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# EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH

**NEWS LETTER  
JANUARY 2017**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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



### **Executive Committee 2017**

President / Vicar	Rev. Jogy Thomas revjogythomas@gmail.com	718.845.2920 718.612.1891
Vice President	Mr. George C Mathew bgmathew52@hotmail.com	631.847.3431
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. 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	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	516.812.9148
Edavaka Mission	Mr. Mathew N Varghese	516.285.5753
Sevika Sanghom	Mrs. Mariamma John	516.775.5866
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Roshan Alexander	516.808.7116
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Jonah Mathew	516.488.3028
Choir	TBA	

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

Astoria/Jackson Hts./Flushing/ Randolph/Pelham/Connecticut.	Mrs. Vincy Philipose	718.359.3158
Coney Island/Brooklyn	Mr. Chacko K Jacob	718.743.6160
Ridgewood/Wyckoff	Mr. Abraham K Daniel	718-417-8441
Bellerose/Queens Vill/Glenoaks	Mr. Simon Samuel	718.343.5147
Floral Park	Mr. Varghese Alex	718.470.9411
Elmont/Rosedale/Valley Stream	Mr. M.C. Varughese	516.825.3895
New Hyde Park	Mr. John K Samuel	516.775.5866
Garden City Park	Mr. V.C. Abraham	516.812.9148
Long Island	Mr. Biju M Varughese	516.750.5474

### **Auditors**

Mr. Abraham Thomas	717.343.7622
Mr. Abraham Mammen	516.488.1972

## **Vicar's message:**

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

We have arrived at the threshold of the year 2017 and it is purely by God's grace alone. As we are moving on in to the New Year 2017, what is our testimony? New Year is a time for re-reading, re-imagining, and re dedicating our lives. In this context I would like to share few thoughts from 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 18, **IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS TO GOD. *“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus”.***

In his first letter to Thessalonians, Apostle Paul encourages the young church to become mature in their faith by preparing themselves for the second coming of Jesus Christ. He gives practical and relevant pieces of advice as to how to prepare – by inspiring those who are weak, praying always, giving thanks for everything and avoiding evil, among other things. What was relevant in those days are also relevant in our times.

### **Keeping the Tranquility of Church**

Paul indicates that God has given all of us certain responsibilities in our relationship with one another to help maintain tranquility within the Church. If each of us does not fulfill our responsibilities as stated by Paul there will be no peace in the church.

Paul also emphasizes that we are to give thanks in every condition- in prosperity and in adversity. Thanksgiving should be an essential part of our supplications (Philippians 4:6, Colossians 4:2). Thanksgiving is our spontaneous response to God for the mercies we received, whether privative or positive, and those we anticipate.

### **The Necessity of Prayer and Thanksgiving**

Verses 16-18 depict two truths. Because of these truths it is necessary to give thanks in everything.

The first truth is that continuous worship of God is the content for all of life, not just the time we spent in a sanctuary. In the words of German Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner, “everyday life itself must become our prayer.” If all of life is worship for those who seek to do God’s will, giving thanks always, in all the circumstances, is inevitable, Paul notes. A meaningful life of worship means continuous thanksgiving.

The second truth Paul presupposes is that life’s depth, not solely its surfaces, must catch our mind. We can always find obvious and apparent reasons to be thankful for. But we should go beyond and praise and give glory to God for everything that happens to us.

Let this New Year be a time of re – dedication for us to have good spiritual growth in all aspect of our lives. I look forward to your active and prayerful participation in the New Year. May God bless you all abundantly and wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Jogy Thomas Achen, Vicar.

December 20, 2016

**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 1	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	Circumcision of our Lord
Sunday January 8	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Honoring Body as Temple
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday January 15	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	True Piety
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday January 22	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Called to Unity Ecumenical Sunday
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Saturday January 29	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Sing Praise to the God of Salvation
	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>
Jan. 01	Gen.9:8-17	Heb.9:11-18	Gal.5:1-11	St.Luke 2:15-21
Jan. 08	Eccl.6:1-12	1 Pet.1:13-25	Acts.6:1-15	St.Mat. 5:21-30
Jan. 15	Mic.6:1-8	Jas 1:19-27	1 Cor.6:1-11	St.Mat. 6:1-8
Jan. 22	Ezek.37:15-23	1 Cor.1:10-17	Eph. 4: 1-6	St.John 15:1-12
Jan. 29	Exod.15:1-21	Acts.3:1-10	Eph.5:15-20	St.Luke 8:26-39

**ASSISTANCE & USHERING : 2017**

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Prayer Group</u></b>
January	Bellerose/Queens Village/Glenoaks
February	Floral Park
March	Elmont/Rosedale/Valley Stream

**AREA PRAYER MEETINGS**

<b><u>Date &amp; Time</u></b>	<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Residence</u></b>
Sunday January 1 5.00 PM	Bellerose/Queens- Village, Glen Oaks	TBA
Sunday January 1 7.00 pm	Floral Park	TBA
Sunday January 8 5:00 PM	Ridgewood/Wyckoff Richmond Hill	Parsonage Rev. Jogy Thomas 103-10, 104 <sup>th</sup> Street Ozone Park, NY 11417 Ph: 718-845-2920
Saturday January 14 7:00 PM	Coney Island	Mr. P. V. Mathew 465 Ovington Ave Brooklyn, NY 11209 Ph: 718-836-1380
Sunday January 15 5:00 PM	New Hyde Park	Mr. John Samuel 157 Celler Ave New Hyde Park, NY 11040 Ph: 516-775-5866
Sunday January 15 7:00 PM	Garden City Park	Mr. Jose M Nalonnil 66 Monterey Dr Manhasset Hills, NY 11040 Ph: 516-869-0678
Saturday January 21 6:30 PM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream	TBA
Sunday January 22 6:30 PM	Long Island	Mr. Biju M Varughese 454 Linda Dr East Meadow, NY 11554 Ph: 516-750-5474

**EDAVAKA MISSION COTTAGE PRAYER MEETINGS: TBA**

**SENIOR FELLOWSHIP MEETING: TBA**

### **SEVIKA SANGHOM**

<b><u>DATE &amp; TIME</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>RESIDENCE</u></b>
Thursday January 5 10.00 AM	Coney Island Bible Study	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham 629 Avenue Y Coney Island, NY 11235 Ph: 718-769-1015
Friday January 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer	TBA
Thursday January 12 10.00 AM	Queens- Village/Bellerose Floral Park Bible Study	Mrs. Saramma Raju Oommen 256-10 83 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue Floral Park, NY 11004 Ph: 718-347-0573
Thursday January 10.00 AM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream Long Island Bible Study	TBA
Thursday January 26 7.00 PM	New Hyde Park Garden City Park Bible Study	Mrs. Tissy Alexander 40 North 10 <sup>th</sup> Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040 Ph: 516-328-0425
Friday January 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer	TBA

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>
January 2017	Every Sunday 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Sunday School Class

### **MALAYALAM CHOIR**

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays: January 1st & 15th at 9:00AM and also on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Church. All choir members are requested to attend these practices.

## CONDOLENCES

1. Mr. Mathai Cherian (93 Yrs) our member who was residing at 2436 Gammons Creek Dr, Maiden, VA., (F/o Susan Thomas, Sally Abraham, Mathew Cherian) passed away on Nov. 14, 2016. Funeral service was held on Sunday, Nov. 27 at 3:00 PM at Karakkal St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Tiruvalla/Kerala.
  
2. Dr. George Varghese (74 Yrs), Father of our member Mrs. Sheela Shibu ,84-10 127<sup>th</sup> Street, Kew Gardens, NY., passed away in Kerala on Tuesday Nov. 29, 2016. Funeral service was held on Thursday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at 10.00 AM at St. Kuriakose Orthodox Church, Anandapally/Adoor/Kerala.
  
3. Mrs. Mariamma Mathai (66 Yrs), Sister of our member Mrs. Aleyamma Thomas, 733 Desmond Ct, Coney Island, NY., Passed away in Kerala on Friday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016. Funeral service was held on Wednesday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 AM at Karimkuttikal Mar Thoma Church, Kumblampoika/Kerala.
  
4. Mr. C.K. Thomas (90 Yrs), Brother of our member Mr. Jacob C Koruth, 32-17 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, Jackson Hts, NY., passed away in Alberta/Canada on Sunday Nov. 27, 2016. Funeral service was held on Saturday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 10.00 AM at Evangelical Church, Alberta/Canada.
  
5. Mrs. Anie Abraham (48 Yrs), Sister of our member Mrs. Mariamma Abraham, 675 Flanders Dr, North Woodmere, NY.,passed away in Houston/Texas on Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Funeral service was held on Thursday, Dec.8<sup>th</sup> at 10.30AM At Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston/Texas.

The Vicar and members of Epiphany Mar Thoma Church express our heartfelt condolences to these bereaved families and please uphold these families in our prayers.



## **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

Erin Ann Varghese	Ridgewood	1-Jan
Rebecca Anson	Merrick	1-Jan
Maria George	Ridgewood	1-Jan
Anju Annie Mathew	Brooklyn	1-Jan
Elsy Thomas Philip	Monroe	1-Jan
Kurian Abraham	Yonkers	2-Jan
Jacob Mathew	Fresh Meadows	2-Jan
Jeena Thomas	Albertson	2-Jan
Jacob D. Koshy	North Woodmere	2-Jan
Regin Samuel Abraham	New Hyde Park	3-Jan
Nadiya Antony	New Hyde Park	3-Jan
Sosamma Varghese	Merrick	3-Jan
Dr. Abel John Cherian	Floral Park	4-Jan
Anitha George	Merrick	4-Jan
Koshy Johnkutty	Jamaica Estates	4-Jan
Mariamamma Varghese	New Hyde Park	4-Jan
Chacko Varghese	Bellerose	5-Jan
Mariamamma Mathew	Ridgewood	5-Jan
Valsamma Mathew	Elmont	5-Jan
Philip P. Varghese	Roslyn	5-Jan
Jeeji Y. Mathunny	New Hyde Park	6-Jan
Mariamamma Mathew	Brooklyn	7-Jan
Mariamamma George	Albertson	7-Jan
Juby Thomas Eappen	Merrick	7-Jan
Mirian George	Elmont	8-Jan
Elizabeth Easow	Richmond Hill	8-Jan
Noble Thomas	West Hempstead	8-Jan
Shibu Mathew	Staten Island	9-Jan
Sharon K. Jayan	New Hyde Park	9-Jan
Christine John	Garden City Park	9-Jan
Saramma Mathew	Glen Oaks	10-Jan
Cara Wriolie	East Meadow	11-Jan
Elizabeth Bobby Thariath	Rosedale	11-Jan

Mariamamma John	New Hyde Park	12-Jan
Jaunita John	New Hyde Park	12-Jan
Rosamma Mathews	Glendale	12-Jan
Biju Mathew	New Hyde Park	13-Jan
Roshan Abraham	Ridgewood	13-Jan
Joseph K. Chacko	Garden City Park	13-Jan
Sosamma Alexander	Elmont	14-Jan
Aleena Elsa Joe	Elmont	14-Jan
Kevin Samuel Abraham	New Hyde Park	15-Jan
Mariamamma Chacko	Elmont	15-Jan
Philip Cherian Varghese	New Hyde Park	15-Jan
Mary Vijaya Mathew	Farmingdale	15-Jan
Micah George Varghese	Bellmore	15-Jan
Dickey Varghese	Ridgewood	15-Jan
Mathew T. Mathew	Garden City Park	16-Jan
Seena Mathew	New Hyde Park	17-Jan
Saramma Varughese	New Hyde Park	17-Jan
Abraham D. Kochalummoottil	Ridgewood	18-Jan
Amoolya Ann Varghese	Elmont	18-Jan
Johnson P. Varghese	Elmont	18-Jan
Terri John Thomas	North Woodmere	18-Jan
Lebha Mathew	Hicksville	19-Jan
Sonu Wilson Oommen	Floral Park	19-Jan
Jobin Thomas	Brooklyn	19-Jan
Saji K. Varghese	Brooklyn	19-Jan
Mary Saji	Brooklyn	20-Jan
Julie George	Floral Park	21-Jan
Karina Alex Thomas	Elmont	21-Jan
Tissy Alexander	New Hyde Park	21-Jan
Gracy C. John	New Hyde Park	22-Jan
Jaison Amos	Merrick	22-Jan
Hannah S. Thomas	Bellerose	22-Jan
Thomas K. Mathew	West Melbourne	23-Jan
Benjamin Thariath	Rosedale	23-Jan

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

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

Jose M. Nalonnil	Manhasset Hills	1-Jan
John Daniel	Garden City Park	2-Jan
Koshy Mathew	Elmont	8-Jan
Abraham M. Thannickal	Brooklyn	8-Jan
Samuel John	Manhasset Hills	9-Jan
Subash Thomas	Bellerose	10-Jan
Mathew Varghese	Valley Stream	11-Jan
Liju Abraham	Brooklyn	12-Jan
Thomas Varghese	Brooklyn	12-Jan
George C. George	East Meadow	12-Jan
Fredy Varghese	New Hyde Park	12-Jan
Ansu Abraham	Ridgewood	15-Jan
Philip Varghese	Elmont	16-Jan
Mathew Koshy	New Hyde Park	17-Jan
Thomas Easow	Richmond Hill	18-Jan
James Mathew	Manhasset Hills	18-Jan
Anup T. George	Glen Oaks	19-Jan
Thomas K. Thomas	Valley Stream	21-Jan
George Kuruvilla	New Hyde Park	21-Jan
Shaji Varghese	New Hyde Park	23-Jan
Mani N. Mani	Melville	23-Jan
Sanjay Mathew	Floral Park	24-Jan
Thomas Pothan	Floral Park	26-Jan
George P. Jose	Glen Oaks	26-Jan
John Varghese	Deer Park	26-Jan
Varughese George	Elmont	29-Jan

## YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S CORNER.

Psalms 39:4-5: Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. You have made my days a mere hand breath; the span of my years is as nothing before you.

Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.

We have completed one more year and have begun another one. As we reflect on how wonderful God has been to us in 2016, let us remember all the blessing that we have received from His Hand. Let us remember all mercy He has shown us and let us also thank Him for all the times that He has kept us safe.

As we begin 2017 let us always be mindful that we never know how many days that we have left. The Bible passage from Psalms 39 tells us that even those who seem secure, do not know how many days they have left. In both Testaments, we are reminded that we should live our life right every day.

In Luke 12, there is the parable about a rich man who wanted to tear down his barns to build bigger ones to store all his grain. Before Jesus began that parable he told the crowd, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15.)

As we enter 2017, let us remember that we should not spend our life storing "up things for themselves," instead we should live our life being "rich toward God" (Luke 12:21.)

Rev. Shibi Abraham

## MARTHOMA CHURCH EMBLEM



The Marthoma Emblem has five symbols enclosed and held together in a heart shaped boundary. Every symbol inside the emblem has a meaning and a purpose, read on:

- (1) **Motto:** "Lighted to Lighten" The role of the church is to spread the good news of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Every believer and member of the Marthoma Church, wherever they are, is filled with the light of Christianity so that they may lighten others.
- (2) **Cross:** A proclamation that God himself came in the form of a human (purusha) being and atoned for all mankind on the cross with three nails. Christ is the center of our Church. His redemption is freely available by faith in Him.
- (3) **Wheel (Chakra):** Wheel represents cycles of Life, denotes man's attempts to find life (nirvana). The 'Wheel of Life' is placed at the heart of the cross to declare the fact that the life finds its salvation in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. The members of this church are obligated both spiritually and culturally to carry the Cross to the Indian nation. The wheel of life is complete and closed for all those who follow the teachings of Christ.
- (4) **Lamp:** Each member of the Marthoma Church is a lighted lamp required to shine the light of salvation to others in their daily life. Every Marthomite is a Missionary, was the cry of Late Abraham Mar Thoma.
- (5) **Lotus:** Lotus is a very attractive sacred flower that grows in the swamps and dirty backwaters of India, it symbolizes the fact that we live in a dirty sinful world. But as the lotus flowers and stands above the dirty water, our life should radiate God's glory and rise above the surroundings, filling it with fragrance as does a lotus. A reminder that all of us are sacred and to be holy on our daily life.

**Sunday School Committee 2016**

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

**Edavaka Mission Committee 2017**

Vice President	Mr. P.V. Varughese	
Secretary	Mr. Mathew N Varughese	
Treasurer	Mr. John K Samuel	

**Sevika Sanghom Committee 2017**

Vice President	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	
Secretary	Mrs. Mariamma John	
Treasurer	Mrs. Alice Joseph	

**Yuvajana Sakhyam Committee 2017**

Vice President	Mr. Rinu Varughese	
Secretary	Mr. Roshan Alexander	
Treasurer	Mr. Anup T George	

**Youth Fellowship Committee 2017**

Vice President	Miss. Ancy Oommen	
Secretary	Mr. Jonah Mathew	
Treasurer	Mr. Joshua Mathew	
Joint Secretary	Mr. Roshan Varughese	

**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 2017**

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

**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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