

**ST. JOHN'S MAR THOMA CHURCH**  
90-37 213 STREET, QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11428



**TEMPORARY WORSHIP LOCATION**  
213-10 92 AVENUE, QUEENS VILLAGE, NY

WORSHIP: EVERY SUNDAY 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM

**NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2010**

[www.stjohns-marthomachurch.org](http://www.stjohns-marthomachurch.org)

Vicar, Rev. Jacob Verghese; [revjacobverghese@gmail.com](mailto:revjacobverghese@gmail.com)  
[www.marthomanae.org](http://www.marthomanae.org), [www.marthomasyranchurch.org](http://www.marthomasyranchurch.org)

*If undeliverable, please return to:*

St. John's Mar Thoma Church  
90-37 213<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Queens Village, NY 11428

*Thus let any one who  
thinks that he stands  
take heed lest he fall.*  
1 Corinthians 10:12

To:



FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY



## **ST. JOHN'S MAR THOMA CHURCH**

### *OFFICE BEARERS / BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2010*

Vicar / President	Rev. Jacob Verghese; Par.	(718 ) 465-2358
	Fax: 718-775-3920; Mobile (516) 474-2975	
Vice President	Mr. Abraham C. Thomas	(516) 437-1888
Secretary	Mr. Biju Chacko	(516) 996-4611
Treasurer	Mr. Eapen K. George	(718) 753-4772
Accountant	Mr. Thomas C. Mathew	(516) 996 -6065

Lay Ministrants	Mr. Abraham George	(516) 286-3142
	Mr. Ritchie Philip	(718) 598-8400
Sabha Mandalam	Mr. Abraham Thomas	(516) 877-5925
Diocesan Assembly	Mr. Abraham T. Abraham	(718) 343-5465
	Mr. Beji T. Joseph	(516) 822-5463

### **Organizations:**

Choir	Mr. Shibu Mathew	(516) 640-4061
Edavaka Mission	Mr. C. K. Mathai	(516) 437-0979
Sevika Sangham	Mrs. Mercy Thomas	(718) 347-0346
Sunday School	Mr. Koruthu George	(516) 354-7552
Young Families	Mr. Ashok Mathai	(718) 343-2565
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Binu Daniel	(917) 597-6630
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Stanley Pappachan	(718) 347-4705

### **Prayer Group Representatives:-**

Bellerose	Mr. Varghese P. Abraham	(917) 482-0799
Eastern Long Island	Mr. Zachariah Mathai	(917) 208-1714
Elmont/ W.Hempstead	Mr. K. Idichandy	(516) 437-8562
Floral Pk. & Glen Oaks	Mr. Roy C. Thomas	(718) 347-0346
Garden City Park	Mr. C. V. Simonkutty	(516) 742-3520
New Hyde Park East	Mr. Abraham C. Abraham	(516) 248-2940
New Hyde Park West	Mr. Suresh T. John	(516) 216-1892
Palli Bhagom	Mr. Thomas George	(718) 740-2704

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<b><u>Auditors</u></b>	Mr. Varghese George	(516) 746-1534
	Mr. George Thomas	(516) 352-0016
<b>Youth Chaplain</b>	Rev. Biju P. Simon	(516) 437-0425
Senior Citizens	Mr. Bob Nainan	(718) 343-5043

## **ST. JOHN'S MAR THOMA CHURCH**

### *SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS*

### **Koruthu George Superintendent 516-354-7552**

#### **NURSERY**

Teena Thampy	516-216-1071
Lizi Mathew	516-233-1848

#### **KINDERGARTEN**

Molamma Thankachan	718-468-4434
Leena Mathew	917-817-5115

#### **PRIMARY JUNIORS, GR. 1**

Binu Daniel	516-488-7831
Bhavna Mathews	516-746-5222

#### **PRIMARY JUNIORS, GR. 2**

Jyothi Thomas	516-921-8023
Sherry George	718-468-1224

#### **PRIMARY, GRADE 3**

Tinu Thampy	516-216-1071
Rachel Philip	516-326-2629

#### **PRIMARY, GRADE 4**

Rachel George	718-468-1224
Mercy Babu	516-538-2833

#### **JUNIORS, GRADE 5**

Sherly Ninan	516-488-2574
Amy Thomas	347-645-0007

#### **JUNIORS, GRADE 6**

Laila George	631-462-1648
Johnson P. Philip	516-739-3744

#### **JUNIOR HIGH, GRADE 7**

Thankamma Abraham	718-343-9344
Mary Samuel	718-464-9172

#### **JUNIOR HIGH, GRADE 8**

Rachel Mathew	516-742-3686
Beji T. Joseph	516-822-5463

#### **SENIORS, GRADE 9**

Susan Varghese	718-347-2709
Anchamma Mathews	718-347-3488

#### **SENIORS, GRADE 10**

Philip Oommen	718-776-2585
Abraham T. Abraham	718-343-5465

#### **SENIOR HIGH (GR. 11 & 12)**

P. P. Varghese	718-347-2709
Mathew P. George	516-742-3686

### **CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**President - Rev. Jacob Verghese**

**General Convener - Mr. Varughese P. Abraham**

#### **Project Engineer**

Mr. Thomas M. George

#### **Project Manager**

Mr. Joseph P. John

#### **Interior Decoration/Furnishing**

Mr. Philip Thomas (Conv.), Mr. Abraham Thomas, Mrs. Lilly Simon, Mr. Susheel Thomas, Mr. Zachariah Mathai

#### **Construction Managers**

Mr. Kuttikattu Idichandy  
Mr. Cherian M. George

#### **Finance Committee**

Mr. Sabu Lukose (Conv.), Mr. Varghese George, Mr. John Mathews, Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Saji Thomas.

#### **Souvenir Committee:**

Mr. Roy C. Thomas (Conv.), Mr. C. V. Simonkutty, Mrs. Ponnamma George, Mr. Sanu Mathew, Mr. George Thomas,

#### **Audio/Video & Lighting**

Mr. Binu Thomas (Conv.), Mr. Biju P. Cherian, Mr. Bob Abraham, Mr. Sam George, Mr. George Mathew,

#### **Landscaping/Beautification**

Mr. Stanley Pappachan (Conv.), Mr. M. M. Mathew, Mr. M. Thomas, Mr. Beji T. Joseph, Mr. Varughese K. Abraham

## BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH

1. Pexi Mariam Mathai	1	36. Ashlin T. Thomas	21
2. Toby P. Joseph	1	37. Julia Thomas	21
3. Titus K. Johnson	1	38. Gesha George	22

*Offer prayer and thanksgiving  
on August 1, 2010*

*Offer prayer and thanksgiving  
on August 22, 2010*

4. Justin Babu	2	39. Christine Anil Philipose	23
5. Philip Thomas	2	40. Christina T. Chacko	23
6. Susannamma Cherian	4	41. Bency Daniel	24
7. Renjith Koshy Mathew	4	42. Joel John	24
8. Titus T. Mathew	5	43. Jim John Mathew	26
9. Lino Alex	6	44. Sanu Mathew	26
10. Allen Abraham	7	45. Kevin S. Mathew	26
11. Marykutty Abraham	8	46. Sneha Bijoy	27
12. Calvin Sam	8	47. Neethu Ann Joseph	28

*Offer prayer and thanksgiving  
on August 8, 2010*

*Offer prayer and thanksgiving  
on August 29, 2010*

13. Sabu V. Simon	9	51. John Skariah	30
14. Chris George Issac	9	52. Abraham Alexander	30
15. Kitty Alexander	10	53. Elizabeth Samuel	31
16. Albert Sanu Mathew	10	54. Alison G. Philip	31
17. Merlyn Bijoy	11	55. Kurien M. Alex	31
18. Christina Thayil	11		
19. P. J. Abraham	11		
20. Annamma Thomas	12		
21. Linsy Benjamin	12		
22. Nancy Thomas	14		
23. Saramma Mathew	15		
24. Sosamma Thomas	15		

*Offer prayer and thanksgiving  
on August 15, 2010*

*Offer prayer and thanksgiving  
on September 5, 2010*

25. Alice Thomas	17
26. Celine Biju Cherian	17
27. Stanley Philip	17
28. Denny K. Isaac	18
29. Tony Jacob	18
30. Abraham Kuruvilla	19
31. Abraham K. Varughese	19
32. Jaison J. Mathew	19
33. Annie Mathew	19
34. Anita Mohan	20
35. Jain Thomas Joseph	21



## ST. JOHN'S MAR THOMA CHURCH

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2010 VOL:XX ISSUE:08

### POWER FAILURE!

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Power failure today has become a part of human life. As an Indian community we can very well understand the scarcity of electricity and the problems that we face in our everyday life. Here in this land also we have once in a while the experience of power failure. In India we adopt different methods to tackle the issue by installing invertors or other devices. But here, since the power failure is not an usual phenomenon, we haven't yet thought about how to deal with the real issue. Think about the real scenario of power failure in our life here. We know that electrical power is an essential element in the day to day life of the people of this land.

Likewise, a Christian needs the power of the Holy Spirit to lead a blessed life. We see a kind of slowness and inaction in the spiritual life everywhere. Why is it so? Today the churches have become powerless and unable to influence people by its day to day activities. We have to see it as a major power failure in the church. This may be due to prayer failure. We have to strengthen our worship and prayer life, only then we can stand strong and witness the risen Christ in our day to day life.

Psalms: 41 is a prayer to make our hands a blessing to others. When we pray let us ask our Heavenly Father to open our hands so that we could give liberally, support those who are weak, poor and needy and relieve the suffering of those in pain.

A believer once prayed "O God, open my eyes! Without your touch I am blind. The god of this age had blinded my eyes. Now I need your touch. Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from your word, help me to find the treasures hidden in it. Open my eyes, O Lord to comprehend your riches. Let my eyes be enlightened that I may appreciate your high calling, praise the greatness of your power and admire the riches of your inheritance in the saints. May your Holy Spirit continue to reveal to me the things you have prepared for me, which my natural eye cannot see. Open my eyes, O Lord to see the mission fields which are ready for harvest. Give me a pioneering vision. Help me to see with a moving compassion, the multitudes of people without someone to show them the way. Keep anointing me O Lord with your eyesight. Amen." May the Almighty Lord help us to lead a prayerful life which should be a life of blessing to all of us giving glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me once again remind you all about the needs of our parish as we rebuild our church these days. Without all of our members continued prayer and sacrificial offering and sharing of our wealth we will not be able to fulfill the great task. Kindly participate in the different fund raising programs and continue to contribute towards the building fund

May our God Almighty bless us all to do His will and continue to be a blessing in this land.

With all good wishes and prayers,  
July 27, 2010

In His Service,  
Jacob Verghese Achen

## **W O R S H I P S C H E D U L E**

### **Week 31, Aug. 01, 2010; Worship Service, Malayalam, 9:00 AM**

#### **Praise & Worship;**

Teacher & Grade- Mrs. Susan Varghese; Grade 10

Sermon & Prayer- Mr. Devin Thomas, Ms. Betsy Mathew

**Lessons:** Mr. Bob M. Nainan; Mrs. Lincy George

Amos 2:1-8; Rom. 5:1-11

**Lay Assistant:** Mr. M. Thomas

**Epistle & Gospel:** Jam. 5:1-6; St. Matthew 25:31-46

### **Week 32, Aug. 08, 2010; Holy Comm. Service, English, 9:00 AM**

#### **Praise & Worship;**

Teacher & Grade- Mrs. Susan Varghese; Grade 10

Sermon & Prayer- Ms. Jane Mathews, Mr. Anoop Thomas

**Lessons:** Mr. Melvin John, Ms. Naomi John

Isa. 6:1-8; Acts 2:22-36

**Lay Assistant:** Mr. Toby Abraham

**Epistle & Gospel:** Phil. 3:7-16; St. Mark 16:9-18

### **Week 33, Aug. 15, 2010; Holy Comm Service, Malayalam, 9:00 AM**

#### **Praise & Worship;**

Teacher & Grade- Mrs. Susan Varghese; Grade 10

Sermon & Prayer- Ms. Cifi Sajan, Ms. Stacy Mathew

**Lessons:** Mr. Georgekutty C. Varghese, Ms. Aleyamma Mathai

Exodus 15:1-8; Acts 15:1-22

**Lay Assistant:** Mr. Abraham T. Abraham

**Epistle and Gospel:** Gal. 5:1-6; St. John 8:31-38

### **Week 34, Aug. 22, 2010; Worship Service, English, 9:00 AM**

#### **Praise & Worship;**

Teacher & Grade- Mrs. Susan Varghese; Grade 10

Sermon & Prayer- Ms. Meryl John, Mr. Justin Sam

**Lessons:** Mr. Roy C. Thomas, Ms. Jane Mathew

2 Kings 23:1-11; 1 Cor. 13:1-11

**Lay Assistant:**

**Epistle & Gospel:** Eph. 4:25-5:14; St. Mark 11:12-18

### **Week 34, Aug. 22, 2010; Holy Comm. Service, Malayalam, 9:00 AM**

#### **Praise & Worship;**

Teacher & Grade- Mrs. Susan Varghese; Grade 10

Sermon & Prayer- Ms. Marilyn Abraham, Ms. Jamie Abraham

**Lessons:** Mr. C. K. Mathai, Mrs. Sosamma Thomas

Exodus 16:9-21; Rev. 19:1-10

**Lay Assistant:** Mr. Abraham P. Joseph

**Epistle & Gospel:** 1Cor. 10:1-17; St. John 6:30-58

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH**

1. Moliamma & Thomas P. Chacko	2
2. Merlyn & Ben David	2
3. Sarah & Mathew George	5
4. Smithamol & Sange T. Chacko	7
5. Raichel & Binu George	7
6. Lincy & Eapen K. George	8
7. Aleyamma & Joy A. Chacko	8

***Offer prayer and thanksgiving on August 8, 2010***

8. Alice & Babu Thomas	9
9. Jolly & Abraham Philip	11
10. Beena & Munna V. Sam	12
11. Jenney & Joji Mathew	12
12. Nija & Ashok G. Mathai	14
13. Moji & Jimmy Thomas	14
14. Kunjunjamma & Kurian M. Alex	15
15. Rossin & Sachin George Samuel	15
16. Laly & Koruth George	15

***Offer prayer and thanksgiving on August 15, 2010***

17. Miriam & Joseph C. Mathew	16
18. Anita & Sabu Simon	16
19. Sherly & Ninan Abraham	17
20. Legi & Denny K. Isaac	18
21. Manju & Melvin John	18
22. Roseena & Manoj Samuel	19
23. Joys & Johnson P. Philip	19
24. Susan & Paul Abraham	19
25. Riya & Tony Jacob Thomas	20
26. Annamma & Kuriyan K. Mathen	20
27. Bhavna & Abe Mathews	21

***Offer prayer and thanksgiving on August 22, 2010***

28. Leelamma & T. S. Mathai	26
29. Sheila & Koshy George	28
30. Annie & Samuel Thomas	29
31. Aleyamma & C. K. Mathai	29
32. Rosamma & M. M. Mathew	29

***Offer prayer and thanksgiving on August 29, 2010***

33. Suthé & Saju V. Simon	30
34. Annama & John Thomas	31
35. Alice & Mathew K. Cherian	31

***Offer prayer and thanksgiving on September 5, 2010***

Happy  
Wedding  
Anniversary  
to all

# S U N D A Y S C H O O L

August 29- First day of Sunday School for 2010-11 year.

## SENIOR CITIZENS FELLOWSHIP

### Cottage Meeting

Aug. 14, 10 am Location to be announced.

## YOUNG FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP

### Cottage Meeting:

date and location to be announced.

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

### Fellowship meetings

Aug. 28, 4 pm Jaison & Justin Mathew 516-233-1848  
19 Blossom Lane, New Hyde Park

## Y U V A J A N A S A K H Y A M

### Cottage Meeting

Aug. 15, 5 pm Mr. Suresh T. John 516-216-1892  
18 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, New Hyde Park

## D A T E S T O R E M E M B E R

Aug. 15 Dedication Service for student going away to college  
Graduation Day; Sunday School, Class of 2010  
Aug. 20-22 St. John's Church Camp, hosted by Yuvajana Sakhyam  
Timber Lake Camp, Shandaken, NY  
Aug. 29 First day of Sunday School for 2010-11 academic year.  
School opening dedication service.  
Sept. 5 Bible Quiz, Grade 5-10.  
Sept. 11 Yuvajana Sakhyam; Regional Volleyball Tournament.  
Sept. 11 Sevika Sanghom Kalamela, St. Andrews MTC  
Sept. 18 North East Region Sunday School Competitions at  
St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church.  
Sept. 19 Senior Citizen Day  
Sept. 27 Foundation Day of Church of South India (CSI)  
Sept. 30-Oct. 3- Sevika Sanghom National Conf.; Tampa, FL  
Oct. 3 Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelist Day  
Oct. 24 Christian Family Day  
Nov. 7 World Sunday School Day  
Nov. 14 Unity Sunday (CSI-CNI-MTC)

# PRAYER GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

## A R E A P R A Y E R M E E T I N G S

<u>Bellerose</u>	Mr. Oommen Philip	718-776-2585
Aug. 22, 7 pm	234-05 Hillside Avenue, Bellerose	
<u>Eastern Long Island</u>	no prayer meeting scheduled in August	
<u>Elmont &amp; W. Hempstead</u>	Mr. Mathew K. Cherian	516-233-2507
Aug. 29, 7 pm	122 Seville Street, Elmont	
<u>Floral Pk. &amp; Glen Oaks</u>	Mr. Mathew George	718-347-4356
Aug. 15, 7 pm	268-19 Union Tpke, Floral Park	
<u>Garden City Park</u>	date and location to be announced	
<u>New Hyde Park East</u>	Mr. Joseph Chacko	516-739-2362
Aug. 7, 7 pm	24 Farrel Street, New Hyde Park	
<u>New Hyde Park West</u>	Mr. Suresh T. John	516-216-1892
Aug. 15, 5 pm	18 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, New Hyde Park	
<u>Palli Bhagom</u>	Mr. Bijoy Koruth	718-464-1878
Aug. 28, 7 pm	92-31 222 Street, Queens Village	

## E D A V A K A M I S S I O N P R A Y E R S

Aug. 6, 7:30 PM	Mr. Roy C. Thomas	718-347-0346
	267-12 82 Avenue, Floral Park	
Aug. 13, 7:30 PM	Mr. Cherian Panavelil	516-775-8435
	1031 N. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, New Hyde Park	
Aug. 20, 7:30 PM	Mr. Koshy Thankachan	718-3474336
	74-31 Littleneck Pkwy, Glen Oaks	
Aug. 27, 7:30 PM	Mr. Jimmy Thomas	516-750-8570
	151 Bedford Avenue, Garden City Park	

## SEVIKA SANGHOM PRAYER MEETINGS

Aug. 5, 10 am	Mrs. Jolly Sajan	516-616-9446
	1043 N. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, New Hyde Park	
Aug. 11, 10 am	Mrs. Annamma Mathews	516-747-5473
<i>(Wednesday)</i>	7 Third Street, Garden City Park	
Aug. 19, 10 am	Mrs. Aleyamma John	516-233-1128
	127 South Drive, Manhasset Hills	
Aug. 26, 10 am	To be announced	

## **The Mar Thoma Church - A History Lesson (cont. from May)**

### **Arrival of Knanaya Nazranis**

During the time of King Shapur II (310-379) of Persia, a group of 400 immigrants (72 families) from Persia arrived in Malabar under the leadership of merchant Knai Thomman. They were engaged in trade and settled down in Kodungallur. Another immigration from Persia occurred around 825 under the leadership of Persian merchant Marwan Sabriso, with two Bishops, Mar Sapro and Mar Prodh. Together they were known as Knanaya (Kanahi people). They continued to remain an endogamous group within the Nasrani community. They cooperated with the Malankara Church, attended worship services together but remained a separate identity. By the tenth century, in Malabar there were two Nazrani groups, the St. Thomas Christians and Knanaya community.

### **Bishops from Persia**

Following the arrival of Christians from Persia, their bishops, priests or laymen began visiting them. Most of them were not able to return due to financial difficulties and traveling the long distance. The Knanaya people were worshipping together with the St. Thomas Christians. So these visiting bishops also attended these services. These visitors had neither administrative responsibilities nor had any jurisdiction over the original Nazrani Christians. They visited and taught Syriac. Probably it was at this time, Syriac became the liturgical language of the early Christians. This might be the reason for the rumour that bishops from Syria had jurisdiction over St. Thomas Christians. Probably it was during this time the Church began to use the St. James liturgy for their Holy Communion service.

### **Persian crosses**

Persian crosses were in churches once attended by Knanaya Nasranis. Out of five Persian crosses two are in Kottayam Knanaya Valia Palli. According to the archeologists, the earliest one was made in the seventh century. The cross became a symbol of Christianity in the west, during the time of Constantine (272-337). Saint Thomas Christians of Malabar had hardly any contact with other Christians before the arrival of Knanaya people from Persia. Moreover two of the oldest church buildings that still exist in South India do not have any marking of a Cross on their original structure. So most probably it was during the seventh century, cross became a symbol of St. Thomas Christians.

### **Visits corroborating the existence of the Malabar Christian Church**

883 AD. – Alfred the Great (849-899), King of Wessex, England reportedly sent gifts “in India to St. Thomas and to St. Bartholomew”, through Sighelm, bishop of Sherborne.

1225 AD. – Chau Ju-Kua a Chinese traveller visited Kerala. In his writings he described the dress of a St. Thomas Christian bishop.

1282 AD. – Kublai Khan (1215–1294) Emperor of China sent an emissary to Kollam, It was followed by an emissary from Kollam under the leadership of a St. Thomas Christian.

1292 AD. – Marco Polo (1254–1324) on his return journey from China visited Kerala, mentions that, "The people are idolaters, though there are some Christians and Jews among them".

**(to be continued....)**

### **Church Building Renovation**

As decided by the Capital Building Improvement Committee a raffle sale is being conducted to raise funds for the church renovation project. The prayer group leaders will be distributing booklets of ten tickets to individual families. Cost of each coupon is \$10. All members families are expected to sell at least one booklet to your friends and relatives that are not members of St. John’s Church. The drawing will be conducted on the day of the dedication of our church and there are several attractive prizes for the winners. The church thanks the sponsors for their generous donation and ask all to co-operate in the raffle sale.

### **Thank you**

Elmont & West Hempstead area prayer group and Mr. K. Idichandy for assisting with the church services during the month of July. Floral Park & Glen Oaks area will assist during the month of August.

### **Condolence**

To Mr. C. V. Simonkutty and family at the passing away of his brother Mr. C. V. Thomas in India.

*We hope and pray that the Lord Almighty give you the courage, strength and peace to comprehend the profound loss of your loved ones.*