

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

We entered into a new year with great hope and expectations. The year 2004 became a part of history with fearful agonizing memories. About half a million People lost their lives. Still in different parts of the world, People struggling to meet their basic needs. It is our Christian mission to support the victims of Tsunami and also the needy ones in our local community. Jesus said, "Whatever you did for the poor was done for me". So, it is our mission to help the poor in our local community. We, as St. Stephen's Church can make a difference and show to others that we are God's People.

We should always have a "Positive attitude" towards ourselves and to others. If we have a "Negative attitude", that will ruin our lives and the community. I have been listening to the TV Evangelist Mr. Joel Olstein for the last several months. His theme was consistently about having a positive attitude for a better life. We should avoid seeing others with a negative attitude, which can ruin our personal relationship.

God placed us in this place for a special purpose. Part of our life should be beneficial to others. "Me, My, Mine, I", these are self motivated and self centered words. We should avoid these and work as a group for the glorification of God's name.

It is our mission to treat everybody equal. We cannot see one person as superior to others, which will end up in ruining our ministry. We all work together as one group with one goal. Only by team work we can achieve this goal and we are "all" part of the process of St. Stephen's family. I believe God made every single person with some talents. It is my humble request that please don't hide your talents, but utilize it for the benefit of the community. Instead of asking what I can get, can we ask ourselves what I can give? I request every single person to come forward and participate in all the activities of the church and make a better relationship with all the fellow members of the church. As a secretary I will be with you and ready to help you within my limitations. You can always reach me at my home telephone (973-538-1192) or at my cell (973-885-0460). Please be a part of the church rather than being a visitor of the church. Let us make a joint effort to make the term "St. Stephen's Family" meaningful.

Yours in service,
Secretary



VICAR'S LETTER

"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse - the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today...." (Deut. 11: 26 - 27)

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus,

In the final words of Moses to the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land, he challenges the people to obey the Lord faithfully and to reject all forms of idolatry. Moses foresees the possibility of people adopting new cultures and conforming to new faith and practices in a new land which would appear attractive but would turn to be a curse ultimately. The book of Deuteronomy deals with promise, hope and trust, in the midst of hardship, testing and doubt. It reminds us that faith is not automatic or mechanical. Faith becomes personal and active when it springs from a living relationship with a loving God.

The New Year that we have entered in to is the ' promised year ' that God has given to us. The words of Moses are relevant to us today - if we honor God, the New Year will be a blessing to ourselves and others. Our parish should remain as a healing center and each one who comes to the church should be touched by God and man, the healing touch. Let not our hidden fears and doubts rule over us and destroy our community life in Christ. Do everything for the glory of God and then you will be a blessing.

For the Sunday School Samajam, 2005 is the centenary year and let's thank God for all the Sunday School teachers and students and let's also pray for the Children's Maramon and the Maramon convention in February. May the Spirit of the Lord guide you in the ways pleasing to him.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Thomas Paul Achen.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Communicants



The First communicant's service will be held on Sunday March 20th, 2005. Preparation classes will begin in the first week of February. Please give your child's name (age 13 or above) to Achen or the Secretary.

PRAYER MEETING



There will be a Prayer meeting at the residence of Mr. Lee Oommen on February 5th Saturday at 6 PM. Your prayerful participation will be appreciated. Address: 7 Shale Court, East Windsor, NJ 08520. Phone. 609-448-9330.

Birth



1. Sam Jacob & Aleyamma Manelel are blessed with a baby girl named Mercy Jacob on Friday, January 14th 2005.

2. Anil Mathew & Bindhu are blessed with a baby girl named Rebekah Leann Mathew on Friday, January 21st 2005.

Congratulations to the blessed parents.

Worship Schedule & Lectionary

Date	Order of Worship	Celebrant	Time
Sun Feb.6	Holy Communion in English 1st Lesson: Isa. 58: 1-4. 2nd Lesson: Acts. 3: 1-10	Rev. Thomas Paul	10.45 AM
Sun Feb.13	Holy Communion in Malayalam 1st Lesson: Zach. 13: 1-9. 2nd Lesson: Heb. 10: 1-10	Rev. Thomas Paul	10.45 AM
Sun Feb. 20	Holy Communion in English 1st Lesson: 1King. 17: 17-24. 2nd Lesson: Acts. 9: 26-35	Rev. Thomas Paul	10. 45 AM
Sun Feb. 27	Holy Communion in Malayalam 1st Lesson: Job. 42: 1-10. 2nd Lesson: 1Pet. 4: 12-19	Rev. Thomas Paul	10.45 AM

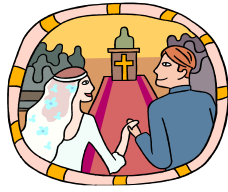
FOR YOUR DILIGENT PRAYERS:

Maramon Convention 2005 will commence on Sunday, February 13th and will finish on Sunday, February 20th 2005. Please pray for all the arrangements been done properly, and for all the leaders and believers being gathered to listen the WORD OF GOD. Children's Maramon will be held on Saturday, the 12th of February 2005.

Ramban Consecration of Rev. Dr. K.U. Abraham, scheduled to conduct on Friday the 11th of February 2005. This is going to be another important milestone in the history of our Church.

Continue to pray for God's blessings on our efforts to purchase a land/property/church of our own.

Lent (Valiyanoyambu) begins on Sunday, the 6th of February 2005.



Wedding Anniver-



New Members

The following families have joined to our Parish.

Mr. Jose Cherian & Mrs. Anne Varghese, their son Cherin Skariah Jose and daughter Greeshma Sara Jose. They are from Marthoma Church, Doha. Their mother parish is Bethlehem Mar Thoma Church, Kolladu, Kottayam. They reside at 1760-C Walker Ave, Union, NJ 07083. Phone No. 908-851-0603.

Mr. Shibu Varghese & Mrs. Rani Shibu, their daughter Ashwini Mariam Varghese, and son Akhil John Varghese. They are from Salem Mar Thoma Church, Chennithala South, Mavelikara. They reside at 30 Pierson Ave, Edison, NJ 08837. Phone No. 732-494-4199.

Mr. Santhosh Chacko Varghese & Mrs. Sini Varghese, their mother Mariamma Varghese, and brother Philip Chacko Varghese. They are from Bethel Mar Thoma Church, Philadelphia. (Native Place: Narakathani, Pathanamthitta). They reside at 4 Margaret Drive, Somerset, NJ 08873. Phone No. 732-873-0811.

We, the members of St. Stephen's Mar Thoma Church, with great pleasure, welcome you all to our family.

WE, THE ST. STEPHEN'S FAMILY EXTEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO CELEBRATE THEIR

26 Pappen Varghese & Rina Varghese

14 Sajjan Chacko Poovakunnel & Molly Mariam Sajjan

11 Santosh George & Judith C. Joy

7 Mammen T. Thomas & Mariamma Thomas

2 John Thomas & Rachel Thomas

Sunday School Corner

“Bringing every child to Jesus”

February 2005 Sunday School Class Schedule:

02/06/2005: No Sunday school
 02/13/2005: Sunday school after offertory
 02/20/2005: Sunday school after Holy Qurbana
 02/27/2005: Sunday school after offertory

February 2005 Sunday School Activities:

Starting diocesan exam preparation
 Tentatively planning to visit a Nursing home
 Sunday school zonal meeting at NJMTC Randolph
 Starting diocesan exam preparation
 Publishing 1st issue of Sunday school newsletter “CROSS”

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Preschool/Nursery: Shyla George & Tina Thomas
 KG: Becky Joseph & Benson Joseph

1ST & 2ND Grade: Shirley Thomas & Shanta Thomas

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3RD & 4TH Grade: Anila Kurien & Sumy Cherukara

5TH & 6TH Grade: Jacob Chacko & Sherry Varghese

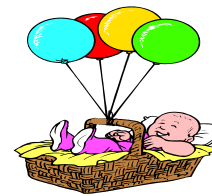
7TH & 8TH Grade: Sony Cherukara & Lisa Cherukara

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9TH & 10TH Grade: Betsy Joseph & Thomas Mathew

Jan-Feb 2005 Sunday School Prayer Warriors:

Ajit Mathews & Jasmine Thomas
 Josh Varghese & Kevin Varghese
 Rebecca Varghese & Lisa Mathews
 Alex Prasad & Sophie Cherukara



Born in the Month of February

1st	Susan Thomas	w/o Reji K. Thomas
3rd	Lisa Kurien	w/o Sony M. Cherukara
3rd	Eric George	s/o Santosh George
4th	Merlyn Oommen	d/o Thomas Oommen
4th	Sam Jacob	
7th	Aleyamma Mathew	w/o K.G. Mathewkutty
8th	Sheeba Johnson	w/o Mathew Johnson
8th	Varghese Varghese	
11th	Lisa Mathews	d/o Philip Mathews
13th	Saju Thomas	
15th	Philip M. Thomas Jr.	
17th	Susan Mathews	w/o Philip Mathews
17th	Smitha Rajeev John	w/o Rajeev John
17th	Sophy M. Cherukara	d/o Philip Cherukara
17th	Josua Varughese	s/o Geogie Varughese
18th	Thomas Oommen	
21st	Abraham Varghese	
23rd	Manju Susan Alexander	w/o Ani George Alexander
24th	Rachel Skariah	w/o K.K. Skariah
24th	Sunil Abraham	s/o Abraham Kurien
25th	Terry J. Thomas	s/o John Thomas
26th	Philip Mathews	
29th*	Dr. Betsy Joseph	d/o Joseph V. Joseph

We the St. Stephen's family wish you all a happy birthday