

The Mar Thoma Church Staten Island
134 Faber Street
Staten Island, NY 10302

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THE MAR THOMA CHURCH STATEN ISLAND

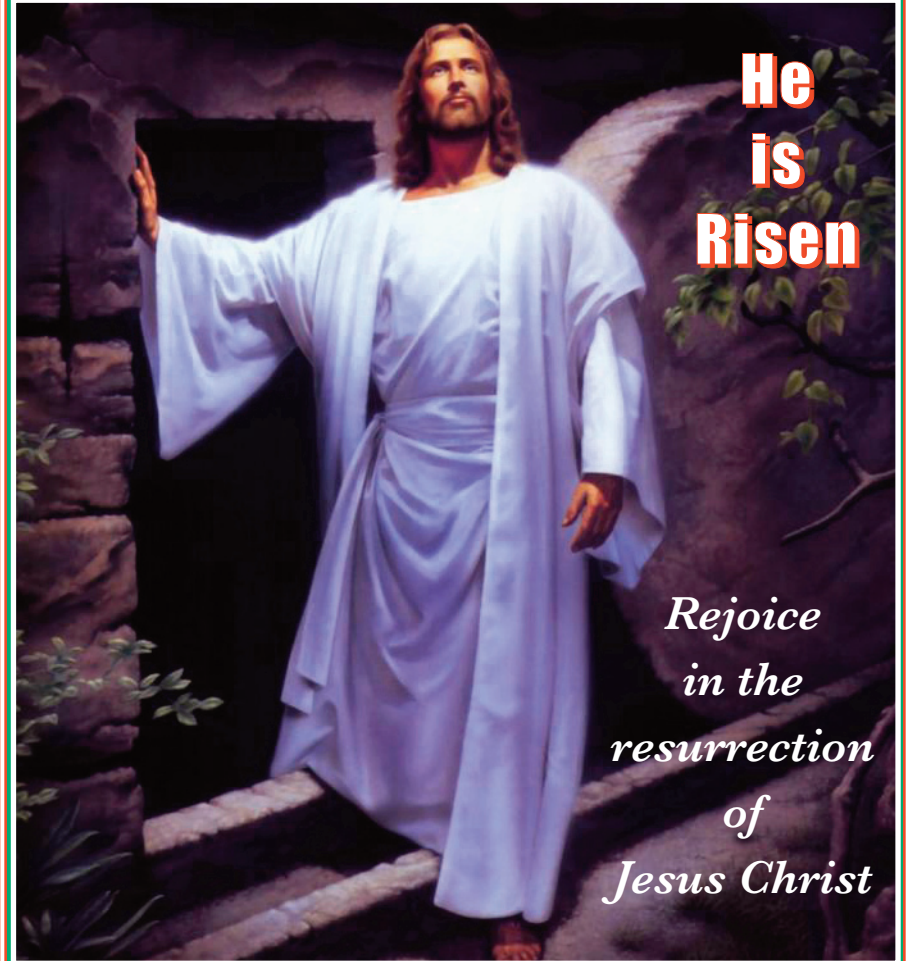
134 Faber Street, Staten Island, NY 10302

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NEWSLETTER—APRIL 2019

VOLUME: XXXIX

NUMBER: 4



**He
is
Risen**

*Rejoice
in the
resurrection
of
Jesus Christ*

Rev. Reni K. Abraham

Vicar/President

PARSONAGE

154 LaGuardia Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314

Tel.: (718) 370-7664 • Cell: (917) 932-4575 • Email: reniachenk@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE/ LECTIONARY—APRIL, 2019

Date	Service/Time	First Lesson	Second Lesson	Epistle/Assisting	Gospel
SUNDAY APRIL 07	Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. MALAYALAM	Gen. 26:12-33 Skaria Mathai	2 Cor. 11:20-31 Annamma James	2 Cor. 1:3-11 Sony K. Ninan Rogin Rajee	St. Mark 10:46-52
SUNDAY APRIL 14 Palm Sunday	Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. ENGLISH	Zach. 9:1-12 Shiju Varughese	1 Tim. 4:6-16 Julia Alex	Heb. 5:5-10 Sanju J. George Rogin Rajee	St. Luke 19:28-40
SUNDAY APRIL 21 Easter Sunday	Holy Communion 8:30 a.m. MALAYALAM	Gen. 23:1-19 Rahul Roshin	Colo. 3:1-11 Reni Mathews	Acts. 4:13-18 Chacko Abraham Sanjai George Rogin Rajee	St. Mat. 28:1-10
SUNDAY APRIL 28	PUBLIC WORSHIP 10:30 a.m. MALAYALAM	Gen. 28:10-22 Varughese George	Acts. 20:7-12 Mercy Abraham	Philip Jacob	
FRIDAY APRIL 12 40th Friday	Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. MALAYALAM	Num. 21:1-9 Molly Mathews		Heb. 12:1-13 John K. Mathai	St. Luke 4:1-13
PASSION WEEK					
MONDAY APRIL 15	Evening Worship 7:30 p.m.	Isa. 63:7-19 Jessy Varughese			St. Mat. 22:15-23
TUESDAY APRIL 16	Evening Worship 7:30 p.m.	Eph. 2:1-10 Reni Cherian			St. Mat. 24:1-28
WEDNESDAY APRIL 17	Evening Worship 7:30 p.m.	1 Peter 4 Varughese Raju			St. Mat. 25:14-26
THURSDAY APRIL 18 Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. MALAYALAM	Exo. 12:1-17 Sujit Francis	Heb. 9:1-15 Silvy Jose	1 Cor. 11:23-34 Rajee V. Thomas Sanjai George	St. Mat. 26:17-30
FRIDAY APRIL 19 GOOD FRIDAY	Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. 1ST PART ENG.	Isa. 53:1-12 Noel Wilsant	1 Pet. 1:1-12 Jyotsna Joykutty		St. Mat. 26:47-75
	2ND PART MAL.	Zach. 13:1-9 Mathew Rajan	Gal. 3:1-22 Nimmy Sarah John		St. Mat. 27:1-44
	3RD PART MAL.	Num. 21:1-9 Johnson George	Heb. 3:1-19 Liziamma Koshy		St. Mat. 27:45-56

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2019

Office Bearers

		<u>Home #</u>	<u>Cell #</u>
<i>Vicar & President</i>	Rev. Reni K. Abraham	(718) 370-7664	(917) 932-4575
<i>Vice President</i>	Mr. Jacob Chacko	(718) 698-6310	(917) 831-0918
<i>Secretary</i>	Dr. Thomas K. Jose	(718) 317-2263	(718) 877-7287
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. Varughese P. Varughese	(718) 761-6847	(718) 578-1185
<i>Accountant</i>	Mr. James T. Philip	(718) 761-1295	(718) 869-3395
<i>Lay Leader (Malayalam)</i>	Mr. Shaji George	(917) 831-6108	(917) 831-6108
<i>Lay Leader (English)</i>	Mr. Justin Mani	(718) 698-7463	(718) 873-4616

Area Prayer Group Representatives

<i>Bradley</i>	Mr. Thomas Varughese	(718) 698-2431	(718) 775-7851
<i>Hylan Blvd./NJ</i>	Mrs. Aney Raju	(718) 727-4026	(718) 902-7695
<i>North Shore</i>	Mr. Jacob Cherian	(718) 983-0549	(917) 697-8623
<i>Willowbrook</i>	Mr. Skaria Mathai	(718) 983-5873	(917) 995-5278

Organizational Representatives

<i>Choir</i>	Mrs. Silby Babu	(718) 761-5358	(718) 873-5242
<i>Edavaka Mission</i>	Mr. Mani Varughese	(718) 698-7463	(917) 439-6153
<i>Sevika Sanghom</i>	Mrs. Susan T. George	(718) 761-8103	(718) 838-8705
<i>Sunday School</i>	Mr. Vivin Varughese	(718) 370-7588	(917) 759-0572
<i>Youth Fellowship</i>	Mr. Arun Chacko	(718) 727-0097	(347) 876-3297
<i>Yuvajana Sakhyam</i>	Mr. Sony K. Ninan	(718) 477-7562	(347) 840-3708
<i>Young Family Fellowship</i>	Dr. Sheeja Thomas	(908) 722-4146	(917) 520-0192

Sabha Mandalam and Diocesan Assembly Members

<i>Sabha Mandalam</i>	Mrs. Molly Mathews	(718) 761-2395	(917) 238-7523
<i>Diocesan Assembly:</i>	Mr. Jose Varughese	(718) 477-9747	(917) 817-4115
	Mr. Philip Jacob	(718) 370-2318	(646) 206-1537

Auditors

Mr. Koshy P. Koshy	(718) 987-5108	(718) 290-0068
Mrs. Sara George	(718) 698-6715	(917) 232-8920

2019-IMPORTANT DATES

1. March 23-Saturday	Retreat for Executive Committee and Organizational Office Bearers
2. March 24-Sunday	Farewell to our Youth Chaplain, Rev. Shibi Abraham
3. March 27-Wednesday	Mid-Lent
4. April 12-Friday: 9:30 a.m.	40th Friday Holy Communion
5. April 14: 10:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday
6. April 15, 16, 17: 7:30 p.m.	Evening Worship
7. April 18-Thursday: 7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday
8. April 19-Friday: 9:00 a.m.	Good Friday: (1st Part in English; 2nd and 3rd parts in Malayalam)
9. April 21-Sunday: 8:30 a.m.	Easter Holy Communion Service and Reni Achen's Farewell Meeting
10. April 24-Wednesday	Goodbye to Reni Achen (Travel back to Kerala via Dubai: 10:55 p.m.)
11. May 12-Sunday	Mother's Day
12. May 16 & 17	Clergy Conference/Carmel Mar Thoma Center, Atlanta
13. May 17 & 18	Diocesan Assembly/Carmel Mar Thoma Center, Atlanta
14. May 19-Sunday: 9:30 a.m.	Holy Communion (Diocesan Sunday School Examination: 12:00 p.m.)
15. June 16-Sunday	Father's Day
16. June 23-Sunday	Parish Day, Episcopal Visit and First Communion
17. June 27-30	VBS/Sunday School Anniversary
18. July 11-14	Junior/Senior Sunday School Conference
19. July 20-Saturday	Church Picnic
20. July 25-28	Youth Fellowship Conference/Dallas Farmers Branch MTC
21. August 1-4	Edavaka Mission Conference/St. Mathews MTC, Toronto
22. August 17	Youth Fellowship Basketball Tournament
23. August 18-Sunday	Dedication for College Students
24. September 1-Sunday	Dedication for School Students
25. September 21-Saturday	Family Night
26. September 25-28	Senior Fellowship Conference/Ascension MTC, Philadelphia
27. October 4-6	Yuvajana Sakhyam Conference/Christos MTC, Philadelphia
28. October 10-13	Sevika Sanghom Conference/Trinity MTC, Houston
29. October 18, 19, 20	Church Convention
30. November 3-Sunday	Church General Election-2020
31. December 1-Sunday	Thanksgiving Sunday Lunch
32. December 21-Saturday	Christmas Carol
33. December 25	Christmas [Wednesday]

From the Desk of the Vicar

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Easter Greetings. We continue the rich and prayerful season of Lent. It concludes with the Holy Week, celebrating Good Friday on April 19 and Easter on April 21. Let us walk with Christ in His passion and death, and then joyously His glorious resurrection. God does something miraculous through Jesus Christ, so we are able to shout with Joy-filled hearts on Easter Sunday—*'I have seen the Lord'* John 20:18. Where do you see Jesus? In locked rooms, along the road, in the midst of fear and doubt, at times of injustice and despair, during longings for meaning and purpose, at the moments of healings and certainly in the joys of being found. Let us see and proclaim the risen Christ through our life experiences and given responsibilities.

This will be my last newsletter message before I leave. I take this opportunity to send a note of thanks and appreciation to you as I move on to my next assignment in ministry.

I praise God Almighty for sending us to this wonderful parish for the three year ministry. When I think of these years, I humble myself before God for the immense responsibilities laid upon me and the joyous fulfillment. I place on records the hard work and dedication of office bearers, valuable suggestions and cooperation of committee members, the meticulous efforts of assigned persons of each project and programs and the generosity and prayerful support of the parishioners for our ministry here. We remember your prayer and kindness given during the time we lost our mother. My family and I have been so enriched by your love and care. Thank you all. I will hold each of you in my heart with prayers.

I hope our parish will have an amazing future and reach utmost heights under the new pastoral leadership of Rev. Johnson P. Abraham. I wish him all success.

Most know that 'Good bye' is a contraction of 'God-be-with-you'. As we say good bye this month, please know that I will be using that word in this sense, may God be with you.

I am not the first vicar to whom you have said Good Bye. So let me remind you the words of Hebrews 13:7, 8—*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

Grace be with you all.

Yours in His Ministry,

Reniachen

Youth Chaplain's Corner

Acts 20:36-38 NRSV—When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed. There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, grieving especially because of what he had said; that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship.

Paul on his way to Rome was speaking to the elders of the Church at Ephesus. Paul reminded them of how he preached the gospel to them. He also reminded them that they should keep watch over “the flock” especially the weak. He commended them to God and to the message of His grace, “a message that is able to build you up and give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified” (v. 32).

At the end of four years as the North East Regional Youth Chaplain, I hope and pray that like Paul, I was able to effectively communicate the gospel message to you. Not only by word but like Paul, by action as well. Also like the elders of the church at Ephesus, I hope and pray that all of you keep watch over the flock—the members of your family, your church, and your community. Remember, those that truly accept the gospel message live a transformed life here on Earth and will receive eternal life.

It will be a blessing to meet you again here on Earth. But it would be a greater blessing to see you in heaven.

May God bless us all. Thanks and prayers to all those who have helped, supported, and loved us these last four years. May all of you continue to grow in Christ under the blessed ministry of Rev. Jess and family.

Rev. Shibi and family

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Men's Bible Study: April 7, Sunday– 3:30 p.m. at the residence of **Ronu and Reba George**, 231 Merrill Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314.

Spring One Day Conference: will be held at St. James Mar Thoma Church, Hillburn, New York, on April 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. For more information, please contact Mr. Arun Chacko (347-876-3297) or Mr. Rogin Mathew (917-795-5343).

Annual YF Easter Raffle for an American and an Indian Gift Basket will continue until April 21st when it will be drawn that day after Church service. Raffles are sold one ticket for \$5.00 and five tickets for \$20.00. Please help support.

Game Fellowship Day: April 27, Saturday–3:30 p.m. at the Church. All our members are welcome and feel free to bring your favorite games! Food will be provided as well.

April Wedding Anniversaries

Wishing each one of you a Blessed Married Life. Celebrate this special day by partaking in the Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving Prayer during the Holy Communion Service.

No.	Date	Name	Address
1.	4/06	Saramma & Mathew P. George	572 Westwood Avenue
2.	4/07	Sajitha & Dollin Mathew	159 Gower Street
3.	4/10	Mariamamma & Joykutty George	23 Area Place
4.	4/11	Annamamma & Varughese K. Varughese	657 Collfield Avenue
5.	4/12	Aleyamma & Thomas K. Itty	323 Mountainview Avenue
6.	4/19	Leelamma & Mathukutty T. Philip	376 Gansevoort Boulevard
7.	4/20	Jency & Aju Raju	11 Allison Way, NJ
8.	4/23	Saramma & Cheriyan Chacko	404 Buchanan Avenue
9.	4/24	Shyla & Roshin Mammen	283 Martin Avenue
10.	4/26	Sosamma & Varughese George	21 Roosevelt Avenue
11.	4/28	Dr. Shaismy & Dr. Prince Varghese	199 Suffolk Avenue
12.	4/29	Mini & Alvin Mathew	147 Brandon Court, NJ
13.	4/30	Lissi & Symachen Kunjukunju	41 Livingston Avenue

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Dollin Mathew and Family, 159 Gower Street, Staten Island, NY 10314 has joined our Parish and they are members of the Bradley Prayer Group.

Mr. Dinesh Mathew and Family, 52 Dorothy Street, Staten Island, NY 10314 has joined our Parish and they are members of the Willowbrook Prayer Group.

CONDOLENCE

Mrs. Chinnamma Job, Varuvila Tharayil Veedu, Marthimoodu, elder sister of our member Mrs. Ponnamma Kunjachan, 229 Kell Avenue and Aunt of our member Ancy Mathai, 240 Suffolk Avenue, was called to eternal rest on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, in New Jersey at the age of 67.

The wake and funeral services were held at St. Stephen's Malankara Orthodox Church, Midland Park, NJ and St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church, Mangadu, Kerala, on February 22-23 and March 1st respectively. As a Parish we express our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the bereaving families. Please keep them in your prayers.

April Birthday Celebrations

Congratulations! We pray and thank God for all His blessings received last year. Please participate in the Sunday Birthday Thanksgiving Prayer during the Holy Communion Service.

No.	Date	Name	Address
1.	4/02	Miss Anjali Campbell	337 Chain O'Hills Road, NJ
2.	4/02	Master Joseph Thomas	859 Bluestone Lane, NJ
3.	4/04	Mr. Martin Abraham	74 Roosevelt Avenue
4.	4/05	Miss Jenny Varughese	191 Queen Street
5.	4/05	Mrs. Checha John	25 Gladwin Avenue
6.	4/06	Mrs. Susamma Shaji	260 Warwick Avenue
7.	4/07	Mrs. Jessy Varughese	191 Queen Street
8.	4/07	Master Jared Alex	62 Birchard Avenue
9.	4/07	Mrs. Kunjunjamma Varughese	19 Pilcher Street
10.	4/08	Miss Sini Kunjumon	148 Castleton Avenue
11.	4/08	Mr. Steven Mathai	281 Brielle Avenue
12.	4/10	Miss Alexandra Mathews	7 Woodruff Road, NJ
13.	4/10	Mrs. Annamma Zachariah	166 Kell Avenue
14.	4/11	Mr. Ryan Varughese	156 Browning Avenue
15.	4/11	Mr. Leo Skaria	188 Walcott Avenue
16.	4/12	Mr. Jeff George	13 Area Place
17.	4/13	Mr. George Thomas	49 Jasper Street
18.	4/14	Master Adave Thomas	127 Valesi Drive, NJ
19.	4/14	Mrs. Juliann Rajan	104 Purdy Avenue
20.	4/15	Ms. Kunjamma Pappy	230 Byrne Avenue
21.	4/15	Mr. Dollin Mathew	159 Gower Street
22.	4/17	Miss Aimy George	256 Granate Avenue
23.	4/18	Mrs. Mariamma George	23 Area Place
24.	4/18	Miss Sheena Mathukutty	376 Gansevoort Boulevard
25.	4/18	Mrs. Annamma Varughese	657 Collfield Avenue
26.	4/19	Miss Irene A. Reni	154 LaGuardia Avenue
27.	4/20	Mr. John Cherian	150 Logan Avenue
28.	4/23	Mr. Mathai P. Mathew	41 Brielle Avenue
29.	4/23	Mr. Shiju P. Mathews	7 Woodruff Road, NJ
30.	4/24	Mr. Justin Abraham	56 Ronald Avenue
31.	4/24	Miss Julia Alex	62 Birchard Avenue
32.	4/24	Mrs. Reny Mary Dinesh	52 Dorothy Street
33.	4/25	Mr. Mathew Campbell	337 Chain O'Hills Road, NJ
34.	4/26	Master Ethan Prince	572 Westwood Avenue
35.	4/27	Miss Mary Koshy	434 Alter Avenue
36.	4/27	Mr. Anish Chacko	108 Wade Street
37.	4/28	Master Aiden Mathew	147 Brandon Court, NJ

MONTH AT A GLANCE-APRIL 2019

Organizations and Area Prayer Meetings

SEVIKA SANGHOM BIBLE STUDY

April 2, Tuesday- 10:00 a.m. at the residence of Mrs. Annie Jose, 212 Hales Avenue, Staten Island.

April 9, Tuesday- 10:00 a.m. at the residence of Mrs. Susamma Thomas, 602 Woolley Avenue, Staten Island.

FASTING PRAYER

April 5-Friday 10:00 a.m. at the residence of Mr. John Samuel, 216 Hawthorne Avenue, Staten Island.

April 26-Friday 10:00 a.m. at the residence of Mr. Thazhathakuttu A. Thomas, 602 Woolley Avenue, Staten Island.

April 12 (40th Friday) and 19th (Good Friday) no Fasting Prayer.

YUVAJANA SAKHYAM PRAYER MEETING

April 14, Sunday-Immediately after Service at Church.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S FELLOWSHIP

April 10, Wednesday- 10:00 a.m. at the Church, 134 Faber Street, Staten Island, NY 10302. All seniors are kindly requested to attend.

YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

April 7, Sunday- 4:00 p.m. at the residence of Sisse and Zubin Kurian, 212 Hales Avenue, Staten Island.

YOUNG WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

April 14, Sunday- 3:00 p.m. at the residence of Soniya Mathai, 281 Brielle Avenue, Staten Island.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Lent Prayer Schedule

April 01	Monday	Mr. Mani Varughese, 6 Deppe Place
April 02	Tuesday	Mr. George V. John, 25 Gladwin Avenue
April 03	Wednesday	Mr. Skaria Mathai, 188 Walcott Avenue
April 04	Thursday	Mr. Mathai P. Mathew, 41 Brielle Avenue
April 05	Friday	Mr. Mathew George, 469 Woolley Avenue
April 06	Saturday	Mr. Philip Jacob, 48 Fillmore Avenue
April 08	Monday	Mr. Thomas Mathai, 240 Suffolk Avenue
April 09	Tuesday	Mr. Varughese T. Abraham, 171 Willard Avenue
April 10	Wednesday	Mr. Koshy P. Koshy, 436 Adams Avenue
April 11	Thursday	Mr. Philip K. John, 203 Wellbrook Avenue
April 12	Friday-9:30 a.m.	40th Friday Holy Communion

The Mar Thoma Church Staten Island Choir Auditions

Church Choir Audition for both Malayalam Choir and English Choir will be held on April 7, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. onwards. Members who are interested in singing in the Church Choir must attend the Choir Audition in order to be considered to sing in the Choir. Members from age 9 and up can attend the Choir Auditions. Participants will sing the first stanza and chorus of either for Malayalam, *Kristheeya Keerthanangal* Song 251 "Yesu en Swantham" or for English, *Hymn 37 "Blessed Assurance"* during the Audition.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer was celebrated this year on Saturday, March 2, 2019-10:00 a.m. at the St. George Malankara Orthodox Church, 28 Sunset Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314.



Very Rev. Fr. Paulose Adai Chor Episcopos of the Orthodox Church and Rev. Reni K. Abraham of the Mar Thoma Church with the World Day of Prayer participants.

Secretary's Corner

As Achen bid farewell from services at our Church this month we have a lot of things to be proud of and to rejoice. We accomplished successfully few projects namely the purchase of the parsonage, publishing a photo directory and hosting the National Sevika Sanghom Conference, the one which looked very difficult for us with our limited facilities.

Achen is a very good Parish Priest, and he is a close companion, a friend in need, a guidance counselor and a prayer warrior. Achen has a God gifted talent to conduct a melodious communion service and execute the sermons with stories and songs which lingers to every one's mind. He has shown his excellence in conducting the various committees and general body meetings. We thank Marina Kochamma for all the leadership she has given to our young women and her valuable services as a Sunday School Teacher.

Our Youth Chaplain Rev. Shibi Abraham is also leaving us. Achen is being transferred to South Florida Parish. Achen's ministry among our youth was a fruitful one. Achen's illustrated sermons and slides attracted everyone. We wish Achen, Sheeba Kochamma, David and Daniel all the very best in His ministry.

As per the decision of the synod and guidelines of the Church our Achens have transfer every three years and it is unavoidable. Even though we will miss Reni Achen, Marina Kochamma, Irene and Ijene we wish you all God's mercy and blessings in your ministry and pray that God be with you wherever you go. We wish you a bon voyage back home, kindly remember us in your prayers.

Jose.



Bon Voyage

to Reni Achen,
Marina Kochamma,
Irene and Ijene