

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 2016

VOLUME: XXVI ISSUE: 12

www.stjohnsmtcny.org

Vicar: Rev. Issac P.Kurien vicar4stjohns@gmail.com

If undeliverable, please return to:

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

*"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are
small among the clans of Judah, out of you will
come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
Micah 5:2*



FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

OFFICE BEARERS / BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2016		
Vicar / President	Rev. Issac P. Kurien Church — 718-468-4141	718-465-2358 (Par.) © 516-445-8552
Vice President	Mr. Mathew P. George	516-742-3686
Secretary	Mr. Zachariah Mathai (Aji)	917-208-1714 secretary4stjohns@gmail.com
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Choir	Mr. Samuel Thomas	516-216-5051
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Senior Citizens	Mr. C. V. Simonkutty	516-742-3520
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Young Families	Mr. Melvin John	718-343-0002
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Shawn Zachariah	516-328-8791
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Jinu Zacharia	516-974-9980
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Bellerose	Mr. Munna V. Sam	718-343-5036
Eastern Long Island	Mr. Varghese Chacko	516-433-3870
Elmont / West Hemp.	Mr. K. Idichandi	516-437-8562
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Garden City Park	Mrs. Annamma Mathews	516-747-5473
New Hyde Park East	Mr. John Thomas	516-352-3054
New Hyde Park West	Mr. Stanley Pappachan	516-352-0810
Palli Bhagom	Mr. T. M. Thomas	718-217-1740
Auditors:		
	Mr. Bob Abraham	516-603-3898
	Mr. Varughese P. Abraham	917-482-0799
Youth Chaplain:	Rev. Shibi Abraham	516-437-0425

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS			
Superintendent: Johnson Philip — H-516-739-3744; C-516343-4036			
Nursery		Juniors, Grade 6	
Christine Thomas	516-216-5051	Laila George	631-462-1648
Dana Philip	718-465-3952	Sherry John	718-614-3731
Kindergarten		Junior High, Grade 7	
Sharon Varughese	516-974-4823	Teena Mathew	516-488-2629
Denson George	516-474-9716	Cyril Abraham	516-777-0791
Aji Thomas		516-741-0465	
Primary Juniors, GR. 1		Junior High, Grade 8	
Ginsey George	631-265-5730	Sherly Ninan	516-488-2574
Joash Mathew	516-450-7301	Sunitha Chacko	917-699-4451
Primary Juniors, GR. 2		Seniors, Grade 9	
Austin Sanu	646-670-1190	Mercy Babu	516-538-2833
Devin Thomas	516-974-3130	Anchi Mathews	718-347-3488
Primary Juniors, GR. 3		Seniors, Grade 10	
Rachel Philip	516-326-2629	Santhosh George	516-298-0901
Jerrel Abraham	516-492-5117	Swithin Titus	718-217-0463
Joel Thomas		516-640-7949	
Primary Juniors, GR. 4		Senior High, Grade 11	
Rachel George	718-468-1224	Mathew P. George	516-742-3686
Rena Titus	201-370-6697	Charles Abraham	718-551-1779
Primary Juniors, GR. 5		Senior High, Grade 12	
Joann Johnson	516-739-3744	Philip Varghese	718-347-2709
Stacey Mathew	516-616-9446	Binu Chacko	347-262-8211
CHURCH FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TEAM			
Mr. Mathew Thomas Cvr	917-539-1652		
Mr. Bob Abraham	516-603-3898	AUDIO/ VIDEO SYSTEMS TEAM	
Mr. Binu Eapen	516-519-8017	Mr. Bob Abraham (516) 603-3898	
Mr. K. Idichandy	516-437-8562	Mr. Sam George (516) 581-6128	
Mr. Saji Thomas	646-591-8465	Mr. Munna V. Sam (718)343-5036	
Mr. Abraham K. Varughese	516-358-3669	Mr. Shawn Zachariah (516)3057287	
PARSONAGE RENOVATION COMMITTEE			
Convener: Mr. Sabu Lukose 516-902-4300			
Mr. Thomas M. George	631-462-1648	Mr. John Mathews	516-747-5473
Mr. K. Idichandy	516-437-8562	Mr. Chacko Thomas	718-776-8103
Mr. Roy C. Thomas	718-347-0346	Mr. John T. Varkey	516-233-1128

HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES TO...

1. Lizzykutty & Abraham C. Abraham 8
2. Sosamma & Rajan A. Thuthiel 9
3. Soosamma & Varughese P. Abraham 10
4. Anna & Anil Thomas 11

**Offer prayer and thanksgiving
on December 11**

5. Jessy & Manoj Mathai 14
6. Rosamma & Abraham C. Thomas 17

**Offer prayer and thanksgiving
on December 18**

7. Meena & John Oommen 26
8. Annamma & Mathai M. Mathew 28
9. Mary & Thayil George M. 28
10. Nisa & Cherish P. James 31
11. Aparna & Santhosh K. Philip 31
12. Sheena & Shinoth T. Mathew 31

**Offer prayer and thanksgiving
on January 1(Midnight Mass)**

Happy Anniversary

Dates to remember

Parish Day - December 4

Suggested offertory of one day of household income

Christmas Eve Carol Service

December 24 at 6 pm at Church

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I praise God almighty for enabling me to address you through this newsletter. By the grace of God we are reaching the end of a financial Year. Let us remember the ways that the Lord Almighty have guided us in the last one year. God has blessed us in several ways. He has strengthened us when were weak in body & spirit. As a parish, we could walk step by step with our Lord all throughout the year. Let us praise God for strengthening us as a parish.

The angels are singing and bells are ringing because the Christ is born. The advent season reminds us of the grace of God, that he loves the world, and the manifestation of that love is revealed through the birth of the Son of God. Jesus is the reason for the season. May the reason be a reality in our Christmas celebrations. Let us spread the Good News that our Saviour is born in our hearts. Wish you a Merry Christmas.

As we are approaching the dusk of this year, let us thank almighty for adding one more year in our life. It is not because of our merit but only the grace of God that we have reached so far. Let us submit our lives before God and enter a New Year holding the hands of God. I pray that the New Year may be a blessed one for all of us and especially for the parish. Enter the year with a new resolution. May the God bless each one of us.

With prayers

Rev. Issac P Kurien

YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Dearly Beloved Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
"...My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.."
 "Luke 1:46-48

I always admired the faith and obedience of Mary as she accepted the will of God. Despite the fact that she knew that there would be problems, she happily accepted the role and mission that God gave her. Even though she knew that the mission would be very difficult for her, she considered it a great blessing. She was willing to offer her body as an offering to the Lord, knowing that God would use her for His Glory.

This is a challenge to all of us. During the Christmas season we are all concerned with getting gifts for family members and friends. How many of us even consider getting a gift for God to show our love for Him? So what is it that the Lord wants from us???? Hosea 6:6 - For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

The Lord wants us to have steadfast love toward Him and all the people and creatures around us. This love is not to be shown just on Christmas, but it has to be shown the entire year. Without such love, our prayers, our songs, and our worship have no meaning. During the time of the prophet Amos, the people did not have a steadfast love for God or for the people around them. So God commanded Amos to say: Amos 5:21 - 24 - I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.


For our songs, prayers, and worship to have meaning we need to love! We need to have a steadfast love. This love has to be demonstrated. Jesus spent his entire ministry trying to bring justice and salvation into this world. He helped those who could not help themselves, and He also gave His body as a sacrifice to God. Jesus willingly sacrificed his body to do the will of God.

Like Jesus and Mary, let us love God and those around us. Let us be willing to sacrifice things, including our own bodies to do the will of God. Let us work to establish justice and bring salvation into this world.

I and my family would like to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the good Lord look with favor on you, as He looked with favor on Mary.

Yours in Christ's Service,
 Rev. Shibi Abraham

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO.....

1. Sosamma Mathew	1	41. Jaime Jose	19
2. Shantamma Jacob	1	42. Selin Mathew	19
3. Mathew T. Philip	1	43. Katherine Philip	20
4. Jerry Thomas	3	44. Johnson P. Philip	21
5. Mary Samuel	3	45. Renju Varghese	22
6. Deepak Daniel David	4	46. Chrisen Aleyas Bijoy	22
7. Sony Jacob	4	47. Stella Susan Mathew	23
Offer prayer and thanksgiving on December 4		48. M. E. Alexander	24
8. Kunjumol Thampy	5	49. Cyril K. Thomas	24
9. Jacob T. Joseph	5	50. Jocelyn Lisa Johnson	24
10. Varughese P. Abraham	5	51. Samuel Thomas	25
11. Remi Saji	7	52. Marilyn J. Thomas	25
12. Christine Cherian	7	53. Chrismal B. Abraham	25
13. Issac (Rev) P Kurien	7	54. Mariamma Thomas	25
14. Manuel M. Varughese	8	Offer prayer and thanksgiving on December 25	
15. Mercy Thomas	8	55. Mariamma Thankachan	26
16. M. O. Thomas	8	56. Aleyamma Mathai	27
17. Roshini Cherian	8	57. Shanu George	27
18. Mariamma Abraham	9	58. Arlin Susan Thomas	28
19. Binu M. Kurien	10	59. Seena M. Mathunny	28
20. Pappachan Mathai	11	60. Anchamma Mathews	29
21. Koshy John	11	61. Marvin Gill	29
22. Bently T. Joseph	11	62. Jaisy Mathew	29
Offer prayer and thanksgiving on December 11		63. Alvin Frances	30
23. Omana Mathai	12	64. Mini John Jacob	31
24. Adam Kachanathu Philip	12	Offer prayer and thanksgiving on January 1; Midnight Mass	
25. Christopher Thomas	12		
26. Melini Abraham	12		
27. Justin Joy	12		
28. Kaitlin George	14		
29. Shawn M. Zachariah	14		
30. Dhilan Robin Abraham	15		
31. Binitha K. Varughese	16		
32. Aleyamma Cherian	16		
33. Sam George	17		
34. Vinu Abraham	17		
35. Sherin Robin	18		
36. Stacy John	18		
37. Eric Gill	18		
Offer prayer and thanksgiving on December 18			
38. Reni Thomas	19		
39. Joel P. Mathew	19		
40. Jerrin V. Chacko	19		



Christmas Caroling Schedule—2016

Following is a rough schedule of the House to House Caroling visits. Please watch your mailbox for the definitive date. In case of any special requests or unavailability please inform the Vicar, Secretary or the caroling team at least the Wednesday before the scheduled visit.

Dec. 2, 6 pm	Eastern Long Island (except East Meadow, Hicksville, Levittown)
Dec. 3, 4 pm	New Hyde Park West (all homes south of Hillside, west of Marcus Blvd, east of McKee Street)
Dec. 4, 4 pm	Elmont & West Hempstead Prayer Group
Dec. 9, 6 pm	Eastern Long Island (East Meadow, Hicksville, Levittown)
Dec. 10, 4 pm	Floral Park & Glen Oaks (all homes north of Hillside, east of Little Neck Pkwy, west of Lakeville Road)
Dec. 11, 4 pm	New Hyde Park East (all homes north of Hillside Avenue, east of Lakeville Road, west of Willis Avenue)
Dec. 16, 6 pm	Bellerose Prayer Group
Dec. 17, 4 pm	Palli Bhagom Prayer Group
Dec. 18, 4 pm	Garden City Park (all homes south of Hillside, west of Willis Avenue, east of

Caroling Coordinators: Zachariah Mathai- 917-208-1714, Jinu Zachariah- 516-974-9980; Saji Thomas- 516-775-1512, Mathew Thomas- 718-343-1054

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

December 4 – Holy Communion Service; Malayalam, 9:00 AM

Parish Day; Offertory – One Day of Household Income

Praise & Worship by Sunday School

Sermon: Cifin Sajan **Prayer:** Nefia Chacko

1st Lesson: 1 King 19:1-21 Chacko Zachariah

2nd Lesson: Rev. 10:1-11 Sosamma Thomas

Lay Assistant: Titus George

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

December 11 – Holy Communion Service; English, 9:00 AM

Praise & Worship by Sunday School

Sermon: Robin Varghese **Prayer:** Alisha Andrews

1st Lesson: Isa. 7:10-17 Akhil Mathew

2nd Lesson: 1Peter 3:8-16 Rena Titus

Lay Assistant: Swithin Titus

Epistle: Titus 2:1-15 **Gospel:** St. Mat. 1:18-23

December 18 - Holy Communion Service; Malayalam, 9:00 AM

Praise & Worship by Sunday School

Sermon: Jency Mathew **Prayer:** Joewin James

1st Lesson: Isa. 11:1-10 Thomas Mathew

2nd Lesson: 1John 4:7-21 Susamma Mathew

Lay Assistant: George P. Cherian

Epistle: Rom. 1:8-17 **Gospel:** St. John 1:1-14

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service; 6:00 PM

December 25 - Holy Communion Service; English, 8:00 AM

Praise & Worship by Youth Fellowship

Sermon: Chris Babu **Prayer:** Jerryl Abraham

1st Lesson: Isa. 9:1-7 Kurien P. Issac

2nd Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-14 Debi Philip

Lay Assistant: Arun John

Epistle: 2 Tim. 2:8-13 **Gospel:** St. Luke 2:1-20

Dec. 31/Jan. 1 - Holy Communion Service; Malayalam, 10:30 PM

1st Lesson: Isa. 9:1-7 **2nd Lesson:** Hebrews 1:1-14

Epistle: 2 Tim. 2:8-13 **Gospel:** St. Luke 2:1-20

PRAYER GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

Bellerose 1st Saturday
Eastern Long Island 4th Saturday

Elmont & West Hempstead 2nd Sunday
Floral Park & Glen Oaks 3rd Sunday

Garden City Park 1st Sunday
New Hyde Park East 2nd Saturday

New Hyde Park West 4th Sunday
Palli Bhagom 3rd Saturday

No are prayer meetings in December due to House Caroling

CHOIR PRACTICES

Malayalam: Every Sunday after service unless announced otherwise

EDAVAKA MISSION PRAYER MEETINGS

Prayer Meetings every Friday at 7:30 PM

No prayer meeting in December due to House Caroling

SEVIKA SANGHOM PRAYER MEETINGS

December 7 (Wednesday) Trip to Radio City Music Hall

December 15, 10 AM (Thursday) Rachel Philip, 31 Peter Street Elmont 516-326-2629

December 21, 10 AM (Wednesday) Sosamma Thomas, 82-18 255 Street, Floral Park 718-343-7663

December 29, 10 am (Thursday) Mariamma Zachariah, 519 N. First Street, New Hyde Park 516-328-8791

Other Programs:

Dec. 7- Radio City Music Hall Trip

ALTAR BOYS AND COVENANT GIRLS ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Altar	Offertory & Kiss of Peace
12/4	Calvin Sam Abilene T. Anil	Calvin Sam, Abilene T. Anil Reena Mathew, Stefie Thomas
12/11	Cifin Sajan Alvin Lukose	Cifin Sajan, Alvin Lukose Safia Thomas, Samantha Thomas
12/18	Abilene T. Anil Chrisen Elias Bijoy	Abilene T. Anil, Chrisen Elias Bijoy Reena Mathew, Safia Thomas
12/25	Cifin Sajan Calvin Sam	Cifin Sajan, Calvin Sam Stefie Thomas, Samantha Thomas

SENIOR CITIZENS FELLOWSHIP

No Prayer Meeting in December

Health & Recreational Program

Every Wednesday at the church at 6 pm

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

No Cottage Meeting in December

YOUNG FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP

To be announced

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Dec. 2, 6 pm YF Meeting Church

Nov. 16, 6 pm YF Meeting Church

THANK YOU

New Hyde Park West area prayer group and Mr. Stanley Pappachan for assisting with the church services and for preparing coffee for the social time during the month of November.

Palli Bhagom area prayer group will assist in the church services and social hour during the month of December