
EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH

**NEWS LETTER
DECEMBER 2017**



“Rejoice in the Coming of Our
Lord!”

FAITH IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION.



Executive Committee 2017

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Sunday School/Assembly Rep.	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	516.812.9148
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Sevika Sanghom	Mrs. Mariamma John	516.775.5866
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
Coney Island/Brooklyn	Mr. Chacko K Jacob	718.743.6160
Ridgewood/Wyckoff	Mr. Eapen Mathew	718-381-4549
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Garden City Park	Mr. V.C. Abraham	516.812.9148
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Vicar's message:

Vicar's Message:

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Warm greetings to you all. From the warm and sunny days of summer, we are quickly moving to the cold and at times depressing wintry grey days. However, as a faith community we have been enriching ourselves with the joyous annunciations listed in the Holy Bible. For Eastern Churches, the month of November and December is set apart to study and meditate on the various annunciations – or the announcements about the various good news angels gave to the faithful. In Luke 5: 1-23 we read about the good news given by angel Gabriel to Zechariah and Elizabeth about the forthcoming birth of John – to a righteous couple who were old and humanely unable to conceive. During winter time, it is common to see barren looking nature and trees just reduced to limbs. Even after enduring the harsh winter, the trees and nature bounces back to its full glory in spring. The lesson here is God can transform the most barren of lives into bountiful everlasting lives.

In Luke 1: 26-38 we read about the annunciation by Gabriel to Mary, about the divine conception and the impending birth of Jesus. In the coming week's we will meditate on the birth of John (Luke 1:57-66), Joseph's willingness to accept Mary and Jesus (Mathew 1:18-23), John's announcement to the world about "God's word becoming flesh" to signify that God's own son Jesus is going to be born (John 1: 1-14), and finally the actual birth of Jesus (Luke 1: 1-20).

During Christmas time when the whole Christian community is remembering the birth of their savior, for some others it is a time to make commercial gains. Actually, Christmas has transformed into holiday season and into buying more and more of things which gives us only temporary happiness. Actually, we know many will return their gifts shortly after the holiday season because either they got tired of their gifts or it did not give them the happiness they were longing for. Can we take a few minutes out of this busy season to think about the precious gift given by our God the father, who gave his only son to save us from our sins? He gave his son freely to us –

the only thing he is asking in return is to believe in him with all our heart and follow the path shown by him.

The joyous occasion of Christmas has arrived – a season of gifts and greeting, sharing of Joy, love and affection. Our door to door Christmas Carol singing began on November 26th and ends on December 17. The schedule of Carol rounds is published in this Newsletter. It is my request to all our families to receive the message of Joy and hope of X'mas by admitting and encouraging the carol group in our houses. Please make changes to your work schedule and attend the Christmas Carol Service on Saturday, December 23.

As the 11 months have quickly passed by, it is time to reflect on the abundant grace and mercy showered on us by our lord and savior Jesus Christ. In November we had many memorable programs especially Thanksgiving Day program, World Sunday School Day, and Family Night arranged by Epiphany Sevika Sangom.

We are nearing the close of a financial year and I request your sincere cooperation in clearing your dues such as Subscription, various Cover Collections, Thanksgiving Offertory, Good Samaritan fund, Tithe etc., before December 31st. We are bidding farewell to one more year of our life. This is the time of self-evaluation. Looking back, can we say that we were faithful in our life with time, money, opportunities, skill and talents? When the master in heaven asks will our answer be the same as given by the servant who got five talents (Mathew 15: 14-30)?

Let's end the year by reaffirming our commitment to the church and by supporting the various ministries supported by the church and Diocese. May each and every aspect of this Christmas and New Year be powerful signals to move in the proper direction towards the ultimate target of completing God's will in our lives.

“WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A BLESSED NEW YEAR”.

Prayerful Regards,
Jogy achen,
November 19, 2017.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
Sunday Dec. 03	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Visitation of Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. (Bible Sunday)
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday Dec. 10	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Birth of John the Baptist
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday Dec. 17	9:30 AM	Holy Communion (English)	Annunciation to Joseph
Sunday Dec.24	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Our Lord is Coming.
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Monday Dec. 25	9:30 AM	Holy Communion (English)	Feast of Nativity. Birth of our Lord
Sunday Dec. 31	9:30 AM	Holy Communion (English)	God our Helper and Redeemer.

LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>1st Lesson</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Dec. 03	Gen. 18:1-16	1 Pet.1:8-12	2 Cor. 1:3-11	St. Luke 1:39-45
Dec. 10	Isa.55:6-13	Heb.4:1-13	Gal. 1:11-17	St. Luke.1:57-66
Dec. 17	Zeph 3:14-20	Heb. 1:5-16	Phil 4:4-10	St. Matt 1:18-23
Dec. 24	Mic 4:1-7	1 John 4:7-21	Rom 1:8-17	St. John 1:1-14
Dec. 25	Mic 5:1-9	Col. 1:13-20	Gal 4:1-7	St. Luke 2:1-14
Dec. 31	1 Sam.7:5-17	1 Pet.5:6-11	Heb.13:7-11	St. Luke 12:22-34

ASSISTANCE & USHERING: 2017-2018

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
December	Elmont/Rosedale/Valley Stream
January	New Hyde Park
February	Garden City Park

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

	<u>Area</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Sunday Dec. 03 5.00 PM	Floral Park	TBA
Sunday Dec. 03 7.00 pm	Bellerose Queens Village Jamaica	TBA
Saturday Dec. 09 7:00 PM	Coney Island	TBA
Sunday Dec. 10 5:00 PM	Ridgewood Wyckoff Richmond Hill	TBA
Saturday Dec. 17 6:30 PM	New Hyde Park	TBA
Sunday Dec. 17 5:00 PM	Garden City Park	TBA
Saturday Dec. 23 7:00 PM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream	TBA
Sunday Dec. 24 6:00 PM	Long Island	TBA

SEVIKA SANGHOM

<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
Thursday Dec. 07 10.00 AM	Coney Island Bible Study	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham 629 Avenue Y Coney Island, NY 11235 Ph: 718-769-1015
Friday Dec. 08 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer (SS & EM)	TBA
Thursday Dec. 14 10.00 AM	Queens Village Bellerose Floral Park Bible Study	TBA
Friday Dec. 15 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer	TBA
Friday Dec. 22	Fasting Prayer (SS & EM)	TBA
Thursday Dec. 21 7.00 PM	New Hyde Park Garden City Park Bible Study	TBA

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

FIRST COMMUNICANT SERVICE:

First Communicant classes will be held on Sunday Dec. 3rd and Sunday Dec. 10th after the Holy Communion service.

First Communicant Service will be held on December 17, 2017.

CHURCH YEAR PLAN-2017

December 23 : Christmas Carol in the Church at 6:30 PM
December 25 : Christmas day service at 9:30 AM
December 31 : Watch Night and New Year service
9:30 PM – 10:30 PM – Praise & Worship/Testimony – English
10:30 PM – 11:30 PM – Praise & Worship/Testimony – Malayalam
11:30 PM - 1:00 AM - Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)

MALAYALAM CHOIR

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays: December 3rd and 17th at 9:00AM in the Church. All choir members are requested to attend these practices.

SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING – TBA

NEW BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Jason and Anila Thomas (Floral Park) are happy to announce the arrival of their new born girl “Abigail Sarah Thomas” born on October 25, 2017. Congratulations!

christmas door to door carol 2017

Nov 26th Sunday 4:00 PM	Parsonage, Richmond hill, OzonePark,Woodhaven Ridgewood ,Kewgarden,Flushing,Astoria,Jackson Heights. Long island city
Dec 1st Friday 6:00 PM	Bellerose, Queens village, Glen Oaks, Jamaica
Dec 2nd Saturday 4:00 PM	New Hyde Park(Nassau)
Dec 3rd Sunday 4:00 PM	Floral prk, New Hyde Park (Queens)
Dec 8th Friday 6:00 PM	Bayridge, Coney Island
Dec 9th Saturday 4:00 PM	Long island - East setauket, Dixhills,Melville,Muttontown Syosset,Plainview,Deerpark,Bethpage,Farmigdale Hicksville, Westbury
Dec 10th Sunday 4:00 PM	Wantagh, East meadow Merrick, Bellmore
Dec 15th Friday 6PM	West Hempstead, Fresh meadows, valley stream, Mineola, Glencove
Dec 16th Saturday 4pm	Garden city, Manhasset hills, Albertson, Williston park
Dec 17th Sunday 4pm WEEKEND Morning----- CONNICUT, RANDOLPH,	Elmont, woodmere, rosdale YONKERS ,NEWCITY and PELHAM

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Mathew Parayil Alex	Garden City Park	1-Dec
Mariamamma Thomas	Woodside	1-Dec
Julia K. Jinu	Floral Park	1-Dec
Noah Philipose	Brooklyn	1-Dec
Jessica Joy	New Hyde Park	2-Dec
Siju Mathews	Floral Park	2-Dec
Mariamamma Varghese	New City	2-Dec
Ancy Mathew	East Meadow	3-Dec
Hannah Johnkutty	Jamaica Estates	3-Dec
Sosamma Kurian	Elmont	3-Dec
John Kurian	Floral Park	3-Dec
Thomas V. Thomas	Wantagh	3-Dec
Asha Jacob	Elmont	4-Dec
P. V. Thomas	Albertson	5-Dec
Ivy Ann Varghese	Franklin Square	6-Dec
Erynn Ajish	East Meadow	7-Dec
Siji John	Brooklyn	8-Dec
Annie Jacob Mathew	Fresh Meadows	10-Dec
Andrew Naveen John	Syosset	10-Dec
Philip Verghese	Floral Park	10-Dec
Selena Alex Thomas	Elmont	10-Dec
Anup T. George	Glen Oaks	10-Dec
Lijo Dan Abraham	Brooklyn	10-Dec
Sherlyn Alex	East Meadow	11-Dec
George C. George	East Meadow	12-Dec
Abraham Thomas	Muttontown	12-Dec
Sanjay Mathew	Floral Park	12-Dec
Samuel T. Oommen	Richmond Hill	12-Dec
Dr. Jay Iype	Melville	13-Dec
Sneha E. George	New Hyde Park	14-Dec
Sangeetha S. Abraham	Ridgewood	14-Dec
Deepthi Jimmy	New Hyde Park	14-Dec

Alexia Maria Abraham	Ridgewood	15-Dec
Ajish Mathew	East Meadow	15-Dec
Tyson Philipose	Flushing	15-Dec
Sanjay J. Abraham	Ridgewood	17-Dec
Bryan V. Joseph	New Hyde Park	17-Dec
Sowmya Alex	East Meadow	19-Dec
Bradly B. Varghese	New Hyde Park	19-Dec
Jinu George	Albertson	19-Dec
V. C. Abraham	North Woodmere	19-Dec
Sunil M. Thomas	Elmont	20-Dec
Dr. Sherley Abraham	Woodside	20-Dec
Dr. Joju V. Thomas	Glen Oaks	20-Dec
Ruth M. Varghese	Bellerose	21-Dec
Abraham P. Chacko	Floral Park	22-Dec
Sara E. Thomas	Bellerose	22-Dec
Allan K Varghese	East Meadow	22-Dec
Bijou Mathew	New Hyde Park	23-Dec
Smitha D. George	Bellerose	23-Dec
Bini Philip	Merrick	23-Dec
Ashish Mathew	East Meadow	24-Dec
Noble A. Thomas	Randolph	24-Dec
Mariamamma Koshy	Pelham	24-Dec
George Mathew	Glen Oaks	24-Dec
Jenny Mary Phillips	Westbury	24-Dec
Sheena Kurian	Elmont	24-Dec
Annamma Mathew	West Melbourne	25-Dec
Amy Varghese	Elmont	25-Dec
Christy John	Little Neck	25-Dec
Jain R Mathai	New Hyde Park	25-Dec
Aji T. Baby	Brooklyn	25-Dec
Thomas Varghese	Elmont	25-Dec
Suzanna Ancy Mathew	Albertson	25-Dec
Christopher J. Mathew	Charlotte	26-Dec
Abraham Parayil Alex	Garden City Park	26-Dec

Sudha Chacko	New Hyde Park	27-Dec
Christiana Sneha John	Syosset	27-Dec
Kevin John Samuel	Manhasset Hills	27-Dec
George Mangalathil	East Meadow	27-Dec
Saji Mathew	Queens Village	27-Dec
Kevin Saju Idicula	West Hempstead	27-Dec
Annamma Varghese	Elmont	28-Dec
Jinu M. Joy	Floral Park	28-Dec
Aaron Philip Mathai	East Meadow	28-Dec
Aidan Shibu Varughese	East Meadow	29-Dec
Annamma Chacko	Garden City Park	29-Dec
Jacob Idiculla	Elmont	29-Dec
Aiden T George	Glen Oaks	29-Dec
Shawn V. Thomas	East Setauket	29-Dec
Thomas Mathew	Long Island City	30-Dec
George C. Mathew	Farmingdale	30-Dec
Samkutty Varghese	New Hyde Park	30-Dec

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

Chacko M. Jacob	Elmont	1-Dec
John K. Samuel	New Hyde Park	14-Dec
Babu Varghese	New Hyde Park	17-Dec
Shaji Varghese	New Hyde Park	18-Dec
George Mathai	Floral Park	26-Dec
John Mathew	Little Neck	28-Dec
V. C. Abraham	North Woodmere	29-Dec
Rajan Thomas	Floral Park	30-Dec
Thomas T. Daniel	Elmont	31-Dec

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

Matthew 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about : His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name **Jesus**.

YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S CORNER.

Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace to men whom his favor rests. Luke 2:14

Christmas is a time of transformation. The shepherds as they were watching their sheep thought that things tomorrow would be the same as they were today. But the angels of the Lord, brought them the message that things would never be the same again. God has entered the world in a wonderful and powerful way. This action has two results: 1) Glory (or praise to God) and 2) peace to the people of Earth who do His will.

These two things cannot be separated. We cannot worship God without concerned about our relationship to those around us. Jesus told his disciples that if they were on their way to make an offering at the altar and they remember that someone has something against them, they are to leave their offering where it is and to go and reconcile with their brother or sister first. Only after they reconcile should they make their offering (Matthew 5:23-24.) Jacob had a great deal of material blessings, but it was only when he reconciled with his brother that he could say, "for truly seeing your face is like seeing the face of God (Genesis 33:10.)"

When we truly worship and glorify God, we will be peacemakers. Our actions here on Earth will glorify God in heaven. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God (Matthew 5:9.)' Jesus came into this world that we should be the children of God. This Christmas season, and every day of our lives, let us be peacemakers on Earth so that God can be glorified in Heaven.

Rev. Shibi Abraham
November 20, 2017

Sunday School Committee 2017

Superintendent	Mrs. Mariamma Abraham	
Secretary	Miss. Nimmy Jacob	
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 2017

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

English Choir Committee 2017

Leader	Mr. Joshua Mathew	
Assistant Leader	Miss. Gilsy Saji	
Secretary	Miss. Beverly Varghese	
Treasurer	Miss. Reena Varughese	

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

Epiphany Mar Thoma Church News Letter

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