

Happy New Year

St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, NY

34 Morris Street, Yonkers, NY 10705

<http://www.stthomasmtc.org>

January



2013

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Family
as a
sanctuary
of God

*St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church
Yonkers, NY
2013*



Blessed are those who
dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.
Psalm 84:4

NEWSLETTER VOL. XXXIII NO. 1

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Worship
Sun, Jan 6	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Study Holy Communion Service, <u>English</u>
Sun, Jan 13	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Intercessory Prayer Holy Communion Service, <u>Malayalam</u>
Sun, Jan 20	9:30am 10:30am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Bible Study Holy Communion Service, <u>Malayalam</u>
Sun, Jan 27 Parish Day Celebration	9:30 am 10:00 am	Praise & Worship (Malayalam), Holy Communion Service, <u>English</u> First Communicant service Led by our Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius

MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH OF MALABAR LECTIONARY CHRISTIAN YEAR — 2013 JANUARY

Date	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle	Gospel
Sun, Jan 6	2 Kings. 2:19-22	Acts. 19:1-7	Rom. 6:1-11	St. Mat. 3:13-17
Sun, Jan 13	Isa. 28:1-7	Eph. 5:15-21	Gal. 5:16-24	St. Mark. 5:1-19
Sun, Jan 20	Gen. 6:13-22	Jam. 5:1-11	Eph. 6:10-17	St. Mat. 5:1-11
Sun, Jan 27	Isa. 42:1-7	2 Tim. 2:1-13	1 Pet. 4:12-19	St. Luke. 14:25-33

IMPORTANT DAYS IN SABHA/DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Date	Importance of the Day
Tue, Jan 1	Circumcision of our Lord-Covenant community
Sun, Jan 6	Danha (Epiphany): Baptism of our Lord-outside Kerala Mission
Tue, Jan 8	St. Stephen's Day
Sun, Jan 13	Destruction of Body and Soul– Loosing of the Kingdom of God– Temperance Sunday
Jan 18-25	Unity Octave-Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sun, Jan 20	God of Life. Lead us into Justice and Peace– Ecumenical Sunday
Mon, Jan 21	Beginning of Nineveh Fast (Three Day Fast)
Thu, Jan 24	End of Three Day Fast
Sat, Jan 26	Faith Life and Responsible Citizenship– Indian Republican Day
Sun, Jan 27	Cost of Discipleship

~Vicar's Message~

Dearly beloved in Christ,

New Year arrives with the promise of unlimited possibilities. It brings new hope and new expectations. The past years have shown us how the Lord saved us from difficulties and how miraculously our seemingly impossible needs were fulfilled. The light of these experiences should show us the path in The New Year. May God make your New Year a happy one!

*Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes
Need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help. (Author unknown)*



Let us begin our new year, contemplating these meaningful thoughts. For the year 2013, we are proposing a theme for our study and meditation – ‘Family as a Sanctuary of God.’ Let us hope to have meaningful discussion and study on this theme and thereby pray to God to make our family God’s dwelling place.

As a parish we have been able to experience God’s mercy in our various needs and challenges. Many of our members had to face very tough and difficult experiences in their life. But let us praise God that we could place our feet on unshakable foundation with unwavering faith in God. When we lose someone we love so intimately, when our health get deteriorate, or when we are abandoned or rejected and innumerable difficulties pile up and if we sink in to depression and hopelessness, God is with us to equip us and to empower us. Ability to withstand the challenges of life is divine.

One of the powerful messages of the gospel is FEAR NOT. Because fear keeps us in the past, it is antithetical to hope. But the Gospel is anti-fear and pro-future. Jesus comes to eradicate fear, to preach hope. When we are perplexed and entangled by adversities and find it difficult to see a ray of light at the other end of the tunnel, we are not alone and that is not the end. “There is a way to solve the toughest problems we face, even those that look unsolvable. There is a path that cuts through nearly all life’s dilemmas and deep divisions. There is a way forward. It’s not your way and it’s not my way. It’s a higher way. It’s a better way than any of us have thought of before.”(Stephen Covey, The 3rd Alternative)

I wish you all a BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Yours in His Service,
Rev. Joseph Johnny
Vicar



AREA PRAYER MEETINGS

Area	Date & Time	Location
Manhattan/NJ	Sat, Jan 5, 5:00 pm	Mr. Samuel Ninan Teaneck, NJ
Yonkers East (Central Ave)	Sat, Jan 5 6:30pm	Mr. Shaji Varghese Yonkers, NY
Yonkers South (McLean Ave) / Bronx	Sun, Jan 6 6:30pm	Mrs. Accamma Verghese Yonkers, NY
Rockland	Sun, Jan 6, 6:30pm	Mr. M. C. Chacko Spring Valley, NY
Upper Westchester / CT	Sat, Jan 12, 6:30pm	Niresh Oomen New Rochelle, NY
Queens / Long Island	Sun, Jan 13, 6:30pm	Mr. Rajan Varghese Glen Oaks, NY
Rockland	Sun, Jan 20 6:30pm	Mr. Mathew Varghese Valley Cottage, NY
Yonkers West (Church- Riverdale)	Sat, Jan 26, 6:30pm	Mr. Mathew Varghese Yonkers, NY
Yonkers North (Broadway)	Sun, Jan 27, 6:30pm	Mr. Pradeep Kuruvilla Yonkers, NY

Youth Fellowship **Dedication Night**

Date: January 1, 2012

Time: 5:30pm

Venue: At Church

Bring your friends & family.

Organizational Meetings

EDAVAKA MISSION

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

Edavaka Mission	Date & Time	Location
Wednesday prayer	Wed, Jan 2, 7:00 pm	Mr. Abraham Koshy Pelham, NY
Wednesday prayer	Wed, Jan 09, 7:00 pm	Mr. Jacob Vaidian Yonkers, NY

SEVIKA SANGHAM

**Bible Study - 3rd Sunday at Church
Friday Prayer Meeting**

Sevika Sangham	Date & Time	Location
Friday Prayer	Fri, Jan 4, 10:00 am	At Church
Friday Prayer	Fri, Jan 11, 10:00am	Mrs. Jessy Kuruvilla Ardsley, NY
Friday Prayer	Fri, Jan 18, 10:00 am	Mrs. Mary Varghese Yonkers, NY
Friday Prayer	Fri, Jan 25, 10:00 am	Mrs. Kunjamma Yohannan Yonkers, NY

MONTHLY FASTING PRAYER

Event	Date & Time	Location
Monthly Fasting Prayer	TBA	TBA

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM

Event	Date & Time	Location
Cottage Prayer	TBA	TBA

YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Event	Date & Time	Location
Fellowship Meeting	TBA	TBA

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Schools Starts at 9:00AM every Sunday

Condolences

Mrs. Mariamma Abraham, sister-in-law of our member, Mr. P. C. Chacko, was called to our Lord in Kerala at the age of 80 on December 19, 2012. Also Mr. P. C. Abraham, the brother of our member, Mr. P. C. Chacko as well as the husband of Mrs. Mariamma Abraham, was called to our Lord in India at the age 84. The funeral services for both were held on Wednesday, December 26 in Kaviyoor.

Mrs. Annamma Varughese, mother of our members, Mr. Raju P. Varughese, Mr. Biju P. Varughese, and Mrs. Marykutty Mathew, was called to our Lord on December 21, 2012, in Kerala India. Funeral service was held in Kerala on December 24, 2012.

Mrs. Sosamma Varkey, the mother of our member, Mr. Varkey Uthup was called to our Lord at the age of 80. Funeral service was held in Kerala on December 26, 2012 at Archery Christos Mar Thoma Church, Kottayam.

Mrs. Santhamma Jacob, the sister- in law of our member, Mr. Samuel K Samuel, was called to our Lord in Kerala, at the age of 60 on December 31, 2012. The funeral service was held at Pallipad.

Please uphold all these families in your 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.

Youth Chaplin's Corner

Decisions for a difference

A new year or a new beginning always gives us a sense of new direction and a new passion towards life. We are once again in the dawn of a new year which brings us not only the joy of a new year but also the echoes of the memories of lunatic incidents which happened in the last days of the previous year. Even though the future is not appearing with umpteen rays of hope but we need to march forward to welcome this new-year. The only hope that takes us forward is the assurance of the 'Immanuel' the everlasting presence Jesus. Every new-year is meaningful with certain new decisions that directs us to travel through a new route. I believe only new decisions transform and renew us.

What are the new decisions that we have taken on this dawn of 2013? Have we taken some time to introspect the various ways in which we marched forward without considering or ignoring the decisions of the previous year? I think a difference is possible only through new decisions and the ability to keep the decisions. I believe many of us have taken new decisions in the beginning of the new-year, so let us submit to the presence of 'Immanuel' to keep these decisions.

Samuel and Samson are the contrasting images in the Bible for their passion toward the decisions of their lives. Samuel was consecrated to the Lord through a vow called Nazirite vow by his mother and Samson was dedicated for this vow by a divine instruction. Both of them had taken decisions to become a Nazirite throughout their lives. At the end of the story Samuel brought glory to God's name and Samson brought shame and disgrace. I believe Samuel was able to keep the decision and Samson violated all the decisions of the Nazirite vow. We can make a difference only when we are able to take decisions and to keep those decisions.

The question before us now is do we need a transformation and renewal in this new-year? Then take few decisions that can transform our lives. It may about our attitudes to God or to our family members, it may about certain things that need to be taken away from our lives, it may about separating our tithes or few decisions to help the needy. All these will make our lives a different one from the previous year. May the Almighty strengthen us to live with Him in this new- year with our new decisions.

I wish you all a Happy and blessed New-Year

V. M. Mathew achen

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