
EPIPHANY MAR THOMA CHURCH

**NEWS LETTER
FEBRUARY 2017**



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

FAITH IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION.

36th Year

Executive Committee 2017

President / Vicar	Rev. Jogy Thomas revjogythomas@gmail.com	718.845.2920 718.612.1891
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Secretary	Mr. George C Abraham georgecabraham23@gmail.com	516.358.4020
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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,

Lord, our God provides perfect freedom, let's use our blessings meaningfully. As we are entering into the second month of the new year may the Almighty Lord continue to bless you all. I would like to share few thoughts from St.Luke 13:1-9, V 8&9 “ **‘Sir’, the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”**

Luke gives us a pair of stories that call us to repentance (vv.1-5) and a parable that illustrates the patience and love of God (vv.6-9). Both stories call for repentance. Repentance is a major emphasis in this Gospel (3:3; 3:8; 5:32; 13:3, 5; 15:7; 16:30; 17:3; 24:47). The story of the Galileans (vv. 1-5) warns of the coming judgment –“unless you repent, you will all perish” (v.3). Jesus denies that the eighteen were worse offenders than others, but uses the opportunity to call his listeners to repentance. The fig-tree parable (vv.6-9) offers hope that the Lord will defer judgment to another day. We should not confuse this parable with the fig tree in Mark 11: 12 -14. The two stories have little in common other than a barren fig tree. Jesus is not warning of physical death, of course. Instead, he uses death as a metaphor for the coming judgment. As we see in the given passage the image is shocking, the need for repentance is urgent. The parable of the barren fig tree, the gardener intercedes on behalf of the tree, pleading that it be given another year by offering to dig around it and fertilize it. Then, if it did not bear fruit in

another year, he could cut it down. Nevertheless, although there is mercy in Jesus' parable, it is still a warning of the urgency of repentance. The time until the judgment is extended for just a short time.

The parable of the fig tree invites us to consider the gift of another year of life as an act of God's mercy. John the Baptist declared that the ax lay at the root, poised to strike (3:9). Any tree that did not bear fruit would be cut down. God would give even an unfruitful fig tree another chance. Luke has balanced the warning of God's judgment with promises of God's mercy. The bright side of the warnings in Lk 13: 1-5 is that Jesus affirms that these calamities are not God's doing. On the other hand they should stand as graphic reminders that life is breakable, and any of us may stand before our Maker without a moment's notice.

In this passage, however, the gardener pleads for and is granted one more year. The year that Jesus proclaimed "the year of the Lord's favor" (4:19), would be a year of forgiveness, restoration, and second chance. Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgiving, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings (William Arthur Ward).

I look forward to your active and prayerful participation in all worship service and other activities of the Church. **Let's pray:** Thank you Lord for giving us a second chance. Help us to be truly grateful in all our lives. The lesson of the fig tree is a challenge to live each day as a gift from God. Amen

Rev. Jogy Thomas, Vicar
January 23, 2017

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
Sunday February 5	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Compassionate Healing Medical Mission Sunday
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday February 12	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Sabbath Leading to the Perfection of Creation
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday February 19	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Fall as the Violation of The purpose of Creation
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday February 26	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	Beginning of Great Lent (Pethurtha)
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	

LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>1st Lesson</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Feb. 05	Isa 42:1-9	Acts.8:1-13	James.5:13-18	St.Mark 7:31-37
Feb. 12	Isa.65:17-25	Heb. 4:1-13	Col.1:15-24	St.Mark.2:23-28
Feb. 19	Gen.6:1-13	Rom. 5:12-21	Rom.7:14-25	St.Mat. 7:15-23
Feb. 26	Isa.44:21-28	1 Tim.1:12-17	Rom. 11: 13-24	St.John 2:1-11

ASSISTANCE & USHERING : 2017

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
February	Floral Park
March	Elmont/Rosedale/Valley Stream
April	New Hyde Park

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Sunday February 5 5.00 PM	Bellerose Queens Village Glen Oaks/Jamaica	Mr. Simon Samuel 77-56, 252 nd Street Bellerose, NY 11426 Ph: 718-343-5147
Sunday February 5 7.00 pm	Floral Park	Mr. Varghese Alex 82-26, 263 rd Street Floral Park, NY 11004 Ph: 718-470-9411
Saturday February 11 7:00 PM	Coney Island	TBA
Sunday February 12 5:00 PM	Ridgewood/Wyckoff Richmond Hill	Parsonage Rev. Jogy Thomas 103-10, 104 th Street Ozone Park, NY 11417 Ph: 718-845-2920
Sunday February 19 5:00 PM	Garden City Park	Mr. Saju Idicula Varghese 280 Parker Ave West Hempstead, NY 11552 Ph: 516-489-5812
Sunday February 19 7:00 PM	New Hyde Park	Mr. Babu Varghese 1748 Aladdin Ave New Hyde Park, NY 11040 Ph: 516-327-0159
Saturday February 25 7:00 PM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream	Mr. Joe P Thomas 653 Bauer Ct Elmont, NY 11003 Ph: 718-954-0826
Sunday February 26 6:30 PM	Long Island	Mr. E.P. Philip 1711 Pettit Ave Merrick, NY 11566 Ph: 516-223-0752

EDAVAKA MISSION COTTAGE PRAYER MEETINGS:

1. Friday, February 10th at 7.00 PM at the residence of Mr. Alexander P Chandy, 1524 Spring Street, East Meadow, NY. Ph: 516-640-5588
2. Saturday, February 18th at 6.00 PM at the residence of Mr. Thomas C Varughese, 79-07, 267 Street, Floral Park, NY. Ph: 718-646-4943
3. Prayer meeting at the residence of Mrs. Rajamma John, 162 Nevada St, Hicksville, NY. Ph: 516-938-6752
Date and time to be announced.

**122nd MARAMON CONVENTION
FEBRUARY 12 – 19, 2017**

SEVIKA SANGHOM

<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
Thursday February 2 10.00 AM	Coney Island Bible Study	TBA
Thursday February 9 10.00 AM	Queens- Village/Bellerose Floral Park Bible Study	Mrs. Sosamma Thomas 79-07, 267 th Street Floral Park, NY 11004 Ph: 718-646-4943
Thursday February 16 10.00 AM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream Long Island Bible Study	Mrs. Miriam George 179 Hathaway Ave Elmont, NY 11003 Ph: 516-775-0954
Thursday February 23 7.00 PM	New Hyde Park Garden City Park Bible Study	Mrs. Susan J Daniel 25 Third Ave Garden City Park, NY 11040 Ph: 516-747-2102
Friday February 10.00 AM	Fasting Prayer	TBA

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

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

CONDOLENCES

1. Mr. Mathew George (61 Yrs) our beloved member who was residing at 260-13 73rd Ave, Glen Oaks, NY., passed away on January 5th 2017. Funeral service was held on Monday, January 9th at Epiphany Mar Thoma Church followed by burial at All Saints Cemetery in Great Neck, NY.
2. Mr. Thomas K Varghese (77 Yrs), our beloved member who was residing at 769 Allwyn Ave, Baldwin, NY., passed away on Thursday January 12th 2017. Funeral service was held on Tuesday January 17th at Epiphany Mar Thoma Church followed by burial at Pine Lawn Cemetery in Farmingdale , NY.
3. Mrs. Annamma George (90 Yrs), Grandmother of our member Mrs. Lisha Alex residing at 82-26, 263rd Street, Floral Park, NY., passed away in Anchal/Kerala on Wednesday January 18th 2017. Funeral service was held on Saturday, January 21st at Ebenezer IPC Church in Anchal/Kerala.

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:

Suja Abraham	Woodside	1-Feb
Aiden K Varghese	East Meadow	1-Feb
Santhosh K Mathews	Garden City Park	2-Feb
Riya Marie Mathew	New Hyde Park	2-Feb
P. V. Mathew	Brooklyn	2-Feb
Sheena Mariam Abraham	New Hyde Park	2-Feb
Thomas Pothen	Floral Park	2-Feb
Jeson Thomas	Brooklyn	2-Feb
Tom Mathai	Elmont	2-Feb
Libu Abraham	Brooklyn	2-Feb
Mary Mani	Melville	2-Feb
Sherly George	Kew Gardens	4-Feb
Julia Varghese	Bellmore	4-Feb
Nisha S. Joseph	Bellerose	4-Feb
Mini J. Mathew	New Hyde Park	5-Feb
Alexander P. Chandy	East Meadow	5-Feb
George Thomas	Hicksville	5-Feb
Sarala Elisha Marie John	Hicksville	5-Feb
Jaimini Varghese	New Hyde Park	6-Feb
Jessica Varghese	Syosset	7-Feb
Baby George Thomas	Garden City Park	7-Feb
Geobey Abraham	Floral Park	7-Feb
Lalimma Thomas	Bellerose	8-Feb
Jiby Varughese	East Meadow	9-Feb
Aileen Philip	Elmont	9-Feb
Justin V. Thomas	Woodside	9-Feb
Reuben K. George	Queens Village	10-Feb
Diya R. Regy	Commack	10-Feb
Ashlin Philip	Elmont	10-Feb
T. C. Kurian	Floral Park	10-Feb
Sajee George	New Hyde Park	10-Feb
Susan Thampan	Manhasset Hills	11-Feb
Thomas V. Mathews	Merrick	11-Feb

Roshan T. Varughese	New Hyde Park	11-Feb
Ammini Jose	Glen Oaks	11-Feb
Stanley Jacob	Floral Park	12-Feb
Alvin George C. Mathew	Farmingdale	12-Feb
C. C. Mathai	New Hyde Park	12-Feb
Joseph Thomas	Queens Village	13-Feb
Katharine Ammini Thomas	Weston	13-Feb
Jerrill Mathew	Manhasset Hills	13-Feb
Manoj Mathai	Floral Park	13-Feb
Mathai M. Varghese	New Hyde Park	14-Feb
Roshan Alexander	Queens Village	14-Feb
Liju Abraham	Brooklyn	15-Feb
George Mathai	Floral Park	15-Feb
Dr. Santhosh M. Cherian	Floral Park	15-Feb
Saramma Chacko	Bellerose	15-Feb
Lauren Elizabeth Philip	Elmont	15-Feb
Priya Philip Mathai	East Meadow	18-Feb
Steven David Jacob	West Hempstead	18-Feb
Varghese Pothan	Elmont	18-Feb
Thomas C. Varghese	Floral Park	18-Feb
Winnie Elma Roy	Huntsville	18-Feb
Jensen George Thomas	Albertson	19-Feb
Roshan Varughese	New Hyde Park	21-Feb
Saju Idicula Varghese	West Hempstead	22-Feb
Milen Mathew Sanjay	Floral Park	22-Feb
Anson George	Floral Park	22-Feb
Aleykutty Thomas	Bellerose	24-Feb
Priya R. Samuel	Dix Hills	24-Feb
Kevin B. Thomas	Weston	25-Feb
Nidhin Ignatious	New Hyde Park	25-Feb
Jacob K. Mathew	Garden City Park	25-Feb
Leah Ann Mathew	New Hyde Park	25-Feb
Iype P. Abraham	Brooklyn	26-Feb
Dr. Varughese Cherian	Dix Hills	26-Feb

Jimmy M. Joy	New Hyde Park	28-Feb
Aleyamma Kurian	Merrick	28-Feb
Sosamma Johnkutty	Jamaica Estates	Feb-29
Swaroop George	New Hyde Park	Feb-29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:

Anu Abraham	Ridgewood	2-Feb
Varghese K Pappachan	East Meadow	2-Feb
Yohannan Cherian	Floral Park	3-Feb
Philip Verghese	Floral Park	4-Feb
George Thomas	Hicksville	4-Feb
Johnson John	Syosset	4-Feb
Lijo Dan Abraham	Brooklyn	6-Feb
Eapen Mathews	Ridgewood	9-Feb
Jacob Mammen	Floral Park	9-Feb
Skariah T. Samuel	Mineola	9-Feb
Alexander P. Chandy	East Meadow	10-Feb
Daniel P. John	New Hyde Park	10-Feb
George T. Thomas	New Hyde Park	12-Feb
Biju Thomas	Valley Stream	12-Feb
Thomas M. Mathew	Elmont	15-Feb
Joseph P. Oommen	Franklin Square	19-Feb
Abraham K. George	Floral Park	23-Feb
George C. Abraham	New Hyde Park	23-Feb
George K. Thomas	Queens Village	26-Feb
Thomas Mathew	Manhasset Hills	26-Feb
Sajee George	New Hyde Park	28-Feb
Varghese George	New City	28-Feb

YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S CORNER.

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying, "I called to the Lord out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. Jonah 2:1-2

From Monday, February 6th to Thursday, February 9th, is the 'Nineveh Fast' to commemorate the fast of Jonah. The book of Jonah is unique in the Bible. We all know the story of Jonah. Instead of portraying a prophet who is an obedient servant of the Lord, calling his people to repentance, it features a 'disobedient' prophet who flees from his mission and sulks when his hearers repent. But just as God was merciful to the inhabitants of Nineveh, God also showed mercy to Jonah and was willing to forgive him and give him another chance to fulfill his mission. It was while Jonah was in the belly of the large fish for three days and nights that Jonah prayed for God to save him.

Jonah prayed for God's compassion and mercy and he received it. Afterwards he was willing to perform the mission that God had entrusted to him. Because of this the great city of Nineveh was able to repent, receive God's mercy and was saved. This is the theme of Jonah, "it calls Israel to repentance and reminds it of its mission to preach to all the nations God's mercy and forgiveness."

This fast is to be a time when we realize just how we have sinned and failed in the mission that God has entrusted to us. We are to go and preach about the love and justice of God. We need to truly repent and be willing to go and do the mission that God has given us. To work for justice in the world, to share what we have with those in need, and to reconcile ourselves with those around us.

Like Jonah, we pray to God to help us. We pray for God's salvation. We pray for God's mercies. But we also need to pray that God gives us the strength to faithfully complete the mission that he has given us.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Rev. Shibi Abraham

THE ECUMENICAL NATURE OF THE CHURCH.

The Church actively participates in the programmes of the World Council of Churches, the Christian Conference of Asia, the National Council of Churches and the Kerala Christian Council. It is in full communion with the Anglican Church, The Church of South India and the Church of North India and has cordial relations with the various denominations of the Christian Church. The Church actively co-operates with the C.S.I. and the C.N.I. through CCI (Communion of Churches in India).

The Mar Thoma Church is financially independent and maintains its indigenous nature. Its regular work as well as special projects are almost entirely financed by contributions from its members at home and abroad.

While the history of the Church especially during the last century shows advance and growth in various directions, it will be admitted that there is little room for complacency. In the life of the individual as well as the community, we lag far behind the standard set by our Lord. The Church is in need of renewal in Spirit in order to become more effective and useful instrument in His hands for the extension of His Kingdom. As members of the Church let us therefore surrender ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt us and use us for His glory in the years to come.

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 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 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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