

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

<u>Auditors</u>	Mr. Varghese George	(516) 746-1534
	Mr. George Thomas	(516) 352-0016
Youth Chaplain	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

Ashish Abraham	516-554-1947
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	516-385-3854

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

Abraham T. Abraham	718-343-5465
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SENIOR HIGH, GRADE 11

Mathew P. George	516-742-3686
Philip Oommen	718-776-2585

SENIOR HIGH, GRADE 12

P. P. Varghese	718-347-2709
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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. Shantamma Jacob	1	41. Jerrin V. Chacko	19
2. Sosamma Mathew	1	42. Jaime Jose	19
3. Mathew T. Philip	1	43. Joel P. Mathew	19
4. A. P. Kuruvilla	2	44. Ancy M. Thankachan	19
5. Saramma Philip	2	45. Reni Thomas	19
6. Mary Samuel	3	Offer prayer and thanksgiving on December 19, 2010	
7. Jerry Thomas	3		
8. Deepak Daniel David	4	46. Katherine Philip	20
9. Sony Jacob	4	47. Johnson P. Philip	21
10. Varughese P. Abraham	5	48. Chrisen Aleyas Bijoy	22
11. Jacob T. Joseph	5	49. Jacob Mathai	23
12. Kunjumol Thampy	5	50. Stella Susan Mathew	23
Offer prayer and thanksgiving on December 5, 2010		51. M. E. Alexander	24
13. Johan Kattunilathu George	6	52. Jocelyn Lisa Johnson	24
14. John T. Mathew	6	53. Cyril K. Thomas	24
15. Christine Cherian	7	54. Chrismal B. Abraham	25
16. Roshini Cherian	8	55. Mariamma Thomas	25
17. Jiby Oommen	8	56. Marilyn J. Thomas	25
18. M. O. Thomas	8	57. Samuel Thomas	25
19. Mercy Thomas	8	58. Mariamma Thankachan	26
20. Manuel Mathew Varughese	8	Offer prayer and thanksgiving on December 26, 2010	
21. Mariamma Abraham	9		
22. Binu M. Kurien	10	59. Shanu George	27
23. Koshy John	11	60. Aleyamma Mathai	27
24. Bently Joseph	11	61. Seena M. Mathunny	28
25. Pappachan Mathai	11	62. Arlin Susan Thomas	28
26. Melini Abraham	12	63. Marvin Gill	29
27. Justin Joy	12	64. Anchamma Mathews	29
28. Omana Mathai	12	65. Mini John Jacob	31
29. Christopher Thomas	12	Offer prayer and thanksgiving on January 2, 2011	
Offer prayer and thanksgiving on December 12, 2010			
30. Kaitlin George	14		
31. Jicks Ann Jacob	14		
32. Shawn M. Zachariah	14		
33. Aleyamma Cherian	16		
34. Rossin Mathew	16		
35. Binitha K. Varughese	16		
36. Vinu Abraham	17		
37. Sam George	17		
38. Biju George	18		
39. Eric Gill	18		
40. Stacy John	18		



ST. JOHN'S MAR THOMA CHURCH

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010 VOL:XX ISSUE:12

Joy to the world

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (2Cor: 9: 15)
Dearly beloved in Christ,

Once again we are entering into the Christmas season, celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the greatest of all birthdays, the day of our dreams. It is the birthday of the Son of God who has come to be with us. His birthday is also our birthday because we become children of God through His son Jesus. John 1:12 says, to all those who received him and believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. This is the news of great joy. On Christmas a great light has appeared. A child is born for us; a son is given to us, that we may become children of God, children of light. At this unique event the angels appeared singing with joy, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men of good will.

Christmas is the expression of God's love towards the humanity. John 3:16 says, God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son. That is the indescribable gift that St. Paul talks about. He is Emmanuel - God with us. His everlasting presence is there with us always, in all walks of our life. In Him God's love and grace have been revealed and his coming has made salvation possible.

So as we celebrate Christmas, raise the voice of praise and thanksgiving, along with the angels of the most high. Reach out the real message of Christmas that Jesus, who was born in a manger is our savior. Who saves us from sin and all bondages of life. Set your mind, believe and follow Him. Let me quote the Christmas prayer of Robert Louis Stevenson.

*Loving Father, Help us to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us
to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children and
Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

May this season bring us renewal in our heart, mind and soul. So that we become the messengers of His love. As we are approaching the year end, may I remind you about the closing of our accounts of the parish on December 31st 2010. Plan your budget for this month to fulfill the commitments to the parish before we close our accounts. I thank you on behalf of the parish for your sincere prayer and support extended to our parish. Plan to be part of the house to house Christmas carol singing and the Christmas eve service and Holy Qurbana and the year ending service on December 31st 2010.

With seasons greetings of Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thanks giving 2010

In His service
Jacob Verghese Achen

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

Week 49; Dec. 05, Holy Communion Service, Malayalam, 9:00 AM

Praise & Worship

Teacher & Grade- Mrs. Rachel Mathew; Grade 8

Sermon & Prayer- Ms. Jennifer Jacob; Ms. Minti Thomas

Lessons: Mr. Chacko Zachariah; Mrs. Aleyamma Cherian
Gen. 33:1-17; 2 Cor. 1:3-11

Lay Assistant: Mr. Titus George

Epistle & Gospel: 1 Thes. 3:6-13; St. Luke 1:39-45

Week 50; Dec. 12, Holy Communion Service, English, 9:00 AM

Praise & Worship

Teacher & Grade- Mrs. Rachel Mathew; Grade 8

Sermon & Prayer- Mr. Jacob Joseph; Mr. Denin Abraham

Lessons: Mr. Shanu George; Ms. Silvy Thomas
Isa. 55:6-13; Acts 11:19-26

Lay Assistant: Mr. Swithin Titus

Epistle & Gospel: Heb. 4:1-13; St. Luke 1:57-66

Week 51; Dec. 19, Holy Communion Service, Malayalam, 9:00 AM

Praise & Worship

Teacher & Grade- Mrs. Rachel Mathew; Grade 8

Sermon & Prayer- Ms. Ashley Jacob; Mr. Jerlyn Mathew

Lessons: Mr. T. M. Thomas; Mrs. Soma Thomas
Isa. 11:1-10; 1John 5:1-12

Lay Assistant: Mr. Thomas George

Epistle & Gospel: Rom. 1:5-16; St. Matthew 1:18-23

Dec. 24; Christmas Eve Holy Communion; Malayalam; 6:00 PM

Lessons: Mr. Roji Sam Koshy; Mrs. Molamma Thankachan
Isa. 9:1-8; Gal. 4:1-7

Lay Assistant: Mr. John Skariah

Epistle & Gospel: Heb. 1:1-12; St. John 1:1-14

Week 52; Dec. 26, Holy Communion Service, English, 9:00 AM

Praise & Worship

Teacher & Grade- Mrs. Rachel Mathew; Grade 8

Sermon & Prayer- Ms. Minti Thomas; Ms. Jennifer Jacob

Lessons: Mr. Swithin Titus; Ms. Athira John
Jer. 23:1-8; Acts 2:21-36

Lay Assistant: Mr. Arun John

Epistle & Gospel: Phil. 2:1-11; St. Luke 10:21-24

Dec. 31; Watch Night Holy Communion; Malayalam; 9:00 PM

Lessons: Mr. George Thomas; Mrs. Annamma Skariah
1Sam. 7:1-17; Heb. 13:7-21

Lay Assistant: Mr. Cherian George

Epistle & Gospel: Eph. 5:15-21; St. Matthew 6:25-34

Mar Thoma I (1653–1670)

In 1653, Malankara Mooppen Thomas, was consecrated with the title Mar Thoma by Mar Gregorios. Mar Thoma had survived a number of assassination attempts. He died on April 25, 1670 and was interred in Ankamali Marthommen Palli. (church).

The throne used for this consecration in 1653 is still in the possession of the Mar Thoma Church and is kept in the Poolatheen, the official residence of the Malankara Marthoma Metropolitan at Tiruvalla. It has been used in the installation of every Mar Thoma Metropolitan, to this day, so that the continuity of the throne of Mar Thoma is ensured.

Mar Thoma II (1670–1686)

Consecrated by Mar Thoma I and Mar Gregorios. Died on April 14, 1686 and was interred at Niranam palli, (now St. Mary's Orthodox Church).

Mar Thoma III (1686–1688)

Consecrated by Mar Ivanios Hirudyathulla (from Antioch), died on April 21, 1688. Laid to rest at Kadampnad(now Orthodox Cathdral), Near Adoor.

(to be continued....)

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Lizzykutty & Abraham C. Abraham | 8 |
| 2. Sosamma & Rajan Abraham | 9 |
| 3. Anna & Anil Thomas | 11 |

Offer prayer and thanksgiving on December 12, 2010

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 4. Jessy & Manoj Mathai | 14 |
| 5. Rosamma & Abraham C. Thomas | 17 |

Offer prayer and thanksgiving on December 19, 2010

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| 6. Mary Thayiel & George M. | 28 |
| 7. Annamma & Mathai M. Mathew | 28 |

Offer prayer and thanksgiving on January 2, 2011

**A Very Happy
Wedding Anniversary
to all**

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

Every Sunday at 11:30 AM
after the Holy Communion Service

Sunday School Midterm Examination - January 9, 2011

SENIOR CITIZENS FELLOWSHIP

Cottage Meeting

Date and location to be announced.

YOUNG FAMILIES FELLOWSHIP

Cottage Meeting:

No meeting scheduled in December

Y O U T H F E L L O W S H I P

Fellowship meetings

Date and locations to be announced

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

Cottage Meetings:

No meeting scheduled due to Christmas Caroling

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

Dec. 1	Beginning of 25 day Lent
Dec. 3	Christmas Caroling; Garden City Park; south of Hillside.
Dec. 4.	Christmas Caroling; Palli Bhagom Prayer Group
Dec. 5	Bible Sunday
Dec. 5	Christmas Caroling; New Hyde Park East Prayer Group
Dec. 10	Christmas Caroling; Glen Oaks; Eastern LI-(Suffolk County)
Dec. 11	Christmas Caroling; Floral Park & Glen Oaks Prayer Group
Dec. 12	Birth of John the Baptist
Dec. 12	Christmas Caroling; Bellerose Prayer Group
Dec. 17	Christmas Caroling; Eastern Long Island-(Nassau County)
Dec. 18	Christmas Caroling; Elmont & West Hempstead Prayer Grp.
Dec. 19	Annunciation to Joseph
Dec. 19	Christmas Caroling; New Hyde Park West Prayer Group
Dec. 21	Mar Thoma Church Day
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Holy Communion and Carol Service at 6 PM
Dec. 25	Christmas Day; No Service
Dec. 31	Watch Night service; 9 pm - 11 pm
Jan. 11	Sunday School Midterm Examination

Thank you

New Hyde Park West area prayer group and Mr. Suresh T. John for assisting with the church services during the month of November. Palli Bhagom area prayer group will assist in the Holy Communion Service during the month of December.

Congratulations

Mithosh & Princy
at the birth of their son
Aahan Abraham Mithosh
on Oct. 29

Anoop and Jogy
at the birth of their daughter
Anika Thomas
on Nov. 14

Change of address

Thomas Raju
84 Fifth Street
Garden City Park, NY 11040
516-414-8411

Mr. George K. George
89-38 217 Street
Queens Village, NY 11427
646-920-6355

Condolence

To Mr. Mathew K. Cherian
at the passing away of his sister, Mrs. Sosamma Thomas
To Mrs. Annamma Mathews
at the passing of her Uncle Mr. Johnson Onnunny

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

Note from the Trustees

The following contributions are expected from each family for the smooth functioning of our church and our diocese.

Recessa: \$1 per adult member.

Subscription. : \$50/month

Suggested Building fund : \$5000/family min.

Diocesan Sunday & Development fund: \$125/family

Save a Dollar(\$1/each day/earning member)

Parish Day (one day salary/each earning member in the family)

Special offertory (various projects in India through diocese)

**All contribution should be submitted before December 31, 2010 to
be reflected in the 2010 accounts.**

The Mar Thoma Church - A History Lesson (cont. from Nov.)

Independence of the Church- During the time of Thomas Mar Athanasius Metropolitan, Joseph Mar Dionysius demanded the possession of the seminary and the control of assets of the Church. Mar Dionysius and his supporters filed a case on March 4, 1879. (Case O.S.No. 439 of 1054).

During the course of a litigation (1879–1889), answering a question Thomas Mar Athanasius Metropolitan said,

“ The Episcopal throne of Patriarch is the throne of St. Peter, while the throne of Malankara Church is that of St. Thomas. Malankara Church is as old as the Church in Antioch, equal in status, and both are independent.”

During a meeting convened by the Maharaja of Travancore, before the final verdict was given, Mar Athanasius testified that,

Malankara Church was never under any foreign rule and that he was unwilling to move away from the teachings or give the authority and Church possessions to a foreign Patriarch.

The final verdict came on July 12, 1889, after ten years, was against the Metran Kakshi (supporters of Thomas Mar Athanasius)

The Metran Kakshi decided to remain as an independent Malankara Church to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ as it was before 1500 CE., and to give primary authority to the Holy Bible. Later this group chose the name Malankara Mar Thoma Suryani Sabha.

Marthoma Metropolitans:-

After The Great Oath, the parish elders (Idavaka Mooppens) of the Church met together and elected Kuravilangad Parampil Thomas Kathanar as Malankara Elder (Malankara Mooppen). Following the ancient custom, twelve Idavaka Mooppens laid their hands on him and appointed him as Malankara Mooppen. However, the Portuguese refused to accept his legitimate authority without an ordination by a bishop as was the practice in Portuguese (Catholic) churches. So the Marthoma Nazranis sent letters to various other eastern Churches asking to send a bishop. Mar Gregorios Abdul Jaleel, Patriarch of Jerusalem, was the first to respond and arrived in India to regularise the ordination.

(continued on next page..)

PRAYER GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

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

No area prayer meetings in December
due to Christmas house to house caroling

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

No prayer meetings in December
due to Christmas house to house caroling

S E V I K A S A N G H O M P R A Y E R M E E T I N G S

Dec. 1, 10 am	Mrs. Lilly Simon	516-742-3520
Wednesday	76 Fourth Avenue, Garden City Park	
Dec. 8, 10 am	Mrs. Mercy Thomas	718-347-0346
Wednesday	267-12 82 nd Avenue, Floral Park	
Dec. 16, 10 am	Mrs. Mariyamma Z. Mathai	516-328-8791
	519 N. First Street, New Hyde Park	
Dec. 23, 10 am	Mrs. Jolly Mathew	516-616-9446
	1043 N. Fourth Street, New Hyde Park	
Dec. 30, 2010	Mrs. Ammukutty Nainan	718-285-9932
	80-12 268 Street, Floral Park	

NOTE FROM THE SOUVENIR COMMITTEE

- The deadline to submit a Complimentary or Business advertisements for the souvenir published by our parish on the day of the dedication of our new church will be December 31st, 2010. For more details and information refer to the souvenir sponsorship form.
- The Souvenir Committee is inviting a cover design for the upcoming souvenir. Talented persons are encouraged to make use of the opportunity to design a suitable cover page. Outside professionals are also invited to participate. The final selection will be made by the souvenir committee.
- A suitable theme is also invited for the souvenir. Considering the event of twentieth year of our parish, the rededication of our rebuilt church and the context in which we live as Mar Thoma Community, we encourage you to propose a suitable theme.
- A draft of the parish directory will be circulated to all parish members for verification. Kindly notify corrections, if any, as early as possible to the souvenir committee