

# ST. ANDREWS MAR THOMA CHURCH

58 Crescent Place  
Yonkers, NY 10704  
(914) 776-5738

[www.standrewsmtcny.org](http://www.standrewsmtcny.org)



Worship Service: 10:30 am  
Sunday School: 8:45 am

*Monthly Newsletter*

***FEBRUARY 2021***

**Vicar:** Rev. K.A. Varghese  
50 Crescent Place  
Yonkers, NY 10704

Parsonage: (914) 207-0011  
Mobile: (914) 525-3825

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2020

President	Rev. K.A. Varghese	(914) 207-0011
Vice President	Mr. Chacko P. Thomas	(347) 810-8733
Secretary	Mr. Sunil Varghese	(914) 433-7980
Treasurer	Mr. K.O. Abraham	(914) 964-0308
Accountant	Mr. John K. Thomas	(516) 326-8693
Lay Reader (Mal)	Mr. John Skaria	(914) 649-5410
Lay Reader (Eng)	Mr. Alvin Reny	(845) 664-1064
Sabha Mandalam	Mr. A.V. Varghese	(914) 937-6519
Diocesan Assembly	Mr. George John	(516) 359-9786
Senior Citizen Fellowship	Mr. Varughese P. Samuel	(845) 215-5612
Edavaka Mission	Mr. Abraham Varkey	(914) 457-0136
Sevika Sangham	Mrs. Aleyamma Abraham	(914) 964-0308
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Thomas Varghese	(914) 623-7729
Youth Fellowship	Mr. Sherin Abraham	(914) 433-7133
Sunday School	Mrs. Sneha Shaun	(516) 428-4163
Choir	Mr. Jacob K. Philip	(914) 525-7191
Prayer Group Area 1	Mr. Benny Mathew	(914) 378-8028
Prayer Group Area 2	Mr. Abraham Kuriyan	(914) 652-7553
Prayer Group Area 3	Mr. Binu Daniel	(914) 346-8548
Auditor 1	Mr. Jacob Mathew	(914) 320-0710
Auditor 2	Mr. K.A. Abraham	(914) 263-5062

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Accountant	Mr. K.A. Abraham	(914) 263-5062
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Lay Reader (Eng)	Mr. Alvin Reny	(845) 664-1064
Sabha Mandalam	Mr. A.V. Varghese	(914) 937-6519
Diocesan Assembly	Mr. George John	(516) 359-9786
Senior Citizen Fellowship	Mr. Varughese P. Samuel	(845) 215-5612
Edavaka Mission	Mr. P.M. Abraham	(845) 370-2947
Sevika Sangham	Mrs. Aleyamma Abraham	(914) 964-0308
Yuvajana Sakhyam	Mr. Thomas Varghese	(914) 623-7729
Youth Fellowship	Ms. Riya Varghese	(914) 523-2404
Sunday School	Mrs. Sneha Shaun	(516) 428-4163
Choir	Mr. Jacob K. Philip	(914) 525-7191
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Prayer Group Area 3	Mr. Binu Daniel	(914) 346-8548
Auditor 1	Mr. Aby K. Varughese	(914) 423-0450
Auditor 2	Mr. Jacob Mathew	(914) 961-3167

## VICAR'S MESSAGE

Lent: Strong time for conversion

"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God" (Joel 2:12-13a)

Dear Loved ones in Christ,

February is a very important month in our church calendar, as from the 15<sup>th</sup> our church will observe 50 days of great Lent; it is an annual celebration of God's Salvation History. It is a season to develop greater spiritual discipline; it is time of repentance and renewals and orienting ourselves to the great Christian mystery of Easter.

The Cross is the 'epicenter' of eastern Christian spirituality. The Early church fathers always referred to the cross to explain events of their times. The church today also refers to the same Cross. Lent is an annual celebration of God's salvation history. It is not just a ritual, but a reliving experience. Participation in Christ's sufferings gives us the vision of God's greatness and share in His glory. Thus spiritual disciplines in the church revolve around the Cross.

Biblical basis: The annual fast and feasts were part of the rich religious heritage of the Jewish community. The Jerusalem temple was the center of it all. There were times of national crisis when the fast was proclaimed for soul searching and fresh commitment to the Lord of the Covenant, as a covenant community. The 'forty days' are celebrated as memory of the forty days of fasting of Jesus in the wilderness of Judea (Matt.4:2; Mk 1:13; Lk.4:2). The number 40 also recalls several great moments in the journey of faith: the flood of Noah lasted 40 days. Moses stayed on Mount Sinai for 40 days, prophet Elijah walked for 40 days with food given by the angel (1 Kings 19:8), the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years. The Lenten season offers us once again an opportunity to reflect upon the very heart of Christian life: Charity. This is a favorable time to renew our journey of faith, both as individuals and as a community, with the help of the word of God and the sacraments. This journey is one marked by prayer and sharing, silence and fasting, in anticipation of the joy of Easter.

In a world which demands of Christians a renewed witness of love and fidelity to the Lord, may all of us feel the urgent need to anticipate one another in charity, service and good works (Heb. 6:10). This appeal is particularly pressing in this holy season of preparation for Easter. As I offer my prayerful good wishes for a blessed and fruitful Lenten Period.

"Lent is a time to recover the capacity to react before the reality of evil".

Yours in Christ's Service,  
Rev K. A. Varghese

## YOUTH CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

As we enter the second month of this year, it is indeed incredibly special to us. We as a Church hold February significantly in our lives as the Mar Thoma Church holds the Maramon Convention every year at this period. This year we are still having Maramon Convention with COVID protocols. Let us prayerfully participate that this year's convention can be a blessing in all our lives to introspect and mold our lifestyle to the ways God guides us.

This month, February 14 is a significant day, especially for this particular year. It is where 3 occasions come together. We are celebrating Valentine's Day, it is the first day of the Great Lent, and the convention. Valentine's Day is a celebration of love, the great symbol of love on this day is the "heart". As a church, we also are embarking on the journey through the Great Lenten period, which enables us to know the passion and love of God through the great symbol of the cross. As Christians, let us uphold the cross in our minds as the symbol of love because Christ showed unconditional love on the cross. Being called children of God, we should look unto God the source of love so that we can love one another just as much, valuing others above ourselves just as Christ values us before Him.

Let us use this Lenten period to discipline our selfish ways and have it become a means to guide ourselves to sharpen our lives to be more useful to God in love and obedience to Him.

As the regional youth fellowship, we have started the College Ministry Bible Study on zoom is on every Tuesday at 8 pm EST. encourage the college students wherever they are to set time apart this hour and come together in online fellowship and devotion to God's word.

May the love of God abide with us all. Wishing everyone a blessed February.

Much love,  
Jess Mathew George Achen

## BIRTHDAYS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
02/03	Ma. Aden Abraham	02/20	Ma. Joshua Jacob
02/05	Mr. Mathew Abraham	02/20	Mr. Benson Mathew
02/06	Ms. Sarah Peter	02/22	Mrs. Molly Thankachan
02/09	Mrs. Namitha John	02/23	Mr. Mathew Varghese
02/11	Mr. Koshy Prakash	02/23	Ms. Janiya Peter
02/13	Mr. Pramod Varghese	02/28	Ms. Anitha Koshy
02/13	Mr. Jovy Jacob	02/28	Mrs. Elizabeth Mathews
02/16	Mrs. Ponamma Thomas		

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
02/05	Mrs. & Mr. Dynu John
02/07	Mrs. & Mr. Sibi Thomas
02/09	Mrs. & Mr. Libin George Thomas
02/12	Mrs. & Mr. Thomas Nellikalayil

## LECTIONARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lessons</u>	<u>Epistle/Gospel</u>
<b>02/07</b>	2 Kings 20: 1-11 Rev. 22: 1-7	James 5: 13-18 John 5: 1-9
<b>02/14</b>	Gen. 1: 1-28 Eph. 2: 11-22	2 Cor. 5: 16-21 John 2: 1-11
<b>02/21</b>	2 Kings 5: 1-14 Rom 3:21-31	Acts 10: 34-43 Matt. 8: 1-4
<b>02/28</b>	2 Kings 4: 16-37 Acts 5: 12-16	2 Cor. 12: 7-10 Luke 5: 17-26

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>02/07</b>	Malayalam Holy Communion Service
<b>02/14</b>	English Holy Communion Service
<b>02/21</b>	Malayalam Holy Communion Service
<b>02/28</b>	English Holy Communion Service

## CONDOLENCES

It is with deep sadness to inform you all the passing of Mr. Y. Mathew (72) in Kundara, Kerala . He was the brother of our parish member Mr. Yohannan Koshy and the uncle of our parish members Mr. Koshy Prakash, Mr. Prasad Koshy and Mrs. Beena Jain. On behalf of our parish we extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaving family members and relatives and pray that the Lord gives them the peace and comfort during this sad time.

It is with deep sadness to inform you all the passing of Mrs. Kunjamma Thankachen (80), sister of our parish member Mrs. Thankamma Samuel in Urukunnu, Kerala. On behalf of our Parish we extend our sincere condolences to the family members and relatives of the departed and pray that our Lord consoles them and gives them the peace and comfort during this time.

It is with a heavy heart to inform you all the passing of Mr. Mathew Kochethu (87) from Elanthur Kerala. He was the brother in law of our parish member Mr. P.M. Abraham. On behalf of our parish we extend our sincere condolences to the family members and relatives of the departed and pray that God gives them the peace and comfort knowing that their loved one is now in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

