

St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, NY

34 Morris Street, Yonkers, NY 10705

<http://www.stthomasmtc.org>

December



2012

Secretary:

Ullas P. Thannickal

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Vicar / President:

Rev Joseph Johnny

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Merry Christmas

*"And she will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is
He who will save His people from their sins"*

Matthew 1:21

NEWSLETTER VOL. XXXII NO. 12

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

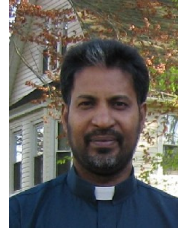
Date	Time	Worship
Sun, Dec 2	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Class Holy Communion Service, English
Sun, Dec 9	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Intercessory Prayer Holy Communion Service, English
Sun, Dec 16	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Class Holy Communion Service, Malayalam
Sun, Dec 23	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Class Holy Communion Service, Malayalam
Mon, Dec 24	6:30pm	Christmas Eve Program
Tue, Dec 25	10:00am	Holy Communion Service, English
Sun, Dec 30	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Class Divine Service, Malayalam
Mon, Dec 31	9:00pm	Watch Night Service (Malayalam) Holy Communion Service, (Malayalam)

MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH OF MALABAR LECTIONARY CHRISTIAN YEAR — 2012 DECEMBER

Date	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle	Gospel
Sun, Dec 2	Gen. 18:1-16	1 John. 1:1-10	1 Tim. 3:10-17	St. Luke. 1:39-56
Sun, Dec 9	Judg. 13:2-25	Heb. 2:1-10	1 John. 5:13-20	St. Luke. 1:57-66
Sun, Dec 16	Isa. 40: 1-11	Rev. 2:12-17	Phil. 4:4-9	St. Mat. 1:18-23
Sun, Dec 23	Isa. 11:1-10	1 John. 5:1-12	Rom. 1:8-16	St. John. 1:1-14
Tue, Dec 25	Micah. 5:1-9	Col. 1:15-20	1 Tim. 1:14-17	St. Luke. 2:1-20
Sun, Dec 30	Zech. 14:1-5	Acts. 1:6-11	1 Thes. 1:14-17	St. John. 14:1-7
Mon, Dec 31	Exo. 33:12-23	Heb. 13:7-21	1 Pet. 5:6-11	St. Luke. 12:22-34

Date	Importance of the Day
Sat, Dec 1	Beginning of 25 Days Lent
Sun, Dec 2	Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth- 'Bearers of Good News'
Sun, Dec 9	Birth of John the Baptist
Sun, Dec 16	Annunciation to Joseph
Fri, Dec 21	Mar Thoma Church Day
Sun, Dec 23	The Mystery of Holy Incarnation.
Tue, Dec 25	Yaldo - Feast of Nativity. Birth of Our Savior (End of 25 days Lent)
Sun, Dec 30	Our Lord who is coming again
Sat, Dec 31	Year Ending - Watch Night Service). God who is always with us

~Vicar's Message~



Dearly beloved in Christ,

Once again we are at the threshold of a Christmas. The world to which the Son of God came was convulsed with problems and difficulties. But the coming of the messiah brought home great hope and immense joy of salvation.

The world in which we are today is going through untold miseries and problems. The situation in the Middle East is very much volatile, discouraging and bleak. The bloody conflict between the Hamas and Israel caused many innocent lives, endangering the entire region and a critical treat to the world peace. It is true that Israel has right to defend itself against attacks from its foes, the violent fighting and brutal killing of innocent Palestinians is not the solution.

Back home, here in New York, even though the hurricane Sandy had passed, we are still to recover from the devastating damage it caused. Many lost the life of their dear ones, hundreds of thousands of people became homeless overnight and millions of people had gone through painful and traumatic experiences. We have witnessed human helplessness and the futility of man's power and might. Though it is difficult for us to find a conclusive reason for such calamities, we cannot rule out the argument that the environmental pollution and the human exploitation of the nature behind these incidents. We believe in a creator God who controls and reigns over everything in this universe. We believe that the same God has given us humans a great responsibility to tend and take care of the nature and preserve it for future generations as well.

As a parish, we have been able to experience God's providence and help, especially during these difficult times. Many of our members lost power, but when we compare the miseries of our fellow beings, ours is nothing. Let us humble ourselves and commit our lives for the Kingdom of God by extending our helping hands to those in need.

Over against all such odds, let us affirm together, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Ever lasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) Even though, child symbolizes helplessness, it is a powerful icon of hope for the future. Incarnation is God's answer in love for human agonies and anxieties; it is God's light enlightening those living in darkness and liberation to those who are under the bondage of sin, poverty and injustice. The message of Christmas is God entering human space to engage and confront human limitations thereby to find solution and remedy to the problems that engulf this world.

Yes, Christmas brings home the message of hope, even in discouraging and daunting circumstances, to withstand and tide over the currents of the mighty ocean with courage and faith. God bless! Merry Christmas!!

Yours in His Service,

Rev. Joseph Johnny
Vicar

Youth Chaplain's Corner

Immanuel – God who is with us

We are once again in an advent season in which we remember and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas presents us a God who is with us – Immanuel. How is that possible for a God to be with Human beings? We see the Luke's narrative of the journey to Emmaus by the two followers of Jesus is a unique and beautiful compilation of the unique nature of Immanuel. Emmaus is not only a geographical place but also a place which was perceived as a place which gives some kind of relief from an immediate tragedy, a place for a temporal escape, a run-away place, and a place to where you can withdraw yourself. This journey begins from a despair of shattered dreams or career, from a despair of broken expectations and from a despair of loss and defeat. Here we understand Jesus' engagement with the people who are in despair and trouble

Journeying with the 'desperate'

The disciples who travelled to Emmaus were on the journey of desperation. They were arguing about what happened in Jerusalem something that they could not comprehend. They were travelling with a sad face, the sadness of bereavement, the sadness caused by perplexity and a sadness of a shattered career. Jesus was always with the people who are in desperate conditions. Jesus is portraying himself as the best model of a friend. He is a God who comes to us at the right time and at the right place when he/she needs you.

Walking (near) with the other

Jesus himself approached and began to give accompany to them. Being alone in a crowd is a common phenomenon in today's world. No one is attached or committed to anyone. We do not have somebody to walk with us today or to walk near to us but many people are around us. When we are in confusion and trouble we need somebody to walk with us walk near to us, somebody who can understand the reality and console and comfort us. That is what our relationship with God actually means, a person to be trusted, a person whom we can open up our minds, a person who can be depended in all the ways of our life.

Abiding – God's model of relationship

Evangelist Luke is trying to create a new model of relationship in which the other is also becoming a part of the divine model of relationship. Normally we create our own boundaries for our relationship, but Jesus is the one who do not have any boundaries in His relationships and Jesus expects us also to follow this model. Abiding is accepting the other as they are. Abiding is knowing and loving the other. In this relationship abiding is a spontaneous and a voluntary response. I wish and pray that this advent season inspires us to be with God who is always with the human beings. Let us all share this great relationship.

Rev. V. M. Mathew,

Youth Chaplain, New York.



CHRISTMAS HOUSE CAROLING SCHEDULE



<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Day</i></u>	<u><i>Area</i></u>
December 1	Saturday	Queens/ Long Island
December 2	Sunday	Rockland (outside spring valley)
December 8	Saturday	Rockland (spring valley)
December 9	Sunday	Yonkers South
December 14	Friday	Yonkers North
December 15	Saturday	Yonkers West
December 16	Sunday	Upper Westchester/ Connecticut
December 21	Friday	Yonkers East
December 23	Saturday	Manhattan/NJ

This year we will be visiting all the homes of our parishioners' for Christmas Caroling to spread the Good News of Christmas.

For more details please contact your Area Representative or House Caroling Convener Mr. Josen Joseph at (914) 346-8644.

Organizational Meetings

EDAVAKA MISSION

**Prayer Meeting at Church every Wednesday at 7:00 PM
except:**

Wednesday Prayer	Wed, Dec 05, 7:00 pm	Mr. Abraham Koshy Pelham, NY
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SEVIKA SANGHOM

Bible Study - 3rd Sunday at Church

Friday Prayer Meeting

Sevika Sangham	Date & Time	Location
Friday Prayer	Fri, Dec 7 10:00am	Mrs. Annamma Thomas Yonkers, NY
Friday Prayer	Fri, Dec 14 10:00am	Mrs. Sherly Vaidyan Hartsdale, NY
Friday Prayer	Fri, Dec 21 10:00am	Mrs. Shyla Varghese Yonkers, NY
Friday Prayer	Fri, Dec 28 10:00am	Mrs. Mini Jacob Yonkers, NY

MALAYALAM CHOIR

Choir Practice Every Sunday After Worship Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Schools Starts at 9:00AM

CONDOLENCES

The brother of our member, Mr. P. C. Chacko, Mr. P. C. Samuel was called to our Lord in Kerala at the age of 67 on November 19, 2012. Funeral service was held in Kaviyoor, Kerala.

Please uphold the families in your prayers.

We as a parish extend our deepest condolences and prayers to the bereaving families and friends. May the peace of Christ be with them and bring them comfort.

“I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”

Psalms 34:4

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 2012

<u>Position</u>	<u>Full Name</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>
OFFICE BEARERS		
Vicar/President	Rev. Joseph Johnny	(914) 376-6530
Vice President	Mr. John C. Thomas	(914) 494-1931
Secretary	Mr. Ullas P. Thannickal	(845) 638-8075
Treasurer	Mr. Raju P. Varughese	(845) 268-3647
Accountant	Mr. Samuel Ninan	(201) 692-0649
Lay Leader - Malayalam	Mr. John P. Varghese	(914) 939-0064
Lay Leader - English	Mr. Blessen Kurian	(845) 352-3178

AREA PRAYER GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Manhattan/NJ	Mr. Jacob M. Varghese	(201) 384-0041
Queens/LI	Mr. Kuruvilla T. Abraham	(516) 326-8461
Rockland (Spring Valley)	Mr. M. C. Chacko	(845) 356-1848
Rockland (Outside Spring Valley)	Mr. Sabu George	(845) 570-2005
Upper Westchester/CT	Mrs. Cheruthone Mathai	(203) 797-1076
Upper Westchester/CT	Mr. Geevarghese Kochummen	(914) 948-2363
Yonkers East	Mr. Johnson P. Chacko	(914) 337-5981
Yonkers North	Mr. K. C. Thomas	(914) 963-3499
Yonkers South/Bronx	Mr. Thomas P. John	(914) 965-3979
Yonkers West	Mr. Yohannan Yohannan	(914) 476-0217

MANDALAM & DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Sabha Mandalam	Mr. John K. Mathew	(732) 412-7318
Diocesan Representatives	Mr. John Abraham	(845) 634-9319
	Mr. Sunny P. Ninan	(845)634-4925

ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Choir	Mr. Josen Joseph	(914) 346-8644
Edavaka Mission	Mr. K. G. Varghese	(914) 202-7093
Sevika Sangham	Mrs. Sosamma Abraham	(845) 426-2327
Sunday School	Mr. T. P. Jacob	(516) 365-3750
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Litten Thomas	(845) 290-9962
Young Family Fellowship	Mr. Sunil M. Varughese	(845) 268-3647
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Biju P. Varughese	(845) 268-0887

AUDITORS

Mr. P. C. Chacko	(914) 934-8680
Mr. George M. Varkey	(845) 268-0812