

PARISH NEWS

VOL XXIX No. 3 March 2011

**CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA
MALAYALAM CONGREGATION OF
GREATER NEW YORK**



MOTTO - 2011

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

(Matthew 5:8)

**Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service: 10:45 AM**

**3833 Jerusalem Ave.
Seaford, NY 11783**

www.csiseafordny.org

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)

FIRST CLASS MAIL

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO:

Secretary

C.S. I. Malayalam Congregation

3833 Jerusalem Avenue

Seaford, NY 11783

DATED MATERIAL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 2011

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- * Mr. George T Mathew (516) 741-2051
- * Mr. Koshy M. Kunjummen (516) 354-2184

Auditors

- Mr. Thomas M. Kunjummen
- Mr. Thomas Varghese

Sunday School Supt.

Mrs. Shilly Nebu

Organist: Mr. Varghese Paul — **Choir Master:** Mr. Jacob John

MADHYA KERALA DIOCESE

BISHOP

RT. REV. THOMAS K. OOMMEN



CONSECRATED ON SATURDAY

MARCH 5TH, 2011

AT

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, KOTTAYAM

CALENDAR 2011

January 1, 2011	New Year day Service
January 8, 2011	Choir Get together and Anniversary
January 22, 2011	Choir Get together and Anniversary
January 16 & 30	Auxiliary Fellowships Election
January 23, 2011	Legislative General Body
February 5, 2011	Elected Official Retreat
February 6, 2011	Sunday School Piggy Bank Distribution
February 20, 2011	Defensive Driving Course- A.F
February 13 - March 06	Youth, W. F & A.F Membership Campaign
March 4, 2011	World Prayer Day - WF One Day Chain Prayer
March 6, 2011	WF Sunday/ SS Teacher's Retreat
March 9, 2011	Ash Wednesday Service (Lent Season)
March 27, 2011	Annual General Body
April 3, 2011	Women's Fellowship Bake Sale
April 10, 2011	Sunday School Painting Competition
April 16, 2011	Tristate youth Praise and Worship
April 17, 2011	Palm Sunday
April 18-20	Passion Week Special Service
April 21, 2011	Maundy Thursday
April 22, 2011	Good Friday
April 23/24	Passion Recital (Choir)
April 24, 2011	Easter/ SS Piggy Bank Collection
May 7, 2011	Almaya and Women's Fellowship Retreat
May 8, 2011	Mothers day/ SS Memory Verse Competition
May 15, 2011	Mission Sunday
May 21, 2011	Sunday School Annual Competition
May 29, 2011	Elder Youths and Young Couples Meeting
June 5, 2011	Sunday School Bible Quiz Competition
June 11, 2011	Almaya Fellowship Picnic
June 18, 2011	Bowling tournament (Youths)
June 19, 2011	Fathers day / Sunday School Final Day (Exam)
June 25, 2011	Youth Picnic
June 26 -July 24	Malayalam Class (SS Vacation special class)
July 1 - 4	CSI Family & Youth Conference
July 13, 2011	Youth One Day Trip
July 15 - 17	Church Family & Youth Retreat
July 17, 2011	Women's Fellowship - Piggy Bank Collection
July 24, 2011	Women's Fellowship Bake Sale
July 24 (25)	Diocesan Day Celebration
July 24 / August 07	Mid-Year General Body
July 29, 30 & 31	VBS
July 31, 2011	VBS Finale/ Sunday School Anniversary
August 6, 2011	Church Picnic
August 7, 2011	Almaya Fellowship Sunday
August 13, 2011	STECI Volleyball tournament
August 19 - 20	30 Hour Famine
September 4, 2011	Harvest Festival
September 10, 2011	SS Teacher's Retreat
September 11, 2011	Sunday School Begins - Education/ Senior Citizen Sunday
September 17, 2011	Almaya - Women's Fellowship Trip
September 18, 2011	Choir Sunday
September 24, 2011	Tristate Fellowship Day
September 25 (27)	CSI Day / Women's Fellowship Bake Sale
October 8, 2011	Youth Service Event
October 9, 2011	Youth Fellowship Sunday
October 22, 2011	Fund Raising Program (or Dec Carol rounds)
October 30, 2011	Elder Youths and Young Couples Meeting
November 1, 2011	All Saint's Day
November 13, 2011	Sunday School Sunday / World Sunday School Day
November 19, 2011	Almaya / Women's Fellowship Anniversary
November 27, 2011	Thanksgiving and Family Sunday
December 11, 2011	Women's Fellowship Bake Sale
December 17, 2011	Christmas Carol Service / Parish Day
December 23, 2011	Youth Service Event
December 25, 2011	Christmas Service
December 30, 2011	Choir Get-together
December 31, 2011	Watch Night Service



FROM THE DESK OF OUR VICAR

Dear Ones in Christ,

Warmest Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The consecration ceremony of Rev. Thomas K. Oommen as the 12th Bishop of the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese was held on March 5th at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kottayam. CSI Moderator, Bishop Most Rev. S. Vasanthakumar was the main celebrant. Over Five thousand people attended the day long program that started at 9:30 AM. The Cathedral and its vicinity dressed up elegantly for the event. It was an event that the members of Madhya Kerala Diocese were prayerfully looking forward to. Hundreds of believers, MLA's, bishops, priests and other prominent persons attended the consecration ceremony.

On behalf of the Church of South India Malayalam Congregation of Greater New York, Seaford, I would like to congratulate the Rt. Rev. Thomas K. Oommen in becoming the 12th Bishop of the CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese. We as a congregation take great pride in knowing that one of our previous Vicars has been chosen to lead the Diocese into the future. We are certain that the hand of almighty God was at work in choosing an able and faithful leader. May his ministry continue to be a blessing to the diocese, to the Madhya Kerala Diocese congregations around the globe and to Church of South India as a whole.

The Lenten season of this year has already begun. The very thought of this should make our life so serious and renewed. Clinging to the cross and obtaining mercy is the hallmark of repentance and observing lent. A contrite heart is the need of the hour. May the good Lord help us to have introspection during these days of penitence. In this season many people like to do fasting, either every day or at least on every Friday. It is, no doubt, a very good practice because through prayer and fasting only our spiritual life gets strengthened. Moreover, we can come very close to God which is the richest blessing which we can receive through fasting in this season. Fast have a tendency to be oriented toward things like giving up food or television. But there are many other creative ways we can welcome Christ's healing touch. And this does not limit during the Lent period. Here are suggestions you may want to consider

(1) Fast from anger and hatred. Give you family an extra dose of love each day.

(2) Fast from judging others. Before making any judgments, recall how Jesus overlooks our faults.

(3) Fast from discouragement. Hold on to Jesus' promise that he has perfect plan for your life.

(4) Fast from complaining. When you find yourself about to complain, close your eyes and recall some of the little moments of joy Jesus has given you.

(5) Fast from resentment or bitterness. Work on forgiving those who may have hurt you.

(6) Fast from spending too much money. Try to your spending by ten percent and give those savings to the poor or charitable work. All members are once again reminded to refrain from their craving for rich food and refrain from non- vegetarian food. The money saved may be offered as self denial offering during Easter worship service.

In the month of March the following four important days are observed:

1. World day of prayer (March 4)
2. Women's Fellowship Sunday (March 6)
3. International Women's Day (March 8)
4. The Annunciation Day (March 25)

The word Annunciation simply means announcement or proclamation. In our Church calendar this day is marked to remember the announcement by the angel Gabriel to Mary that she was to be the mother of Jesus Christ. This event narrated by St. Luke, highlights how Mary in faith, responded to the shocking news of the angel Gabriel.

- . The ways she accepted the word of God
- . The way she surrendered herself to Lord, saying, 'I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said'.
- . Knowing the consequences of it, make her an obedient person par excellence.

We see Mary as a person who was very bold and a born theologian, dreaming dreams and seeing visions of a radically different social order. She used her transformation experience to transform others through the magnificent. She used the cultural means i.e. poems to bring out this transformation in her society, at least, among the women folk of her days. In this way there is a close relationship between the annunciation and the magnificent, the experience and expression of our faith in the context we live. Like Mary and Elizabeth, let us make the message of the Lord relevant to our context. Let the empowered, empower the powerless, so that the people who are oppressed may say, 'my spirit rejoices in God my savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant' (Luke 1:46) and he has performed mighty deeds with his arm' (v.51).

The annunciation of Mary shows us how to respond to God and his message, how to join hands with others in experiencing the transforming power of God, how we can experience God's favor in our daily lives and be a chosen vessel of God.

Yours in His Ministry,
Nebu Achen

Monthly Schedule

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Women's Fellowship Bible Study – (Alternative Mondays- Church and Houses)	Mondays 10AM
Women's Fellowship Meeting-	3 rd Sunday
Almaya Fellowship Meeting -	2nd Sunday
Youth Meeting	4th Sunday
Youth Bible Study	3rd Saturday
Youth Tele Prayer	1st Tuesdays
Church Tele Prayer	All Tuesdays except 1st
Fellowship Meeting	Fridays, 7:30 PM
Fasting Prayer	2 nd Saturday
Sunday School	Sundays
S.S Teachers Meeting	1 st Sunday
Choir Practice	Sundays

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



March

07	Marina John	Bellerose
10	Sheela Varughese	Staten Island
10	Nipun Varughese Koshy	Glen Oaks
11	Varghese Kurien	Floral Park
12	Roby Kinatukara	Commack
12	Rani Modayil	Bellerose
14	Pyary Sunny	Floral Park
15	Varghese Paul	Deer Park
15	Rachel Joy	Syosset
17	Susan Daniel	Dix Hills
17	George Itty	Staten Island
18	Shanna Paul	New Hyde Park
18	Jacob John	Hicksville
19	Ammini John	Teaneck
21	Sruthi Miriam John	Douglaston
23	Joel George	Glen Oaks
26	Reuben Benny	Douglaston
26	Kizhakayil I. George	Deer Park
27	Danny Samuel	Brooklyn
29	Roshan George	New Hyde Park

April

01	Renji Daniel	New Hyde Park
01	Mini Jacob	New Hyde Park
01	Sharon Koshy	New Hyde Park
03	Sosamma Philip	Flushing
03	Kristina Sarah Mani	Staten Island
03	Jayden Alex Chacko	Oregon
04	Babyamma Varghese	Richmond Hill
04	Bobby Mathew Abraham	Westbury
05	Betsy Mathew Varghese	Oregon
06	Jolly David	Manhasset Hills
06	Stanzy Achamma John	Douglaston
06	Sunny David	Floral Park
08	Jeremy Reuben Chacko	Oregon
09	Sindhu Mathew	Staten Island
09	Sophy Shaji	New Hyde Park
09	Lincy Philip	New Hyde Park
10	John V. Mangalath	Plainview

NEWS AND EVENTS

ELECTED OFFICIALS RETREAT

The elected officials retreat was held on Sat., Feb. 5 from 10AM - 3 PM. Rev. Binu T. John (CSI Hudson valley) was the main speaker and delivered a meaningful message. The calendar for 2011 was prepared after lunch. Thanks to all 40 members who participated for the retreat.

HEALING MINISTRY SUNDAY

Sunday, February 13th was observed as Healing Ministry Sunday. Let us continue to follow Jesus' ministry example—preaching, teaching and healing.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE-

Defensive driving course was conducted under the leadership of the Almaya Fellowship on Sunday, February 20th. 29 members took part. Special thanks to Mr. Oommen Kuruvilla who lead the class.

HOLY BAPTISM

The baptism of Tom N Mathew, (son of Mathew and Smitha Varughese) was held on Sunday, Feb.27th immediately after the worship service.

AUXILIARY FELLOWSHIPS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Almaya, Women's and Youth fellowships conducted their membership campaign from February 13th thru March 6th. Thanks to all those who took new membership or renewed their membership.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 4th was observed as World Day of Prayer. The members of the Women's Fellowship conducted a 20 hour chain Prayer from 6am to 2am. There were 35 participants for this prayer in which Achen provided 30 prayer topics. Friday fellowship also met jointly for this special day of prayer. Thanks to all who participated.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, March 6th was celebrated as Women's Fellowship Sunday. Members of the women's fellowship took active part in leading the worship and Our Kochamma, Mrs. Shilly Nebu delivered the message. The cover collection which totaled close to \$4,000, will be used for marriage help through the Madhya Kerala Diocese. Members also sponsored the lunch for that day.

SPECIAL THANKS

Kizhakayl I. Mathew and family for donating an English Bible for use at the altar during our worship service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A retreat for the Sunday school teachers was held on Sunday March 6th after the worship service. Our Achen led the retreat.

Parents please note that the attendance for Sunday School opening assembly has been low. Please bring your children to Sunday school promptly at 9:30am.

ASH WEDNESDAY

We began the Lenten Season with a special Holy Communion worship service on Wednesday March 9th at 7:30pm.

ST. THOMAS ECUMENICAL FEDERATION

Our Vicar, Rev Nebu Skariah was elected as the President of the St. Thomas Ecumenical Federation. The Board of Trustees appointed Mr. Shaji A. Varghese and Mrs. Annamma Koshy as our church representatives for 2011.

AIR-CONDITION SYSTEM UPDATE

The Board of Trustees has received multiple quotes for the Air-conditioning system to be installed in our Church. These will be reviewed in the coming month. Please give the amount of your pledges to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

FUND RAISING

Those who still have not paid for the **Friends and Family Night Fund Raising event** (\$100), kindly contact the Treasurer as soon as possible.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

The following is the revised subscription amounts effective January 1, 2011 as decided in the 2010 Mid-Year General Body meeting

\$ 300 (Single)

\$ 450 (Family with one member working)

\$ 600 (Family)

Retired members: No change.

REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP:

Laptop - Board of Trustees requesting sponsor(s) for laptop to maintain Church files, accounts and financial statements.

Parish News - members interested in commemorating a special event or in memory of a loved one, please contact Achen or the Secretary.

Board of Trustees' Assignments - 2011

Cash Counting:	Mrs. Rachel Joy Mr. Koshy M. Kunjummen Mr. George T. Mathew
Refreshment:	Mr. George T. Mathew
Service Arrangements:	Mr. Thomas T. Oommen Mr. Thomas E. Mathew Mr. Jophry K. Philip
Property Caretakers:	Mr. Thomas T. Oommen Mr. Jophry K. Philip Mr. Thomas J. Paickattu
Convention:	Mr. Thomas T. Oommen(Convener)
Family Retreat:	Mr. George Itty (Convener)
Harvest Festival:	Mr. George T. Mathew (Convener)
Picnic:	Mr. Binchu John (Convener)
Sunday School:	Mrs. Rachel Joy
Choir:	Mr. Mathew Thomas
Youth Fellowship:	Mr. Vinod Varghese
Women's Fellowship:	Mrs. Susan George
Almaya Fellowship:	Mr. Koshy M. Kunjummen

REFRESHMENTS:

We are thankful to the following families for providing refreshments:

February 27 – Mr. Mathew N. Varughese and Family

March 06 — Women's Fellowship members

CONDOLENCE



Our Beloved Ammachi, Mrs. Aleyamma John (87), mother of Mrs. Alice Abraham and Jacob John was called to eternal Home on Tuesday, Feb 15, 2011. The funeral service was conducted at our church and burial service at All Saints Cemetery on Saturday, Feb 19th. Ammachi was an active and integral part of our congregation. Her presence and love will be greatly missed.

The following people were also called to Eternal Home:

Mrs. Mary Thomas (Delhi), Sister of Dr. Thomas Pushpamangalam on January 31st.

Mrs. Annamma Mathai (92) Mother of Mrs. Saramma T. Oommen on February 27th.

May God Almighty continue to console the bereaved families.

Upcoming Events

TELE PRAYER MEETING

Youth: 1st Tuesday 9:30 PM – March 1st & April 5th
Church: Tuesdays- 9:00 PM—March 08,15,22,29

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

March 19, April 02 and 09 at 3:30 PM.

Please note that attendance is mandatory

MALAYALAM CLASSES

March 13 and April 03 - Sunday after worship service

MONTHLY FASTING PRAYER

Fasting Prayer will be held on Saturday March 19th at 10 AM at the Church.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BAKE SALE

There will be a bake sale conducted by Women's Fellowship on Sunday, April 3rd after the worship service

ST. THOMAS ECUMENICAL INAUGURATION

Inaugural meeting and World Day of Prayer will be held on Saturday, March 26th - 10AM at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Elmont.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

2011 Annual General Body Meeting will be held on March 27 after the worship service. Agenda: Previous general bodies minutes, 2010 Annual reports, 2010 accounts, 2011 budget, 2011 Joint conveners election, and other matters.

If there are any questions, clarifications, resolutions etc – please contact Achen before Friday, March 25th at 5 PM.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PAINTING COMPETITION

The painting competition is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 10th at 1 pm. For more information, contact the Sunday School secretary.

ALMANAC MARCH-2011

March 13 (ENGLISH) Sixth Sunday before Easter Cleansing Power of Christ

Zechariah 13:1-9 Mr. Allen M Koshy
Psalm 130 Mrs. Rachel Joy
John 1:5-10 Ms. Rani Modayil
Mark 1:40-45
Bible Bearer: Mr. Mathew David
Offertory: Mr. and Mrs. Rosen M. Philip
Elements: Mr. Thomas T Oommen
Mr. Jophry Philip

March 20 (MALAYALAM) Fifth Sunday before Easter Faith in Christ

1 Kings 17:17-24 Mrs. Sheela Varghese
Psalm 34:1-15 Mr. Roby Kinatukara
Colossians 1:1-12 Mr. Varghese Paul
Mark 9:14-29
Bible Bearer: Mr. Varghese Kurien
Offertory: Mr. and Mrs. Sunny David
Elements: Mr. George Itty
Mr. George T. Mathew

March 27 (ENGLISH) Fourth Sunday before Easter Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth

Amos 5:18-27 Mr. Jacob John
Psalm 96 Mrs. Shanna Paul
Philippians 2:5-11 Ms. Sruthi Miriam John
Luke 11:1-4
Bible Bearer: Mr. Joel George
Offertory: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Daniel
Elements: Mr. Thomas J. Paickattu
Mr. Mathew Thomas

April 03 (MALAYALAM) Third Sunday before Easter New Community in Christ

Judges 4:4-10 Mr. Kizhakayil George
Psalm 89:1-16 Mr. Reuben Benny
Galatians 3:19-29 Ms. Sindhu Mathew
Matthew 9:9-17
Bible Bearer: Mr. Renji Daniel
Offertory: Mr. and Mrs. Shibu Jacob
Elements: Mr. Koshy M. Kunjummen
Mr. Thomas E. Mathew

April 10 (ENGLISH) Passion Sunday Cross and the Suffering Humanity

Jeremiah 8:18-22 Mr. Bobby Mathew Abraham
Psalm 73 Ms. Stanzy A. John
2 Cor. 4:7-12 Mrs. Jolly David
Mark 10:35-52
Bible Bearer: Mr. John V. Mangalath
Offertory: Mr. and Mrs. Mathew Philip
Elements: Mr. Vinod Varghese
Mr. Binchu John