

UPCOMING EVENTS & PRAYER MEETINGS: DEC. 2017

12/3 Sun.	10:15 AM	Parish Day
12/8 Fri.	6:00 PM	Christmas - House Caroling
12/9 Sat.	4:00 PM	Christmas - House Caroling
12/10 Sun.	4:00 PM	Christmas - House Caroling
12/16 Sat.	6:00 PM	Christmas - House Caroling
12/24 Sun.	6:00 PM	Christmas Carole Service (Christ Eve)
12/31 Sun.	10:00 PM	Watch Night Service (New Year's Eve)

ST. JAMES MAR THOMA CHURCH OF ROCKLAND, NY

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Vicar's Message

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The Christmas is the celebration of the mystery of God's love for us. This is the season that we are engaging in the celebrations of Christmas. In Bethlehem, the birth of Christ was celebrated in the midst of limitations and material poverty. But in our times, we are tempted to celebrate Christmas by accumulating material things for our own enjoyment and make it as a luxurious one.

An after-Christmas poem composed by Howard Thurman is reproduced below:


*When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and the princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost, to heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers,
 To make music in the heart.*

Christmas is the coming down of God in order to make people as real humans. The suffering of Mary, finding no place to have her baby reminds us of the plight of so many young mothers today. We think of those unmarried mothers, those separated, widowed mothers, young mothers, refugees from persecution and poverty struggling to raise their children and having to earn their living as well.

We think of the child Jesus. We also think of the vast number of children suffering from several reasons. We think of their fear, desperation and hopelessness, they are often tortured and murdered. May the words of the angel "Do not be afraid" empower us and the people around us to face the realities of our lives.

*May the real spirit of Christmas always abide with us.
 Yours in Christ,*

May God bless us all.

Mathew Babyachen 



**Housekeeping Responsibility:
 December 2017**

12/3	Jiji John, John K. Alexander & M. S. Eappen
12/10	P. A. Chacko, T. K. Koshy & Ajay Pappan
12/17	Dey Neduvelil, Bindu Abraham & Mathew Samuel
12/24	Sanjayan Joseph, Beena John & Thomas Varghese
12/31	Annie Varghese, Linu Abraham & Shaimi Jacob

WORSHIP SERVICES: DECEMBER 2017

Date	Time	Service
12/3	10:15 AM	Holy Communion Service (Mal.)
12/10	10:15 AM	Holy Communion Service (Eng.)
12/17	10:15 AM	Holy Communion Service (Mal.)
12/24	10:15 AM	Divine Worship Service (Eng.)
12/24	6:00 PM	Christmas Carole Service
12/25	9:00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Eng.)
12/31	10:15 AM	Divine Worship Service (Eng.)
12/31	10:00 PM	Holy Communion Service: Watch Night Service (Mal.)

LECTIONARY & THEME: DECEMBER 2017

Date	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Epistle	Gospel
12/3	Visitation of Virgin Mary to Elizabeth (Bible Sunday)			
	Gen. 18: 1-16	1 Pet. 1: 8-12	2 Cor. 1: 3-11	Luke. 1: 39-45
12/10	Birth of John the Baptist			
	Isa. 55: 6-13	Heb. 4: 1 -13	Gal. 1: 11 - 17	Luke. 1: 57 - 66
12/17	Annunciation to Joseph			
	Zeph. 3: 4 -20	Heb. 1:5-14	Phil. 4: 4 -10	Mat. 1: 18 - 23
12/24	Sunday Before Christmas. Our Lord is Coming			
	Micah. 4: 1-7	1 John 4: 7-21	Rom. 1: 8-17	John 1: 1-14
12/31	Year Ending - God our Helper and Redeemer			
	1 Sam. 7: 5-17	1 Pet. 5: 6 -11		
12/31	Year Ending - Watch Night Service 'God our Helper and Redeemer'			
	1 Sam. 7: 5-17	1 Pet. 5: 6 -11	1 Pet. 2: 1-10	Luke:13 - 6 -9



BIRTHDAYS - DECEMBER 2017

12/1	Steven Tom	Congers, NY
12/6	Tinu Varghese	Rock Tavern, NY
12/16	Bindu Abraham	Nanuet, NY
12/17	Joel George Thomas	Spring Valley, NY
12/17	Jessie Cherian	Orangeburg, NY
12/18	Alex Mathew	West Nyack, NY
12/18	John Navaratnam	Orangeburg, NY
12/20	Zachariah Abraham	Trivandrum, India
12/21	Stacy Sara Jacob	Nanuet, NY
12/23	Diya Varghese	Congers, NY
12/27	Vincent Abraham	Bergenfield, NJ
12/29	Sofia Philips	New City, NY
12/30	Jisha Jacob	Tappan, NY



*May God bestow his goodness and blessings
as you celebrate another year of marriage.
Happy Wedding Anniversary....*

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES - DECEMBER 2017

12/1	Aley & Eappen M. S.	Palisades, NY
12/8	Bindu & Linu Abraham	Nanuet, NY
12/26	Rebeca & Toms Zachariah	Boston, MA
12/27	Siji & Shaju Pappan	Spring Valley, NY
12/31	Alice & Rajan Mathew	Nanuet, NY