

ST. JOHN'S MAR THOMA CHURCH

90-37 213 STREET, QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11428



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

NEWS LETTER— DECEMBER 2014
VOLUME: XXIV ISSUE: 12

www.stjohnsmtcny.org

Vicar: Rev. Joji K. Mathew — jojimathewachen@gmail.com

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<u>Youth Chaplain:</u>		
	Rev. V. M. Mathew	516-437-0425

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Dearly beloveds in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

This month is a very important month in the history of St. John's Mar Thoma Church. As a Parish we are going to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of our parish. On 6th Dec. 2014 we are planning to inaugurate a yearlong Jubilee celebration. It is intended to revitalize the conviction and commitment of the faithful community. This should facilitate us to be closer to God and to each other.

The word "jubilee" is derived from the Hebrew word jobel, which means "ram's horn"; since it was precisely that horn which was used as a trumpet, whose sound indicated to everybody to wake up and be alert, this is a call to reaffirm our faith in Jesus Christ and reiterate our unity as a congregation of faith. "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." (2 Cor. 5:20). As a worshipping community we are called by our LORD to represent Him as His image in the historical world. The risen Lord gave the apostolic commission and empowered the Church to carry out His mission and ministry. The Silver Jubilee is the time to re-imagine and rediscover the core of faith in us and the mission possibilities of our Parish. Charity or aid based on pity and sympathy is not sufficient. We need affirmative action that should witness our commitment. Let us give thanks to God Almighty, for the miracles that He had done through our parish during the last 24 Years and let us rededicate ourselves to the power of the Cross. Let us thank god for all those who worked hard for the progress and unity of our parish. I hope and pray that our Silver Jubilee celebrations may strengthen us to be a real worshipping community.

Another important occasion is Christmas. Christmas is the Gift of God to us and it is the opening to extend the message of love, sincerity and care to the world around. The real Christmas story is the story of God's becoming a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ. The real joy of Christmas is the joy of Christ in us. Through the door to door Christmas caroling, we witness the Gospel of Christ to each family. Our Christmas carol service will be on 24th Dec and Christmas Holy Communion service will be on 25th December. Let us prepare our minds and hearts to celebrate this year's Christmas with an experience of great Joy and love.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year,

In Prayer

Joji K. Mathew Achen

YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Treasure in the jars of clay

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay" to show that this all-surpassing power is from God" and not from us." 2 Corinthians 4: 7 Paul in his letter to Corinthians presents himself as a Jar of clay. He is of the opinion that it is the best way to explain who a Christian is. But he says even though the jar is made of clay but still God kept a treasure in this. In the first century context many people kept their treasures, especially their coins in a clay jars and kept inside the ground so that they can keep their treasure safely from Wars and robberies. In that context Paul explained this great spiritual thought to explain who a Christian is. When we study this concept I think three concepts are to be discussed

Creativity

A clay jar is always a creation of a creator. Every potter who makes a vessel has an intention when he makes it. So for that purpose he/she designs that vessel. So every vessel has a purpose that the creator intended for that Jar. In Jeremiah chapter 18 we read about a potter who molds the clay according to his will and wish for a particular purpose. Paul is saying every Christian is a jar of clay which was molded by our creator, the almighty God. When he designed us like this He has a special purpose in us. We live in this world to fulfill that purpose.

Fragility

The second word that we need to remember when we think about the jars of clay is fragility. Human is a fragile being and God has taken a risk to keep the treasure in that fragile jar. Just like any other clay jar every human us prone to many destructing experiences in life. But Paul explains that in verse 8 and 9; "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed". But those who have this treasure at our clay jars we will have the assurance that we will not be destroyed even though we face all kinds of difficulties in our lives

Humility

This word reminds us about another aspect when we think about jars of clay. God came down into this form of clay jars to identify with everyone one. Philippians chapter 2 " though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross!" This clay jars reminds us about the humbleness of Jesus and challenges us to follow the life style of humility. We are once again on the Advent season. Christmas is always reminding us about this humility where Jesus became human to redeem this whole world. When we celebrate Christmas this year let us remember that God became a jar clay to bring this Gospel to us.

God has placed this treasure, the gospel in our clay jars. So we are the clay jars and we need to remember who our creator is and what purpose in this world is. We must understand how fragile we are but still under the protection of God almighty our creator. And also this clay jars reminds us about the about the humility that we need to have in our lives to imitate the life style of Jesus. God wants to place this treasure in our clay Jars. But are we ready to carry it in our Ivies.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec 7th- Sunday English Holy Communion at 9:00 AM

(Beginning of Twenty Five Days Lent.) Diocesan Episcopal visit.

Praise & Worship:

Sermon: **Ms. Alicia Lukose** Prayer: **Ms. Alicia Koshy**

Lessons: 1st Lesson Isa.55:6-13 **Ms. Arun S. John**

2nd Lesson Heb.4:1-13 **Mrs. Reena Titus**

Lay Assistant: **Mr. Swithin Titus**

Epistle: **Gal.1:11-17** Gospel: **St.Luke.1:57-66**

Dec 14th — Sunday Malayalam Holy Communion at 9:00 AM

Annunciation to Joseph

Praise & Worship:

Sermon: **Mr. Arvin Eapen** Prayer: **Ms. Dilon Abraham**

Lessons: 1st Lesson Zeph.3:14-20 **Mr. Chacko Zachariah**

2nd Lesson Rom.1:5-16 **Mrs. Annamma J. Skariah**

Lay Assistant: **Mr. Jacob T. Joseph**

Epistle: **Phil.4:4-9** Gospel: **St.Mat.1:18-23**

Dec 21st- Sunday — Malayalam Holy Communion at 9.00 AM

(Mar Thoma Church Day)

Praise & Worship: By Youth Fellowship

Sermon: **Ms. Katherine Philip** Prayer: **Ms. Ann Koshy**

Lessons: 1st Lesson Isa.22:20-24 **Mr. T.M Thomas**

2nd Lesson 1Cor.1:18-25 **Mrs. Sosamma Thomas**

Lay Assistant: **Mr. Titus George**

Epistle **Phil.3:12-21** Gospel **St.John.14:1-7**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec 25th - Christmas Day -English Holy Communion

at 8.30 am

(Yaldo-Feast of Nativity-Birth of our Lord- End of Twenty Five Days Lent)

Lessons: 1st Lesson Micah.5:1-9 (To be Assigned)

2nd Lesson Col.1:13-20 **Ms. Jessica Joji**

Lay Assistant: **Mr. Arun S. John**

Epistle: **Gal.4:1-7** Gospel: **St.Luke.2:1-14**

Dec 28th - Sunday- English Holy Communion at 9:00 am

(Joyful Expectation of Christ's Coming)

Praise & Worship:

Sermon: **Mr. Berlin Stanley** Prayer: **Ms. Nigel Oommen**

Lessons: 1st Lesson Mal.3:13-4:2 **Mr. Aswin Mathew**

2nd Lesson Acts.1:6-11 **(To be Assigned)**

Lay Assistant: **Mr. Chris Mathew Thomas**

Epistle: **1Thes.4:13-8** Gospel: **St.Mark.13:28-37**

Dec 31st Wednesday - Malayalam Holy Communion

at 9.00 PM

(Year ending-Watch Night Service-God our Helper and Redeemer.)

Lessons: 1st Lesson 1 Sam.7:5-17 **Mr. George P. Cherian**

2nd Lesson 1 Pet.5:6-11 (To Be Assigned)

Lay Assistant: **Mr. John Skariah**

Epistle: **Heb.13:7-11** Gospel: **St.Luke.12:22-34**

EDAVAKA MISSION PRAYERS

No Prayer meeting Scheduled during the month of December due to X'mas caroling

SEVIKA SANGHOM PRAYER MEETINGS

Dec: 4th 10.00 AM (Thursday)	Center A meeting at Epiphany Marthoma Church 103-03 103rd Street. Ozone Park. NY 11417.	
Dec: 11th 10.00 AM (Thursday)	Mrs. Lali B. Joseph 30 Cambria Rd, Syosset	516-822-5463
Dec: 18th , 10.00 AM (Thursday)	Mrs. Mercy Thomas 267-12 82 Ave, Floral PK, NY	718-347-0346
Dec: 24th, (Wednesday)	No Prayer Meeting Scheduled	
Dec 30th 10.00 AM (Tuesday)	Mrs. Rachel Philip 31 Peter St, Elmont, NY	516-326-2629

CHOIR

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

SENIOR CITIZENS FELLOWSHIP

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

YOUNG FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Meeting To be announced

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

**Cottage Meeting
(To Be announced)**

BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER

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

Sosamma Mathew
Mathew T. Philip
Shantamma Jacob
Jerry Thomas
Mary Samuel
Jessica Joji
Deepak Daniel David
Sony Jacob
Varughese P. Abraham
Kunjumol Thampy
Jacob T. Joseph
Christine Cherian

M. O. Thomas
Mercy Thomas
Roshini Cherian
Manuel M. Varughese
Mariamma Abraham
Binu M. Kurien
Bently T. Joseph
Koshy John
Pappachan Mathai
Christopher Thomas
Omana Mathai
Justin Joy
Melini Abraham
Shawn M. Zachariah
Kaitlin George

Selin Mathew
Katherine Philip
Johnson P. Philip

Renju Varghese
Chrisen Aleyas Bijoy
Stella Susan Mathew
Cyril K. Thomas
Jocelyn Lisa Johnson
M. E. Alexander
Marilyn J. Thomas
Samuel Thomas
Mariamma Thomas
Chrismal B. Abraham
Mariamma Thankachan
Shanu George
Aleyamma Mathai
Seena M. Mathunny
Arlin Susan Thomas

Tina Joji
Anchamma Mathews
Marvin Gill
Mini John Jacob

Aleyamma Cherian
Rossin Mathew
Binitha K. Varughese
Sam George
Vinu Abraham
Stacy John
Eric Gill
Rachel Mary Thomas
Joel P. Mathew
Jerrin V. Chacko
Jaime Jose
Reni Thomas

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER

A Very Happy Wedding Anniversary to all.

Lizzykutty and Abraham C. Abraham
 Sosamma and Rajan Tuthiel Abraham
 Soosamma and Varughese P. Abraham
 Anna and Anil Thomas
 Jessy and Manoj Mathai

Rosamma and Abraham C. Thomas

Priya and Chris Mathew Thomas
 Meena and John K. Oommen
 Mary and Thayil George
 Annamma and Mathai Mathew

Aparna and Santhosh K. Philip
 Sheena and Shinoth T. Mathew
 Nisa and Cherish P. James

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Dec 21st Sunday Youth Fellowship will lead Praise & worship.

Christmas House Caroling Schedule

Date	Day	Area
12/05/2014	Sunday	Garden City Park
12/07/2014	Sunday	Floral Park/Glen Oaks
12/12/2014	Friday	Bellerose
12/13/2014	Saturday	Eastern Long Island
12/14/2014	Sunday	Elmont West Hempstead
12/19/2014	Friday	Queens Village
12/20/2014	Saturday	NHP West
12/21/2014	Sunday	NHP East

CONDOLENCES.

On Behalf of St. John’s MTC, we express our sincere condolences to Mr. Chacko Georgekutty and family of Garden city Pk West area Prayer group on the demise of his Mother, Mrs. Sarramma Chacko.

On Behalf of St. John’s MTC, we express our sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Abraham K. Varghese, of Elmont area prayer, in the demise of Mrs. Mariamma Thomas, Grand mother of Mrs. Aleyamma Varghese (Mini) .

THANK YOU

New Hyde Park West prayer group parishioners and Mr. Abraham C. Thomas for assisting with the church services and for preparing coffee for social time during the month of November.

Pallibhagom area prayer group will assist in the church services and social hour during the month of **December** and Bellerose area prayer will be assisting in **January**.

Important Dates to be remembered

- Dec 4th Thursday** Church Retreat at 7.00 PM
- Dec 6th Saturday** Silver Jubilee Inauguration
- Dec 7th Sunday** Episcopal visit–Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius.
- Dec 24th Wednesday** Christmas Eve Carol service at 6.00 PM
- Dec 31st Wednesday** Watch Night Service at 9.00 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

Nursery		Juniors, Grade 6	
Christine Thomas	516-216-5051	Laila George	631-462-1648
Dana Philip	718-465-3952	Johnson P. Philip	516-739-3744
Kindergarten		Teena Mathew	516-488-2629
Molamma Thankachan	718-468-4434	Junior High, Grade 7	
Linda Mathew	516-326-8526	Thankamma Abraham	718-343-9344
Aji Thomas	516-741-0465	Bently Joseph	516-822-5463
Primary Juniors, GR. 1		Cyril Abraham	516-777-0791
Bhavna Mathews	516-746-5222	Junior High, Grade 8	
Ginsey George	631-265-5730	Sunitha Abraham	917-699-4451
Joash Mathew	516-304-1262	Stacy Daniel	516-851-0317
Primary Juniors, GR. 2		Seniors, Grade 9	
Jyothi Thomas	516-921-8023	Susan Varghese	718-347-2709
Sherry George	718-614-3731	Anchi Mathews	718-347-3488
Angel C. Abraham	516-754-3688	Seniors, Grade 10	
Primary Juniors, GR. 3		Koruthu George	516-354-7552
Rachel Philip	516-326-2629	Santhosh George	516-298-0901
Joan Johnson	516-739-3744	Swithin Titus	718-217-0463
Stacey Mathew	516-616-9446	Senior High, Grade 11	
Primary Juniors, GR. 4		Mathew P. George	516-742-3686
Rachel George	718-468-1224	Philip Oommen	718-776-2585
Rena Titus	718-217-0463	Senior High, Grade 12	
Primary Juniors, GR. 5		Philip Varghese	718-347-2709
Sherly Ninan	516-488-2574	Dr. Binu Chacko	347-262-8211
Mercy Babu	516-538-2833		

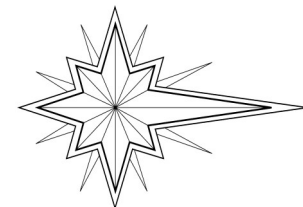
CHURCH FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TEAM

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

"Luke 2:12 This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.



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