

St. Thomas
Mar Thoma Church, NY
34 Morris Street, Yonkers, NY 10705

Dec



2014



Merry Christmas

NEWSLETTER VOL. XXXVI NO. 12

Worship Service Schedule

Date	Time	Worship
Sun, Dec 7 th	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (<i>Malayalam</i>) Bible Study Holy Communion Service, <u>English</u>
Sun, Dec 14 th	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (<i>Malayalam</i>) Intercessory Prayer Holy Communion Service, <u>English</u>
Sun, Dec 21 st	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (<i>Malayalam</i>) Bible Study Holy Communion Service, <u>Malayalam</u>
Wed, Dec 24 th	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Carolling Service
Thu, Dec 25 th	10:00 am	Holly Communion Service <u>English</u>
Sun, Dec 28 th	9:30 am 10:30 am	Praise & Worship (<i>Malayalam</i>) Bible Study Holy Communion Service, <u>Malayalam</u>
Wed, Dec 31 st	10:00 PM midnight	Watch Night Service : Holy Communion Service, <u>Malayalam</u>

Lectionary

Date	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Epistle	Gospel
Sun, Dec 7 th	Isa.55:6-13	Heb.4:1-13	Gal.1:11-17	St.Luke.1:57-66
Sun, Dec 14 th	Zeph.3:14-20	Rom.1:5-16	Phil.4:4-9	St.Mat.1:18-23
Sun, Dec 21 st	Isa.22:20-24	1Cor.1:18-25	Phil.3:12-21	St.John.14:1-7
Thu, Dec 25 th	Micah.5:1-9	Col.1:13-20	Gal.4:1-7	St.Luke.2:1-14
Sun, Dec 28 th	Mal.3:13-4:2	Acts.1:6-11	1Thes.4:13-8	St.Mark.13:28-37
Wed, Dec 31 st	1 Sam.7:5-17	1 Pet.5:6-11	Heb.13:7-11	St.Luke.12:22-34

Important Days In Sabha/Diocesan Calendar

Date	Importance of the Day
1 Monday	Beginning of Twenty Five Days Lent.
7 Sunday	Birth Of John The Baptist (Bible Sunday)
14 Sunday	Annunciation to Joseph
21 Sunday	Mar Thoma Church Day
25 Thursday	Yaldo-Feast of Nativity-Birth of our Lord-(End of Twenty Five Days Lent)
28 Sunday	Joyful Expectation of Christ's Coming
31 Wednesday	Year ending-Watch Night Service-God our Helper and Redeemer.

Achens Corner



Dearly Beloved in Christ

In this month I would like to share about joy of Christmas

The world won't let us miss the holiday. There will be a little Christian sentiment, some happiness, and much activity. But this is all there will be — until the angels appear with their message. We only understand the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ by revelation. There are five appearances of an angel, or angels, in the Christmas story, and another appearance of an angel to Joseph later to tell him to return to Israel from Egypt.

They are:

- The appearance of Gabriel to Zechariah to announce the birth of John the Baptist
- The appearance of Gabriel to Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.
- The appearance of an unnamed angel to Joseph to explain the virgin birth and to name the Child.
- The appearance of first one angel and then a multitude of angels to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem.
- The appearance of an angel to Joseph in a dream to tell Him to take the Child Jesus and his mother into Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod.

Here are five great appearances of angels. And in the center of them — in the appearances of angels to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds — there are the three messages which, more than any other, perfectly explain the true, divine meaning of Christmas.

The first of these important appearances was to Mary. It is recorded in [Luke 1:26-38](#). In these verses the angel first greets Mary, then gives this message: "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end" ([Luke 1:30-33](#)). There are four main points to this short message:

- Mary was to have a Son.
- His name was to be Jesus.
- He would be great, in fact, the Son of God.
- His birth would be in fulfillment of all those prophecies that foretold the coming of the Messiah and His eternal reign over the nation of Israel.

Yours in His Service
Rev. K. K. Samuel

Youth Chaplain's Corner

Treasure in the jars of clay

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." **2 Corinthians 4: 7**

Paul in his letter to Corinthians presents himself as a Jar of clay. He is of the opinion that it is the best way to explain who a Christian is. But he says even though the jar is made of clay but still God kept a treasure in this. In the first century context many people kept their treasures, especially their coins in a clay jars and kept inside the ground so that they can keep their treasure safely from Wars and robberies. In that context Paul explained this great spiritual thought to explain who a Christian is. When we study this concept I think three concepts are to be discussed

Creativity

A clay jar is always a creation of a creator. Every potter who makes a vessel has an intention when he makes it. So for that purpose he/she designs that vessel. So every vessel has a purpose that the creator intended for that Jar. In Jeremiah chapter 18 we read about a potter who moulds the clay according to his will and wish for a particular purpose. Paul is saying every Christian is a jar of clay which was moulded by our creator, the almighty God. When he designed us like this He has a special purpose in us. We live in this world to fulfill that purpose.

Fragility

The second word that we need to remember when we think about the the jars of clay is fragility. Human is a fragile being and God has taken a risk to keep the treasure in that fragile jar. Just like any other clay jar every human is prone to many destructing experiences in life. But Paul explains that in verse 8 and 9; "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; "persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." But those who have this treasure at our clay jars we will have the assurance that we will not be destroyed even though we face all kinds of difficulties in

our lives

Humility

This word reminds us about another aspect when we think about jars of clay. God came down into this form of clay jars to identify with everyone one. Philippians chapter 2 " though he was in *the* form of God, did not count equality with God, **He made himself nothing** by taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness **being found in appearance as a man**,he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross!" This clay jars reminds us about the humbleness of Jesus and challenges us to follow the life style of humility. We are once again on the Advent season.

Christmas is always reminding us about this humility where Jesus became human to redeem this whole world. When we celebrate Christmas this year let us remember that God became a jar clay to bring this Gospel to us.

God has placed this treasure, the gospel in our clay jars. So we are the clay jars and we need to remember who is our creator and what is purpose in this world. We must understand how fragile we are but still under the protection of God almighty our creator. And also this clay jars reminds us about the about the humility that we need to have in our lives to imitate the life style of Jesus. God wants to place this treasure in our clay Jars. But are we ready to carry it in our lives.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

V. M. Mathew achen

Youth chaplain

Trustees Corner

If you have not participated in the following collections/ offertories, your prayerful participation is still requested by the trustees.

- Special Sunday 13 Item Collections
- Thanks Giving One Day Pay

Also, please pay your subscription immediately if you have not done so already. The books for 2014 will be closed on Dec 31st.

2014 House Caroling Service

Dec 6 th Sat.	- Yonkers South - Yonkers West
Dec 7 th Sun.	- Yonkers East
Dec 13 th Sat	- Queens/Long Island
Dec 14 th Sun	- Westchester
Dec 19 th Fri	- Rockland
Dec 20 th Sat	- Rockland
Dec 21 st Sun	- Yonkers North - New Jersey

Yuvajana Sakhyam

Bible Study will be held on Friday, Dec 12th 2014, at 7:00 PM
ELECTIONS for 2015 will be held during this meeting.

Edavaka Mission

Event	Time	Location
Wednesday Prayer	12/3/2014 7:00 PM	Mr. M. J. George Yonkers, NY
Wednesday Prayer	12/10/2014 7:00 PM	Mr. John P. Varghese Port Chester
Wednesday Prayer	12/17/2014 7:00 PM	In Church

Youth Fellowship



Praise & Worship service

Led by Youth
Every 3rd & 4th Sundays
in Church
at 5:00 PM

Youth Fellowship

Winter retreat

DATE : Jan 9th – 11th 2015.

VENUE : Camp of the Woods (Speculator, NY)

THEME : Born Identity

Sevika Sangham

Event	Time	Location
Friday Prayer	12/5/2014 10:00 AM	Mrs. Mary Joseph Yonkers, NY
Bible Study	12/7/2014	In church after service
Friday Prayer	12/12/2014 10:00 AM	Mrs. Saramma Thankachen Portchester, NY
Friday Prayer	12/19/2014 10:00 AM	House Visit
Friday Prayer	12/26/2014 10:00 AM	Mrs. Aleyamma Varghese Yonkers, NY

Sevika Sanghom annual dues are being collected for funds such as: Deppi Pirivu, Marriage Aids , Medical Aids, Educational Aids, Skip a meal and so on. To give the donations please contact Mrs. Susan John The Sevika Sanghom Treasurer.

CENTER B
SEVIKA SANGHAM & EDAVAKA MISSION
Combined Meeting

Venue: St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, NY
Date: Dec 13th at 9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:30)
Speaker: Rev. Sam T. Panicker

Young Families Fellowship
Regional Retreat

VENUE : EPIPHANY MTC
DATE & TIME : Dec 6th; 9 AM - 4 PM
THEME : CHRIST at the Center of It all
SPEAKER : Rev. Abraham Kuruvilla



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 2014

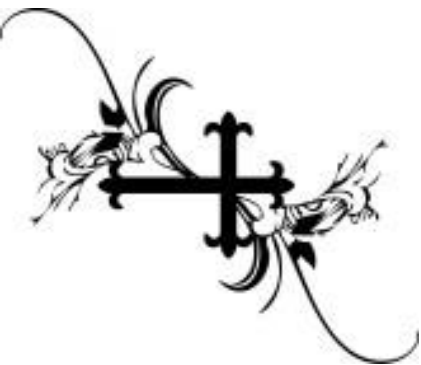
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Lay Leader - English	Mr. John C. Thomas	(914) 457-8197
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	Mr. Samuel Ninan	(201) 692-0649
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Young Family Fellowship	Mr. Ullas P. Thannickal	(845) 638-8075
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Biju P. Varughese	(845) 268-0887
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Mr. Thankachen Geevarghese		(914) 939-0282
Mr. Y. Varghese		(914) 964-5443

If undelivered
Please return to:
St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church
34 Morris Street
Yonkers, NY 10705

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION

FIRST CLASS MAIL

STAMP!
THANKS FOR
PICKING UP A
NEWSLETTER.
YOU ARE
HELPING THE
CHURCH SAVE
EVERY PENNY
COUNTS.



***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation; the old has
gone, the new has come!***
- 2 Corinthians 5:17