

*****HAPPY EASTER*****

EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH

NEWS LETTER

APRIL 2015



THEME OF THE YEAR: "HARVEST IN THE
FAMILY OF FAMILIES-HOPE FOR HUMANITY"

Turn away from your sins because the
Kingdom of heaven is near. (Mathew 3:2)

34 Years

Executive Committee 2015

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	718.465.7170
Treasurer	Mr. Saji. K Varughese Saji11235@yahoo.com	718.332.2751
Accountant	Mr. Thomas Chacko Thomaschackony@gmail.com	516.775.0464
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	Mr. Oommen K. Varghese	516.285.9142
Edavaka Mission	Mr. E.P. Philip	516.223.0752
Sevika Sanghom	Mrs. Sosamma Kurian	516.596.7514
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Roshan Alexander	516.808.7116
Youth Fellowship	Ms. Sherin J. Daniel	516.747.2102
Choir	T.B.D	

Representatives of Area Prayer Groups

Astoria/Jackson Hts.	Mr. Cherukara Philipose	718.359.3158
Coney Island	Mr. Chacko K Jacob	718.743.6160
Ridgewood/Wyckoff	Mr. Eapen Mathew	718-381-4549
Bellerose/Queens Village	Mr. Thomas Vadakedathu	718.464.3595
Floral Park	Mr. Mathew Varughese	718.347.7165
Elmont/Rosedale	Mr. M.C Varughese	516.825.3895
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. P.V. Varghese	516.379.8046
Mr. George C. Mathew	631.847.3431

From the Vicar

"He is not here: he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee" (Luke 24:6).

Warm Greetings to all parish members in the precious name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ...

When the Greek Philosopher Socrates lay dying, his friends asked, "shall we live again?" He could only say "I hope so" In contrast, the night before author and explorer Sir Walter Raleigh was beheaded, he wrote in his Bible, "From this earth, this grave, this dust, my God shall raise me up. "What a tremendous faith! The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the guarantee of such faith and assurance. Christ' resurrection assures what Christ' death secures!

We have come to the end of yet another season of Great Lent. During the lent, we meditate specially on the wilderness experience, the temptation, the passion, the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which explains Divine love, Redemption and Salvation. As we walked with Jesus in the path of the Cross, we have reached the empty tomb, with heavenly voice "why do you look for the living among the dead, He is not here He has risen". In the midst of hopelessness and despair, there is a hope for a better tomorrow. All the four Gospels record the great victory(resurrection),the victory over all forces of evil and death. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the pivot of the Christian faith and it is this incident that sets Christianity apart from other religions. The real proof of the resurrection today is not the empty tomb or the post resurrection appearances, but the living testimony of Christ' followers. Let us pray that our worship and meditations of the last few weeks have not been in vain. Pray for God's guidance that we will be able to apply all that God has spoken to us over the past weeks, all that we have learned about the faith, so that we are enabled to live a 'resurrected' life.

During these days church members are expected to renounce special foods which are inevitable to the food code of individuals/families and observe fasting at least one time a day. The money that we save through our fasting should be collected separately as self denial fund to The Evangelistic Association of the Mar Thoma Church and Recessa (adult members contribution) towards the Mar Thoma Sabha office. As we move on, I seek your wholehearted cooperation and support towards our Parish and its activities.

As you all know through the Diocesan Episcopa's circular, our North East Region youth chaplain Rev. V. M Mathew achen is being transferred to Dharma Jyothi Vidhyapeeth, New Delhi, India from this May onwards. This time I acknowledge achen's dedicated service in this region as a youth chaplain during the last three years. Achen's leadership quality, organizational skill, theological insights, mission outlook and contemporary awareness helped our youths in their spiritual growth. For them he was not only a youth chaplain but a spiritual mentor and a good friend. On behalf of Epiphany Family, I expressed our sincere thanks and gratitude towards V. M Mathew achen, Smitha Kochamma, Krupa and Christy for their leadership and contribution towards our Parish particularly to our youths and young families.

May the crucified and resurrected Lord be with us in our daily life, in our ministry and in all walks of life.....

With prayerful regards,
Shibu Mathew achen.
March.21, 2015

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
Sunday (Easter) April 05	9:30 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	Resurrection: Celebrating the joy of Salvation
Sunday April 12	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	New Sunday: Encounter with the Risen Lord
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday April 19	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Identifying the Risen Lord in the Work place
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday April 26	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Community formation Around Resurrection Experience
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	

HOLY WEEK SERVICE

Monday, March 30	Evening Worship	7.00 PM
Tuesday, March 31	Evening Worship	7.00 PM
Wednesday, April 1	Evening Worship	7.00 PM
Thursday, April 2	Passover/Holy Communion (English)	7.00 PM
Friday, April 3	Good Friday-English & Malayalam	9.30 AM
Sunday, April 5	Easter/Holy Communion Malayalam	9.30 AM

LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>1st Lesson</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
April 2	Exod.12:1-17	Heb.9:1-15	1 Cor.11:23-34	St.Mat.26:17-30
April 5	Exod.14:5-31	Col.3:1-11	1 Thes.4:13-18	St.Mat.28:1-10
April 12	Gen.32:22-32	Acts.9:1-18	1 Thes.1:3-12	St.John.20:24-29
April 19	Ruth.2:1-18	Acts.19:36-43	Acts.16:6-15	St.John.21:1-14
April 26	Isa.25:1-9	Acts.4:32-37	Acts.2:43-47	St.Luke.24:13-25

GOOD FRIDAY BIBLE READINGS

1 st Service	2 nd Service	3 rd Service
Isa. 53: 1-12	Zech. 13:1-9	Numb. 21:1-9
1 Pet. 1:1-25	Gal. 3:1-22	Heb. 3:1-19

ASSISTANCE & USHERING 2015

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
April	Flushing/Astoria/Jackson Heights
May	Coney Island
June	Ridgewood/Wyckoff

SUNDAY SCHOOL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
April 05	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
April 12	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
April 19	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes
April 26	9.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Sunday School Classes

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Sunday April 5	Bellerose Queens Village	TBA
Sunday April 5	Floral Park	TBA
Sunday April 12 5.00 PM	Ridgewood Wyckoff	Mr. Cherian Moolakkal 1811 Starr Street Ridgewood, NY 11385 Ph:718-456-0013
Saturday April 18 7.00 PM	Coney Island	Lijo Dan Abraham 2632 Hubbard St Brooklyn, NY 11235 Ph: 646-301-7121
Sunday April 19 5.00 PM	New Hyde Park	Mr. Babu Varghese 1748 Aladdin Ave New Hyde Park, NY 11040 Ph: 516-327-0159
Sunday April 19 7:00 PM	Garden City	Mr. Saji Varghese 309 Coolidge St. West Hempstead, NY 11552 Ph: 516-483-7196

Saturday April 25 7.00 PM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream	Mr. Thomas Daniel 2024 Byron Ave Elmont, NY 11003 Ph: 516-285-5998
Sunday April 26 6.00 PM	Long Island	Mr. George C. George 127 Norman Drive East Meadow, NY 11554 Ph: 516-424-9936

<u>SEVIKA SANGHOM</u>		
<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
Wednesday April 8 10.00 AM	Coney Island Bible study	Mary Saji 2553 East 11 th Street Brooklyn, NY 11235 (718)332-2751
Thursday April 9 10.00 AM	Queens Village Bellerose/Floral Park Bible Study	Sosamma Thomas 79-07, 267 Street Floral Park, NY 11004 (718)646-4943
Thursday April 16 7:00 PM	New Hyde Park Garden City Bible Study	Susan Daniel 25 Third Ave Garden City Park, NY 11040 (516) 747-2102
Thursday April 23 10:00 AM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream Bible Study	Marykutty Thariath 134-16, 243 rd Street Rosedale, NY 11422 (718) 712-0736

“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.” JOHN 3:16

MALAYALAM CHOIR

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays: April 5th and 19th morning at 9:00 am in the church. All choir members are requested to attend the practice.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

	<u>Old address</u>	<u>New address</u>
Mr. Alexander Chacko	245 Courthouse Rd Franklin Square, NY	93-41 222 nd Street, Apt.3A Queens Village, NY 11428 Ph: 516-419-3025

31ST FAMILY CONFERENCE

DATE: JULY 02, 2015 TO JULY 05, 2015

VENUE: THE HILTON STAMFORD & EXECUTIVE MEETING CENTER, CT 06902

THEME: HARVEST IN THE FAMILY OF FAMILIES HOPE FOR HUMANITY (HOS 8:11)

LEADERS: THE MOST REV.DR.JOSEPH MAR THOMA METROPOLITAN,

RT.REV.GEEVARGHESE MAR THEODOSIUS EPISCOPA

REV.DR. SHAM P THOMAS (BANGALORE)

THE CUTOFF DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS MARCH 31, 2015

MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE ON CONFERENCE WEBSITE: WWW.MTFC2015.ORG

CONDOLENCES

1. Mrs. Mariamma Jacob (65 Yrs), mother of our member Sangeetha Susan Jacob, 47 Plymouth St., New Hyde Park, NY., passed away in Kerala on March 6, 2015.
2. Mr. V.C. Varkey (83 Yrs), brother of our member Mr. V.C. Abraham, 675 Flanders Dr., Woodmere, NY., passed away in Kerala on March 17, 2015. Funeral Services was done on March 19, 2015.

Parish express our heartfelt condolences to both bereaved families.
Please uphold these families in our prayers.

“THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED” LUKE 24:34

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Jaimee Thampan	Manhasset Hills	04-01
Brady Bains	Elmont	04-02
Cianna Aleyah George	Elmont	04-02
Jeswin J. Chacko	Elmont	04-02
Kunjamma Varghese	Brooklyn	04-02
Liza Abraham	Woodmere	04-02
Roshen Mathew	New York	04-02
Varghese Daniel	Franklin Square	04-02
Asher J. John	Hicksville	04-03
Jobby Mathew	Floral Park	04-03
Anngelle Mathew	Queens Village	04-04
Dr. Sibyl M. Cherian	Floral Park	04-04
Manoj Mathew	Manhasset Hills	04-04
Mathew Punnamoottil	New Hyde Park	04-04
Bini George	Floral Park	04-05
Jasmine Varghese	Queens Village	04-05
John Mani	Garden City Park	04-05
M.C. Varughese	Elmont	04-05
Jonathan John	Hicksville	04-06
Lini Mathew	Abingdon	04-06
Bobby Thomas	Bellerose	04-07
Jayden T Cherian	East Meadow	04-07
Mary Pothan	Floral Park	04-07
Angelle Mathew	Queens Village	04-08
Ponnamma Mathai	New Hyde Park	04-08
Biji Jacob	West Hempstead	04-08
Chacko Daniel	Manhasset Hills	04-08
Dr. Abi Tom Cherian	Floral Park	04-08
Rosamma Alex	Garden City Park	04-08
Jiby Joseph	Franklin Square	04-09
Wilson T. Oommen	Floral Park	04-09
John P. John	Queens Village	04-10

Katelynn Mary Thariath	Rosedale	04-10
Reji Philipose	Brooklyn	04-10
Susan Thomas	Hicksville	04-10
Tiffany Mathew	Fresh Meadows	04-10
Mercy A. Mathew	Albertson	04-12
Bini Mathew	New Hyde Park	04-13
Joslin A. Riju	Brooklyn	04-13
Micah Jacob Koshy	North Woodmere	04-14
Babu Varghese	New Hyde Park	04-15
Jacob C. Mathew	Garden City Park	04-15
Thampankunju Varkey	Manhasset Hills	04-15
Annie Jacob	New Hyde Park	04-16
Jasmine Varughese	Elmont	04-16
Jessy Mathew	New Hyde Park	04-16
Marcy Mathew	New Hyde Park	04-16
George Kuruvilla	New Hyde Park	04-17
Lukas Philipose	Brooklyn	04-17
Soumya Simon Thomas	Manhasset Hills	04-17
Blessy Mary Abraham	Merrick	04-18
Chemparathil Thomas	Elmont	04-18
Marykutty Thariath	Rosedale	04-18
Joslyn Thomas	Albertson	04-19
Annamma Alexander	West Hempstead	04-20
Elijah George Abraham	Brooklyn	04-20
Joseph Varghese	Bayside	04-20
Kaitlyn John	Garden City Park	04-20
Abraham K. Daniel	Ridgewood	04-21
Annamma Thomas	Elmont	04-21
Chachiamma Thomas	New Hyde Park	04-21
Irene Sony Joseph	Bellerose	04-21
Mathew George	Floral Park	04-22
Rex Varghese	New City	04-22
Stanley S. Oommen	Richmond Hill	04-23
Dr. Joe Philip	Elmont	04-24

Jessy Jacob	New Hyde Park	04-24
Mary Cherian	Floral Park	04-24
Ryan Aji	Brooklyn	04-24
Shibu K. Cheriyan	East Meadow	04-24
Shiny John	Hicksville	04-24
Sneha Miriam George	New Hyde Park	04-24
Geevarghese Johnson	Glen Cove	04-25
Jonah M. Philipose	Brooklyn	04-25
Rosamma Unni	Little Neck	04-25
Santhi George	Bellerose	04-25
Beverly B. Varghese	New Hyde Park	04-26
George K. Thomas	Queens Village	04-26
Saramma Anil Thomas	Randolph	04-26
Anissa Sania Cherian	Dix Hills	04-27
Eapen Mathews	Ridgewood	04-28
Cherian Moolakkal	Ridgewood	04-29
Esther L. Mathew	Floral Park	04-29
Littymol Cherian	Ridgewood	04-29
Mariamamma Thomas	Queens Village	04-29
Thomas Daniel	Elmont	04-29
Mathew Abraham	New Hyde Park	04-30
Sansu Lilly John	Brooklyn	04-30
Sheeba George	New Hyde Park	04-30

“IN HIS GREAT MERCY HE HAS GIVEN US NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.” 1 PETER 1:3

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

Thomas V. Varghese	Merrick	04-02
Abraham C. Abraham	Brooklyn	04-06
Cerril Mathew	Manhasset Hills	04-06
Aji T. Baby	Brooklyn	04-07
Dr. Abel John Cherian	Floral Park	04-10
E.P. Philip	Merrick	04-13
Ajish Mathew	Bellerose	04-15
N.K. Mathew	Manhasset Hills	04-17
Mathew Varughese	New Hyde Park	04-18
Abraham K. John	Elmont	04-20
Gimmy M. Abraham	Brooklyn	04-22
Mathew Abraham	New Hyde Park	04-23
M.A. John	New Hyde Park	04-24
Philip Mathai	East Meadow	04-24
Rinu Varughese	New Hyde Park	04-24
Jacob Chacko	Elmont	04-25
Joe P. Thomas	Brooklyn	04-25
P.V. Mathew	Brooklyn	04-25
Koshy Thomas	Pelham	04-26
Shibu Mathew	Staten Island	04-29
Mathew Thannickal	New Hyde Park	04-30
Mathai M. Varghese	New Hyde Park	04-30
Thomas V. Thomas	Wantagh	04-30

**“Why seek ye the living among the dead ?
He is not here, but is risen.”** Luke 24: 5-6

Youth Chaplain' Corner

'Praise the Lord'

“Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits” (Ps. 103.1)

I write this message to the newsletters reciting the above mentioned verse in my heart. When I look back to the last three years of our ministry among the Youth, I praise God and thank God for all the manifold blessings that we experienced in these years.

One of our families gave me a thank you card and it reads like this “David defeated Goliath as a youth, Mary followed Gods plan as a young woman, Billy Graham met Christ as a teenager. Thanks for the future Davids, Marys and Billys that you are influencing today”. That really touched our hearts and if we were able to influence and impact the lives of our youth here; that is only because of God’s grace and guidance.

I believe one of the important ministries that our church is doing in this generation is to invest in the lives of our youth. Our investment in this ministry today influencing the lives of our youngsters is a great asset that we are making. I praise God for our youngsters and children and their talents and I have a great hope to see them leading our church in this generation.

During the last three years God Almighty has used us to initiate few new ministries among our youths and young families. The regional youth fellowship retreat, the mission activity in the city; ‘Do something’, youth chaplain’s blog; ‘Chaplains Corner’, Regional young family fellowship, Regional young family fellowship’s retreats, the campus ministry in various colleges, area meetings like Rockland youth prayer and other new initiatives in the parish levels. We thank God for all His guidance and presence for these new initiatives and hope to see them growing and benefitting numerous people in the days to come.

I express my sincere thanks for our diocesan Bishop Theodosius Thirumeni for all his encouragement and guidance, the diocesan secretaries, the parish vicars and their families for their love and support, the office bearers in each parish, the Sunday school office bearers at regional and parish levels, our beloved youngsters, children and young families and all the families who loved us and took care of us.

We request everyone to continue to remember us in your prayers as we move to India to start a new phase in our ministry as a teacher of Old Testament at the Dharma Jyothi Vidya Peeth Faridabad near to New Delhi. We are going back to India with a lot of good memories about our ministry among the Sunday schools, youth fellowships and young families in this region. We are really going to miss all of them and they have a huge place in our hearts and wish and pray that they will be a witnessing community through our church in this generation.

Love you all!! With love and prayers
V. M. Mathew achen,
Smitha, Krupa and Christy

From Diocesan Episcopa:

Dear Friends in Christ,

February witnessed the 120th Maramon Convention of our Church, organized by the Evangelistic Association on the banks of River Pampa. By the grace of God all the meetings went smoothly and I could see some of the members of our diocese at Maramon. Though it has become a very historic and unique event among the spiritual gatherings in the world, our Church is organizing it for all sorts of people. It is also a time for serious Bible Study. One of the new beginnings we had this year was the opening of a Hindi stall, where people from different language areas in India, outside Kerala, could gather together to get more information and also to feel at home in our church event. Let us look forward to the days when there will be some non-Malayalam songs and prayers incorporated into the main section of the meetings and non-Malayalam speaking communities can hear the summary of the messages in their own language.

We have two Theological Colleges in India, the Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, in Kerala and the Dharma Jyoti Vidya Peeth, in Haryana near Delhi. Both are residential colleges which groom students, as they learn academic subjects, to become spiritual leaders and to witness the Lord through their lives. Both campuses have students from different language areas, men and women, doing their graduate and post-graduate studies. Right now we have four students studying there from our parishes in the US. When I visited these centers in the month of February, I could see the modern trends in our church to become more inclusive and welcoming. We are having more and more spiritual leaders coming up from different language areas. The Dharma Jyoti campus is 'going green' by having solar system for light and heat and promotes mission and ministry in the villages of India that give emphasis to overall sustainable development of the village communities. This year, the Theological Seminary, Kottayam organized a National Seminar on Diaspora/Migration Studies. This opened windows for serious discussion on these topics to understand the modern challenges the Church is facing and the forms of ministry that evolves out of it.

We have entered into the season of Great Lent when we focus our attention to the Cross of Christ. Let us embark on a spiritual journey into the mystery and wonder of a unique death on a Friday afternoon that leads us to astounding experiences of resurrection on Easter morning, which altogether continues to reveal to us the truth about everything. Let this Lent renew and refresh us to make us new and to understand the meaning of life that is worth-living. I wish everyone a blessed season.

-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.

Sunday school Committee 2015

Superintendent	Mr. Oommen K. Varughese	
Secretary	Miss. Reena Varughese	
Treasurer	Mr. Jinu M Joy	

Edavaka Mission Committee 2015

Vice President	Mr. E.P Philip	
Secretary	Mr. M. C. Varughese	
Treasurer	Mrs. Mariamma Lukose	

Sevika Sanghom Committee 2015

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

Yuvajana Sakhyam Committee 2015

Vice President	Mr. Shibu Cherian	
Secretary	Mr. Roshen Alexander	
Treasurer	Mr. Biju Mathew Varghese	

Youth Fellowship Committee 2015

Vice President	Mr. Noble G. Abraham	
Secretary	Mr. Christin Mathew	
Treasurer	Miss. Asha Jacob	
Joint Secretary	Miss. Melissa Anne Thomas	

Malayalam Choir Committee 2015

Leader	Mr. Shibu S Baby	
Assistant Leader	Mrs. Susan Kurian	
Secretary	Mr. Biju M Varghese	
Treasurer	Mrs. Mariamma John	

English Choir Committee 2015

Leader	Mr. Robin K Varughese	
Assistant Leader	Miss. Sherin S Shibu	
Secretary	Mr. Alvin Mathew	
Treasurer	Miss. Asha Jacob	

Senior Citizens Fellowship Committee 2015

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

Young Family Fellowship Committee 2015

Secretary	Mr. Jason Thomas	
Treasurer	Mr. Jacob D. Koshy	



For God so loved
the world that he gave
his one and only Son.

John 3:16

Epiphany Mar Thoma Church News Letter

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JESUS IS ALIVE
AND HE LOVES YOU.
BE JOYFUL IN HOPE,
PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER.
HAPPY EASTER.