



EPIPHANY

MAR THOMA CHURCH

NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER- 2019



FAITH IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION

38th Year

Executive Committee 2019

President / Vicar	Rev. Siby Pallichira sibuachen@gmail.com	718-845-2920 718-612-1891
Rtd. Clergy	Rev P.M Thomas	516-750-8107
Vice President	Mr. V.C. Abraham Vcabraham2001@yahoo.com	516-812-9148
Secretary	Mr. Chacko K. Jacob Chacko_k1@yahoo.com	718-743-6160
Treasurer	Mr. Abraham Thomas vechuchira@aol.com	718-343-7622
Accountant	Mr. Subash Thomas ayanisubash@yahoo.com	917-715-3704
Lay Leader (Malayalam)	Mr. Thomas Mathew Tmathew651@aol.com	516-869-9607
Lay Leader (English)	Mr. Chris Joseph cjstar2000@yahoo.com	516-474-0911
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
Diocesan Assembly Rep.	Mrs. Mariarima Abraham	516-812-9148

Representatives of Organizations

Sunday School	Mrs. Mary Roy	516-873-0671
Edavaka Mission	Mr. Mathew N. Varghese	516-285-5753
Sevika Sanghom	Mrs. Aleyamma Thomas	718-332-4121
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mrs. Saramma Varghese	516-673-4583
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Roshan Varghese	516-673-4583
Choir	Miss. Gilsy Saji	718-332-2751

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. Skaria Varghese	718-847-4632
Bellerose/Queens Vill/Glenoaks	Mr. John K. Thomas	718-468-8246
Floral Park	Mrs. Sosamma Thomas	718-343-1817
Elmont/Rosedale/Valley Stream	Mr. Thomas John	516-812-9515
New Hyde Park	Mr. Babu Varghese	516-327-0159
Garden City Park	Mr. Jose M. Nallonnill	516-869-0678
Long Island	Mr. Biju Mathew Varghese	516-750-5474

Auditors

Mr. Abraham Thomas	516-558-7638
Mrs. Alice Joseph	516-358-9188

Vicar's message:



Dearly beloved members of the Epiphany family,

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

It's that time of year again: start preparing our Christmas. November has come to an end, which means the Christmas decorations are coming out and we're getting ready to grab the hot chocolate and sing 'Deck the Halls'.

A season with a reason... The reason is the Good News: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord" (Lk.2:11).

The season of Christmas, is characterized by the announcements of the Good News to God's Chosen ones: Zachariah, Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds. These announcements are the revelation of God's plan to be with His People. This is, in fact, Christmas is all about. The name 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ. 'Christ' is a Greek word meaning, 'The Anointed One', who saves the people from the bondages of darkness; 'Mas' is a Latin word meaning 'sending'. Hence, Christmas means, 'Sending of Christ' or 'Descending of Christ' to be with the People, the Immanuel. From the beginning of the Bible itself we see this nature of God: A God who loved to be with His Creation. In the Garden of Eden, we see a God who visits daily His creation and who loves to be with the people.

The Church uses the term, Yeldo, for Christmas/Nativity meaning the Birth of Light, Sunrise. In Isaiah 9:2, we read, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25th was in 336 A.D., during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine. For the Roman world, the birthday of the 'Unconquered Sun' was held on December 25. Christians believe

that Jesus is the light of the world, so the early Christians thought that this was the right time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Yes, it is, indeed, the season of witnessing the great Light, the Rising Star, the Sun, Jesus. This is what we see in the praise of the priest Zachariah, father of John the Baptist, immediately when his tongue was set free, he began to speak, "Because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace" (Lk.1:78,79).

On this Christmas, let us thank God for His love for the world to be Immanuel. May God help us to be with the Immanuel, the Divine Light. Prayers for a meaningful celebration of Christmas and to have a blessed New Year.

In Christ,

Sibu Pallichira Achen

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Special Observance</u>
December 01	9:15 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
December 08	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
December 15	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (English)	
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (Malayalam)	
December 22	09:00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	
December 29	9.00 AM	Praise & Worship (Malayalam)	
	10:15 AM	Holy Communion (English)	

ASSISTANCE & USHERING: 2019

<u>Month</u>	<u>Prayer Group</u>
December 2019	Ridgewood / Wykoff
January 2020	Bellerose
February 2020	Floral Park

LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>1st Lesson</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Dec 01	Isa 40:1-8	Jas 1:19-25	1Thess 1:1-10	Luke 1:39-45
Dec 08	1Kgs 19:1-21	Rev 10:1-11	Gal 1:11-17	Luke 1:57-66
Dec 15	Isa 7:10-17	1Pet 3:8-16	Titus 2:11-15	Matt 1:18-23
Dec 22	Isa 11:1-10	1John 4:7-21	Rom 1:8-17	John 1: 1-14
Dec 29	Zech 14: 1-5	Acts 1:6-11	1Thess 4:13-18	Matt 24:32-44

Area Prayer Meetings

Date	Area	Venue
Sunday December 01 06:00 PM	Floral Park	Mrs. Mary Pothen 84-71, 256 St. Floral Park NY Tel: 718-470-0499

Sunday School

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
December 2019	Every Sunday 9:00AM to 10:15AM	Sunday School Class

Malayalam Choir

Choir practices will be held on the following Sundays:
December 01st & 15th 9:00AM at Church. All choir members
are requested to attend.

New Diocesan Directory

The promotional sale of the directory will end on 12-31-19.
Those who wants to order a copy, please contact Mr. E. P.
Philip (516-223-0752).

Christmas Carol

This year X'mas carol will be celebrated on Saturday December 21st 2019 06:30 PM onwards.

Everyone is cordially invited. X'mas Dinner will be served.

Watch Night Service

On Tuesday, December 31, 2019, Church will be open from 06:00 PM onwards for prayer and meditation. Thanks giving and witnessing session will begin at 9.00pm followed by the Holy Communion at 10.30pm.

Condolences

1 Our beloved member Mr. Baby Thomas (80) passed away, last month. Beloved member's love, care and service to the parish is remembered with thanks at this time.

2 Mr. M. C. Mathai (92) Brother of Mr. John K. Thomas

3. Mr. Joseph Koshy (84) Father of Mrs. Susan Issac.

Parish expresses heartfelt condolences. May Almighty Lord comfort the bereaving families.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Name	Area	Date
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
Thomas V. Thomas	Wantagh	3-Dec
Ancy Mathew	East Meadow	3-Dec
Hannah Johnkutty	Jamaica Estates	3-Dec
Sosamma Kurian	Elmont	3-Dec
John Kurian	Floral Park	3-Dec
Alby Jacob	New Hyde Park	4-Dec
Asha Jacob	Elmont	4-Dec
Ivy Ann Varghese	Franklin Square	6-Dec
Erynn Ajish	East Meadow	7-Dec
Siji John	Brooklyn	8-Dec
Philip Varghese	Floral Park	10-Dec
Annie Jacob Mathew	Fresh Meadows	10-Dec
Andrew Naveen John	Syosset	10-Dec
Selena Alex Thomas	Elmont	10-Dec
Anup T. George	Glen Oaks	10-Dec
Lijo Dan Abraham	Brooklyn	10-Dec
Saramma George	New Hyde Park	11-Dec
Sherlyn Alex	East Meadow	11-Dec
George C. George	East Meadow	12-Dec
Abraham Thomas	Muttontown	12-Dec
Samuel T. Oommen	Richmond Hill	12-Dec
Mathew M. Kandathil	Woodhaven	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
Ajish Mathew	East Meadow	15-Dec

Tyson Philipose	Flushing	15-Dec
Alexia Maria Abraham	New Hyde Park	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
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
Jenny Mary Phillips	Westbury	24-Dec
Mariamamma Koshy	Pelham	24-Dec
George Mathew	Glen Oaks	24-Dec
Sheena Kurian	Elmont	24-Dec
Annamma Mathew	West Melbourne	25-Dec
Amy Varghese	Elmont	25-Dec
Jain R Mathai	New Hyde Park	25-Dec
Aji T. Baby	New Hyde Park	25-Dec
Thomas Varghese	Elmont	25-Dec
Suzanna Ancy Mathew	Albertson	25-Dec
Sanjay Mathew	Floral Park	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

Jinu M. Joy	Floral Park	28-Dec
Aaron Philip Mathai	East Meadow	28-Dec
Annamma Varghese	Elmont	28-Dec
Shawn V. Thomas	East Setauket	29-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
Olivia Mariam Espejo	Ridgewood	29-Dec
George C. Mathew	Farmingdale	30-Dec
Samkutty Varghese	New Hyde Park	30-Dec
Thomas Mathew	Long Island City	30-Dec
Ryan Jacob	New Hyde Park	31-Dec

Wedding Anniversary

Name	Area	Date
Chacko M. Jacob & Aleyamma Jacob	ELMONT	1-Dec
John K. Samuel & Mariamma John	NEW HYDE PARK (NASSAU-WEST)	14-Dec
Babu Varghese & Jaya K. Varghese	NEW HYDE PARK (NASSAU-WEST)	17-Dec
Shaji Varghese & Sherly Shaji	NEW HYDE PARK (NASSAU-WEST)	18-Dec
Jacob C. Koruth & Mariamma J. Koruth	Jackson Heights	24-Dec
George Mathai & Aleyamma George	FLORAL PARK (NASSAU)	26-Dec
John Mathew & Aleyamma John	Floral Park	28-Dec
Jacob Varghese & Alby Jacob	NEW HYDE PARK (NASSAU-WEST)	29-Dec
V. C. Abraham Mariamma Abraham	WOODMERE	29-Dec
Rajan Thomas & Susan Thomas	FLORAL PARK (NASSAU)	30-Dec
Thomas T. Daniel & Shermil Daniel	ELMONT	31-Dec

YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

DECEMBER MESSAGE

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

December is a very significant month in our calendar, especially for the Christian community. All around the world, Christians celebrate Christmas. From mid-November to Christmas, we prepare ourselves in commemorating the birth of Christ Jesus. Beginning from the Annunciations to the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. Commemorating the birth of the Forerunner John the Baptist, and on the 25th of December celebrating the birth of Christ Jesus. It is a time to help us understand what it really means to come together as a family during the Christmas season, understanding that Christ came to this world to reunite, reconcile and share love. As we share with one another the gifts of Christmas, let us remember the loving grace and mercy of Christ giving His whole self for our eternal salvation. This month is also the advent season in guiding ourselves in devotional discipline through the 25 day fast. Let us all pray that this short fast period will be a blessing to spend more time in prayer and to in depth understand who Christ is to us at a personal level.

It is hard to believe, but 2019 is coming to a close and we have entered the last month of the year. It is a month to always to retrospect and introspect our lives. Not only is one year passing by, we are also finishing a decade. Let us make genuine resolutions in our lives, especially in our spiritual lives to trust God more and more in this new decade and year and to be closer to Him. There was once a story of a New Year's Day parade and one vehicle that was carrying a float suddenly stopped as it ran out of gas. The funny thing is that this float represented the Standard Oil Company. The parade was delayed until someone came through with a gallon of gas. Even though Christians have access to God's supremacy, if we do not aim ourselves to it, we will not

understand our purpose. Let us see to it that this new year, we aim all that we have to God and submit to His will in our lives.

December 21 we as a Church commemorate Mar Thoma Church Day. Let us thank God for the Apostle of India, St. Thomas who confessed his faith before Jesus "my Lord and my God". Let us pray for the Mar Thoma Church, all the diocese, parish and mission activities.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a humbling New Year.

Much Love,

Jess Achen

Upcoming Events	
Saturday Dec 21	X'Mas Carol
Tuesday Dec. 31	Watch Night Service & New Year Service

List of Organization Office Bearers

Sunday School

Superintendent	: Mrs. Mary P. Roy	516 467 9643
Secretary	: Mrs. Glory Chacko	917 912 2839
Treasurer	: Mr. Shibu Mathew	516 375 8952

Youth Fellowship

Vice President	: Ms. Anjana Thomas	516 641 8019
Secretary	: Ms. Karina Thomas	516 713 5221
Joint Secretary	: Ms. Alena Koshy	917 862 0533
Treasurer	: Mr. Alexander Vinson	516 384 0738

Church Choir (English)

Choir Leader	: Mr. Bradly Varghese	516 508 0271
Joint Choir Leader	: Mr. Jacob Chacko	917 579 8013
Secretary	: Ms. Alice Mary Mathew	516 474 6958
Treasurer	: Ms. Beverly Varughese	516 413 9204

Church Choir (Malayalam)

Choir Leader	: Mrs. Susan Kurian	516 567 7514
Joint Choir Leader	: Mr. Shibu S. Baby	347 623 1324
Secretary	: Mrs. Mary George	917 753 6137
Treasurer	: Mr. Varghese Alex	718 316 5911

Yuvajana Sakhyam

Vice President	: Mr. Biju Mathew Varghese	516 750 5474
Secretary	: Mrs. Saramma Varghese	718 213 9172
Joint Secretary	: Mr. Midhun Jose	347 972 1147
Treasurer	: Mrs. Gigi Mathew	718 581 3168

Edavaka Misssion

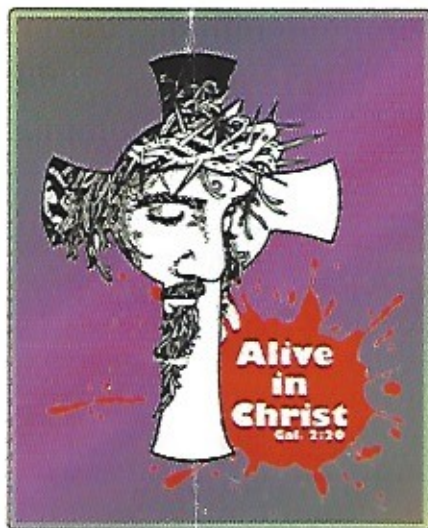
Vice President	: Mr. M C Varghese	516 825 3895
Secretary	: Mr. Mathew N Varghese	516 285 5753
Treasurer	: Mr. Thomas Chacko	917 617 5548

Senior Citizen's Fellowship

Vice President	: Mr. T M Mathew	526 741 4459
Secretary	: Mr. E P Pillip	516 223 0752
Treasurer	: Mr. Rajan Thomas	516 519 8374

Sevika Sanghom

Vice president	: Mrs. Mariamma Thomas	718 464 0695
Secretary	: Mrs. Aleyama Thomas	718 332 4121
Treasurer	: Mrs. Alice Joseph	516 263 0410



Epiphany Mar Thoma Church News Letter

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103-05 103rd street

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Phone/Rector: 718-845-2920

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