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# EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH

**NEWS LETTER  
APRIL 2016**



**HE IS RISEN**

**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	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's message:**

**“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen”  
(Luke 24: 5&6)**

A well-known preacher was once in his study, writing an Easter sermon. The thought of empty tomb gripped him: “My Lord is living!” With excitement he jumped up and paced the floor, repeating to himself, “Christ is alive. His body is warm. He is not the great ‘I Was,’ but the great ‘I AM.’” Christ is not only a fact but a ‘living’ fact. He is the glorious truth of the Easter Day. We believe in a risen Lord. So do not look to the past, only to His empty tomb, to worship; but look above and worship the risen Lord who is our strength, hope and salvation. So, let us proclaim along with the angels, “The Lord is risen - He is risen indeed - Hallelujah!” I wish you all a happy Easter!

As you are aware from our Metropolitan's kalpana, I stand transferred to Adoor Hermon Aramana as bishop's secretary from May 1. We intend to move from New York on April 25. This is my last chance to address you all through the pages of the Newsletter as the vicar of the Epiphany Mar Thoma Church. I believe that thanksgiving is an important duty of human heart. Therefore I thank God Almighty for giving me the privilege to serve the Epiphany Parish for the last three years. My thanks are also due to our Metropolitan, The most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan, and the Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Thirumeni, for their support, care and guidance.

Epiphany parish is one of the main parishes in the Northeast Region, and unique in many respects. It is one of the foremost parishes and the first to acquire a church building of its own in the Diocese of North America and Europe. Its Sunday Worship Service is also a unique experience. I know that as part of the Mar Thoma Church, you love your church and its ministers through your prayers and resources. As vicar and family, we also experienced your love, care and prayerful support during these three years. You all are considering us as a part of your family. By the Grace of God, the past three years of our life here was joyful and peaceful. From my inner heart, I thank you all for your love and support.

I believe that I have utilized my time and God-given talents for the overall development of Epiphany parish. I have received wholehearted support from the parish office-bearers, executive committee members and organizations' office-bearers. I am happy to mention that in our parish we have a dedicated group of

seniors and youngsters who spend their time and talents for the growth of our church. I got their support in conducting worship services (both divine & holy communion), fellowship meetings and conferences, especially in coordinating the 2015 Diocesan Family Conference. All parish members have been helpful to us in various ways to accomplish our pastoral responsibility. Once again I, along with my family, place on record our deepest sense of gratitude to all the parishioners, office-bearers and committee members. I assure our continued prayers for the Epiphany family. Kindly uphold us in your prayers.

I also take this opportunity to welcome our new vicar Rev. Jogy Thomas achen, Lijy kochamma and their two daughters Arpitha and Anugraha . May I request our parish members' prayerful support and cooperation towards their pastoral ministry.

God willing, we are leaving from New York to India on 25<sup>th</sup> Monday evening.

**Our new address :**

**Bishop's Secretary , Hermon Aramana, Adoor, Pathanamthitta-685 1523 , Ph: 04734 228240**

With grateful heart once again I say – Thank you.....

May God bless you all abundantly,

With prayerful regards,

Shibu Mathew achen

03-21-2016

**FAREWELL MEETING:**

Farewell meeting of our vicar Rev. Shibu Mathew & Family will be held on Sunday April 24th immediately after the Holy Communion Service (Holy Communion will begin at 9.30am). After farewell meeting we will have a fellowship lunch at church basement.

Achen & family will leave to India by Emirates Flight from JFK airport on April 25, 11.00pm. They will leave from parsonage around 8.00pm.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
Sunday April 3	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Empowered by the Risen Lord
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday April 10	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Reading of the Scripture with the Risen Lord
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday April 17	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Commissioning by the Risen Lord
	10.15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday April 24	9.30 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	Believing in “Christ the truth”

## LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
April 03	Gen:28:10-22	Acts.20:7-12	1 Thes.1:2-10	St.John.20:24-29
April 10	2 Chro.34:29-33	Acts.8:26-40	Phili.1:12-17	St.Luke.24:13-27
April 17	Jer.1:1-10	1 Tim.4:6-16	2 Tim.2:1-8	St.John.20:19-23
April 24	Exod. 34:1-9	Eph.4:11-16	2 John.7-11	St.John.17:1-6

## ASSISTANCE & USHERING -2016

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
April	Bellerose/Queens Vill./Glenoaks
May	Floral Park
June	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 April 3	Bellerose Queens Village Glenoaks	TBA
Sunday April 3 7.00 PM	Floral Park	Mr. Thomas P Abraham 80-37, 255 Street Floral Park, NY 11004 Ph: 718-470-6524
Saturday April 9 7.00 PM	Coney Island	Mr. Thomas Varughese 2451 West Street Brooklyn, NY 11223 Ph: 718-449-7135
Sunday April 10 5.00 PM	Ridgewood Wyckoff	Mr. Cherian Moolakkal 1811 Starr Street Ridgewood, NY 11385 Ph: 718-456-0013
Saturday April 16 6:30 PM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream	Mr. M.C. Varughese 72 DeMille Ave Elmont, NY 11003 Ph: 516-825-3895
Sunday April 17 5.00 PM	Garden City Park	Mr. Alex Daniel 61 -4 <sup>th</sup> Street New Hyde Park, NY 11040 Ph: 516-741-1140
Sunday April 17 7.00 PM	New Hyde Park	Mr. Rinu Varughese 113 Patton Blvd New Hyde Park, NY 11040 Ph: 516-673-4583
Friday April 22 7:00 PM	Long Island	Mr. Thomas V Thomas 1097 Johnston Ave Wantagh, NY 11793 Ph: 516-826-4727

**SENIOR CITIZENS FELLOWSHIP MEETING  
TUESDAY APRIL 12, 2016 AT 10:00 AM  
ALL SENIOR CITIZENS ARE REQUESTED TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.**

## SEVIKA SANGHOM

<u>DATE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
Thursday April 7 10.00 AM	Coney Island Bible Study	Mrs. Mary Saji 2553 East 11 <sup>th</sup> Street Brooklyn, NY 11235 (718)332-2751
Thursday April 14 10.00 AM	Queens Village Bellerose Bible Study	Mrs. Sosamma Thomas 79-07, 267 Street Floral Park, NY 11004 Ph: 718-646-4943
Thursday April 21 10.00 AM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream Long Island Bible Study	Mrs. Aleyamma Jacob 182 Freeman Ave Elmont, NY 11003 Ph: 516-285-4966
Thursday April 21 7.00 PM	New Hyde Park Garden City Park Bible Study	Mrs. Sosamma Mathew 67 East Street Manhasset Hills, NY 11040 Ph: 516-746-5779

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sunday, April 3	9:00 to 10:00 AM	Sunday School Class
Sunday, April 10	9:00 to 10:00 AM	Sunday School Class
Sunday, April 17	9:00 to 10:00 AM	Sunday School Class
Sunday, April 24	9:00 to 10:00 AM	Sunday School Class

APRIL 9 – VBS TRAINING AND ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF  
NER SUNDAY SCHOOL AT EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH

APRIL 17 – SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

APRIL 24 – SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION

MAY 1 - DIOCESAN EXAMINATION

JULY 7-10: JR. SR. CONFERENCE

JULY 21-23: VBS

## MALAYALAM CHOIR

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays: April 3rd and 24th at 9.00 AM in the church. All choir members are requested to attend the practice.

**Condolences:** Mrs. Annamma Varghese (85 Yrs), Mother of our member Mr. Oommen K Varghese, 1954 Byron Ave, Elmont, NY., passed away in Kerala/India on Thursday, February 25th 2016. Funeral service was held at Emmanuel Mar Thoma Church, Pathanapuram, Kerala on Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Mr. Varughese Thomas (93 Yrs), Father of our member Mr. Thomas Varughese, 2451 West St, Brooklyn, NY., passed away in Kerala/India on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2016. Funeral service was held on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 at St. Peter's Orthodox Church, Elanthoor/Kerala.

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

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

1. There will be a BASIC meeting on Friday, April 15th at 6:00PM in the Church. Jacob Chacko will be leading the meeting. It will be Achen's last meeting with us, so we encourage all the youth to attend.
2. Men's fellowship will have a meeting on Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6.00 PM at Shaun Daniel's house, 25 Third Ave, Garden City Park, NY 11040
3. Women's fellowship will have a meeting on Saturday April 9th at 6:30PM at Alice Mathew's house, 91 Birch Ave, Farmingdale, NY 11735



## YEAR PLAN-2016

April 24	: Achen's Farewell Meeting
July 17	: Parish Day/Episcopal Visit/1 <sup>st</sup> Communion
July 30	: Parish Picnic
August 5-7	: Family Retreat
August 14	: New Academic Year Service
August 28	: NAY Service/New Graduates Thanksgiving
September 4	: Harvest Festival
September 23-25	: Parish Convention
November 27	: Thanksgiving Service
November 27	: Christmas Door to Door Carol
December 24	: Christmas Carol in the Church
December 31	: Watch Night and New Year service

### **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

Jaimee Thampan	Manhasset Hills	04-01
Kunjamma Varghese	Brooklyn	04-02
Liza Abraham	North Woodmere	04-02
Varghese Daniel	Franklin Square	04-02
Cianna Aleyah George	Elmont	04-02
Jeswin J. Chacko	Elmont	04-02
Roshen Mathew	Bronx	04-02
Brady Bains	Elmont	04-03
Asher J. John	Hicksville	04-03
Jobby Mathew	New Hyde Park	04-03
Mathew Punnamoottil	New Hyde Park	04-04
Manoj Mathew	Manhasset Hills	04-04
Dr. Sibyl M. Cherian	Floral Park	04-04
Jasmine Varghese	Queens Village	04-05
Bini George	Floral Park	04-05
M. C. Varghese	Elmont	04-05
John Mani	Garden City Park	04-05
Jonathan John	Hicksville	04-06
Lini Mathew	Abingdon	04-06

Jayden Thomas Cherian	East Meadow	04-07
Bobby Thomas	Bellerose	04-07
Mary Pothan	Floral Park	04-07
Dr. Abi Tom Cherian	Floral Park	04-08
Anngelle Mathew	Floral Park	04-08
Ponnamma Mathai	New Hyde Park	04-08
Rosamma Alex	Garden City Park	04-08
Biji Jacob	West Hempstead	04-08
Chacko Daniel	Manhasset Hills	04-08
Wilson T. Oommen	Floral Park	04-09
John P. John	Queens Village	04-10
Tiffiny Mathew	Fresh Meadows	04-10
Reji Philipose	Brooklyn	04-10
Katelynn Mary Thariath	Rosedale	04-10
Susan Thomas	Hicksville	04-10
Christopher Jaden Thomas	Valley Stream	04-12
Bini Mathew	New Hyde Park	04-13
Micah Jacob Koshy	North Woodmere	04-14
Jacob C. Mathew	Garden City Park	04-15
Babu Varghese	New Hyde Park	04-15
Thampankunju Varkey	Manhasset Hills	04-15
Annie Jacob	New Hyde Park	04-16
Jessy Mathew	New Hyde Park	04-16
Jasmine Varughese	Elmont	04-16
Marcy Mathew	New Hyde Park	04-16
Lukas Philipose	Brooklyn	04-17
Soumya Simon Thomas	Manhasset Hills	04-17
George Kuruvilla	New Hyde Park	04-17
Chemparathil Thomas	Elmont	04-18
Blessy Mary Abraham	Merrick	04-18
Marykutty Thariath	Rosedale	04-18
Joslyn Thomas	Albertson	04-19
Elijah George Abraham	Brooklyn	04-20

Annamma Alexander	West Hempstead	04-20
Kaitlyn John	Garden City Park	04-20
Joseph Varghese	Woodside	04-20
Annamma Thomas	Elmont	04-21
Irene Sony Joseph	Bellerose	04-21
Abraham K. Daniel	Ridgewood	04-21
Chachiamma Thomas	New Hyde Park	04-21
Mathew George	Floral Park	04-22
Andrew Varughese Alex	Floral Park	04-22
Rex Varghese	New City	04-22
Stanley S. Oommen	Richmond Hill	04-23
Shibu K. Cheriyan	East Meadow	04-24
Sneha Miriam George	New Hyde Park	04-24
Dr. Joe Philip	Elmont	04-24
Shiny John	Hicksville	04-24
Jessy Jacob	New Hyde Park	04-24
Mary Cherian	Floral Park	04-24
Ryan Aji	Brooklyn	04-24
Geevarghese Johnson	Glen Cove	04-25
Santhi George	Bellerose	04-25
Jonah M. Philipose	Plainview	04-25
Rosamma Unni	Little Neck	04-25
Sanaya Maria Cherian	Dix Hills	04-26
George K. Thomas	Queens Village	04-26
Saramma Anil Thomas	Randolph	04-26
Beverly B. Varghese	New Hyde Park	04-26
Anissa Sania Cherian	Dix Hills	04-27
Eapen Mathews	Ridgewood	04-28
Cherian Moolakkal	Ridgewood	04-29
Littymol Cherian	Ridgewood	04-29
Esther L. Mathew	Floral Park	04-29
Thomas Daniel	Elmont	04-29
Mariamamma Thomas	Queens Village	04-29
Julia James	Manhasset Hills	04-29

Susan Elias Cherian	Floral Park	04-30
Sansu Lilly John	Brooklyn	04-30
Mathew Abraham	New Hyde Park	04-30
Sheeba George	New Hyde Park	04-30

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

Thomas V. Varghese	Merrick	04-02
Cerrill Mathew	Manhasset Hills	04-06
Abraham C. Abraham	Brooklyn	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
Rinu Varughese	New Hyde Park	04-24
M. A. John	New Hyde Park	04-24
Philip Mathai	East Meadow	04-24
P. V. Mathew	Brooklyn	04-25
Joe P. Thomas	Brooklyn	04-25
Jacob Chacko	Elmont	04-25
Koshy Thomas	Pelham	04-26
Shibu Mathew	Staten Island	04-29
Mathai M. Varghese	New Hyde Park	04-30
Mathew M. Thannickal	New Hyde Park	04-30
Thomas V. Thomas	Wantagh	04-30

**FROM DIOCESAN EPISCOPA:**

***“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt. 5:48)***

Dear Friends in Christ,

Of the 50 days of the Great Lent, March 2nd marks mid-Lent. March 20th is Palm Sunday, and then we look forward to celebrating Easter Sunday on March 27th at which time we acclaim the boundless transformation and holistic newness that we experience through the power of Christ’s resurrection. We must proclaim the resurrected and victorious Lord through our lives every day and look forward to join Him in His second coming.

Lent enables us to acquire the ‘mind of Christ.’ During Lent we meditate upon the life and work of Christ remembering the words of St. Paul as we read in Philippians 2: 1-11. We ought to do this not simply to be identified as a religious person but for creating a total transformation in our lives. During Lent, some people turn to God to repent of their sins. This is good, for it is the indwelling Holy Spirit that enables a person to do so. Others give up certain habits that enslave them and prevent them from experiencing the presence of God. That is also good, as we are called to be holy as the heavenly Father is holy. But these alone are not enough. St. Paul is exhorting us to develop ‘the mind of Christ.’ We see ‘the mind of Christ’ in His incarnational ministry, servant ministry, self-emptying ministry on the Cross (suffering ministry), humbling and obedient ministry. Hence God raised Christ from the dead and we recognize Christ as Lord and Master of our lives. Therefore, Lent is a time for this process of transformation where we realize that, ‘for me to live is Christ.’

Jesus, through the Sermon on the Mount, exhorts us to be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect. This is the meaning of ‘Christian Life’ and the purpose of ‘Christian Living.’ God is not satisfied with anything less. We are called to live by the values of the Kingdom of God that manifests the nature of God-head, the greatest of which is love. Our life must become the manifestation of God’s love (Jn. 3: 16). Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another as He has loved us. Let us follow in His footsteps.

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter!

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.**

In the days after Easter, we, like the first followers of Jesus have to learn how to walk with the risen Lord. Easter represents a new beginning for all of us. As we look back over the last few months at all that has happened in the world, we realize that there are a lot of tragedies and misfortunes in the world.

In the midst of all these tragedies and misfortunes, the believer's dependence on Jesus is what motivates them to thank God and it is what motivates them to move forward. We thank God for His wonderful care and protection. Further, just as the risen Lord gave joy and encouragement to the disciples, that same joy and encouragement is available for us. That and the power of the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to live a life different than the life they lived before Easter.

They realized that their Lord and Savior had overcome the powers of this world. They realized that no matter what happened in this world, in the world to come, their God would reward them for living a life of a true disciple. So they tried their best to live a life pleasing to God. They gladly endured pain and suffering for their Savior. They happily sacrificed their own pleasures for the good of others.

Yes, in this world they suffered physical pain and injustice, but in their spirit they were renewed every day. They kept their eye on the prize. For the disciples the Resurrection was not just an experience of life after death. To them, the Resurrection happens every day. For them, the Resurrection is the transformation of all our relationships. A transformation of our relationship with God, and with other people. The Resurrection enabled them to use all the talents and gifts that God gave them to serve others in His Name.

May we all be empowered by the Resurrection, to learn to walk a new way with our God. Further may it also enable us to use all our talents to serve God through serving others.

Yours in Christ's Service,

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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