

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

Inside This Issue

Vicar Desk 1, 2
Youth Corner 3, 4, 5
Worship Schedule 6
Lectionary 6
Wedding Anniversary 7
Birthday 7
Bible Reading 8
Upcoming Events 8

From Vicar's Desk

November 2024

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." (St. Matthew 19:14).

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

God is Good All the Time. Let us strive to always keep our focus on Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. God has a purpose and plan for our lives and let us strive to live in the center of His will for each one of us. The church is the bride of Christ. Christ said do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some are. We need each other to face the trials and temptations we must face each day. Every one of us needs someone that we can talk and share with. Always remember that we can talk with the Lord and that we were created to have fellowship with Him daily. God wants us in His church so we can uplift, love, and encourage each other as we worship and serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The first Sunday of November is celebrated throughout the world as Sunday School Day. We will be observing our Sunday School Day on November 3rd. Robert Raikes (1735- 1811), an English Publisher, started the first Sunday School in the city of Gloucester in England in 1780. The Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam was established on 25 February 1905, at the Maramon Convention. Our forefathers and mothers realized this was a glaring need and began to engage the children by teaching them the life of Jesus Christ. Children born in Christian homes must be trained to carry on the work done by their parents. They must be brought to the saving knowledge of Christ and equipped to be leaders when they come of age.

Sunday school education is crucial to carry on the future of the church. I appreciate all our Sunday school children for their enthusiasm in attending classes and parents for bringing them. I am proud and grateful to each of our Sunday school teachers for their wholehearted service. Let's continue to uphold our Sunday school students and teachers in prayer.

Election Day is scheduled for November 5. Let us continue to pray for the United States of America, our leaders, and the people of this country. Let us continue to pray for the healing of humanity and the land.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas let us not become so busy that we forget that Jesus Christ is the ultimate one we give thanks to. Also, Christmas is His Birthday, let us celebrate Him and His love that was shown to us that first Christmas. He is the reason for the season. As decided our, house-to-house caroling will be conducted on December 6,7,8 and 14. Saturday, Dec. 21st at 6:00 PM is our Christmas Carols service.

The spirit of what Thanksgiving is all about -- Giving Thanks to the Lord! This world may be scary at times, but God has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. He said, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). This Thanksgiving, I am thankful to God for each of you! It is a joy and a privilege to be your brother in Christ and serve alongside you in the cause of Christ. Together, may our service to the Lord "overflow in many thanksgivings to God" (2 Corinthians 9:12)! We need to be thankful to God for who He is and what He has done for us. We are not worthy of the blessings of God, but because of God's love and grace, we experience this. Our response is not simply by saying, "thanks," but it must be exemplified through our lives. I hope and pray that this Thanksgiving will be a time where we can rekindle our relationships with God and others and move towards a spirit of reconciliation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving Day!

May God continue to Bless You All. Prayers for you All.

Yours in Christ's ministry,

Rev. George Abraham

Vicar

Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church,

New York.

YOUTH CORNER

Message from Youth Chaplain - November 2024

Glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - One true God!

“If you aim for nothing, you’re sure to hit it.”

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

As we begin the busiest season for our parishes—with family gatherings, Thanksgiving, Christmas Caroling, Watch Night service, New Year’s celebrations, and more—let’s pause to ask: Why do we gather like this each year? What impact do these celebrations have on us and our families?

This season can be more than just a series of events; it’s a chance for intentional spiritual growth and connection. By setting clear goals for us and our families, each gathering becomes an opportunity to deepen our faith, strengthen family bonds, and walk closer with God. Let’s approach this season with hearts open to growth, seeking a season filled with purpose, unity, and renewal.

As the saying goes, if you aim for nothing, you’re sure to hit it. Without clear goals, we risk moving from one season to the next without real change. St. Paul’s words in Philippians 3:13-14 remind us: “Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” This call challenges us to focus on spiritual growth as a family, aligning our lives more closely with God’s purpose. As we near the end of this year, let’s focus on specific spiritual goals. Instead of saying, “I want to be a better Christian,” let’s choose one or two areas to grow in as a family. Maybe that’s setting aside regular time for family prayer, reading a short Bible story weekly, or finding ways to serve others.

As we move through this season, let’s take a moment as a family to reflect: How have we grown spiritually this past year? What small, meaningful goals can we set for the rest of this year? By setting these goals, we enter this season with purpose, moving forward in our journey with God and one another. May God be with you all

Your's in prayer,

JVarghese Achen

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Youth Fellowship House Keeping

Please make it a priority to send your youth to these events. These gatherings offer more than just activities; they're valuable opportunities for our children to connect with their faith, build lasting friendships, and grow spiritually. Let's give them the chance to experience the joy and purpose found in a life rooted in Christ. Your encouragement and commitment make all the difference in shaping their journey with God and within our community.

Monthly Parish Youth Fellowship Meetings

Monthly Parish Youth Fellowship Meetings are happening, and they're filled with activities to deepen our faith and friendships. For more information, please reach out to your Parish Youth Fellowship Secretary, who will have all the details. Let's make the most of these gatherings!

NERYF Registration Open!

NERYF registration is now open! All youth aged 13 to 35, please complete your registration using this link: NERYF Registration Form. <https://forms.gle/5qnmz7T2dhwuS5yC7> Don't miss out—sign up today!

Combined Youth Fellowship Bible Study

When: Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 7:00 pm

Where: Youth Chaplain's Parsonage

Come ready for a night of spiritual growth, connection, and deep discussion! All are invited, and we'd love for you to join us as we dive into God's Word together. Mark your calendars and don't miss out! A special word of appreciation goes out to Justin Babu (St. John's MTC) and Jonah Mathew (Epiphany MTC) for their leadership in Bible Studies this past month. Their dedication has been a blessing to our youth and an inspiration for others to develop Christian leadership skills.

NERYF Friendsgiving

When: Wednesday, November 27, 2024, from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Where: Youth Chaplain's Parsonage

Celebrate friendship, gratitude, and fellowship at our annual Friendsgiving! This is a wonderful chance to reconnect, share a meal, and enjoy the warmth of community before Thanksgiving. Looking forward to seeing you there!

NERYF Fall One-Day Retreat

When: Saturday, November 30, 2024

Where: Long Island Mar Thoma Church

We're inviting all youth for a day of spiritual renewal, worship, and fellowship. This retreat promises a refreshing experience with powerful messages, meaningful discussions, and plenty of time to connect with friends. Our Leader this year is Betsy Chacko (Staten Island MTC) Stay tuned for more details—set aside this date to rejuvenate your spirit and strengthen your faith journey!

November College Visits – Let’s Fellowship in Christ!

Students! Join in on an opportunity to grow together, share life, and encourage one another on campus! Your Youth Chaplain is excited to join you for fellowship, support, and prayer. Whether you need a break, a boost, or a few moments of community, we’re here for you. Here’s where you can join us:

University of Connecticut (UConn):

Date: November 5, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Adelphi University:

Date: November 6, 2024

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Hofstra University:

Date: November 6, 2024

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

University of Buffalo:

Date: November 12, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

University at Albany:

Date: November 18, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Hunter College:

Date: November 19, 2024

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:20)

Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
November 3 rd – Sunday World Sunday School Day	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)
November 10 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
November 17 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
November 24 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)

Lectionary

November 3 rd – Kudosh Eetho: Sanctification of the Church; Beginning of the Liturgical Year; World Sunday School Day: Jesus Christ who embraces children		
	1 st Lesson	Gen. 17:1-8
	2 nd Lesson	I Jn. 2:7-14
	Epistle	Eph. 6:1-4
	Gospel	St. Mark. 10:13-16
November 10 th – Hudosh Eetho: Renewal of the Church; Festival of Unity of CSI, CNI, and Mar Thoma Church: Unity of the churches –For the witness of the Kingdom of God		
	1 st Lesson	Josh. 4:1-8
	2 nd Lesson	I Cor. 12:12-27
	Epistle	Eph. 4:1-7
	Gospel	St. John 17:20-23
November 17 th – Annunciation to Zechariah: God who fulfils promises		
	1 st Lesson	I Chr. 24:1-19
	2 nd Lesson	Heb. 6:9-12
	Epistle	Rom. 10:9-15
	Gospel	St. Luke 1:5-23
November 24 th – Annunciation to Virgin Mary: Virgin Mary –The model of dedication for the people of God; Diaspora Sunday		
	1 st Lesson	I Sam. 2:1-11
	2 nd Lesson	Gal. 4:1-7
	Epistle	Rom. 12:1-2
	Gospel	St. Luke 1:26-38

Wedding Anniversary

Tibu C Tharakan	Sheba Tibu	3-Nov
Nithin Thomas	Charu	24-Nov
Jose Cherian	Reena Jose	27-Nov

Birthday Wishes

Kunjamma Ben	2-Nov
Aby K Varghese	3-Nov
Alvin J Mathew	10-Nov
Preema Mary Cherian	11-Nov
Mathai Oommen	11-Nov
Reenu Ancy Kurian	12-Nov
Marina Molly Samuel	14-Nov
Mathew George	15-Nov
Mathew A Mathew	18-Nov
Abraham C. Jacob	25-Nov
Annakutty C. Jacob	26-Nov
Dr. Minnie John	27-Nov
Leelamma Abraham	28-Nov
Rosamma Mathai	28-Nov
Jayden Gigio Ninan	29-Nov
Zara Maria John	29-Nov
C.S. Chacko (Raju)	30-Nov
Thomas K Mathai	30-Nov



Bible Reading

The family of....	Date
Sunday School	11/03/2024
Jose Cherian	11/10/2024
Justin Kurian Oommen	11/17/2024
Kurian A Mathew	11/24/2024
Nihal Joseph Easow	12/01/2024
Prasad Thomas	12/08/2024
Rachel George	12/15/2024
Ryan K. Varghese	12/22/2014
Saji Thomas	12/25/2024
Thomas K Mathai	12/29/2024
Thomas K. Mathew	12/31/2024

Upcoming Events

1. Wednesday Bible Studies and Saturday prayer meetings via zoom at 7:00pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSnRiQkl2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09>

Dial 1 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 812 4392 8868; Passcode:406406

2. November 3rd, 2024, Sunday- World Sunday School Day (English HQ)
3. November 28th Thursday – Thanksgiving Day
4. December 6th, 7th, 8th & 14th - Christmas Carol House Visits (Convener: Mr. Eapen Joseph)
5. December 21st, 2024, Saturday – Christmas Carol Service at our Church at 6:00pm
6. December 25th, Wednesday - Christmas Day - English Holy Communion at 8:00am
7. December 31st, 2024, Tuesday, 10:00pm- Watch-night Service