

Happy Easter

St. Thomas

Mar Thoma Church, NY

34 Morris Street, Yonkers, NY 10705

April



2012

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NEWSLETTER VOL. XXXII NO. 4

Worship Service Schedule

Date	Time	Worship
Sun, April 1	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Class Holy Communion Service, Malayalam (Palm Sunday)
Thu, April 5	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service, Malayalam
Fri, April 6	9:30am	Good Friday Service, Malayalam, English, Malayalam
Sun, April 8	9:30 am 10:30 am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service, English
Sun, April 15	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Intercessory Prayer Holy Communion Service, Malayalam
Sun, April 22	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Class Holy Communion Service, English
Sun, April 29	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Class Divine Service, Malayalam

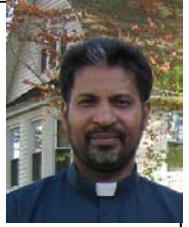
Lectionary

Date	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle	Gospel
Sun, April 1	Zech. 9:9-12	Heb. 5:1-10	Eph. 1:3-10	St. Mark. 11:1-11
Thu., April 5	Exo. 12:1-17	Heb. 9:1-15	1 Cor. 11:23-34	St. Mat. 26:31-46
Fri, April 6	Refer to Page 6	Refer to Page 6	Refer to Page 6	Refer to Page 6
Sun, April 8	2 Kings. 4: 27-37	1 Cor. 15: 1-20	Col. 3:1-11	St. Luke. 24:1-12
Sun, April 15	Job. 42:1-5	Acts. 9: 1-18	Jude. 17-21	St. John. 20:19-29
Sun, April 22	Exo. 16:29-36	2 John. 1-8	1 Cor. 10:14-21	St. Luke. 24:13-25
Sun, April 29	1 Kings. 19: 1-16	Rev. 2: 1-7	Phile. 8-18	St. John. 21: 15-19

Important Days In Sabha/Diocesan Calendar

Date	Importance of the Day
April 1, Sun	Hosanna– Messiah the Prince of Peace (Theological Seminary day)
April 2, Mon	Passion Week (Hasa)
April 3, Tue	Passion Week
April 4, Wed	Passion Week
April 5, Thu.	Passover Thursday - Holy Qurbana: Remembrance of Salvation
April 6, Fri	Good Friday - Salvation through Christ
April 7, Sat	Holy Saturday
April 8, Sun	Easter Sunday - Resurrection: Festival of Hope
April 15, Sun	New Sunday - The Faith that we have to Confess (First Sunday after Easter)
April 22, Sun	Lord who reveals through the Word and Breaking of the Bread (2nd Sunday after Easter)
April 29, Sun	Restoring and Commissioning (3rd Sunday after Easter)

~Vicar's Message~



Dearly Beloved in Christ,

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (Col.3: 1-3)

Easter declares God's ultimate victory over the power of death and destruction, the ultimate power over disillusionment and darkness. We are an Easter community.

The Easter Community is a community of faith, a faith that shares hope in the midst of hopelessness and life in circumstances of death. Easter defines our identity and character in this world. We who rest our faith in Christ's resurrection know that death does not have the last word. We place our faith beyond this realm. We draw our lives, our identities from Christ on the other side of death.

The Easter community is a community of Hope – a hope that transcends all the life negating forces of the present. Our hope will be meaningless and irrelevant unless that hope has the power to transform the present.

In Ezekiel 37, there is a vivid depiction of the agonizing experience of the pot exilic Israelite community. There the situation of the people is compared to dry bones, without any hope and with no future. Then came the word of the Lord, enlivening and empowering word. “I, the Lord God am going to open their graves... I will put my breath in them, bring them back to life, and let them live in their own land. (Vs.13-14)

The Easter community is a witnessing community, a community of distinct identity and message. For the followers of Jesus the beginning point of Christian proclamation was the Easter event. Let us also reflect Jesus through our life that the world may behold the glory of the resurrected Christ.

The lent prayers at different houses were a great blessing to our parish and a meaningful time to reflect and meditate. Indeed, it was a time for introspection, repentance and rededication of our life that gave a fillip and enabled a leap in our spiritual journey. I thank all of you who have hosted and actively participated in those prayer meetings.

Our beloved Biju P Simon achen is transferring this month to take up his new assignment in Chicago. I will remember him with gratitude towards his invaluable contributions and relentless efforts in this Region, especially the spiritual leadership and fellowship given to our parish by influencing and molding our youths with Christian values in line with the ethos of the church. Let us continually pray for Biju achen and family that they may be more effective instruments in the hands of the Lord.

Prayerful regards and best wishes!

Rev. Joseph Johnny

Youth Chaplain's Corner - April 2012

Greetings to you in the name of One Triune God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This proclamation is an ancient statement of faith of the Christian faith community. The joy of resurrection assures the faithful of three unique aspects of faith: One, Christ defeated the power of death, two, God in Christ Jesus offers us eternal life, and third God in Christ Jesus empowers the Church, which is the body of Christ, for witnessing/ missions.

On a different note, this is the final newsletter message I am writing as Youth Chaplain in the North East Region. As we read in Psalm 116, "what shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I shall lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord." I have so many things to be thankful to God in my ministry in NY as Youth Chaplain. Youth Fellowships in our region are lively and partaking in the ministry of the church. Many of our paths crossed in terms of house visits, hospital visits, church fellowship hall conversations, weddings, funerals, and above all at the Lord's Table through Holy Qurbana; we were able to connect and have great fellowship in strengthening bond in Christ Jesus.

The Mar Thoma Church community in NY is a blessed community in terms of the presence of our members, church buildings, priests, bishop and a long history of existence among the plethora of immigrant Christian communities from India that is settled in North America. If our church needs to continuously keep up with the reforming spirit, we need to adopt a contextual ministry that is relevant in our churches, especially an intentional effort to get our younger generation more involved and giving them space to take leadership roles in the local parishes. The multi-generational, multi-linguistic, and multi-cultural aspect of our church is an asset for our witnessing in North America. We as a faith community need to go a long way and let us seek God's guidance and providence in this journey. May God bless you all. Please continue to keep our family and ministry in your prayers. Kindly continue to pray for and support our next Youth Chaplain and his ministry in NY.

With prayerful regards,

Biju P. Simon Achen

Youth Chaplain's April 2012 Schedule:

1st Sunday Staten Island MTC

2nd Sunday Long Island MTC

3rd Sunday St. John's MTC

4th Sunday St. Thomas MTC

5th Sunday Epiphany MTC

*Individual parish Youth Fellowship Bible studies throughout the month

Weekly Bible Study:

When: Every Thursday

Time: 8:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M

Where: Youth Chaplain's Parsonage- 194 Bregman Ave, New Hyde Park, NY, 11040

Contact: 516-437-0425/516- 532-6115 or bsimonachen@gmail.com

Regional Event:

Spring One- Day Conference

When: April 7, 2012: **Where:** St. John's Mar Thoma Church, Queens Village, NY

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Registration Begins @ 8:30 AM - \$10



Area Prayer Meetings

Area	Date & Time	Location
Yonkers South/ Bronx	Sun, Apr 1 6:30pm	Mr. P. M. Varghese Yonkers, NY
Manhattan/New Jersey	Sat, Apr 7 6:30pm	Mr. Jacob M. Varghese Bergenfield, NJ
Upper West- chester/CT	TBA	
Queens/Long Island	TBA	
Rockland	Sun, Apr 15 6:30pm	Mr. Raju V. Joseph Nanuet, NY
Yonkers East (Central Ave)	Sat, Apr 21 7:00pm	Mr. Thomas V. Varghese White Plains, NY
Yonkers North (Broadway)	Sun, Apr 22, 6:30 pm	Mr. Mathunni Eapen Yonkers, NY
Yonkers West (Church- Riverdale)	Sat, Apr 28, 6:30pm	Mr. John A. Thomas Yonkers, NY

MONTHLY FASTING PRAYER

Event	Date & Time	Location
Fasting Prayer	Sat, Apr 21, 10:00am	Mr. Y. Varghese Yonkers, NY

Passion Week

Service Schedule

- Palm Sunday** - Holy Communion (Malayalam)
Sunday, April 1, 10:30 am
- Sandhya Namskaram (Vespers)** - Revival & Renewal Meetings
Mon-Wed April 2nd, 3th, & 4th , 7:00 pm
- Maundy Thursday** - Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
Thursday, April 5th, 7:00 pm
- Good Friday** - 9:30 am Service
- First Service (Malayalam)**
1st Lesson : Isa 53: 1-12
2nd Lesson 1 Pet 1:1-25
Gospel St. Mat. 26:47-75
- Second Service (English)**
1st Lesson: Zech 13:1-9
2nd Lesson: Gal 3:1-22
Gospel Mathew 27:1-44
- Third Service (Malayalam)**
1st Lesson: Num 21:1-9
2nd Lesson: Heb 3:1-19
Gospel: St. Mat. 27:45-56
- Easter Sunday** - Holy Communion (English)
Sunday, April 8th, 10:00 am

Organizational Meetings

Edavaka Mission

Prayer Meeting at Church on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM from 4/12/12

Sunday School

Sunday School starts at 9:00 am

Sevika Sangham

Bible Study - 3rd Sunday at Church
Friday Prayer Meeting

Sevika Sanghom	Date & Time	Location
Friday Prayer	Fri, Apr 13, 10:00 am	Mrs. Sosamma Abraham Spring Valley, NY
Friday Prayer	Fri, Apr 20, 10:00 am	Mrs. Mary Varghese Yonkers, NY
Friday Prayer	Fri, Apr 27, 10:00 am	Mrs. Kunjamma Yohannan Yonkers, NY

Young Family Fellowship

Event	Date & Time	Location
Fellowship Meeting	TBA	TBA

Youth Fellowship

Event	Date & Time	Location
Weekly Meeting	Every Sunday After service	Held in the Chapel
Bible Study	TBA	Will be announced or e-mailed each week
Spring One-Day Conference	Sat, April 7	St. John's MTC, Queens Village, NY Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Registration Begins @ 8:30 AM - \$10

Parish Refreshment Calendar for **2012-2013**

**Food Committee Conveners – Mr. Thomas P. John
Mr. Biju P. Varughese**

All who are interested in donating refreshments must notify the Food Committee Conveners first.

Every Month Prayer Group or Organization groups are responsible for arranging refreshments for each Sundays.

March 2012: Young Families

April 2012: Yuvajana Sakhyam

May 2012: Queens/ Long Island

June 2012: Yonkers North

July 2012: Upper Westchester/NJ

August 2012: Yonkers West

September 2012: Yonkers South/Bronx

October 2012: Yonkers East

November 2012: Rockland

December 2012: Manhattan/NJ

January 2013: Sevika Sanghom

February 2013: Edavaka Mission

Birth Announcement:

Jenna Grace George, born to parents Sherry and Sofi George. Congratulation to the proud parents and grandparents.

Selah Ann Simon, born to parents Shinu and Listy Simon. Congratulation to the proud parents and grandparents.

Condolences:

Mrs. A. C. Ammukutty, who is the mother of our member, Mr. Jacob M. Varghese, from NJ, was called to our Lord on March 5, 2012 in Bangalore, India at the age of 70. Funeral services were held in Bangalore. Please uphold the grieving families in your daily prayers.

The mother of our member, Mr. Abraham T. Kuruvilla, from Long Island, Mrs. Aleyamma George was called to our Lord in Kerala, at the age of 96. Funeral service was held at the Mar Thoma Church, Varikadu. Please keep the grieving families in your daily prayers.

We as a parish extend our deepest condolences to the bereaving family and friends. May the peace of Christ bring them comfort during this difficult time.

“But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children’s children - with those who keep His covenant and remember to obey His precepts.”

— *Psalm 103:17-18*

Address Change

Mr. John K. Mathew & Family
Somerset, NJ

Mr. Rajan Varghese & Family
Glen Oaks, NY

Mr. Idiculla Daniel & Family
Yonkers, NY

New Members

Mr. Simon Ninan & Family
Mickleton, NJ

Mr. Sam Kuruvilla & Family
Ardsley, NY 10502

We welcome you all to our parish.

*Love is patient. Love is kind.
It does not envy. It does not boast.
It is not proud. It is not rude.
It is not self-seeking.
It is not easily angered.
It keeps no record of wrong doing.
It does not delight in evil,
but rejoices in the truth.
It always protects, trusts,
hopes, perseveres.*

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Parish Events and Conveners for 2012

Food Committee – Mr. John K. Abraham

Mr. Mathew John

Parish Convention – Mr. K. G. Varghese

Tentative Dates: August end or 1st Week in September

Graduation Recognition Day – Mr. Litten Thomas

Tentative Date: July 1st, 2012

Senior Citizen Day – Mr. M. C. Chacko

Tentative Date: Sunday in September

Parish Retreat – Mr. T. P. Jacob

Tentative dates: End of September

Parish Picnic - Mr. Mathew Varghese

Mr. Sunny P. Ninan

Tentative: Last Saturday of July or First Saturday of August 2012

Ushers – Mr. Johnson P. Chacko

Mr. Yohannan Yohannan

Sound System – Mr. John C. Thomas

Thanksgiving – Mr. Kochummen Geevarghese

Christmas House Caroling – Mr. Josen Joseph

Christmas Carol Service – Mr. John Abraham

Parish Day (2013) – Mr. Ullas P. Thannickal

To be held on the 4th Sunday in January 2013

Sunday, January 27th, 2013