

January	BIRTHDAY	
3	Rachel G. Karakal	Nanuet
6	Jonathan Mathew Abraham	Nanuet
8	Jenny Mariamma Idiculla	Bergenfield
8	Jibin C. George	Valley Cottage
12	Maya Mary David	
12	Kuruvilla Cherian	Orangeburg
13	Joel P. Dey	Orangeburg
14	Alice Mathew	Nanuet
14	John P. Koshy	Spring Valley
15	Mary Thomas	Avenel
15	Robin Chacko	New City
16	Jeremy Job	Congers
17	Thomas Christison	Danbury
18	Rency Joshua	Nanuet
22	Sneha Sara Kurian	Congers
23	Subin Alexander	Tappan
25	Dalia Ann Mathew	Nanuet
28	Annamma Daniel	Wappinger Falls
28	Jerry John	Spring Valley
28	Navita Mariam John	Nanuet
28	Shaina Mathews	Spring Valley

January	WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES	
2	Mrs. and Mr. Babu Mathew	Nanuet
9	Mrs. and Mr. Rajesh Mathew	
11	Mrs. and Mr. Chris Jacob Abraham	
5	Mrs. and Mr. John K. Alexander	Tappan
7	Mrs. and Mr. Binu Mathew	New City
13	Mrs. and Mr. Joseph P. David	Spring Valley
19	Mrs. and Mr. Nebu Varghese	Poughkeepsie
16	Mrs. and Mr. Dey P. Neduvellil	Orangeburg
16	Mrs. and Mr. Gigi Tom	Congers
17	Mrs. and Mr. Tholloor Thomas George	Spring Valley
20	Mrs. and Mr. Joji Joshua	Nanuet
24	Mrs. and Mr. Jacob George	Tappan
26	Mrs. and Mr. Jose P. Mathunny	Spring Valley
29	Mrs. and Mr. Thomas Zachariah	Nanuet



# ST. JAMES MAR THOMA CHURCH

January 2013

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## Relevance of Gospel

*Dearly beloved in Christ,*

*We have entered into a New Year. Once again we have celebrated Christmas, birth of Jesus and entry of gospel in the world. What is the relevance of gospel today? Early Church Father Tertullian said: "Just as Christ was crucified between two thieves, so the doctrine of justification is ever crucified between two opposite errors." These two errors are very powerful, because they represent the natural tendency of the human heart and mind. These thieves can be called moralism and relativism. Otherwise it can be called as legalism and liberalism. Timothy J. Keller in his Preaching Gospel in a Post – Modern World describes these two as under realized eschatology and over realized eschatology.*

*Jesus lived among two major groups of leaders in Judaism, one is Pharisees and the other is Sadducees. Both were opposing groups, but joined together to kill Jesus. Pharisees were highly religious, adding all sorts of rules and regulations to make the law of God do-able. Sadducees were irreligious. They were motivated by political agenda. High Priests of Jesus' time were Sadducees. Apostle John describes Christ's incarnation in John 1:14, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth." Moralists or today's Pharisees stress truth over grace, for they say that we must obey the truth in order to be saved. Relativists or present day Sadducees stress grace over truth; for they say that we are all accepted by God, if there is a God. But truth without grace is not really truth and grace without truth is not really grace. Jesus was full of grace and truth. The real gospel gives us a God far more holy than a Pharisee can bear and far more loving than a Sadducee can imagine.*

*Legalism and liberalism, or a Pharisee and a Sadducee are basically the same. They are just different strategies of self- salvation. Both are basically being their own Savior and Lord. Are we concealed either a Pharisee or a Sadducee in our life? May the gospel reveal our true self and transform us. Let us dedicate ourselves before God Almighty for this in the New Year.*

*Wishing all a blessed and happy New Year!*

*In His Ministry*

*Joe Johnachen*

*revjoejohn@gmail.com*

<b>Jan 06</b>	<b>10:15 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (English)</b>		
Theme	Danha(Epiphany): Baptism of our Lord -Outside Kerala Mission			
<b>Readings</b>	<b>Lesson 1</b>	<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Verses	2Kings.2:19-22	Acts.19:1-7	Rom.6:1-11	St.Mat.3:13-17
S. Assistant Alter Boy	Selwyn Alexander Jacob			
L. Reading	Jeremy Job		Sofia Philips	
Ushers	John K Alexander		Susan Alexander	

<b>Jan 27</b>	<b>10:15 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (Malayalam)</b>		
Theme	Cost of Discipleship			
<b>Readings</b>	<b>Lesson 1</b>	<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Verses	Isa.42:1-7	2Tim.2:1-13	1Pet.4:12-19	St.Luke.14:25-33
S. Assistant	Gigi Tom			
L. Reading	Babu Mathew		Aleyamma Mathew	
Ushers	Jerry John		Sneha Sarah Kurian	

<b>Jan 13</b>	<b>10:15 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (Malayalam)</b>		
Theme	Destruction of Body and Soul- Loosing of the Kingdom of God- Temperance Sunday			
<b>Readings</b>	<b>Lesson 1</b>	<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Verses	Isa.28:1-7	Eph.5:15-21	Gal.5:16-24	St.Mark.5:1-19
S. Assistant	Kuruvilla Cherian			
L. Reading	Jonathan Abraham		Anamma Daniel	
Ushers	Joseph P David		Mariamma David	

<b>Jan 20</b>	<b>10:15 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (English)</b>		
Theme	God of Life, Lead us into Justice and Peace -Ecumenical Sunday			
<b>Readings</b>	<b>Lesson 1</b>	<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Verses	Gen.6:13-22	Jam.5:1-11	Eph.6:10-17	St.Mat.5:1-11
S. Assistant	Thomas Cheriyan		Jonathan Joshua	
L. Reading	Binu Mathew		Dalia Mathew	
Ushers	Nebu Varghese		Gitty Varghese	

**Rev. Joe John**  
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<b>Every Week</b>	
08:45 AM	<u>Sunday</u> : Sunday School
10:00 AM	<u>Sunday</u> : Praise and worship (Youth & Sunday School)
10.30 AM	<u>Friday</u> : Fasting prayer at parsonage

<b>ORGANISATION PRAYER MEETINGS</b>		
<b>EDAVAKA MISSION</b>	January 26th, Saturday At 7.00 PM	Samuel, Mathew 5 Stoneham Lane New City, NY 10956
<b>Youth Fellowship</b>	January 12th, Saturday At 11.00 AM	At Church

<b>AREA PRAYER MEETINGS</b>		
<b>CLARKSTOWN</b>		TBA
<b>ORANGETOWN</b>		TBA
<b>RAMAPO</b>		TBA