experienced unusual pregnancies, hence they longed for privacy. Yet the conversation that happened when both met was amazing as it renewed their status. They overcame fear, anxiety, and shame, and moved to a state of wonder and excitement in what the Lord was doing in and through them. How are our conversations at home, in the church, and in society?

Meaningful and dignified conversations at home make the life of each family member full of joy and hope. Home is a place where memories, stories, and relationships are made and cherished. Home is a place where one must be relaxed and at ease, rather than tense and anxious. Then it becomes a space of significance, meaning, and relevance. In modern society where people live in different life situations because of social, economic, political, and religious reasons, the major cause of hopelessness is the ‘homelessness of the mind’.

In our churches (parishes and congregations), proper conversations help build healthy relationships that enrich humanity. Is our parish uplifting the members to feel at home through positive affirmations, sincere fellowship, and creative participation? How about our conversations with strangers and enemies? Acts 9: 10-18 speaks about Ananias meeting Saul and calling him, ‘brother’. The conversation between Jacob and Esau (Gen.33:10) helps them to see ‘the image of God’ in each other.

This Christmas season let us make our home and parishes better and more hospitable places where our love is shared, lives are loved, and relationships are built through proper conversations. Our relationship with others reveals our faith in God.

***WISHING YOU A HAPPY 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.

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

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.-

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

The start of the New Year is a time for reflection and a time of great expectations. We reflect on the previous year about the things that we enjoyed and we make resolutions to change the things that displease us. We have great expectations that the New Year will be different, because we think that we can change things to make it better. We hope that by changing external things we will be happy.

But the Bible teaches us that it is God who plans and directs us. It is God who has the power to change us from within, so that we can change our environment for the better. It is trust and faith in God that will give us true happiness and peace that no one can take away. We often pray that there will be no problems or difficulties in our lives. But it is through problems and difficulties that we truly realize the power of God and our own inadequacies. It is through problems that we grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Remember even though Jesus the Christ was the 'Only Begotten Son of God', he suffered so much on this world, even though he only did what was good. He even told his disciples that '...Servants are not greater than their master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you,...'(John 15:20.) If we are true servants of Jesus, then we will suffer in this world. A person once said, 'Jesus did not come to make your life easy. He came to make your life great.' Being a servant of Jesus is not easy, but it is a great privilege and responsibility.

This new year, let us rededicate ourselves to the Lord. Let us spend time meditating on His Word, and let us worship Him by loving, serving, and forgiving all those around us. I wish all of you a Great Christian Year.

**Rev. Shibi Abraham.**

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH!

BASIC WORDS OF THE BIBLE

G	E	N	T	I	L	E	B	I	B	L	E	D
O	B	A	A	B	R	T	J	E	M	D	I	I
D	P	I	I	E	S	I	M	N	I	P	B	N
T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	J	A	H
H	R	P	S	H	L	H	R	P	I	E	P	O
E	S	R	A	L	V	E	A	N	S	R	T	L
F	E	A	C	E	A	H	C	A	T	U	I	Y
A	C	Y	R	H	T	O	L	Z	R	S	Z	S
T	U	E	I	E	I	L	E	A	Y	A	E	P
H	T	I	F	M	O	Y	J	R	H	L	N	I
E	E	S	I	N	N	A	J	E	W	E	H	R
R	W	E	C	L	F	A	I	T	H	M	L	I
B	S	J	E	S	U	S	C	H	R	I	S	T

JESUS CHRIST  
SALVATION  
JEW  
GENTILE  
HOLY SPIRIT  
GOD THE FATHER  
PERSECUTE

PRAY  
TITHE  
MINISTRY  
BIBLE  
HOLY  
SACRIFICE  
FAITH

MIRACLE  
NAZARETH  
BETHLEHEM  
JERUSALEM  
BAPTIZE  
TEMPTATION  
SIN

**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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