
EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH

**NEWS LETTER
MARCH 2017**



**WE WALK BY FAITH
NOT BY SIGHT.**

FAITH IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION.



Executive Committee 2017

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Sunday School	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	516.812.9148
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Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Roshan Alexander	516.808.7116
Youth Fellowship	Ms. Ancy Oommen	516.488.3028
Choir	Mr. Joshua Mathew	516-488-3028

Representatives of Area Prayer Groups

Astoria/Jackson Hts./Flushing/ Randolph/Pelham/Connecticut.	Mrs. Vincy Philipose	718.359.3158
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Mr. Abraham Thomas	717.343.7622
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Vicar's message:

Warm greetings to you all Parish Members in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It give me immense pleasure to address you all once again through this News Letter. We have entered into the first quarter of the financial year 2017. May I take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to all for your active participation in all the Church activities and showing the mission zeal towards His Ministry.

We have entered into the Valiya Noaimbu (Great Lent) days and it challenges us to have a transformed vision and renewed commitment. Lent is not a ritual but an experience of sharing with Christ's suffering. It brings us closer to God. The cross the most important symbol of Christianity holds a special meaning for every true followers of Christ. By merely wearing the cross as an ornament, we do not become friends of Christ. Only by standing on the side of Christ and participating in his suffering, do we become Christ's friends. St. Paul uses the expression –“Fellowship in his sufferings” in Philippians 3:10. May I remind you to all the Parish Members to participate actively in the Lent House Prayers which are scheduled from 27th February to April 7th at 7 P M (except Saturday and Sunday).

What does it mean to be a fruitful Christian? The Bible often uses the metaphor of fruit to describe the produce

of our lives. Fruit can be either good or bad (Mathew 7:18; Luke 6:43). Romans 7:5 say "For when we were in the realm of the flesh...we bore fruit for death." A fruitful Christian will produce better results: "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life" (Proverbs 11:30). There are many ways Christian can be fruitful. True fruitfulness begins in the heart with the fruit of the Spirit. That inner fruit affects outward actions; our words and our activities will glorify the Lord, and God's will is accomplished. God's desire is to transform us into the image of Christ and make us as fruitful as He was.

May the Gracious Lord bless our ways and ministry in this new year of the Parish.

With Prayerful Regards

Jogy Thomas Achen

February 23, 2017

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
Sunday March 5	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	The Cleansing Jesus
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday March 12	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	The Forgiving Christ
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday March 19	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	The Accepting Christ
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday March 26	9:30 AM	Holy Communion (English)	5 th Sunday in Lent

LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>1st Lesson</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
March 05	Zech. 13:1-9	1 John.1:5-10	Eph.2:1-10	St. Mark 1:40-45
March 12	Gen.4:8-16	Acts. 16:11-18	Rom.5:6-11	St. Mark.2:1-12
March 19	Hos.2:14-23	Phile. 1-21	Gal. 6:1-5	St. Mat. 15:21-28
March 26	Exod.3:1-10	Rom.8:31-39	Gal. 5: 1-12	St. Luke 13:10-17

ASSISTANCE & USHERING : 2017

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
March	Elmont/Rosedale/Valley Stream
April	New Hyde Park
May	Garden City Park

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Sunday March 5 5.00 PM	Bellerose Queens Village Glen Oaks/Jamaica	TBA
Sunday March 5 7.00 pm	Floral Park	Mr. Thomas C Varghese 79-07, 267 th Street Floral Park, NY 11004 Ph: 718-646-4943
Saturday March 11 7:00 PM	Coney Island	Mr. Thomas M. Thannickal 733 Desmond Court Coney Island, NY 11235 Ph: 718-332-4121
Sunday March 12 5:00 PM	Ridgewood/Wyckoff Richmond Hill	TBA
Sunday March 19 5:00 PM	New Hyde Park	Mr. Sajee George 47 Plymouth St New Hyde Park, NY 11040 Ph: 516-775-2870
Sunday March 19 7:00 PM	Garden City Park	Mr. Biji Jacob 307 Paul Place West Hempstead, NY 11552 Ph: 516-214-4251
Saturday March 25 7:00 PM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream	Mr. Koshy Mathew 137 Circle Drive East Elmont, NY 11003 Ph: 516-233-2011
Sunday March 26 6:30 PM	Long Island	Mr. Thomas Ellil Mathew 92 West Ave Hicksville, NY 11801 Ph: 516-620-0811

EDAVAKA MISSION COTTAGE PRAYER MEETINGS:
TBA

<u>SEVIKA SANGHOM</u>		
<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
Thursday March 2 10.00 AM	Coney Island Bible Study	Mrs. Aleyamma Thomas 733 Desmond Ct Coney Island, NY 11235 Ph: 718-332-4121
Friday March 3 10.00 AM	World Day of Prayer	In the Church
Thursday March 9 10.00 AM	Queens Village Bellerose Floral Park Bible Study	Mrs. Susan Thomas 145 Irving Ave Floral Park, NY 11001 Ph: 516-519-8374
Thursday March 16 10.00 AM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream Long Island Bible Study	Mrs. Saramma Mathai 404 Chambers Ave East Meadow, NY 11554 Ph: 718-715-1017
Thursday March 23 7.00 PM	New Hyde Park Garden City Park Bible Study	Mrs. Daisy John 16 Bolton Rd Garden City Park, NY 11542 Ph: 516-414-4986
Friday March 24 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer	Mrs. Lizy Bains 505 Parkway Dr Elmont, NY 11003 Ph: 516-775-4778

<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>		
<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
March 2017	Every Sunday 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Sunday School Class

MALAYALAM CHOIR

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays: March 5th & 19th at 9:00AM and also on Friday, March 17th at 7:00 PM in the Church. All choir members are requested to attend these practices.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

1. Basic Meeting March 25th
2. Regional Retreat March 17-19

The Basic Meeting will be held in church. The Regional Retreat will be taken place in Pennsylvania, and the admission fee will be \$115. The church will provide provisions so that whoever wishes to go will only pay \$65 instead of the original price. Students without jobs are allowed to pay \$50 instead of the original price

March 5th 2017 is Diocesan Sunday. Diocesan Sunday Collections will be held on this day.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Saramma Amos	Merrick	1-Mar
Reju Mathew George	New Hyde Park	1-Mar
Erin Philip	Elmont	1-Mar
Shyno Merin Varghese	New Hyde Park	1-Mar
Thomas Chacko	New Hyde Park	2-Mar
Annamma Mathew	New Hyde Park	2-Mar
Achamma Varghese	New Hyde Park	3-Mar
Keziah Ann Philip	East Meadow	3-Mar
Beena G. Jacob	New Hyde Park	3-Mar
Jeffy John	Elmont	4-Mar
Katherine Sara Varghese	West Hempstead	4-Mar
Saju John	Brooklyn	4-Mar
Shaji Samuel	Dix Hills	4-Mar
Alvin Shaji Varghese	New Hyde Park	4-Mar
Thomas Mathew	Mineola	4-Mar
Viji Thomas	East Setauket	4-Mar
Abigail Merin Varghese	New Hyde Park	4-Mar
Alvin Mathews	East Meadow	5-Mar
Achamma Mathew	Manhasset Hills	5-Mar
P. V. Abraham	Ridgewood	5-Mar
Jessy Y. Mathunny	New Hyde Park	5-Mar
Mathew M. Thannickal	New Hyde Park	5-Mar
Dr. Linie Thomas	Fresh Meadows	6-Mar
Thomas T Mathai	Brooklyn	6-Mar
Jaycy Thomas	Floral Park	7-Mar
Beena Joseph	Franklin Square	7-Mar
Alvin Samuel Abraham	New Hyde Park	7-Mar
Aeris Sophia Abraham	Ridgewood	8-Mar
Annamma John	Merrick	9-Mar
Valsa Mammen	New Hyde Park	9-Mar
Bincy Jinu	Floral Park	9-Mar
George P. Jacob	New Hyde Park	10-Mar
Joel Thomas Mathew	Hicksville	10-Mar

Mariamamma J. Koruthu	Jackson Heights	11-Mar
Roselin J. Mammen	Floral Park	11-Mar
Philipose Oommen	Elmont	11-Mar
Sosamma Thomas	Glen Oaks	12-Mar
Beena Samuel	Manhasset Hills	12-Mar
Koshy Mathew	Elmont	12-Mar
Noel A. Thomas	Randolph	12-Mar
Lillykutty Pappachan	East Meadow	13-Mar
Thomas Philip	Monroe	14-Mar
Anna Maria Varghese	New Hyde Park	14-Mar
Jonah Mathew	New Hyde Park	14-Mar
Reuben Philipose	Plainview	14-Mar
Seema Kurian	Elmont	15-Mar
Abraham C. Abraham	Brooklyn	15-Mar
Silu M. Varghese	New Hyde Park	15-Mar
Aleyamma Mathai	Elmont	15-Mar
Sherry D. George	Bellerose	16-Mar
Sherin M Varghese	Richmond Hill	16-Mar
Angel Mathew	Abingdon	16-Mar
Jacob Thomas	Brooklyn	16-Mar
Robin T. Varughese	New Hyde Park	16-Mar
Reena Vinson	East Meadow	16-Mar
Unni Abraham	Little Neck	17-Mar
Varughese George	Elmont	17-Mar
Thomas P. Thomas	Bellerose	17-Mar
Ranjit Jacob	East Meadow	17-Mar
Sosamma C. Kottackel	Floral Park	17-Mar
Anupama Kuruvilla	Bellerose	17-Mar
Thomas P. Abraham	Floral Park	18-Mar
Gracy Thomas	New Hyde Park	19-Mar
Alex Mathew	Abingdon	19-Mar
Shari Elizabeth John	New Hyde Park	19-Mar
Shiny John	Little Neck	19-Mar
Toby Varghese Chacko	New Hyde Park	20-Mar

Anil Jacob	Elmont	20-Mar
Sheeba Jacob	Deer Park	20-Mar
Kunjamma Abraham	New Hyde Park	20-Mar
John Daniel	Garden City Park	21-Mar
Philips P. Mathai	Westbury	21-Mar
Cherian M. Kottackel	Floral Park	21-Mar
Chacko Varghese	Brooklyn	21-Mar
Bobby Thariath	Rosedale	22-Mar
Kunjamma Philipose	Brooklyn	22-Mar
Sam T. Varghese	Baldwin Harbor	22-Mar
Morlin Abraham	Yonkers	24-Mar
Ebbie Kurian	Merrick	24-Mar
Dr. Thomas Bains	Elmont	24-Mar
Chacko C. Abraham	Glenoaks	25-Mar
George Mathew	Merrick	25-Mar
Varughese Mathew	New Hyde Park	25-Mar
Jessy Chacko	New Hyde Park	26-Mar
Sage J. Regy	Commack	26-Mar
Amelia Merin Varghese	New Hyde Park	27-Mar
Lilian Rhea Abraham	Brooklyn	28-Mar
Jenson George	New Hyde Park	29-Mar
Tabitha Abraham	Brooklyn	29-Mar
Amos Mathai	Merrick	29-Mar
Isabella Iype	Melville	29-Mar
Faith Ann Mathew	New Hyde Park	29-Mar
Shivone Mary John	New Hyde Park	30-Mar
Alisha Susan Alex	Floral Park	30-Mar
Latha Thomas Mathew	Williston Park	30-Mar
Jacob Chacko	New Hyde Park	31-Mar
Aleyamma Ignatious	New Hyde Park	31-Mar
Aleyamma Mathai	New Hyde Park	31-Mar
Geena Saji	Brooklyn	31-Mar

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

Mammen Mathew	Brooklyn	1-Mar
Koshy P. Oommen	Queens Village	6-Mar
Anil T. Thomas	Randolph	11-Mar
Chacko K. Jacob	Brooklyn	11-Mar
Samuel T. Oommen	Richmond Hill	12-Mar
Mathew N. Varughese	Elmont	15-Mar
Carlos Izhur Espejo	Ridgewood	17-Mar
Alexander Chacko	Queens Village	22-Mar
Jacob D. Koshy	North Woodmere	29-Mar

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”” Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple...” – Matthew 4:1-25

YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S CORNER.

Why am I so sad? Why am I so troubled?
I will put my hope in God, And once again I will praise Him,
My Savior and my God. Psalms 42: 5

I remember once reading “Today, people have more, but enjoy less.” Even though God has greatly blessed us, many of us still lack the ability to enjoy God greatest gift: LIFE. We spend most of our time feeling sad, troubled or depressed. We spend too much time thinking about negative things that happened years ago.

The person who wrote Psalms 42 experienced a great deal of pain and suffering. This person was in exile and bearing the insults of those around him. This person even asks God “Why have you forgotten me?” (verse 9)

But it is hope, that keeps this person going. In verse six it is written “Here in exile my heart is breaking, and so I turn my thought to Him.” In the midst of the pain and suffering, this person focuses his thoughts and hopes on God. Perhaps, he remembers the stories told to him by his parents and grandparents of their great and powerful God. Or perhaps, he thinks of all the times in the past that God has helped him. He realizes that God is his Savior and God will give what is needed to overcome the pain and the depression. It is this faith that gives the person joy. Because, only a joyful person can truly praise God.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ: I realize that many of us are bound not physically but mentally and emotionally. We spend too much time focusing on the negative things that have happened to us. There is a passage from Phil 3:13-14 that reads “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Let us pray to God that He gives us the ability to overcome the negative things that we have experienced in the past. That we can forgive those who have wronged us. That we can overcome the sadness and depression that we are facing and enjoy all of God's gifts, especially His greatest gift, LIFE and boldly we press toward the future in Jesus. Then all of us can truly praise God.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Rev. Shibi Abraham

From Diocesan Episcopa:

Dearly beloved in Christ,

We have entered into a new year with mixed feelings. While it has started with much hope, the changes in the world create anxieties in nations all over the world. It is most essential that we, as a Church, always need to reflect upon the meaning of our existence as people of God in order to make our existence meaningful and relevant. The high priestly prayer in John 17 reflects Jesus' expectation about his disciples and the Church.

We are to be in the world: The prayer 'I am not asking you to take them out of the world' (v. 15) indicates that the Church is called to be in the world. Being in the world is not merely to exist but to make the world feel the presence of Christ. The solid proof of grace and salvation of the world through Christ is to be the life and witness of the Church. Every parish through the Eucharistic experience needs to be equipped to bear witness to the Grace. The presence of Christ needs to be felt not primarily through doctrinal arguments but through expression of love manifested in our action.

We are not to be of the World: The Church is expected to be a sanctified community always having a self-understanding that we are set apart. The sanctified experience is not to be secluded from the world to be in the comfortable zone, but to be involved with a difference. When Jesus asks 'to protect them from the evil one', the protection is needed not only from those opposing us but the potential danger of being of the world, which may make our presence irrelevant.

We are for the World: Jesus is sanctified not from the world but for the world. "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth" (v. 19). The people of God in the Old Testament are called through Abraham to be the light to the nations. We as a Church are sanctified so that the Christian presence in the world should sanctify the entire creation. It's good to always reflect on our actions and decisions as a Church, Parish and Family to see if we are of the world or for the world. May God help us to rededicate and make our presence meaningful. With Prayers and Regards,

Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos

Diocesan Episcopa

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Treasurer	Mr. Jinu M Joy	

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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

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Secretary	Mr. Jonah Mathew	
Treasurer	Mr. Joshua Mathew	
Joint Secretary	Mr. Roshan Varughese	

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Assistant Leader	Mrs. Susan Kurian	
Secretary	Mr. Abraham K Daniel	
Treasurer	Mr. Babu Varghese	

English Choir Committee 2017

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Assistant Leader	Miss. Gilsy Saji	
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Senior Citizens Fellowship Committee 2017

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

Young Family Fellowship Committee 2017

Coordinator	Mr. Shibu Mathew	
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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

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