



Epiphany
Mar
Thoma
Church

June 2023
Newsletter

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From the Vicar's Desk

Dearly beloved in Christ,

We are delighted with the change in season that brings us bright days and prepares us for new experiences in life. News of transitions always brings with it a mixture of reactions. The news of change can have reactions ranging from surprise and anticipation to anxiety and confusion. Yet change is a reality of life and in life. This letter comes to you with acknowledgment of the blessed services we have received from our beloved Sibu Pallichira Achen and family for the past four years. We, the Epiphany family, convey our love and prayers for Sibu Achen and his family. Let us continue to remember them and pray for their blessed ministry at Anaprampal Mar Thoma Church.

A community is a product of the cumulative experiences of both personal and social engagements. Every day, it reprograms itself with new experiences and expectations. It is indeed a great joy for us to be a part of the worshipping community of the Epiphany Mar Thoma Church. Our parish does have a tradition of Marthomite faith and practices, which have been transplanted into this society. To quote from the book of Joshua, "And we said, 'If they ever say this to us, or to our descendants, we will answer: Look at the replica of the Lord's altar, which our ancestors built, not for burnt offerings and sacrifices, but as a witness between us and you'" (Joshua 22:28). This verse reflects the spirit of elders in the community to have a continuation of faith as well as the relational bond with their kin living in another nation. We also perceive such an urge in our community to have a continuation of faith and relational bonds. I consider this opportunity to minister in our parish as a vocation entrusted to me and my family and as part of our journey of faith, incorporating the long tradition of Marthoma faith and practices while transforming into an American context. We thank you for extending a warm welcome and providing for us as we settled into this new space.

As we enter the month of June, we realize that life is going faster and our hope for a peaceful tomorrow is within our reach. It gives us confidence to face the realities of life as yet another way of mastering our life with God-given wisdom and courage. Our summer days are filled with various activities led by our organizations. I hope each member of our parish finds time to participate in those programs so we can expand our fellowship. It's time for us to be offline with people around. So I urge you to organize prayer meetings in your homes, and participate in various meetings at the parish, center, regional, and diocesan levels. All these activities are envisioned as a time of solemnity and self-reflection that lead us to happiness and peace. It may enable us to have self-reflection, self-examination, or introspection. We rely on the signposts of Bible readings, worship, and prayers in our journey of faith. We are invited to take this journey of faith with an openness to God's plan for our lives.

There must be a concentrated effort to create the space and time where God can be our Master and where we can respond freely to God's guidance. Thus, we should create boundaries that keep time and space open for God, a time and place to experience God's gracious presence which instructs and guides. Psalm 68 cites: "Praise the Lord; praise God our Saviour! For each day He carries us in His loving arms" (Psalm 68:19). Being thankful for the good things that come to us, rather than just grumbling about the bad things that go on around us, helps us to keep our minds balanced and functioning in the way God designed them to. William Feather cites: "Plenty of people miss their share of happiness, not because they never found it, but because they didn't stop to enjoy it". Let our journey of faith be a personal, focused endeavor to keep our hearts faithful and thankful without giving space to resentment and life's disappointments. May God bless you all.

With love and regards,

Rev. Pramod Zachariah
Vicar

pramodachen@gmail.com
(718) 612-1891 (Cell)



Message from the Youth Chaplain Rev. Jess M. George

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Let us thank the Lord for allowing us to enter the 6th month of the year. Many of us are looking forward to the beautiful summer season filled with activities and a great reunion with families and friends. This month is different in India when we compare it to us in the United States. Many of our schools will close for summer break here whereas in India students will begin a new academic year. Nevertheless, as we are here for those who study, let us thank God for the previous academic year even if it was a tough one. The opportunity to go through both passing and failing assignments and exams are measures to guide us to improve and sharpen for His glory. Now a few months of rest is given to us. We are blessed to invest our time back with family and friends. At the same time, we should ask ourselves if we are also spending quality time with God daily. As we reconnect with those around us, let us also make it a point to reconnect to the One who is always with us.

We as a Church use this month to commemorate the Fast of the Apostles from June 16-29. This fast is a reminder that 50 days after the post-resurrection. The apostles rejoiced, and from then on had to prepare themselves to move out of Jerusalem and spread the truth of the Gospel to all the ends of the world. As we commemorate this fast together, let us also remember that are migrant community placed by God in this country not just to make better life for ourselves, but also to spread God's love to those around us in where we are placed. Let us thank God for the life of the apostles, although imperfect, moved by God's forgiveness, mercy, and grace. We too flawed, still survive by His love to change this world to be God-centered.

For the youths who graduated from either high school or college, we congratulate you. May God's grace be there for you in the next chapter of your lives. For new college students, please find the QR code for campus ministries and send your information, it will be helpful for the next academic year of planning campus visits.

May God's grace continue to be with all of you. Have a blessed June!

Much love,

Jess Achen

--

Rev. Jess Mathew George

Youth Chaplain

North East Region

Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church

(516)532-6115 (Cell)

Worship Service Schedule



Date/Time

Service

**June
4th**

**Malayalam Holy
Communion**

**June
11th**

**English Holy
Communion**

**June
18th**

**Malayalam Holy
Communion**

**June
25th**

**English Holy
Communion**



June 2023 Birthday Wishes



Ashley Rose Oommen - June 1
Shiny Varghese - June 1
Meenu Susan Jacob - June 2
Jonathan M. Joy - June 3
Natalia M. Philipose - June 3
Thomas T. Daniel - June 3
Aleyamma Mathew - June 4
Iryn Lincoln - June 4
Andrew V. Mathew - June 5
Lillyutty John - June 5
Ponnamma Oommen - June 5
Vandana Samuel - June 5
Chris Joseph - June 6
Jacob K. Cherian - June 6
John Mani - June 6
Samuel Philipose - June 6
Subin Thomas - June 6
Thomas Varghese - June 7
Christa Aji - June 8
Joseph Chacko - June 8
Judi Thomas - June 8
Samuel P. Abraham - June 8
Thomas K. Thomas - June 8
Alinda Sara Mathew - June 9
Eliza Lincoln - June 9
Janice Varkey - June 9
Santhosh John - June 9
Annamma Abraham - June 10
Koshy P. Oommen - June 10
Mariamamma Varghese - June 10
Rimple Thomas - June 10
Varghese George - June 10
Kiran Easow George - June 11
Rosamma John - June 11
Susan A. Mathew - June 11
Maria Abraham - June 12
Alexandra Alice Mathai - June 13
Elijah Philip - June 13
Sofia Abraham - June 13
Sosamma Mathew - June 13



June 2023 Birthday Wishes



Varghese Mathew - June 13
Jiju Mathew - June 14
Annamma P. Thomas - June 15
Jaedyn C. Alex - June 15
Joshua Philip - June 15
Albin Mathew - June 16
Anju Mathew - June 16
Sam Oommen - June 17
Susan Thomas - June 17
Angela George - June 18
Sunu J. Koruth - June 19
Jenie George - June 20
Mavi Thomas - June 20
Alyssa Thomas - June 21
Annie Thomas - June 21
Tessa A. Cherian - June 21
Christie Mathew - June 22
Emily Mathew - June 22
Madeline Mathew - June 22
Melissa Abraham - June 22
Shwetha George - June 22
Aaron Thomas - June 23
Daniel Jeevan John - June 23
Gimmy Abraham - June 23
Jessia James - June 23
Jincy Joseph - June 23
Annie John - June 24
Merrill Mathew - June 24
Olivia Mathew - June 25
Jeffrey John - June 26
Remy Mathai - June 27
Steven Shibu - June 27
David J. Varghese - June 29
Betsy Mathew - June 29
Jithin John - June 29
Jobymon Augusthy - June 29
Joel John - June 29
Rebecca Ann Mathew - June 29
Shana Samuel - June 29
Caleb Philip - June 30
Minnie Thomas - June 30
Sofia M. Chacko - June 30

June⁸ 2023
Wedding Anniversaries

- Biji Jacob and Susan B. Jacob - June 1**
Tom Cherian and Sona Augustine - June 1
Abraham Varghese and Jessy Annie Abraham - June 3
Saji Mathew and Aleyamma Saji - June 4
Varghese Pothen and Shiny Varghese - June 4
Reji Philipose and Javanika Philipose - June 6
Christopher J. Mathew and Suni M. Mathew - June 7
Thadathil Mathew and Annamma Mathew - June 7
Noble A. Thomas and Ritika Thomas - June 9
Santhosh John and Shiny John - June 9
Kurian Abraham and Morlin Abraham - June 11
Samkutty Varghese and Ammini Samkutty - June 11
Thundil Varughese and Sheela Varughese - June 12
Cherian M. Kottackel and Sosamma C. Kottackel - June 14
Iype P. Abraham and Mariamma Abraham - June 16
Edward Varghese and Susan Varghese - June 17
C. C Mathai and Ponnamma Mathai - June 18
Bobby Kurian and Beena Elizabeth Kurian - June 20
Jobby Mathew and Mini J. Mathew - June 20
Jacob P. Jacob and Jessy Jacob - June 21
Philipose Chacko and Marykutty Philipose - June 24
Varghese Mathai and Jamini Varghese - June 25
Dr. Shibu Joseph and Alice V. Joseph - June 27
Chacko C. Abraham and Aleyamma Abraham - June 28
Mathews Kurien and Ancy Mathews - June 28
P. V Kurian and Aleyamma Kurian - June 30



Organization Events

June 10 - RAC Meeting and Fellowship Lunch at Long Island Mar Thoma Church

June 11 - Sunday School Bake Sale after Holy Communion service.

June 17th - Sunday School Talent Festival at Epiphany Mar Thoma Church from 9:30 AM onwards.

June 18th - Sunday School Anniversary. Father's/Parent's Day Celebration. Fellowship lunch to be provided after Holy Communion service. Also, this marks the final day of classes for the current Sunday School year.

June 24th - Yuvajana Sakhyam Barbecue Fellowship

June 30th - Youth Fellowship YAYA Meeting

July 6-8th - Diocesan Family Conference

Area Prayer Meetings

June 11 - Coney Island Area Prayer

June 18th - New Hyde Park Area Prayer

June 25th - Long Island Area Prayer

Executive Committee 2023

President

Rev. Pramod Zechariah
(718) 612-1891

Vice President

Mr. Saji George
(516) 902-1534

Secretary

Mr. Chacko K. Jacob
(917) 533-4701

Trustee - Finance

Mr. Mathew N. Varughese
(347) 579-4020

Trustee - Accounts

Mr. John K. Samuel
(516) 602-9599

Lay Leader (Malayalam)

Mr. M.V. Varughese
(516) 263-0121

Lay Leader (English)

Mr. Christin Mathew
(516) 503-4955

Sabha Mandalam Rep.

Mr. Babu Varghese
(516) 534-1166

Diocesan Assembly Rep.

Mr. Rinu Varughese
(917) 446-4355

Diocesan Assembly Rep.

Mr. Abraham Thomas
(516) 789-6231

Auditor

Mr. George C. Mathew
(516) 474-8372

Auditor

Mr. Cherian K Thomas
(347) 954-7381

Area Prayer Group Representatives

Astoria/Jackson Heights
Mr. Cherukara Philipose
(917) 667-1660

Coney Island
Mr. Saji K. Varghese
(718) 564-4783

Ridewood/Wyckoff
Mr. Shibu S. Baby
(347) 632-1324

Bellerose/Queens Village
Mr. Abraham Thomas
(347) 249-4329

Floral Park
Mr. Mathew Varghese
(516) 426-1811

Elmont/Rosedale
Dr. Thomas Bains
(516) 426-1811

New Hyde Park
Mr. Vadakedathu Thomas
(917) 405-5467

Garden City Park
Mr. Roy P. Varghese
(516) 467-9638

Long Island
Mr. E.P. Philip
(516) 468-8839

Sub-Organization Representatives

Sunday School
Mr. Shibu Mathew
(516) 375-8952

Edavaka Mission
Mrs. Sosamma Kurian
(516) 567-3490

Sevika Sanghom
Dr. Mariamma John
(516) 602-9596

Yuvajana Sakhyam
Mr. Midhun K. Jose
(347) 972-1147

Youth Fellowship
Ms. Anjana Thomas
(516) 641-8019

Choir
Mr. Babu Varghese
(516) 534-1166

Sub-Organization Office Bearers

Yuvajana Sakhyam

Vice President
Mr. Gigi Mathew
(718) 581-3168

Secretary
Mr. Midhun K. Jose
(347) 972-1147

Treasurer
Mr. Renny Roy
(516) 412-8864

Sunday School

Superintendent
Mr. Shibu Mathew
(516) 375-8952

Secretary
Mrs. Sheena Varghese
(516) 998-8403

Treasurer
Mr. Christie Mathew
(347) 322-6173

Youth Fellowship

Vice President
Mr. Christin Mathew
(516) 503-4955

Secretary
Mr. Allan Varghese
(516) 784-8086

Treasurer
Mr. Alvin Mathew
(516) 816-1622

English Choir

Leader
Mr. Rohit Varughese
(516) 972-7795

Assistant Leader
Ms. Neha Jacob
(718) 915-0421

Secretary
Mr. Allan Varghese
(516) 589-0124

Treasurer
Mr. Philip Chacko
(917) 502-3747

Sevika Sanghom

Vice President
Mrs. Sosamma Kurien
(516) 567-3490

Secretary
Dr. Mariamma John
(516) 602-9596

Treasurer
Mrs. Alice Joseph
(516) 263-0410

Malayalam Choir

Leader
Mr. Shibu S. Baby
(347) 623-1324

Assistant Leader
Mrs. Sosamma Kurien
(516) 567-3490

Secretary
Mr. Mathew Varghese
(516) 808-3559

Treasurer
Mr. Babu Varghese
(516) 534-1166

Sub-Organization Office Bearers

**Edavaka
Mission**

**Vice President
Mr. Mathew
Varghese
(516) 808-3559**

**Secretary
Mr. Cherian
K. Thomas
(347) 954-7381**

**Treasurer
Mrs. Sosamma
Kurien
(516) 567-3490**

**Senior Citizen
Fellowship**

**Vice President
Mr. E.P.
Philip
(516) 468-8839**

**Secretary
Mr. M.C.
Varughese
(516) 503-1705**

**Treasurer
Mr. Rajan
Thomas
(347) 229-5384**

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 have to submit it on an 8.5 x 11-inch paper. Margins - left = 1.5 inches, right, top, and bottom = 1 inch. Please send a soft copy through e-mail to vicar@epiphanymarthoma.org. The last date for submissions is June 30th.

Looking forward to your participation,

Pramod Achen



Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5