



2024
HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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From Vicar's Desk

January 2024

Jeremiah 29:11

‘For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.’

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Well, here we are again. Wishing you all a blessed 2024! Let us praise God for every experience, blessing, and challenge we had in the previous year. We have bid farewell to 2023. I ask you to evaluate this past year; look at the places you've done well, and areas of your life which require improvement.

“Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.” (Isaiah 64:8, NRSV). God is our creator; we are the creation. We are part of the created order, yet we are imperfect due to our sins, and we fall short of the glory of God. Let us understand that we are always in a process of changing and transformation. Let us do the same for our spiritual life and our relationship with the Lord and let us commit our lives into the Lord's keeping as we enter this new year.

Moving into the year 2024, let us focus on leading a sacramental life. The word of God affirms the importance of humanity, and God's purpose for us. God desires us to live a life with him, being part of His plan of salvation (I Timothy 2:4). To do so, our life needs to be set apart for His purpose. The faith that is have is nourished and affirmed through our prayers, songs, worship, fellowship, bible study, witness, & sacraments.

Let us truly celebrate the new year by renewing our commitment and living a sacramental life.

I appreciate everyone, including our parish ministries, that labored behind the Christmas Carol Service, House to House Caroling and Episcopal Visit arrangements. There were lots of prayers and hard work behind these events and I cannot thank God enough for His boundless mercies and blessings. I hope and pray that these efforts will help intensify our prayers, further our faith, and make our life in the church ministry more meaningful and fruitful.

I call upon all of us to go into the New Year with great trust in the Lord.
May the grace of the Triune God be with you all, especially in this New Year.

We are thankful to God for each one of you.

Yours in Christ's ministry,

Rev. George Abraham
Vicar
Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church,
New York.

Message from Youth Chaplain

JANUARY 2024 MESSAGE

Welcoming a New Year is filled with many mixed emotions, but at the same time, it is seen overall as a clean slate or fresh start. It is a time for us to analyze the last year and see how to better ourselves in the new year. So many challenges and New Year's resolutions are thought out and have already become a challenge to us. On New Year's Day we are excited, with the same excitement we have starting a new project but carrying it throughout our lives is a challenge. The real question we need to ask is who our goals for are. Many times, we see the phrase 'self-goals'. But if we see trying to better ourselves just for 'me' we will tend to compromise. Our lives should be based around God and all that He is to us. God gave all for us, so when we live, we must live faithfully our all to Him. How much throughout 2023 have we been distracted and taken away from pure devotion to God? When we set goals to live for God let's see to it that we can achieve them. To be victorious in living our life for God requires us to set our minds on things of the Spirit and abide by the word of God.

During the first week of this month, the Diocesan Youth Fellowship will have the Leadership Conference which will be held on January 4-7, 2024. The Epiphany Mar Thoma Church, New York will host it. The theme is: "SENT: Sent to See, Sent to Seek, Sent to Speak". Let us pray for the delegates and leaders of the conference so that it will be a purposeful and blessed experience.

Let us also pray for our college-going youths who will start a new semester this year and as they head back, they can study for God. May the Almighty God bless and guide each of us this new year.

NERYF will have the Regional Retreat on February 16-18, 2024. It will be held at the Montrose Bible Conference Center in Pennsylvania. Registration is for youths 16 and above. Encourage our youths to come for a purpose filled weekend. The theme is UNIQUE, and the main speaker is Rev. Jaisen A. Thomas, vicar of the Redeemer Mar Thoma Church. Please pray and participate.

Wishing everyone a Blessed and Happy New Year 2024! God bless you!

Much love,

Jess M. George Achen

Rev. Jess M. George
Youth Chaplain North-East Region
Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church
(516)532-6115 (Cell)

Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
December 31 st -Sunday – Jan 1 st , 2024, Monday Watch-Night Service	10:00pm	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam) Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos as Celebrant; farewell meeting.
January 7 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
January 14 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)
January 21 st – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)
January 28 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)

Lectionary

December 31 st – Year Ending – Watch Night Services		
	1 st Lesson	Deut. 8:1-20
	2 nd Lesson	2 Cor. 9:10-15
	Epistle	1 Thess. 5:1-11
	Gospel	Luke 13:6-9
January 7 th – Evangelism: Church's Primary Commission (Bahya Kerala Mission)		
	1 st Lesson	Isa. 61:1-11
	2 nd Lesson	Acts 20:17-24
	Epistle	Col. 1:24-29
	Gospel	Matt. 9:35-38
January 14 th – Life: for the glory of God (Temperance Day)		
	1 st Lesson	Prov. 23:19-35
	2 nd Lesson	1 Thess. 5:1-11
	Epistle	Eph. 5:15-20
	Gospel	Matt. 5:13-16
January 21 st – Love: The Foundation of Unity (Ecumenical Sunday)		
	1 st Lesson	Num. 11:23-30
	2 nd Lesson	1Cor. 3:1-9
	Epistle	Eph. 4:1-17
	Gospel	John 15:8-16
January 28 th – Participation in nation building: a Christian responsibility		
	1 st Lesson	Neh. 2:11-18
	2 nd Lesson	1Pet 2:1-12
	Epistle	Rom. 12:9-21
	Gospel	Matt 13:31-34



Wedding Anniversary

Jephin Varughese Jose	Rijo Ann Jose	9-Jan
Jacob Varughese	Marykuttu Varughese	15-Jan
George P Varughese	Sosamma E Varughese	24-Jan



Birthday Wishes

Saju Mathews	2-Jan
Rebecca R Joseph	8-Jan
George P Varughese	9-Jan
Annamma Thomas (Glory)	10-Jan
Dr. Sheba Sarah Ben	15-Jan
Philip Parayil	16-Jan
Jewel Varghese	17-Jan
Ajus K Ninan	20-Jan
Sean George	20-Jan
Gifty Tom Mathew	25-Jan
Justin Kurian Oommen	30-Jan

Bible Reading



The family of....	Date
Assigned people for New Year's Eve Service - TBD	12/31/2023
Titus Samuel	1/7/2024
Viju V Varghese	1/14/2024
Vipin T Koor	1/21/2024
Abraham Jacob	1/28/2024
Abraham Oonnoony	02/04/2024
Alexei Isaac	02/11/2024
Benjamin Jacob	02/18/2024
C.S. Chacko (Raju)	02/25/2024

Upcoming Events

1. December 31st, 2023, Sunday, 10:00pm- Watchnight Service; Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos visit/Farewell meeting. No Morning Service on December 31st.
2. Wednesday Bible Study and Saturday Prayer Meeting at 7:00pm via ZOOM.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSndiQkI2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09>
Dial 1 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 812 4392 8868; Passcode:406406