

# The Epiphany

MAR THOMA CHURCH

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER



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## **Parish Day Fellowship Lunch**

All are welcome to join for celebrating the parish day  
(23 July) followed by fellowship lunch.

## *From the Vicar's desk*

Dearly beloved in Christ,

We entered the month of July with joyous preparation for witnessing the beauty of God's creation. As the season shifts into a summer, we are eager to see how new plants grow and can we enjoy our labor to cultivate vegetables. Our young friends may find it a happy time to have very meaningful gathering with their friends. May our travel, efforts, and leisure keep us in good spirit. Personally, the last week of June was a dream come true for me. Can't find enough words to glorify God's mercy showered upon us.

Our church has the responsibility to be the role model for rest of the parishes in NAE Diocese as we are one of the early Mar Thoma parishes here. As part of taking this responsibility, the church committee has decided to have Worship services in Malayalam and English concurrently during July and August. We have scheduled worship services to start at 9:30 am in July-August. On first and third Sunday we will have Malayalam Holy Communion, in the main sanctuary, while there will be divine service in English language, in the old sanctuary from 9:30 to 10:30 am. All the attendees can therefore participate in the sacrament of confession, which is necessary for receiving the holy elements, and join in the second part of holy communion.

The first Sunday in July is set aside for reflection on our duty to tithe. Dictionaries describe Tithe as "a tenth part of something" or "10 %." This definition probably originates from different narratives in the Bible. We are aware that everything we have originally belonged to God. The tithe is holy and belonged to God, according to the tithing laws given to Israel at Mount Sinai (Leviticus 27:30, Leviticus 27:32). God commands people to give their possessions in order to care for others who lack sufficient means. We make offerings of thankfulness in addition to and independent of the tithe. The second Sunday in July reassures the covenantal relationship between the faithful and the Lord. We are called to engage in the mission of God in fulfilling the kingdom of God and we are assigned the duty of watchmen to be responsible for the transformation of individuals within the community. The third Sunday is dedicated to ponder upon the theme "people of God: body of Christ." The Christian understanding of humanness is deep rooted in

the value of togetherness and mutuality. Individuation, though necessary for individual growth, can happen only in relation to our relationship with others. It is a divine call. Tendencies to move away and disregard the relational ties both within the families and with others may thus be a willful act of negating divine will. It is the duty of the faith community to accept one another and appreciate rather than criticizing. On 23 July, we celebrate our Parish Day. This year we invited Rev Prince Varghese Madathileth as our chief guest. Let us thank God for our parents who took the risk of migrating to USA in the 1960's, 70's and 80's and we have grown up to have our third generation of Mar Thoma migrants in New York. Their struggles to cope with challenges of those days were supported with the spiritual strength of being dependent on God for brighter tomorrows. They were hopeful, of having a better life both here and back in India. They brought their relatives, friends and neighbors in building a community of migrants. Our families were blessed to achieve good education, employment opportunities, and economic self-sufficiency. The saga continues. The Mar Thoma faith is articulated in its emphasis on the Biblical teachings, and liturgy. From the Malankara reformation onwards, we are keen to address the cultural context of the faith community without limiting the importance of preaching, teaching, healing and worshipping. So, let us praise God for giving us opportunity to be a part of this rich legacy; almost 2000 years of existence as a church, importance of Bible, solid articulations of doctrines, meaningful liturgy, scope for incorporating contextual needs of the worshipping community, emphasis on prayer and sacraments, organizational systems to address particular groups of people and many more. In the fifth week, we may ponder upon the work of Holy Spirit in the contemporary world. And it proceeds to have our focus on preparing ourselves to be the witness of Christ by exploring the life and ministry of Jesus Christ during the fifteen days of lent. In addition to these themes for articulating our faith, we have different programs scheduled by our organizations. I request all our parish member's heartfelt support and presence in various activities convened during the summer. We are called to move on, moving on to see how God prepare us to be a witness of God's love and care in this world. Let us fulfill our responsibility to be the agents of kingdom of God.

Yours in Christ.

Pramodachen

## Programs in July

**July 4:** Independence Day

**July 6-9:** Diocesan Family Conference at Philadelphia

**July 11:** Senior Citizens Fellowship Meeting, 10 am

**July 13-16:** Sunday School Junior-Senior Conference

**July 16:** Yuvajana Sakhyam Centre-A, Activity Inauguration at St. John's MTC, 5 pm

**July 20-23:** Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference at Chicago

**July 21:** North East Region Sevika Sangham- Regional conference in association with young women fellowship at 8:30pm via Zoom platform.

**July 23:** Parish Day, 9:30 am

**July 28:** Family Fellowship Meeting, 7 pm

**July 29:** Voluntary Evangelistic Association, Centre-A Meeting at Staten Island MTC, 10 am

**July 30:** Sevika Sangham Food Sale

## *Letter from Youth Chaplain*

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Let us thank God for the blessings we have, to come to the 7<sup>th</sup> month of this year. As Americans, we will be celebrating the 247<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Let us thank God for our nation and keep our country and her leaders in prayers for God-given strength and reconciliation in diversity pointing towards Christ-centered living. Let us also praise God for the heritage we have as St. Thomas Christians. We commemorate July 3<sup>rd</sup> as St. Thomas Day and as we recognize the life of the apostle Thomas, let us also understand even during doubt and uncertainty, we can learn to honestly acknowledge it and grow further in our faith. That is the lesson we learn from St. Thomas, we are also not perfect, but we should grow in faith in our God who is perfect and as St. Thomas claimed out loud, we should recognize and commit to our God personally as “My Lord and My God”.

This July we are looking forward to many great events as a diocese as well as a region. Let us pray for the upcoming family conference in Philadelphia its leaders as well as the delegates. Let us also call to mind the Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference that will be held in Chicago with the theme The Amazing Race. It will be held on July 20-23, 2023. As a region, NERSS Jr. Sr. Conference will be held on July 13-16, our NERYF BBQ will be held on July 28, and our NERYF Mental Health Workshop will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Let us pray for God’s wisdom and our participation to make all these events for the glory of God. Please support and promote these events. We are still having our weekly Men Bible Studies in person on Wednesdays and Women's Bible Studies online on Saturdays respectively. I am preparing the list of new college students for campus visits for the coming fall and spring semesters 2023-2024, please do reach out to the NERYF Secretary for the QR code and sign up, looking forward to seeing all of you in this new academic year. In the meantime, enjoy this summer! God bless all of you.

Much love,

Jess Achen



## Birthdays in July

July, 1	Mr. Ethan Mathew
July, 4	Mr. Varughese George
July, 4	Miss. Jyothi Chacko
July, 4	Mr. Andrew T George
July, 5	Mrs. Sonia Wilson Oommen
July, 7	Mr. Isaac Mohan Varghese
July, 7	Miss. Sharon Jacob
July, 8	Mrs. Achamma Thomas
July, 9	Miss. Kaitlyn Reena Mathew
July, 9	Miss. Jiby Thampan
July, 10	Mr. Renjan Jacob
July, 10	Mr. Abraham Mallappallil
July, 11	Mrs. Bevitha Ann Abraham
July, 13	Mr. Roy J Mathew
July, 13	Miss. Jibi G Jacob
July, 13	Mr. Justin K Mathew
July, 13	Mr. Justin S John
July, 14	Mrs. Aleyamma Chacko
July, 14	Miss. Tanya Ann Alexander
July, 14	Miss. Emeline Sony Joseph
July, 15	Mrs. Asha Sara Thomas
July, 15	Mr. Fredy Varghese
July, 16	Mrs. Lissa A Regy
July, 16	Mr. Reji Phillips
July, 17	Miss. Nisha Augusthy
July, 18	Mr. Kevin K Mathew
July, 19	Miss. Nidhia Varghese
July, 21	Mr. Anil T Thomas



## Birthdays in July

July, 21	Mrs. Sherryl Mathew
July, 21	Miss. Christian M George
July, 22	Mrs. Annamma Abraham
July, 23	Mr. Rohit Varughese
July, 23	Mrs. Chinnamma Thomas
July, 24	Mr. Asher Ricky Johnson
July, 24	Miss. Jasmine Elizabeth Varghese
July, 24	Mr. Bency Varghese
July, 24	Mrs. Mary Mathew
July, 24	Miss. Ria Sara Roy
July, 25	Mr. Cristian Mathew
July, 25	Miss. Alice Mary Mathew
July, 26	Mrs. Saramma George
July, 26	Miss. Alena Koshy
July, 27	Mrs. Alice V Joseph
July, 27	Dr. Shibu Joseph
July, 27	Miss. Angeline Mathew
July, 27	Mr. Isac Thomas
July, 27	Mrs. Mariam George
July, 27	Mrs. Ruby T Mathew
July, 27	Mrs. Juliet M John
July, 28	Mrst. Jonathan Daniel
July, 29	Mrs. Hannah Thomas
July, 29	Mrs. Rachel E Philipose
July, 30	Mr. Raju T Oommen
July, 30	Mrs. Grace Thomas
July, 30	Mr. Shibu John
July, 30	Mr. Shaji J Koruth
July, 30	Mr. Bob O Koshy
July, 31	Mrs. Marykutty Mathew
July, 31	Mrs. Suja Wilson





## Wedding Anniversaries in July 2023

Jul - 2	Mr & Mrs. Ebbie Kurian
Jul - 3	Mr & Mrs. Liju Daniel Mathew
Jul - 4	Mr & Mrs. Thomas Daniel
Jul - 5	Mr & Mrs. Rex Varghese
Jul - 6	Mr & Mrs. Jacob George
Jul - 7	Mr & Mrs. Bob M Mathai
Jul - 10	Mr & Mrs. Mathew Varghese
Jul - 11	Mr & Mrs. Jason Thomas
Jul - 11	Mr & Mrs. Mathai Philip
Jul - 11	Mr & Mrs. Vadakedathu T Thomas
Jul - 12	Mr & Mrs. John Mani
Jul - 12	Mr & Mrs. Cherukara P Philipose
Jul - 13	Mr & Mrs. Samuel Philipose
Jul - 14	Mr & Mrs. Prasad George
Jul - 16	Mr & Mrs. Cherian Moolakal
Jul - 16	Mr & Mrs. Jibin Mathew Thomas
Jul - 16	Mr & Mrs. Thomas Mathew
Jul - 16	Mr & Mrs. Thomas P Thomas
Jul - 17	Mr & Mrs. Jeson Thomas
Jul - 17	Mr & Mrs. Philip P Varghese
Jul - 18	Rev & Mrs. T. K. John
Jul - 18	Mr & Mrs. Mathew T Mathew
Jul - 19	Mr & Mrs. Mathew George
Jul - 22	Mr & Mrs. Reuben Philipose
Jul - 24	Rev & Mrs. P. M Thomas
Jul - 24	Mr & Mrs. Jinu M Joy
Jul - 24	Mr & Mrs. Mathew Cherian
Jul - 24	Mr & Mrs. Ranjit Jacob
Jul - 25	Mr & Mrs. Dennis K George
Jul - 26	Mr & Mrs. T. C Kurian
Jul - 26	Mr & Mrs. George C Mathew
Jul - 29	Mr & Mrs. Shawn Thomas Abraham
Jul - 29	Mr & Mrs. Thomas Ellil Mathew
Jul - 29	Mr & Mrs. Varghese Mathew
Jul - 29	Mr & Mrs. Varghese Daniel
Jul - 30	Mr & Mrs. Jacob Mathew
Jul - 31	Mr & Mrs. Bobby Thomas
Jul - 31	Mr & Mrs. John Varghese
Jul - 31	Mr & Mrs. Noble George Abraham



## **Executive Committee 2023**

### **President**

Rev. Pramod Zechariah

### **Vice President**

Mr. Saji George

### **Secretary**

Mr. Chacko K. Jacob

### **Trustee - Finance**

Mr. Mathew N. Varughese

### **Trustee - Accounts**

Mr. John K. Samuel

### **Lay Leader (Malayalam)**

Mr. M.V. Varughese

### **Lay Leader (English)**

Mr. Christin Mathew

### **Sabha Mandalam Rep.**

Mr. Babu Varghese

### **Diocesan Assembly Rep.**

Mr. Rinu Varughese

### **Diocesan Assembly Rep.**

Mr. Abraham Thomas

### **Organization Representatives**

#### **Sunday School**

Mr. Shibu Mathew

#### **Edavaka Mission**

Mrs. Sosamma Kurian

#### **Sevika Sanghom**

Dr. Mariamma John

#### **Yuvajana Sakhyam**

Mr. Midhun K. Jose

#### **Youth Fellowship**

Ms. Anjana Thomas

#### **Choir**

Mr. Babu Varghese

## **Area Prayer Group Representatives**

### **Astoria/Jackson Heights**

Mr. Cherukara Philipose

### **Coney Island**

Mr. Saji K. Varghese

### **Ridewood/Wyckoff**

Mr. Shibu S. Baby

### **Bellerose/Queens Village**

Mr. Abraham Thomas

### **Floral Park**

Mr. Mathew Varghese

### **Elmont/Rosedale**

Dr. Thomas Bains

### **New Hyde Park**

Mr. Vadakedathu Thomas

### **Garden City Park**

Mr. Roy P. Varghese

### **Long Island**

Mr. E.P. Philip

### **Auditors**

Mr. George C. Mathew

Mr. Cherian K Thomas

# My Parish Memoir

Dear friends,

In connection to our parish day celebrations, we are publishing a memoir. It can include your experiences from the church, your expectations, vision, etc. You may write essays, poems, stories, draw pictures, cartoons, caricatures, or select any art form that can be presented on paper. You may send your greetings too. Please send a soft copy through e-mail to [vicar@epiphanymarthoma.org](mailto:vicar@epiphanymarthoma.org) or to [epiphanyvicar@outlook.com](mailto:epiphanyvicar@outlook.com) . The last date for submissions is July 16<sup>th</sup>. Looking forward to your participation.

Mr. Chacko K. Jacob  
Secretary

## General body Meeting

**16 July:** After the Holy communion, there will be general body meeting of the **Senior Citizens Fellowship** followed by general body meeting of **Malayalam Choir**. All members are invited.

Secretary.

## July 2023 Worship Schedule

JULY

2nd

9:30 AM - Malayalam Holy Qurbana Service

9:30 AM to 10:30 AM - English Divine Service

JULY

9th

9:30 AM - English Holy Communion Service

JULY

16th

9:30 AM - Malayalam Holy Qurbana Service

9:30 AM to 10:30 AM - English Divine Service

JULY

23rd

9:30 AM - English Holy Communion Service

JULY

30th

9:30 AM - Malayalam Holy Qurbana Service

9:30 AM to 10:30 AM - English Divine Service