

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

Telephone: (718) 556-3192 • mtcsi.org

NEWSLETTER—MARCH 2019

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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—MARCH, 2019

Date	Service/Time	First Lesson	Second Lesson	Epistle/Assisting	Gospel
SUNDAY MARCH 03 <i>Diocesan Sunday</i>	Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. MALAYALAM (Pulpit Exchange Rev. K. A. Varghese Vicar, St. Andrews MTC, Yonkers, NY)	Isaiah 58:1-14 Joseph C. Edikkula	Romans 2:1-10 Saramma John	2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Reji T. George	St. John 2:1-11
SUNDAY MARCH 10	Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. ENGLISH	Esther 3:11-18 Anish Jose	Acts 15:6-21 Kesiah Varughese	Romans 15:7-13 Arun Chacko	St. Mark 1:40-45
SUNDAY MARCH 17	Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. MALAYALAM	2 Samuel 12:1-14 Mathew George	Acts 8:9-17 Bensy Mathew	Galatians 3:10-14 Kunjumon G. Pappy	St. Mark 2:1-12
SUNDAY MARCH 24	Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. ENGLISH	Isaiah 45:1-8 Alvin Cheriyan	Acts 10:24-33 Jocelin Mani	1 Corinthians 1:20-25 Allen Panicker	St. Matthew 15:21-28
SUNDAY MARCH 31	Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. MALAYALAM	Nahum 1:1-15 Thomaskutty Joseph	Acts 16:25-34 Shirley John	Acts 4:32-37 John Samuel	St. Luke 13:10-17

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 Cheriyan	(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

March 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
30.	3/24	Miss Neena Thomas	49 Jasper Street
31.	3/25	Mr. Rahul Roshin	283 Martin Avenue
32.	3/25	Mr. Zubin Kurian	3472 Richmond Avenue
33.	3/26	Mr. Reji T. George	231 Merrill Avenue
34.	3/27	Master Samuel Babu	64 Holden Boulevard
35.	3/27	Miss Rhea Abraham	62 Jasper Street
36.	3/28	Mrs. Mollykutty Joseph	335 Mountainview Avenue
37.	3/29	Mr. Shailey Varughese	444 Fanning Street
38.	3/29	Miss Tiffany Samuel	24 Jules Drive
39.	3/30	Miss Jaimy Jacob	27 Area Place
40.	3/31	Mrs. Thankamma Thomas	8 Poland Place

March 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.	3/02	Annie & Leslie V. Mathews	206 Holden Boulevard
2.	3/12	Samma & Shajan Cherian	802 Westwood Avenue
3.	3/15	Preethi & Alex K. Chacko	274 Ardmore Avenue
4.	3/23	Susan & Rex Eapen	346 Buchanan Avenue

CONDOLENCE

Mr. Thomas Mathai, Puthuparampil House, Vennikulam (brother of our member Mrs. Aleyamma Philip, 203 Wellbrook Avenue) was called to eternal rest on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, in Houston at the age of 84.

The wake and funeral services were held at Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston on February 8th and 9th. As a Parish we express our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathies to Aleyamma, Philip, Susan and Sujit. Please keep the bereaving family in your prayers.

From the Desk of the Vicar

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings and blessings to you in the name of our Lord, God and savior Jesus Christ.

Great Lent (*Valiya Nombu*) begins on the first Sunday of March this year. Till 40th Friday we observe the 40 days fast of Jesus in the wilderness. After the 40th Friday, we join Jesus on His road to the cross, and then at His glorious resurrection at Easter.

The selected theme for this year's Lent is **Abide in Christ** (John 15:4). Living a Christian life requires more than much attendance during weekly services. Real Christian is a follower of Christ, who tries to live life as Christ lived. So the ultimate goal of every believer should be Christ-likeness. The closer we walk with Him, growing in grace, the more like Him we become. In order to live victorious, fulfilling Christian lives, we must abide in Christ.

Great Lent is a time for self-examination and self-denial. It's a time of self discipline to take control of our lives and bodies. Lent season invites us to improve ourselves, our relationship with God and our fellow beings.

The season of Lent is supposed to be different from our normal schedule and life. Can we slower and more reflective in the midst of our busy schedules? Our prayers with fasting, more worship with almsgiving, more scripture reading with the act of forgiveness and love will help us to enrich our faith and to grow in Christ. It is not a season to earn God's favor by our good works, but it's a season to grow more deeply in God's grace.

I request all my parishioners to observe the Great Lent and attend Lent prayer meetings. Let us strive to live a holy life as we journey throughout this season of Lent. As we do, may it lead us to be mindful of our identity and our mission around us.

I pray for a holy, prayerful and fruitful Lenten journey by abiding in Christ.

May God's peace be with you.

Yours in Christ,

Reniachen.

Youth Chaplain's Corner

This year March 3rd marks the beginning of the Great Lent for the Mar Thoma Church. This special time of the year, we try to examine ourselves and see what we can change so that we can be more like Our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Often we focus on what we need to change in ourselves, but we also need to see what as a family, a church, and a community we need to change. In some homes it might be to start family prayer again. In other homes it might be trying to have a meals as a family, so that a stronger fellowship can be created. Also as a church and a community there are changes that need to be made.

It is because the Lord loves us that he wants us to lead a truly fulfilling life. A loving, caring, sharing life. A life where we build the relationships that brings us and others closer to God.

Jesus the Christ preached, **“Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”** (Matthew 4:17) Repent means so much more than to feel sorry. One of the Jewish words for sin is chet which means “to go astray.” So the word that we translate repent really means “return.” Change your life and return to God. Stop doing what you want and do what God wants and do it now for the kingdom of God is near.

May the Lord enable all of us to properly use this Lent season to return to God and live the life God wants us to.

Rev. Shibi

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Men's Bible Study: March 10, Sunday– 3:30 p.m. at the residence of **Mr. Justin Mani**, 6 Deppe Place, Staten Island, NY 10314.

Cottage Prayer: March 16, Saturday– 3:30 p.m. at the residence of **Mr. Arun Chacko**, 57 Livermore Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10302. Rev. Shibi Abraham will attend the meeting.

Annual YF Easter Raffle will begin soon with the prize of an American and Indian gift basket given on Easter Sunday. Please help support the YF with buying tickets.

March 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.	3/02	Miss Kayla Mathew	147 Brandon Court, NJ
2.	3/05	Mrs. Lida Ninan	436 Buchanan Avenue
3.	3/06	Mr. Jubin John	216 Hawthorne Avenue
4.	3/07	Mr. Laurence Poykayil	18 Field Lane
5.	3/07	Mrs. Juby Panicker	95 Dehart Avenue
6.	3/08	Mrs. Ruby Campbell	337 Chain O'Hills Road, NJ
7.	3/08	Miss Shilpa Thomas	175 Sunset Avenue
8.	3/10	Mrs. Omana Rajee	19 Pilcher Street
9.	3/11	Mr. Bibin George	203 Westwood Avenue
10.	3/11	Mrs. Shiney Poykayil	18 Field Lane
11.	3/11	Mr. Tony Thomas	182 Queen Street
12.	3/12	Dr. Binsu Elza Philip	48 Fillmore Avenue
13.	3/12	Mrs. Rachel George	13 Area Place
14.	3/12	Miss Shannon Thomas	175 Sunset Avenue
15.	3/15	Dr. Santosh Thomas	8 Poland Place
16.	3/15	Mr. Abraham J. Varampath	3 Dewhurst Street
17.	3/15	Mr. Varughese Mathai	281 Brielle Avenue
18.	3/16	Mrs. Minos Abraham	62 Jasper Street
19.	3/16	Mr. Sanel G. Puthiyath	15 Jasper Street
20.	3/16	Mr. Mathews Abraham	33 Dorothy Street
21.	3/16	Mr. Shiju Varughese	28 Steers Street
22.	3/18	Miss Reya Ann Varughese	555 Valleyview Place
23.	3/20	Mr. Kevin Mathew	439 Boulder Drive, NJ
24.	3/20	Mrs. Suby Cherian	150 Logan Avenue
25.	3/21	Mr. Leslie V. Mathews	206 Holden Boulevard
26.	3/21	Mr. Anil Kunjachen	390 Harold Street
27.	3/23	Mr. Jaison John	26 Sherman Boulevard, NJ
28.	3/23	Mrs. Ponnamma Kurian	247 Byrne Avenue
29.	3/23	Dr. Sheeja Thomas	859 Bluestone Lane, NJ

Lent Prayer Schedule

March 04	Monday	Mr. Reji T. George, 231 Merrill Avenue
March 05	Tuesday	Mr. Varughese Raju, 629 Targee Street
March 06	Wednesday	Mr. Joykutty George, 23 Area Place
March 07	Thursday	Mr. Mathews Abraham, 33 Dorothy Street
March 08	Friday	Mrs. Dolamma Panicker, 461 North Gannon Ave.
March 09	Saturday	Mr. Rajee V. Thomas, 19 Pilcher Street
March 11	Monday	Mr. George T. John, 44 Steers Street
March 12	Tuesday	Mr. Oommen Abraham, 56 Ronald Avenue
March 13	Wednesday	Mr. Shailey Varughese, 444 Fanning Street
March 14	Thursday	Dr. Thomas K. Jose, 212 Hales Avenue
March 15	Friday	Mr. John K. Mathai, 572 Mosel Avenue
March 16	Saturday	Mr. Mathew John, 7 Dundar Rd., Edison, NJ
March 18	Monday	Mr. Chacko Mathai, 57 Livermore Avenue
March 19	Tuesday	Mr. John Samuel, 216 Hawthorne Avenue
March 20	Wednesday	Ms. Susan Varughese, 28 Steers Street
March 21	Thursday	Mr. Mathai John, 135 Byrne Avenue
March 22	Friday	Mr. Babu Varghese, 64 Holden Boulevard
March 23	Saturday	Mr. Jose Varughese, 191 Queen Street
March 25	Monday	Mr. Anthony Chacko, 283 Martin Avenue
March 26	Tuesday	Mr. Varughese George, 21 Roosevelt Avenue
March 27	Wednesday	Mr. Varughese T. Abraham, 171 Willard Avenue
March 28	Thursday	Mr. Varughese P. Varughese, 555 Valleyview Place
March 29	Friday	Mr. Sunil K. George, 323 Mountainview Avenue
March 30	Saturday	Mr. Abraham Mathew, 439 Boulder Drive, NJ

MONTH AT A GLANCE—MARCH 2019

Organizations and Area Prayer Meetings

SEVIKA SANGHOM BIBLE STUDY

March 12, Tuesday– 10:00 a.m. at the residence of **Mrs. Liziamma Koshy**, 436 Adams Avenue.

March 26, Tuesday– 10:00 a.m. at the residence of **Mrs. Mollykutty Joseph**, 335 Mountainview Avenue.

FASTING PRAYER

March 1–Friday 10:00 a.m. at the residence of **Mr. Varughese P. Varughese**, 555 Valleyview Place, Staten Island.

March 8–Friday 10:00 a.m. at the residence of **Mr. Mathai John**, 135 Byrne Avenue, Staten Island.

March 15–Friday 10:00 a.m. at the residence of **Mr. Rajee V. Thomas**, 19 Pilcher Street, Staten Island.

March 22–Friday 10:00 a.m. at the residence of **Mr. Abraham P. Thomas**, 8 Poland Place, Staten Island.

March 29–Friday 10:00 a.m. at the residence of **Mr. Koshy P. Koshy**, 436 Adams Avenue, Staten Island.

YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

March 3, Sunday– 4:00 p.m. at the residence of **Mrs. Jency Raju & Mr. Aju Raju**, 11 Allison Way, Princeton, NJ 08540.

YOUNG WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

March 10, Sunday– 4:00 p.m. at the residence of **Dr. Sheeja P. Thomas**, 859 Bluestone Lane, Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

2019-IMPORTANT DATES

March 3	Diocesan Sunday and Pulpit Exchange
March 3	Beginning of Great Lent
March 27	Mid-Lent
April 14	Palm Sunday
April 19	Good Friday
April 21	Easter
May 12	Mother's Day
June 16	Father's Day
November 28	Thanksgiving Day
December 25	Christmas [Wednesday]

2019-REGIONAL/NATIONAL CONFERENCES & DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY MEETING

May 16 & 17	Clergy Conference	Carmel Mar Thoma Center, Atlanta
May 17 & 18	Diocesan Assembly	Carmel Mar Thoma Center, Atlanta
July 11-14	Junior/Senior Conference	
July 25-28	Youth Fellowship Conference	Dallas Farmers Branch MTC
August 1-4	Edavaka Mission Conference	St. Mathews MTC, Toronto
Sept. 25-28	Senior Fellowship Conference	Ascension MTC, Philadelphia
Oct. 4-6	Yuvajana Sakhyam Conference	Christos MTC, Philadelphia
Oct. 10-13	Sevika Sanghom Conference	Trinity MTC, Houston

Secretary's Corner

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure and privilege for me to serve as the Secretary of this Church after 32 years. God has blessed us abundantly over the years and we have come up so far. We are still in the process of growing spiritually and striving to be a witnessing community in our neighborhood. Let us work together and I sincerely solicit your earnest help and cooperation.

Our Prayer Group and Organizational Representatives may take an extra effort in giving the dates of all events and prayer meetings by 15th of each month so that we can include everything in the newsletter for the following month. TBA looks inappropriate and let us try to avoid it as much as possible. You can contact me any time either through email, message or phone. Let us make our worship, fellowship and gatherings more meaningful glorifying the reign of our master Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanking you.

In His Service,

Jose.

TELEPHONE PRAYER

Telephone Prayer on Wednesday March 6th at 8:00 p.m.
Prayer Line Number: (605) 472-5485
I.D. 537772#

World Day of Prayer

on
Saturday, March 2, 2019-10:00 a.m.
at

St. George Malankara Orthodox Church
28 Sunset Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314

Main Speaker:

Rev. Reni K. Abraham