

# ST. JOHN'S MAR THOMA CHURCH

90-37 213 STREET, QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11428



Tower of Babel – the misuse of human brain

Worship — Sunday 9:00 am | Sunday School — After Worship

NEWS LETTER– AUGUST 2014  
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[www.stjohnsmtcny.org](http://www.stjohnsmtcny.org)

Vicar: Rev. Joji K. Mathew — [jojimathewachen@gmail.com](mailto:jojimathewachen@gmail.com)

## OFFICE BEARERS / BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2014

<b>Vicar / President</b>	<b>Rev. Joji K. Mathew</b> Church — 718-468-4141	<b>718-465-2358 (Par.)</b> <b>718-450-2869 (Mobile)</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	Mr. Thomas M. George	631-462-1648
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<b><u>Organizations:</u></b>		
<b>Choir</b>	Mr. Samuel Thomas	516-216-5051
<b>Edavaka Mission</b>	Mr. John Skariah	718-465-8857
<b>Senior Citizens</b>	Mr. C. V. Simonkutty	516-742-3520
<b>Sevika Sangham</b>	Mrs. Aleyamma John	516-233-1128
<b>Sunday School</b>	Mr. Abraham T. Abraham	718-343-5465
<b>Young Families</b>	Mr. Binu Daniel	917-597-6630
<b>Youth Fellowship</b>	Mr. Chris Mathew Thomas	516-637-7862
<b>Yuvajana Sakhyam</b>	Mr. Santhosh K. Philip	516-445-4935
<b><u>Prayer Group Representatives:</u></b>		
<b>Bellerose</b>	Mr. Munna V. Sam	718-343-5036
<b>Eastern Long Island</b>	Mr. John K. Mathew	516-437-0956
<b>Elmont / West Hemp.</b>	Mr. Daniel Varghese	516-488-7831
<b>Floral Park / Glen Oaks</b>	Mr. M. Thomas	718-343-7663
<b>Garden City Park</b>	Mr. Mathew P. George	516-742-3686
<b>New Hyde Park East</b>	Mr. John Mathew	516-233-1848
<b>New Hyde Park West</b>	Mr. Abraham C. Thomas	516-437-1888
<b>Palli Bhagom</b>	Mr. T. M. Thomas	718-217-1740
<b><u>Auditors:</u></b>		
	Mr. Philip Oommen	718-776-2585
	Mr. Easow Mathunny	718-360-1808
<b><u>Youth Chaplain:</u></b>		
	Rev. V. M. Mathew	516-437-0425

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Dearly Beloveds in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This month onwards I want to make a series of discussion about the sacraments of our Church. Sacraments are the backbone of our Church. Every sacrament can transform our life, if we participate in it meaningfully and faithfully.

The word sacrament is derived from the Latin word 'sacramentum' which means 'to make sacred' or an oath or surety (The Malayalam equivalent is koodasa.) Sacraments are visible means of experiencing the invisible Grace of God. Every faithful member of the Church needs God's grace to experience salvation. Without the help of symbolic language and visual expression, it is difficult to communicate spiritual truths (Eph. 2:8-9). Sacraments have visible expressions. These visible, outward expressions point to spiritual truths. One of the definitions explains that "A sacrament is an outward-visible sign of an inward-invisible grace". So sacraments are both medium and expression of God's grace. They are special occasions for experiencing God's saving presence. Sacrament assures God's blessings and assumes the faith of the participants. They are occasions for thanks giving, dedication, covenant making-renewing and community revamping. Through sacraments the participants geared to the divine purpose. The Mar Thoma Church recognizes seven sacraments for administration in the life of her members. They are

1. Baptism (mamodisa),
2. Confirmation (Mooron Abhishekam),
3. Confession,
4. Holy Qurbana,
5. Marriage,
6. Ordination, and
7. Anointing of the sick

Of these seven, two sacraments (Holy Baptism and Holy Communion) are called Dominical Sacraments. These are called so because they are directly commanded by the Lord. (Dominical = having to do with Jesus Christ as Lord.) In the Mar Thoma Church, confirmation follows baptism and confession precedes Holy Qurbana. Among the sacraments, only confession and Holy Qurbana are repeated. Marriage, ordination and anointing the sick are optional sacraments. Through participating in the sacraments, our life should become sacramental, our real existence in this world should be a blessing to the world around us. Let us involve into the sacramental life of the Church with this understanding of transformation.

*God bless you all.*

*With thanks and regards*  
Joji K. Mathew Achen

## YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

### **Tower of Babel – the misuse of human brain**

Tower of Babel is a beautiful image that Bible portrays to us to understand that how the human brain could be used in a disastrous way. As our children are going to begin a new academic year, I think this image has to be a warning to tell them the importance of the proper use of human brain. Human brain and intelligence are the beautiful creations of God and a priceless gift to human beings. God created these for the benefit of human beings and to provide provisions for the common living.

Tower of Babel is not all a negative story but it tells a few positives that can help everyone. It talks about the unity of human beings, it talks about human unity to have a common goal, it talks about the power of language for the unification of the people and it also talks about human intelligence to plan something new and huge. But the three intensions that prompted the people to have this huge tower tell us how the human brain is used for a disastrous goal. Bible says, in Genesis chapter 11, people had three intensions behind this huge endeavour. Not to be scattered, it should reach the skies/heavens and to have a name. These intensions are not so dangerous at the first glance but these intensions are purely selfish and it wanted to challenge the creator.

One of the beautiful gifts that God provided to human beings is the freedom of choice. But if that freedom is not used properly it might be the worst thing that can happen in a life. In this story of the tower, people used this freedom not for the common benefit but only to meet their selfish interest. God has provided us this freedom to use to live and to live together. Selfishness has nothing to do with it and when selfishness directs it, it will end up in trouble.

We are all created by a supreme being and the creator has a purpose when he created everything. But when the creation uses everything to negate the supremacy of the creator then the creation will be in astray. EGO is edging God out. And that is what happened in the tower of Babel. The people negated the supremacy of God and wanted to reach out to God by using their brain and abilities. When people think we can do everything of our own then we will disown what is above us and what is to be depended on

But the story ends by telling us that whatever human make could be destroyed in a minute. Some of us think we can attain anything and construct anything that we want but if God is the author and almighty then all these things could be vanished if he decides.

God has given us the intelligence and brain but these are to be used by using the heavenly wisdom otherwise it will end up in problems. God provides us every opportunity to learn and to grow but when we think we can depend on ourselves and not on God then all our achievements will be with selfish motives. Let us trust in Him, we are blessed but that is not to edge God out but to depend on Him.

**V. M. Mathew Achen, Youth Chaplain**  
**194 Bregman Ave, New Hyde Park, NY**  
**516-437-0425**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Aug 3rd- Sunday Malayalam Holy Communion at 9:00 am**

**Gospel: Good news to all**

Praise & Worship: Sermon: Mr. Jose Thomas Prayer: Mr. Chrismal Abraham  
 Lessons: 1st Lesson **Isa.55:1-5** Mr. Mathew Thomas  
 2nd Lesson **Acts.10:34-43** Mrs. Annamma Thankachan  
 Lay Assistant: Mr. George Eappen  
 Epistle: **Eph.3:1-13** Gospel: **St.Luke.4:16-22**

**Aug 10th – Sunday English Divine Service at 9:00 am**

**By young family**

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage**

Praise & Worship: Sermon: Mr. Chrismal Abraham Prayer: Mr. Ajay Benjamin  
 Lessons: 1st Lesson **Gen.2:18-25**  
 2nd Lesson **Heb.13:1-6**  
 Epistle **Eph.5:21-32** Gospel **St.Mat.19:3-6**

**Aug 17th- Sunday – Malayalam Holy Communion at 9.00 am**

**Reformation Sunday**

Praise & Worship: *By Youth fellowship*  
 Sermon: Mr. Justin George Prayer: Ms. Sharon Varghese  
 Lessons: 1st Lesson **2King.23:1-6** Mr. Philip Oommen  
 2nd Lesson **Rev.1:1-9** Mrs. Soosan Varghese  
 Lay Assistant: Mr. Easow E. Mathunny  
 Epistle **1Pet.1:13-25** Gospel **St.Mat.7:21-27**

**Aug 24th - Sunday— English Holy Communion at 9:00 am**

**(The Sacrament of Holy Qurbana)**

Praise & Worship: Sermon: Mr. Thomas Koshy Prayer: Ms. Krupa Jacob  
 Lessons: 1st Lesson **Gen.14:17-24** Mr. Christian Sam  
 2nd Lesson **1Cor.11:23-34** Ms. Nicole Thomas  
 Lay Assistant: Mr. Abe Thomas  
 Epistle: **1Cor.10:15-17** Gospel: **St.Mark.14:12-26**

**Aug 31st - Sunday— English Holy Communion at 9:00 am**

**(Christian witness in a multi faith society)**

**Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Poulouse Episcopa Visit and First Communion service**

*(No Praise and worship)*

Lessons: 1st Lesson **Dan.1:1-21** Mr. Abraham Philip  
 2nd Lesson **Acts.10:9-16** Ms. Jessica George  
 Lay Assistant: Mr. Tobin Abraham  
 Epistle: **1Pet.2:1-10** Gospel: **St.Mat.5:13-16**

PRAYER GROUP & ORGANIZATIONS

**AREA PRAYER MEETINGS**

<p><b>Bellerose</b>  <b>Aug 3rd Sunday 5.00 PM</b>                  Mr. Munna V. Sam                  80-27 251 Street                  Bellerose NY 11426  <b>Tel # 718-343-5036</b></p>	<p><b>Eastern Long Island</b>  <b>Aug 23rd Saturday 7.00PM</b>                  Mr. Sanu Mathew                  1766 Stone Ave                  East Meadow. NY11554  <b>Tel # 516-222-0826</b></p>
<p><b>Elmont &amp; West Hempstead</b>  <b>Aug 31st Sunday 5.00PM</b>                  Mr. Cherish P. James                  207 Lucille Ave, Elmont  <b>Tel # 516-216-4255</b></p>	<p><b>Floral Park &amp; Glen Oaks</b>  <b>Aug 17th Sunday 5.00 PM</b>                  Mr. Abraham Joseph                  83-24 259 St, Floral Park  <b>Tel # 718-347-2166</b></p>

**Garden City Park**  
**Aug 24th Sunday 7.30 PM**  
 Mr. Reji John  
 93 Third St, Garden City Park.  
**Tel # 516-741-2560**

**New Hyde Park East**  
**Aug 3rd Sunday 7:30PM**  
 Mr. Kurian T. Joseph  
 2 Maple Pl, Albertson  
**Tel # 516-616-7726**

**New Hyde Park West**  
**Aug 17th Sunday 7.30 PM**  
 Mr. Ninan Abraham  
 905 N 7th Street , New Hyde Park  
**Tel # 516-488-2574**

**Palli Bhagom**  
**Aug 16th Saturday 7.00 PM**  
**Mr. Titus George**  
**90-29 218 St, Queens Village**  
**Tel # 718-217-0463**

**YUVAJANA SAKHYAM**

**Cottage Meeting  
 (To be announced)**

**EDAVAKA MISSION PRAYERS**

Aug1st	Friday	7.30 PM	At The Church	Fasting Prayer
Aug 8th	Friday	No Prayer	scheduled–	Church Retreat @ 1000 Island
Aug 15th	Friday	7.30 PM	At The Church	
Aug 22nd	Friday	7.30 PM	At The Church	
Aug 29th	Friday	7.30 PM	At The Church	

## SEVIKA SANGHOM PRAYER MEETINGS

Aug 6th 10.00 AM <b>(Wednesday )</b>	Mrs. Lilly Simon 76 Fourth Avenue , Garden City Park	516-742-3520
Aug 13th , 10:00am <b>(Wednesday )</b>	Sevika Sangham & Senior Citizen Picnic at Town of North Hempstead Park	
Aug 21st , 10.00 am <b>(Thursday)</b>	Mrs Smitha Mathew 194 Bregman Ave, New Hyde Pk	516-437-0425
Aug 27th , 10:00am <b>(Wednesday )</b>	<b>Center 'A' Meeting</b> St. Johns MTC, Queens Village	
<b>Oct 2nd to 5th</b>	<b>Sevika Sangham National Conference.</b>	Hosting by Washington MTC

## SENIOR CITIZENS FELLOWSHIP

**Health / Recreational Program:** Every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm

**Cottage Meeting:**  
**( To Be announced)**

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

**Aug 15th Friday Meeting @ 6.00 PM** at the residence of Mr. Bently Joseph, 30 Cambria Rd, Syosset. Tel # 516-822-5463  
**Aug 17th Youth fellowship will lead morning praise and worship.**

## YOUNG FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP

**Cottage Meeting Aug 24th 1.00 pm** At the residence of Mr. Charles Abraham, 404 Bryant Ave, New Hyde Pk. Tel# 516-616-0464

## CHOIR

**Malayalam Choir practice will be held every Sunday immediately after Holy Qurbana.**

## THANK YOU

**Elmont** prayer group parishioners and Mr. Varghese Daniel for assisting with the church services and for preparing coffee for social time during the month of July.

**Floral Park/Glen Oaks** area prayer group will assist in the church services and social hour during the month of **August** and **Garden city** area prayer will assist in **September**.

## BIRTHDAYS FOR AUGUST

***Happy Birthday. May God continue to bless the work of your hands and grant you continued favor in your life.***

Pexi Mariam Mathai Jonathan Chacko Philip Toby P. Joseph Titus K. Johnson Philip Thomas Justin Babu Sajan Jacob Ryan John Samuel Susannamma Cherian Renjith Koshy Mathew Titus T. Mathew Rachel Varghese Lino Alex Allen Abraham Ryan Sam Koshy Marykutty Abraham Calvin Sam Sabu V. Simon Chris George Isaac Kitty Alexander Shibe Mani Albert Sanu Mathew Merlyn Bijoy Christina Thayil Annamma Thomas Linsy Benjamin Jiya Jinu Savanna Chacko Daniel Abraham Anish Sheba Mani Grace Daniel Jobi K Oommen Alice Thomas StanleyPhilip Celine Biju Cherian Denny K. Isaac Tony Jacob Annie Mathew Abraham Kuruvilla	Abraham K. Varughese Preston Benjamin David Jason J. Mathew Darren Ninan Anish Anita Mohan Julia Thomas Jain Thomas Joseph Ashlin T. Thomas Abin Binu Mathew Cherish P. James Christine Anil Philipose Christina T. Chacko Bency George Joel John Sanu Mathew Kevin S.Mathew Jim John Mathew Sneha Bijoy Shiju John Neethu Ann Joseph Abia J. Panicker Thomas C. Mathew Stacy Samuel CharleyMathew John Skariah Abraham Alexander Kurien M. Alex Elizabeth Samuel Alison G. Philip
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## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT.

On behalf of the St. John's family, let's congratulate Manoj and Roseena Samuel of New Hyde park East prayer group on the birth of their Daughter, Malia Rose Samuel. Let us congratulate the Grand Parents Mrs and Mr. T John Mathew .

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR AUGUST

### A Very Happy Wedding Anniversary to all.

Merlyn & Ben David  
 Moliamma & Thomas P. Chacko  
 Sarah & Mathew George  
 Raichel & Binu George  
 Smithamol & Samge T. Chacko  
 Smitha & Rev. VM Mathew  
 Lincy & Eapen K George  
 Aleyamma & Joy A. Chacko  
 Alice & Babu Thomas  
 Jolly & Abraham Philip  
 Subini & Philip K. Thomas  
 Jenney & Joji Mathew  
 Beena & Munna V. Sam  
 Nija & Ashok G. Mathai  
 Moji & Jimmy Thomas  
 Laly & Koruth George  
 Kunjunjamma & Kurien M. Alex  
 Rossin & Sachin George Samuel  
 Miriam & Joseph C. Mathew  
 Anita & Sabu V. Simon  
 Sherly & Ninan Abraham  
 Sherry & John Z Oommen  
 Legi & Denny K. Isaac  
 Manju & Melvin John  
 Susan & Paul Abraham

Joys & Johnson P. Philip  
 Roseena & Manoj Samuel  
 Rena & Swithin Titus  
 Riya & Tony Jacob Thomas  
 Bhavna & Abe Mathews  
 Jobina & Anish Abraham  
 Leelamma & T. S. Mathai  
 Sheila & Koshy George  
 Rosamma & M. M. Mathew  
 Annie & Samuel Thomas  
 Aleyamma & C. K. Mathai  
 Sutha & Saju V. Simon  
 Annama & John Thomas  
 Alice & Mathew K. Cherian

### Sunday School— Dates to be Remembered

- Aug 17th, 2014** College going dedication/Seniors graduation.
- Aug 24, 2014** School reopening dedication/ Sunday school reopening day .
- Sep 7th , 2014** Bible Quiz, 5th Grade to 10th Grade– Book of Esther and Gospel St. Luke.
- Sep 20th, 2014** NERS Talent Festival @ Long Island MTC

### CONDOLENCES.

On Behalf of St. John's MTC, we express our sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Binu Thomas and family of Garden city Park area prayer, in the demise of his Father Mr. Thomas Abraham.

### Important Dates to be Remembered

- Aug 8-10** Church Retreat/ Trip @1000 Islands, NY
- Aug 17th** College Opening Service
- Aug 23rd** Church Picnic @ Sunken Meadow Park
- Aug 24th** School opening Service
- Aug 31st** First Communion Service  
 Visit By Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Poulouse.
- Sept 7th** First Auction.
- Sept 14th** Second Auction.  
 Sevika Sangham Day
- Sept 21st** Third Auction.  
 Senior Citizen Day
- Oct 5th** Edavaka Mission Day.
- Oct 19th** Youth Sunday.
- Oct 23-26** Parish Convention.
- Oct 26** Family Sunday.
- Nov 1st** World Sunday School Day.
- Nov 9th** Unity Sunday.
- Nov 27th** Thanksgiving Day.
- Nov 29th** Family Night.
- Dec 6th** Christmas house Caroling starts.
- Dec 7th** Diocesan Episcopal Visit/ Silver Jubilee Inauguration.
- Dec 24th** Christmas Carol Service.
- Dec 31st** Watch Night Service

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**

**Superintendent – Abraham T. Abraham 718-343-5465 or 347-720-5041**

<b>Nursery</b>		<b>Juniors, Grade 6</b>	
Manju John	516-724-5891	Laila George	631-462-1648
Christine Thomas	516-216-5051	Johnson P. Philip	516-739-3744
Dana Philip	718-465-3952	Teena Mathew	516-488-2629
<b>Kindergarten</b>		<b>Junior High, Grade 7</b>	
Molamma Thankachan	718-468-4434	Thankamma Abraham	718-343-9344
Bency George	347-834-2036	Bently Joseph	516-822-5463
Aji Thomas	516-741-0465	Cyril Abraham	516-777-0791
<b>Primary Juniors, GR. 1</b>		<b>Junior High, Grade 8</b>	
Bhavna Mathews	516-746-5222	Sunitha Abraham	917-699-4451
Joash Mathew	516-304-1262	Stacy Daniel	516-851-0317
<b>Primary Juniors, GR. 2</b>		<b>Seniors, Grade 9</b>	
Jyothi Thomas	516-921-8023	Susan Varghese	718-347-2709
Sherry George	718-468-1224	Anchi Mathews	718-347-3488
Nicole Thomas	718-347-0346		
<b>Primary Juniors, GR. 3</b>		<b>Seniors, Grade 10</b>	
Rachel Philip	516-326-2629	Miriam Mathew	718-464-8372
Joan Johnson	516-739-3744	Koruthu George	516-354-7552
Stacey Mathew	516-616-9446	<b>Senior High, Grade 11</b>	
<b>Primary Juniors, GR. 4</b>		Mathew P. George	516-742-3686
Rachel George	718-468-1224	Philip Oommen	718-776-2585
Rena Titus	718-217-0463	Chris Mathew Thomas	516-637-7862
<b>Primary Juniors, GR. 5</b>		<b>Senior High, Grade 12</b>	
Sherly Ninan	516-488-2574	Philip Varghese	718-347-2709
Mercy Babu	516-538-2833		

**CHURCH FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TEAM**

<b>Vicar / President</b>	<b>Rev. Joji K. Mathew</b>	<b>718-465-2358 (Par.)</b>
	<b>718-468-4141</b>	<b>718-450-2869 (Cell)</b>
<b>Mr. Thomas M. George</b>	(631) 462- 1648	
<b>Mr. Philip Thomas</b>	(516) 361-2564	(516) 921-8023
<b>Mr. Biju Chacko</b>	(516) 996-4611	(516) 214-4190
<b>Mr. Mathew Thomas</b>	(917) 539-1652	(718) 343-1054
<b>Mr. Saji Thomas</b>	(646) 591-8465	(516) 775-1512
<b>Audio/Video Systems Team Members:</b>	<b>Mr. Sam George</b>	(516) 581-6128
	<b>Mr. Bob Abraham</b>	(516) 603-3898
	<b>Shawn Zachariah</b>	<b>Mr. Munna V. Sam</b>
	(516) 305-7287	718-343-5036

If undeliverable, please return to:

St. John's Mar Thoma Church  
 90-37 213th Street  
 Queens Village, NY 11428

"Have I not Comanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."  
 Joshua 1:9

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