



# **EPIPHANY**

**MAR THOMA CHURCH**

**NEWS LETTER**  
**MARCH - 2018**

HOLY SEASON OF

HOLY SEASON OF  
**LENT**



**FAITH IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION**



## Executive Committee 2018

President / Vicar	Rev. Jogy Thomas revjogythomas@gmail.com	718.845.2920 718.612.1891
Vice President	Mr. Abraham Thomas vechuchira@aol.com	718.343.7622
Secretary	Mr. Chacko K Jacob Chacko_k1@yahoo.com	718.743.6160
Treasurer	Dr. Thomas Bains tbains@optonline.net	516.775.4778
Accountant	Mr. Subash Thomas ayanisubash@yahoo.com	917.715.3704
Lay Leader (Malayalam)	Mr. M.V. Varghese	516-673-4583
Lay Leader (English)	Mr. Roshan Varughese	516.708.6661
Mandalam Representative	Mr. Anil T Thomas	973.659.3414
Diocesan Assembly Rep.	Mr. James Alex	516.640.5588
Diocesan Assembly Rep.	Mr. Saji K Varughese	718.332.2751
Diocesan Assembly Rep.	Mr. Abraham K Daniel	718-417-8441

### **Representatives of Organizations**

Sunday School/Assembly Rep.	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. Biju M Varughese	516.750.5474
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Jonah Mathew	516-488-3028
Choir	TBA	TBA

### **Representatives of Area Prayer Groups**

Astoria/Jackson Hts./Flushing/ Randolph/Pelham/Connecticut.	Mr. Cherukara Philipose	718.359.3158
Coney Island/Brooklyn	Mr. Iype P Abraham	718.769.1015
Ridgewood/Wyckoff	Mr. Cherian Moolakkal	718.456.0013
Bellerose/Queens Vill/Glenoaks	Mr. Rajan Thomas	516.519.8374
Floral Park	Mr. Mathew Varughese	718.347.7165
Elmont/Rosedale/Valley Stream	Mr. M.C. Varughese	516.825.3895
New Hyde Park	Mr. Rinu Varughese	516.673.4583
Garden City Park	Mr. V.C. Abraham	516.812.9148
Long Island	Mr. Vinson Alex	516.672.7404

### **Auditors**

Mr. George C Mathew	631.847.3431
Mr. E.P. Philip	516.223.0752

## Vicar's message:

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We have entered the Great Lent (Valiaya Nombu) and let us thank God for His countless blessings and guidance that we have been experiencing throughout the years in our lives. It gives me immense pleasure in addressing you all once again through this newsletter as a vicar of the Church.

“ But she answered him, ' yes Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' ...And he said to her, “ For this saying you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.” ( Mk. 7: 28 -29). A Gentile woman comes to Jesus in her dire need. With great determination and earnestness she prays for the healing of her daughter. She had to face several obstacles. Still she persists in her daughter, and her prayer answered. The woman was a 'Syrophoenician' by birth. It denotes a mixed race, half syrians and half Phoenician. St. Mathew calls the woman a Canaanite to indicate that she belonged to the ethnic Canaanites population. Canaanites were traditional enemies of the Jews ever since the Israelites occupied their land.

Here the Canaanite woman came out this socio-political-cultural situations approached Jesus and pleaded for her daughters healing. The Jews would give her no right to come to a Jewish rabbi. Yet she came, only because of her deep concern for her daughter who was possessed by an unclean spirit. “She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter”. She came to him with a broken heart. Obstacles came along her way one after another. At first the woman was unheard by Jesus. The

disciples then came and asked him to “ send her away”. To them Jesus says “ I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”. Secondly she was neglected by Jesus. When the woman still persisted Jesus said, “ It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs”. Why did Jesus say this? (1) To test her faith? Yes. (2) May be also to correct the Jewish attitude towards the Gentiles by ultimately bringing the 'dogs' too under divine grace.

There may be obstacles on our way. But what matters is whether we have sufficient faith and the will to overcome them? The woman was bent on overcoming all hurdles that came by way of race, religion, and rejection. The woman showed power through persistence. Finally she was restored and appreciated. During this season of Lent let us be aware of our own needs and the needs of the people around us. Our lord is bountiful in mercy. Even a crumb from his hands would be more than enough to make difference! The last thing is the least thing, which is in fact the most important of all. Don't be stumbled by hurdles. Keep persisting. As the saying goes, “ The best answer to prayer is the ability to continue in prayer”.

This year we observe March 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday as Diocesan Sunday and the fund collection is used to meet the expenses related to the Diocesan Center. This is mandatory collection for the diocese. Hence, all the 267 families of the parish have to **pay a minimum \$100 as contribution for this collection**. Parish members who observe fasting during these days are earnestly request to donate the amount to the **charity project** of the Edavaka Mission and to the **'self denial' collection**. Let me request you to attend this year Lent services prayerfully. We have other collections such as Raceessa, Palm Sunday Offertory (set apart for our Theological Seminary), Good Friday Offertory ( set apart for Carmel Mandiram, Ayroor). Our Former Diocesan Episcopa

**Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarhese Mar Theodosius Thirumeni** has graciously consented to celebrate the Holy Communion on **Passover Thursday at 7.00 PM on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. I Request all parish members prayerful participation.

Our Parish General Body meeting is scheduled to be held **on 2018 March 25 Sunday** after the Holy communion service to approve the Annual Report, Accounts and Budget. Let me take this opportunity to appreciate our 2017 parish office bearers and executive committee members for their dedicated service. Also let me welcome our new executive committee members of the year 2018 to take in charge after the Annual General Body meeting. Let us uphold them in our prayers to do their duties in a most effective and God fearing way.

Let me conclude this letter with a saying of arch Bishop Desmond Tutu “ **We can safe only together, We can be prosperous only together, We can survive only together, We can be human only together**’. Let us build this feeling of togetherness in our personal and community life. May our lord and Savior Jesus Christ help us to keep that bond of togetherness in our Parish life.

With prayerful regards,

Jogyachen

<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b>			
<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Program</u></b>	<b><u>Special Observance</u></b>
Sunday Mar 04	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	Diocesan Sunday
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday Mar. 11	9:00 AM	World Day of Prayer	World Day of Prayer
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
Sunday Mar. 18	9:00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	5th Sunday in Lent
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
Sunday Mar. 25	9:30 AM	Holy Communion (English)	Hosanna Palm Sunday

### **LECTIONARY**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson</u></b>	<b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson</u></b>	<b><u>Epistle</u></b>	<b><u>Gospel</u></b>
Mar. 04	2 King 20: 1-10	1 Thes 5:12-22	Jude 17-23	St. Mark 7:24-30
Mar. 11	Exo. 3:11-18	Rev. 14: 1-7	Acts 16:19-34	St. Luke 13:10-17
Mar. 18	Isa. 35: 1-10	1 Pet. 4:12-19	2 Cor. 1:3-11	St. Luke 18: 35-43
Mar. 25	Zeh. 9:9-17	Rev. 4: 1-11	Col. 1:14-23	St. Mat. 21:1-11
Mar. 29	Gen. 22:1-14	Heb. 5:1-14	1Cor. 11:23-34	St. Mat. 26:31-46

**ASSISTANCE & USHERING: 2018**

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Prayer Group</u></b>
March	Long Island
April	Astoria/Jackson Heights
May	Coney Island

**AREA PRAYER MEETINGS**

	<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Residence</u></b>
Sunday Mar. 04 5.00 PM	Bellerose Queens Village Glen Oaks/Jamaica	TBA
Sunday Mar. 04 7.00 pm	Floral Park	TBA
Sunday Mar. 11 5:00 PM	Ridgewood Wyckoff Richmond Hill	TBA
Saturday Mar. 17 6:30 PM	Long Island	TBA
Sunday Mar. 18 7:00 PM	Garden City Park	Mr. Biji Jacob, 307 Paul Street, West Hempsted Tel. 516-214-4251
Sunday Mar. 18 5:00 PM	New Hyde Park	Mr. Saji George 47 Plymouth St. New Hyde Park
Saturday Mar. 24 7:00 PM	Elmont/Rosedale Valley Stream	Mr. Chacko Jacob, 182 Freeman Ave, Elmont, Tel. 516-285-4966
Saturday Mar 25 7:00 PM	Coney Island	Mr. Thomas M. Thannickal, 733 Desmond Ct., NY 11235 Tel. 718-332-4121

## **Passion Week Service Schedule**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAMME</u>
Mar. 25 Sunday	9:30 AM	Palm Sunday Holy Communion (English)
Mar 26 Monday	7:00 PM	Sandhya Namaskaram
Mar 27 Tuesday	7:00 PM	Sandhya Namaskaram
Mar 28 Wednesday	7:00 PM	Sandhya Namaskaram
Mar 29 Thursday	7:00 PM	Passover Service Holy Communion (Mal) Chief Celebrant <b>Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Thirumeni</b>
Mar 30 Friday	9:30 AM	Good Friday Part I Service (English)
	11:30 AM	Part II & III Service (Malayalam)
April 01 Sunday	9:30 AM	Easter Service Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
March 2018	Every Sunday 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Sunday School Class

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Regional Sunday School meeting will be held on March  
10<sup>th</sup> 2018 at Long Island MTC. 2350 Meric Ave NY 11566

## SEVIKA SANGHOM NEWS

Sevika Sanghom Regional Meeting

## MALAYALAM CHOIR

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays March 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM in the Church. All choir members are requested to attend these practices

## SENIOR CITIZENS

**HOLY COMMUNION – FRIDAY, MARCH 23**

**(40<sup>th</sup> FRIDAY IN THE LENT)**

**SENIOR CITIZENS HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH ON MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup> AT 9:30 AM. ALL SENIORS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND.**

## EDAVALA MISSION NEWS

No Edavaka Mission Prayer meeting at this month.  
Edavaka Mission Center Annual Meeting and Regional Meeting at this month

## YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

<u>DATE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
Mar 11 06:30 PM	Cottage Prayer Meeting	Mr. Mathew Kurian 942 Maple Lane, Eastmedow, TEL. 718-974-0496

## **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

Saramma Amos	MERRICK	1-Mar
Erin Philip	ELMONT	1-Mar
Shyno Merin Varghese	NEW HYDE PARK	1-Mar
Annamma Mathew	NEW HYDE PARK	2-Mar
Thomas Chacko	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
Alvin Shaji Varghese	NEW HYDE PARK	4-Mar
Shaji Samuel	DIX HILLS	4-Mar
Katherine Sara Varghese	WEST HEMPSTEAD	4-Mar
Saju John	CONEY ISLAND	4-Mar
Abigail Merin Varghese	NEW HYDE PARK	4-Mar
Thomas Mathew	MINEOLA	4-Mar
Viji Thomas	LONG ISLAND	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	CONEY ISLAND	6-Mar
Jaycy Thomas	FLORAL PARK (QUEENS)	7-Mar
Beena Joseph	QUEENS VILLAGE	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 (QUEENS)	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
Koshy Mathew	ELMONT	12-Mar
Beena Samuel	MANHASSET HILLS	12-Mar
Noel A. Thomas	NEW JERSEY	12-Mar
Lillykutty Pappachan	LONG ISLAND	13-Mar
Thomas Philip	CONNECTICUT	14-Mar
Anna Maria Varghese	Garden City Park	14-Mar
Jonah Mathew	NEW HYDE PARK	14-Mar
Reuben Philipose	LONG ISLAND	14-Mar
Seema Kurian	ELMONT	15-Mar
Abraham C. Abraham	CONEY ISLAND	15-Mar
Silu M. Varghese	NEW HYDE PARK	15-Mar
Aleyamma Mathai	ELMONT	15-Mar
Sherry D. George	BELLEROSE	16-Mar
Angel Mathew	MARYLAND	16-Mar
Sherin M Varghese	RICHMOND HILL	16-Mar
Jacob Thomas	CONEY ISLAND	16-Mar
Robin T. Varughese	NEW HYDE PARK	16-Mar
Reena Vinson	EAST MEADOW	16-Mar
Thomas P. Thomas	BELLEROSE	17-Mar
Varughese George	ELMONT	17-Mar
Unni Abraham	LITTLE NECK	17-Mar
Ranjit Jacob	EAST MEADOW	17-Mar
Sosamma C. Kottackel	FLORAL PARK (QUEENS)	17-Mar
Anupama Kuruvilla	LONG ISLAND	17-Mar
Thomas P. Abraham	FLORAL PARK (QUEENS)	18-Mar
Gracy Thomas	NEW HYDE PARK	19-Mar
Alex Mathew	MARYLAND	19-Mar
Shari Elizabeth John	NEW HYDE PARK	19-Mar
Shiny John	FLORAL PARK (NASSAU)	19-Mar
Kunjumole Joy	FLORAL PARK (QUEENS)	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
Philips P. Mathai	WESTBURY	21-Mar
Cherian M. Kottackel	FLORAL PARK (QUEENS)	21-Mar
Chacko Varghese	WYCKOFF	21-Mar
John Daniel	GARDEN CITY PARK	21-Mar
Bobby Thariath	ROSEDALE	22-Mar
Kunjamma Philipose	CONEY ISLAND	22-Mar
Sam T. Varghese	BALDWIN	22-Mar
Molrin Abraham	NEW JERSEY	24-Mar
Ebbie Kurian	MERRICK	24-Mar
Dr. Thomas Bains	ELMONT	24-Mar
Chacko C. Abraham	BELLEROSE	25-Mar
George Mathew	MERRICK	25-Mar
Varughese Mathew	NEW HYDE PARK	25-Mar
Sage J. Regy	LONG ISLAND	26-Mar
Amelia Merin Varghese	NEW HYDE PARK	27-Mar
Lilian Rhea Abraham	GARDEN CITY PARK	28-Mar
Jenson George	NEW HYDE PARK	29-Mar
Isabella Iype	MELVILLE	29-Mar
Tabitha Abraham	CONEY ISLAND	29-Mar
Faith Ann Mathew	NEW HYDE PARK	29-Mar
Shivone Mary John	NEW HYDE PARK	30-Mar
Alisha Susan Alex	FLORAL PARK (QUEENS)	30-Mar
Latha Thomas Mathew	WILLISTON PARK	30-Mar
Aleyamma Ignatious	GARDEN CITY PARK	31-Mar
Aleyamma Mathai	NEW HYDE PARK	31-Mar
Jacob Chacko	NEW HYDE PARK	31-Mar
Geena Saji	CONEY ISLAND	31-Mar

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

Mammen Mathew	BAYRIDGE	1-Mar
Koshy P. Oommen	QUEENS VILLAGE	6-Mar
Anil T. Thomas	NEW JERSEY	11-Mar
Chacko K. Jacob	CONEY ISLAND	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	N. WOODMERE	29-Mar

## **YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S CORNER.**

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. – Psalm 84:10

This verse is the climax of this Psalm. This verse challenges a person's view. The writer of this Psalms wanted people to know that life at the temple is better than anywhere else in the world. The temple represents the presence of God. In this world there are so many things that distract us. Things that can take up a lot of our time and attention. They seem appealing, they seem like they could be fulfilling. They seem like they can be satisfying. But nothing can ever compare to being in the right relationship with God.

The writer of this Psalm wants us to know that nothing can compare with being in the right relationship with God. At the time this Psalm was written, when a person hears "live in the tents," the image that is conveyed is a life of ease and richness. But the problem is that since it is the tents of wickedness – this is not the life that the Psalmist wants. The Psalmist know that this life will not really fulfill or satisfy. Similar to Psalm 1:1 – A person is "blessed" (much more than happy) who does not associate with the wicked. – Nothing can compare to being in a relationship with God.

As we are in the season of Lent, a time of when we reexamine our lives and our priorities, let us remember that nothing can compare to being in the right relationship with God. Let us not be distracted or tempted by the distractions of the world. Nothing can compare to spending time with God.

**Rev. Shibi Abraham**  
**Youth Chaplain**

Sunday School Committee 2018

<u>Superintendent</u>	<u>Mrs. Mariamma Abraham</u>	
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Mrs. Mary P. Roy</u>	
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Mr. Jinu M Joy</u>	

Edavaka Mission Committee 2018

<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Mr. M. C. Varughese</u>	
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Mr. Mathew N Varughese</u>	
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Mr. John K Samuel</u>	

Sevika Sanghom Committee 2018

<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Mrs. Achamma Mathew</u>	
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Mrs. Mariamma John</u>	
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Mrs. Alice Joseph</u>	

Yuvajana Sakhyam Committee 2018

<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Mr. Sony Joseph</u>	
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Mr. Biju Mathew Varghese</u>	
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Mr. Anup T George</u>	

Youth Fellowship Committee 2018

<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Mr. Roshan Varghese</u>	
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Mr. Jonah Mathew</u>	
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Mrs. Sonia Varghese</u>	
<u>Joint Secretary</u>	<u>Mrs. Karina Thomas</u>	

Malayalam Choir Committee 2017

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

English Choir Committee 2017

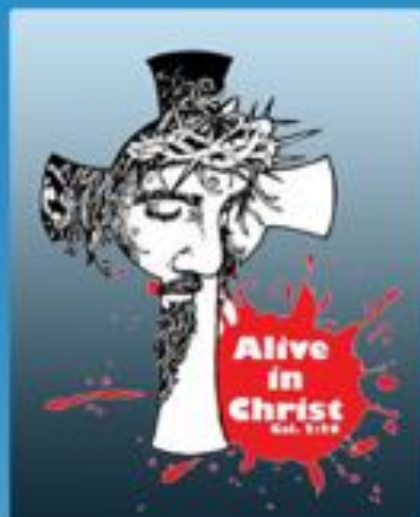
<u>Leader</u>	<u>Mr. Joshua Mathew</u>	
<u>Assistant Leader</u>	<u>Miss. Gilsy Saji</u>	
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Miss. Beverly Varghese</u>	
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Miss. Reena Varughese</u>	

Senior Citizens Fellowship Committee 2018

<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Mr. T.M. Mathew</u>	
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Mr. E.P. Philip</u>	
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Mr. Rajan Thomas</u>	

Young Family Fellowship Committee 2017

<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Mr. Shibu Mathew</u>		
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Epiphany Mar Thoma Church News Letter

Published by: Epiphany Mar Thoma Church Inc.

103-05 103rd street

Ozone Park, NY 11417

Phone/Church: 718-848-5231

Phone/Rector: 718-845-2920

Website: [www.epiphanymarthoma.org](http://www.epiphanymarthoma.org)

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