



# St. James Marthoma Church Newsletter April 2025

## Message from the Vicar

IN THIS ISSUE<sub>4</sub>

Dear St. James family members,

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Galatian 5:1

We are in the season of Great Lent. John McCarthy is a British journalist. He worked for a television news agency during the Lebanese civil war. In 1986, he tried to leave that country for security reasons. He was kidnapped at gunpoint by Islamic fundamentalists on his way to the airport to leave the country. After five years of hardship, he was released on August 8, 1991. An Italian diplomat named Giandomenico Picco risked his life to mediate negotiations for his release as a UN representative. Picco has repeatedly risked his life to save innocent hostages, and so he is known as a “disarmed soldier of diplomacy.” It was 20 years later that John McCarthy met this diplomat, Picco. McCarthy’s words during his first meeting with Picco were very touching: “Thank you for my freedom.” Now, we are in a crisis where we have lost the clarity of the freedom we have achieved in our faith journey as God’s people. Lent is a time to remember and meditate on the freedom that Christ gave us through the cross. May God help us at this Lenten time to recognize the freedom we have been given and to grow in the conviction of freedom.

This is my final salutation as the vicar of St. James Mar Thoma Church in New York. I thank God for allowing me to live and serve with you as the Vicar of our St. James Mar Thoma Parish for the past three years with my family. We arrived here just after the limitations created by the COVID-19 crisis. So, before we reached here, we had the opportunity to participate online for a year in various services in our parish. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone in our parish who has served at various levels for the spiritual enrichment, witness, and growth of our parish during this period, especially the office bearers of the parish and organization, the executive committee. Also, thankful to our Metropolitan and Diocesan Bishops.

I wish all the best and greetings to our new vicar, Rev. Sabu Issac and family, for their ministry here. Please provide support for their blessed and meaningful ministry. May their ministry with you be a blessing. As a family, we are grateful for the support and love you all extended to us. Thank you.

God bless us all.

Rev. Ajith Varghese and Family

## Church executive committee 2025

TITLE	NAME	E-MAIL	HOME TEL#	CELL #
Vicar/President	Rev.Ajith Varghese	<a href="mailto:revajithkalappila@yahoo.in">revajithkalappila@yahoo.in</a>	(845) 362-8158	(845) 828-6388
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Treasurer	Linu Abraham	<a href="mailto:linuabraham@hotmail.com">linuabraham@hotmail.com</a>	(845) 627-0123	(845) 300-8899
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Lay Leader (Eng.)	Jonathan Joshua	<a href="mailto:jonathanjoshua66@gmail.com">jonathanjoshua66@gmail.com</a>	(845) 624-3640	(845) 624-9954
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Choir Rep.	Jiji John	<a href="mailto:Jjohn17@optonline.net">Jjohn17@optonline.net</a>	(845) 215-9131	(845) 598-0856
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Assembly Member	Aleykutty Eappen	<a href="mailto:AleyEappen@aol.com">AleyEappen@aol.com</a>	(845) 365-1550	845) 664-0467
Mandalam Member	Koshy T.K.	<a href="mailto:j6234871@live.com">j6234871@live.com</a>	(845) 268-1990	(845) 480-2860

Auditor	M.S.Eappen	<a href="mailto:mseappen@yahoo.com">mseappen@yahoo.com</a>	(845) 365-1550	(845) 270-0076
Auditor	George Thomas	<a href="mailto:jojitom@gmail.com">jojitom@gmail.com</a>	(845) 352-1253	(845) 300-8853

	DATE	WORSHIP SERVICES: APRIL, 2025	TIME
Sun	Apr - 06	Holy Communion Service (English)	10:15 AM
Fri(40 <sup>th</sup> )	Apr - 11	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)	07:00 PM
Sun	Apr - 13	Holy Communion Service (English) (Palm Sunday)	10:15 AM
Thur	Apr - 17	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam) (Maundy Thursday)	07:00 PM
Friday	Apr-18	Good Friday service Part 1 in English, 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> part in Malayalam	09:30 AM
Sun	Apr - 20	Holy Communion Service (English) (Easter Sunday)	09:00 AM
Sun	Apr - 27	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)	10:15 AM

## LECTIONARY-APRIL, 2025

Day	Date	Lesson: 1	Lesson: 2	Epistles	Gospels
Sun	Apr 06	Jesus Christ who gives new vision to life (36th Sunday of the Lent))			
		Ezek 37:1-14	Acts 9:10-18	Phil 3:7-16	Luke 18:35-43
Friday	Apr 11	Fortieth Friday: Christian discipleship that must overcome temptations			
		Num 11:4-15	Jas 1:12-18	1Thess 3:1-8	Luke 4:1-13
Sun	Apr 13	Hosanna – The cry for salvation: The coming of the Messiah; Theological Seminary Day;			
		Zech 9:9-17	Rom 11:16-24	Col 1:10-14	Matt 21:1-17
Thurs	Apr 17	Passover Thursday			
		Exod 12:1-17	Heb 9:1-15	1Cor 11:23-34	Matt 26:17-30
Sun	Apr 20	Easter – The Resurrection that gives hope of new life			
		Isa 60:1-22	1Cor 15:1-19	1Thess 4:13-18	Luke 24:1-12
Sun	Apr 27	New Sunday: Assurance of faith beyond sight (First Sunday after Easter)			
		Gen 32:22-32	Acts 26:8-18	Col 3:1-8	John 20:19-29



## Wedding Anniversary - None

Birthday – April

Dates	Name	Town
April 01	Philip J. Parayil	Spring Valley
April 02	George Thomas	Spring Valley
April 04	Alviyn V. Thomas	Orangeburg
April 06	Gianna M. Joshua	Nanuet
April 08	Elizabeth Jacob	Spring Valley
April 08	Abraham S. Cherian	New Windsor
April 11	Paul P. Dey	Orangeburg
April 12	M.C. Achenkunju	Bardonia
April 13	Jinumol Suraj	Bardonia
April 15	Jacob Chacko	Spring Valley
April 15	Abraham Varghese	Congers

April 15	Alice George	Staten island
April 16	Justina Susan Koshy	Congers
April 16	Valsamma Jose	Bardonia
April 16	Amaya Deena Jose	Bardonia
April 18	Ann Philip	Westwood, NJ
April 18	Joseph P. David	Spring Valley
April 18	Nidhin M. Kurian	Congers
April 18	Rachel C. Ninan	New City
April 18	Susamma Yohannan	Valley Cottage
April 19	Merry Jacob	New City
April 20	Annamma Thomas	Valley Cottage
April 21	Ben Jacob Varghese	Poughkeepsie
April 25	Jacob Alex Abraham	Nanuet
April 25	Serafine Rose Chacko	New City
April 26	Sally C. Ninan	New City
April 28	Alice Thomas	Avenel, NJ

## Upcoming Events – 2025

Date	Events
<b>April 11th Friday</b>	<b>40<sup>th</sup> Friday - Holy communion service in Malayalam at 7:00PM.</b>
<b>April 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday</b>	<b>Hillburn Church – Move remaining items and Church cleanup.</b>
<b>April 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>Palm Sunday – Holy communion service in English at 10:15AM.</b>
<b>April 14.15.16</b>	<b>Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Evening service in Malayalam at 7:00 PM</b>
<b>April 17<sup>th</sup> Thursday</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday – Holy communion service in Malayalam at 7:00PM.</b>
<b>April 18<sup>th</sup> Friday</b>	<b>Good Friday service at 9:30 AM - 1<sup>st</sup> part in English, 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> part in Malayalam.</b>

<b>April 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>Easter Sunday – Holy communion service in English at 9:00AM followed by vicar’s farewell meeting.</b>
<b>April 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday</b>	<b>Pearl River Church and parsonage cleanup.</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Church and organizations office bearers and committee members one day retreat.</b>
<b>July 12<sup>h</sup> Saturday</b>	<b>Church picnic.</b>
<b>July 17-19</b>	<b>Church VBS</b>
<b>August 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>College going student’s dedication during Holy communion service.</b>
<b>September 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>School going student’s dedication during Holy communion service.</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Church convention – 3<sup>rd</sup> week (tentative date).</b>
<b>October 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Family night. (tentative date).</b>
<b>November 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>Thanks Giving Service 9:30AM follows auction and lunch.</b>
<b>December 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>Parish day.</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>House caroling – December 6,7,12,13 &amp;14</b>
<b>December 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>Church Christmas carol service in the evening.</b>
<b>December 25<sup>th</sup> Thursday</b>	<b>Christmas day service – Holy communion in English at 8:30 AM.</b>
<b>December 31<sup>s</sup> Wednesday</b>	<b>Watch night service – Holy communion service in Malayalam at 10:00PM</b>

### **Lenten Prayer meeting**

- 1) **April 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday**, at 7:00 PM at the residence of Mr. John K. Alexander, 20 Freund Dr., Nanuet, NY.
- 2) **April 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday**, at 7:00 PM at Church.
- 3) **April 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**, at 7:00 PM at the residence of Mrs. Rency Joshua, 160 Spring Valley Rd., 1102 Ackerman Dr., Montvale, NJ.
- 4) **April 4<sup>th</sup> Friday**, at 7:00 PM at the residence of Mr. Philippose Narayannoor, Nanuet, NY.
- 5) **April 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday**, at 7:00 PM at Church.

St.James Marthoma Church  
Newsletter  
April 2025

253 Ehrhardt Rd.,  
Pearl River, NY 10965

**Matthew 28:6**

*He is not  
here, for  
he has risen,  
as he said.  
Come, see  
the place  
where he lay.*