

ST. JOHN'S MAR THOMA CHURCH

90-37 213 STREET, QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11428

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP



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

NEWS LETTER— FEBRUARY 2015
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www.stjohnsmtcny.org

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

OFFICE BEARERS / BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2015

Vicar / President	Rev. Joji K. Mathew Church — 718-468-4141	718-465-2358 (Par.) 718-450-2869 (Mobile)
Vice President	Mr. Thomas M. George	631-462-1648
Secretary	Mr. Beji T. Joseph (bejitjoseph@aol.com)	516-433-0386
Treasurer	Mr. Philip Thomas	516-361-2564
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Dio. Assembly	Mr. Eapen K. George Mr. Saji Thomas Mr. Roy C. Thomas	718-343-0505 516-775-1512 718-347-0346
<u>Organizations:</u>		
Choir	Mr. Samuel Thomas	516-216-5051
Edavaka Mission	Mr. C.K Mathai	516-437-0979
Senior Citizens	Mr. C. V. Simonkutty	516-742-3520
Sevika Sangham	Mrs. Aleyamma John	516-233-1128
Sunday School	Mr. Abraham T. Abraham	718-343-5465
Young Families	Mr. Melvin John	718-343-0002
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Bently Joseph	516-643-4212
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Jinu Zacharia	516-974-9980
<u>Prayer Group Representatives:</u>		
Bellerose	Mr. Munna V. Sam	718-343-5036
Eastern Long Island	Mr. John K. Mathew	516-437-0956
Elmont / West Hemp.	Mr. Sathosh Philip	516-445-4935
Floral Park / Glen Oaks	Mr. M. Thomas	718-343-7663
Garden City Park	Mr. Mathew P. George	516-742-3686
New Hyde Park East	Mr. John Mathew	516-233-1848
New Hyde Park West	Mr. Stanley Pappachan	516-352-0810
Palli Bhagom	Mr. T. M. Thomas	718-217-1740
<u>Auditors:</u>		
	Mr. Philip Oommen	718-776-2585
	Mr. Easow Mathunny	718-360-1808
<u>Youth Chaplain:</u>	Rev. V. M. Mathew	516-437-0425

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Dearly beloveds in Christ,

Dearly beloved in Christ,
Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
The month of January in this New Year was actually a month of learning new lesson from a lot of unexpected things. But all events taught us great lessons that God is in control of everything and He can do miracles. Let us continue the prayer which we have offered during these days. We have a great weapon in our hands that is the prayer. 'Prayer is a specific divine appointment, an ordinance of heaven, whereby God purposes to carry out His gracious designs on earth and to execute and make efficient the plan of salvation.' Apostle James reminds us that "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise." (James 5:13). Let every event, both troubles and happiness, in our life make ourselves humble before God and help us to identify His purpose in our life. I want to conclude our series of study, through the sacrament of Marriage, Ordination and Anointing the sick.

Marriage

Marriage is the sacramental act of God, bringing together man and woman as husband and wife. Becoming suitable companion is the challenge in marital life, instead of demanding the other to become a suitable one. In our marriage service, Christ is symbolized as the divine bridegroom whose bride is the Church. This is the ideal of mutual commitment and total faithfulness that is commended to the couple. The sacrament of Marriage is for a sacramental family life. The ceremony is important because family life is important. Now the reception parties are hijacking the real meaning of the sacrament. The nucleus is now become peripheral. We should give more importance to the marriage life rather than the party hall, number of people invited and the attraction of the Church selected.

Ordination

Our church believes in the representative priesthood. "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Pet. 2:5). God is equally accessible to all the faithful, and every Christian has equal potential to minister for God. But a call to the full time ministry of God, through church, is a special appointment of God. At ordination, those who recognized the call of God are received into the ministry with prayer and the laying on of hands. As a church we have to encourage and support many youngsters like Dennis Achen to the ordained ministry.

Anointing of the sick/Holy Unction

The sacrament of anointing the sick is based on the words of Apostle James "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick..." (James 5:14-15) One has to confess his sins, before he receives the prayer for healing and anointing with Olive Oil. The sacrament of unction is not the "last rites" as is sometimes thought; the ritual of the anointing itself in no way indicates that it should be administered merely in "extreme" cases. Holy unction is the sacrament of the spiritual, physical, and mental healing of a sick person whatever the nature or the gravity of the illness may be.

Through the meaningful engagement to the core of every sacrament I hope and pray that we can able to lead a sacramental Christian life in this world.

Let us pray for the great Maramon convention which starts from 8th to 15th of this month and let us prepare for the great lent ahead.

May God bless you all.

In Prayer

Joji K. Mathew Achen

YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

One Lord and one sheep: Unity or division

".....and there shall be one flock and one shepherd." (John. 10:16)

One of the great visions that Jesus wanted to explain to His disciples is one Lord and one sheep. The oneness of Christians amidst of the diversities is the Lordship of Jesus. But many a time it became a force of division among Christians in the history. Even this was evident in the first century church where Paul asked the question 'is Christ divided?'. When he was writing to the Ephesians Paul clearly explained what is the unity of Christians, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all". (Eph. 4. 4,5) But most of the oneness that Paul is trying to emphasise in these verses became forces of division in the church.

Jesus is telling us today that every Christian is part of His flock and He is the only Lord. Chapter 10 describes this unique relationship a shepherd has with sheep for the unity. The shepherd owns, knows and gives life to these flocks. This is an intimate and unique relationship that a shepherd is having with his sheep. All the sheep have the privilege to believe that there is someone who owns them, knows them and gives life in abundance and that is their shepherd. This intimate relationship should be the catalyst for our unity in Christ. We are one in Christ. John Chapter 10 also talks about the unique characteristics of the sheep who is part of this unity. They listen to the shepherd and will not listen to any other false shepherds because they recognise the voice of the shepherd. They know the shepherd and enter through the gate of Jesus for the salvation. They have no confusions on what they believe and who are the right prophets. Jesus clearly warns about the false teachers and heresies that can come on our way when we live in this world. If we don't listen and know our shepherd then we will easily fall into the trap of division and hatred. Jesus said we will discern the false prophets by their fruits. So teachings and the fruits are to go hand in hand. The question is do we listen to our shepherd and shepherd alone? Do we know Him personally?

All the diversities that we have among Christianity should not be the forces of division and hatred among us but should a unifying force because we have only one Lord. But today it is sad to understand that a lot hatred and division is in the Christian community on what we believe and what we practice. The best answer to find a solution to these divisions is to listen to our shepherd and not be cheated by the false teachings. Let us know him personally then the diversities that we have is a blessing in our growing together. Let us enter through the gate of our Lord and He said 'I am the gate'.

V. M. Mathew achen
Youth Chaplain

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Feb 1st- Sunday Malvalam Holy Communion at 9:00 AM Healing and Wholeness (Medical Mission Sunday)

Praise & Worship: By Sunday School
 Sermon: **Mr. Ryan Jacob** Prayer: **Mr. Jeron Chacko**
 Lessons: 1st Lesson **Job. 42:1-12** **Mr. John T. Varkey**
 2nd Lesson **Rev. 22:1-5** **Mrs. Mini Andrews**
 Lay Assistant: **Mr. Sabu Lukose**
 Epistle: **2 Cor. 12:1-10** Gospel: **St. John 5:1-9**

Feb. 8th Sunday English Holy Communion at 9:00 AM Beginning of 120th Maramon Convention

Praise & Worship: By Sunday School
 Sermon: **Ms. Christine Cherian** Prayer: **Mr. Justin Manoj**
 Lessons: 1st Lesson **Gen. 1:24-31** **Mr. Santhosh T. George**
 2nd Lesson **Acts.10:9-16** **Ms. Shelby Ann Abraham**
 Lay Assistant: **Mr. Joash Mathew**
 Epistle: **Eph. 1:3-14** Gospel: **St.Luke.18:31-34**

Feb. 15th- Sunday — Malayalam Holy Communion at 9.00 AM Pethrutha: Beginning of Great Lent-Lent: A time of reconciliation - End of 120th Maramon Convention

Praise & Worship: By Youth Fellowship
 Sermon: **Mr. Cyril Abraham** Prayer: **Mr. Joash Mathew**
 Lessons: 1st Lesson **Gen. 45:1-15** **Mr. Shibu Mathew**
 2nd Lesson **Eph. 2:11-22** **Mrs. Pexi Mathai**
 Lay Assistant: **Mr. John Mathew**
 Epistle **2 Cor. 5:16-21** Gospel **St. John. 2:1-11**

Feb 22nd - Sunday -English Holy Communion Service at 9.00 am Touching the untouchable (2nd Sunday in Lent)

Praise & Worship: By Sunday School
 Sermon: **Mr. Chrisen Bijoy** Prayer: **Ms. Tini Titus**
 Lessons: 1st Lesson **2 Kings. 5:1-10** **Mr. Austin Sanu**
 2nd Lesson **Heb.13:7-17** **Mr. Nisha David**
 Lay Assistant: **Mr. Joewin James**
 Epistle: **Rom. 15:7-13** Gospel: **St. Mat.8:1-4**

THANK YOU

Bellerose prayer group parishioners and **Mr. Munna V Sam** for assisting with the church services and for preparing coffee for social time during the month of January.

Eastern Long Island area prayer group will assist in the church services and social hour during the month of **February** and **Elmont** area prayer will be assisting in **March**.

PRAYER GROUP & ORGANIZATIONS

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

Bellerose
(To Be Announced)

Eastern Long Island
(To Be Announced)

Elmont & West Hempstead
Feb 15th Sunday 5.00 PM
Mr. Daniel Varghese
13 John Ave, Elmont
Tel # 516-488-7831

Floral Park & Glen Oaks
Feb 1st Sunday 7.30 PM
Mr. Eapen K. George
80-04 265 Street, Floral Park
Tel # 718-343-0505

Garden City Park
(To Be Announced)

New Hyde Park East
Feb 14th Saturday 7:00PM
Mr. Lyju Oommen
21 Crest Rd, New Hyde Park
Tel # 516-570-6848

New Hyde Park West

Feb 15th Sunday 7:30PM
Mr. Thomas George (Saju)
410 Brown Place, New Hyde Park
Tel # 516-305-4632

Palli Bhagom

(To Be Announced)

EDAVAKA MISSION PRAYERS

Feb 6th Friday 7.30 PM At the church as fasting prayer

Feb 13th Friday 7.30 PM Prayer meeting At the residence of
Mr. Abraham Thomas
26 Seventh St, Garden City Pk
Tel # 516-877-5925

Feb 20th Friday 7.30 PM Prayer meeting At the church

Feb 27th Friday 7.30 PM Prayer Meeting at the Church

SEVIKA SANGHOM PRAYER MEETINGS

Feb: 4th 10.00 AM (Wednesday)	Mrs Susan David 65 Fourth Street Garden City Park	516 747 7033
Feb: 11th 10.00 AM (Wednesday)	Mrs. Jolly Mathew 1043 N 4th Street New Hyde Park	516 616 9446
Feb: 18th , 10.00 AM (Wednesday)	Mrs. Aleyamma George 30 Jackson Ave, Elmont , NY	516 358 7086
Feb: 26th 10.00 AM (Thursday)	At the Church	

CHOIR

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

SENIOR CITIZENS FELLOWSHIP

Health / Recreational Program: Canceled for the month of February
Cottage Prayer Meeting on Feb: 16th Monday at 10.00 AM
 Mr. T John Mathew
 1429 Hillside Ave, New Hyde Pk
 Tel # 516-328-2470

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

Cottage Meeting

On Feb 15th Sunday at 1.30 PM at the residence of
 Mr. Binu Thomas
 116 Fifth Street, Garden City Pk, NY
 Tel # 516-203-4008

YOUNG FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Meeting

on Feb 1st Sunday At 1.00 PM At the residence of
 Mrs. & Mr. Saju V. Simon
 16 Schiller St, Hicksville NY 11801
 Tel # 516-458-8921

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Feb 7th Saturday @ 4.30 PM Cottage meeting at the residence of
 Ms. Ann Grace Abraham, 86 Greenway E, New Hyde Pk 516-248-2940

BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY

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

Justin George	2	Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Feb: 15th, 2015	
Joy A. Chacko	2	Podiamma Baby	16
Easow E. Mathunny	2	Stacy Mathew	16
Stacy Tony	3	Ann M. Koshy	16
Koshy Thankachan	3	Baby Jose	16
Philip M Kallumpurathu	3	Annamma Symon	17
Saramma Mathew	3	Shibu Thayil	17
Leena R. Mathew	3	Saramma Mathew	17
K. M Thomas	3	Varghese George	18
Anetta G. Philip	4	Anil Baby Philipose	18
Abigail Alexander	4	Suresh T. John	18
Angela J. Panicker	4	Angelina Alexander	18
Rinnie Philip	4	Calvin Samuel Thomas	18
Binny V Saji	4	Mathew S Varughese	19
Philip Cherian	5	Delcina Zachariah	19
Thomas T. Zachariah	5	Rejo M. Jose	19
C. V. Simonkutty	7	Annamma Mathew	20
Tency R Thomas	7	Jins Mariam Moncy	21
Jolly Itty Philip	7	Marcia Lilly Raju	21
Raina Ann Koshy	7	Kezia Susan Kurien	22
Joash John Mathew	8	Jaya Sabu Lukose	22
Geena T Philip	8	Manoj Samuel	22
Achenkunju Mathew	8	Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Feb: 8th, 2015	
Varghese John	9	Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Feb: 22nd, 2015	
Teena Thampy	9	Arjun Joseph Thomas	23
Shajan T. Koshy	10	Jennifer Susan Jacob	24
Robin K. Varughese	10	Justin George	25
Roshith T Mathew	10	Naomi G. Isaac	25
Melbie M Mathew	11	Christina S Thomas	25
Jenny E George	11	Jolly John	25
John Mathew K.	12	Ann V Saji	25
John D. Isaac	12	Merilyn S. Varghese	26
Ammukutty Nainan	12	Ronish Raju Varghese	26
Michael Mathew	12	Saramma Thomas	27
Jerry J. George	12	Saramma Mathunny	27
Ashley Sarah Jacob	13	Rahelamma Thomas	27
Thomas Philip	13	Jerin P Jose	27
Jeron Chacko	13	Lincy George	28
Joshua Sajan	14	John P George	28
Varghese Daniel	15	Steven G. Thomas	28
Suja Thomas	15	Romy T. Rajan	28
Alan Eapen Alexander	15	Susan Philip	28
		Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Mar: 1st, 2015	

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR FEBRUARY

A Very Happy Wedding Anniversary to all.

Podamma & Baby Philipose	4	Valsa & Abraham T. Abraham	19
Shiji & Vinu Abraham	4	Lizamma & Abraham Thomas	19
Susan & Joseph P. John	6	Elsamma & Abraham Thomas	21
Mary & James Kutty	7	Mini & Anil T. Andrews	22
Annie & Titus Cherian	8	Leyamma & Philip Thomas	22
Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Feb: 8th, 2015		Suja & Varghese Chacko	22
Raji & Binu Thomas	10	Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Feb: 22nd, 2015	
Susamma & K. G. Alexander	11	Kitty & Alexander Achenkutty	24
Annamma & John Mathews	12	Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Mar: 1st, 2015	
Leelamma & T. T. Koshy	13		
Soma & Thomas George	14		
Offer prayer and thanksgiving on Feb: 15th, 2015			
Anitha & Thomas M. Thomas	16		
Sosamma & Jacob Varghese	16		
Mariamamma & T. V. John	17		

CONDOLENCES.

On behalf of the St. John's MTC, we express our sincere condolences to Mr. M. Thomas and family of Floral park area Prayer group and Mr. Zachariah Mathai and family of New Hyde Pk West area Prayer group on the demise of their Mother Mrs. Rachel Mathai.

On behalf of the St. John's MTC, we express our sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Shibu Mathew, of Eastern Long Island area prayer, on the demise of Mrs. Mariamma Mathunni, Grand Mother of Mrs. Manju Shibu Mathew.

On behalf of the St. John's MTC we express our deepest condolences to Mr. Thomas K. Thomas and family of New Hyde Pk West Prayer group on the demise of Mr. Jijo Maliakel brother of Mrs. Jessy Thomas.

On behalf of the St. John's MTC, we express our sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Vinil M Thomas, of New Hyde Park West area prayer group, on the demise of Mr. P.C Mathai, Grand Father of Mrs. Marcia Vinil Thomas

On behalf of the St. John's MTC, we express our sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Joseph John, of Eastern Long Island area prayer group, on the demise of his Niece Mrs. Aleyamma Varghese.

Trustees Corner

We take this opportunity to thank all of you for the wholehearted support you gave us throughout the year 2014. Your unqualified support helped us to implement several decisions and complete works we wanted to finish for a long time. There are many more jobs to be completed and we expect your continued support to make them happen.

It is indeed a pleasure to inform you that your continued commitment and overflowing generosity has helped us embark on several new initiatives throughout the year. This year we have been able to complete several development works, which include setting up an office room in the basement, organizing a mechanical room with shelves, creating a new room for storing kitchen items, additional cabinets for organizations in the basement, installing pavement stones in the front yard etc.

Our long cherished desire to sponsor a sister parish in India has become a reality this year. We have already sent the required fund to construct a worship center at Dollars in Mumbai and we expect the construction to be complete by end of this year. To share the joy of Christmas with others, we have sent Christmas gift to 54 evangelists in Delhi Diocese and we pray that God help them to continue in their mission.

We strongly believe that clarity and transparency in financial transactions will instill confidence in the minds of our parishioners. To that end, we have been publishing contribution list at the end of every month. Another step we took was creating a Handbook that contains our customary practices and procedures of our church. This book will be published in a few weeks and we expect this to give a clear guidance to all church members, especially those who will be taking leadership roles in our parish.

Once again thank you for your generosity and please help us to make things happen for the betterment of our church as we start our second year together especially when we celebrate our Silver Jubilee.

Happy New Year

Sincerely,

Philip Thomas (Trustee) & Sanu Mathew (Accountant)

St. John's MTC Silver Jubilee Committee 2015

Gen: Cnvr. Mr. C.V Simonkutty
Pgm Cnvr. Mr. Thomas M. George

Mr. Abraham George
Mr. John Thomas
Mr. Schawn Zachariah
Mrs. Mercy Thomas
Mr. Binu Daniel.

Fnce Cvr: Mr. Roy C. Thomas

Mr. Sabu Lukose
Mr. George Thomas.
Mr. Benjamin George
Mr. Suresh John
Mr. Melvin John

Pjt Cnvr: Mr. Mathew P. George
Mr. John Varkey

Mr. Abraham Thomas
Mr. Mathew Thomas
Mrs. Sosamma Idchandi
Ms. Catherine Philip
Svr/Directory/Pblicity Cvr
Mr. George Eapen
Mr. Biju Chacko
Mr. Thomas Mathew
Mr. E.V Philip
Mr. Sam George
Mr. Bently Joseph

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	516-450-7301	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	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

“ Arise, Shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Isaiah: 60: 1-2



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