

December 2016



NEWSLETTER OF ST. ANDREWS MAR THOMA CHURCH

The Trumpet Volume 1,

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Vicar's Message

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord who strengthens us with His ever abiding presence.



December month brings thrill in midst of cold waves every winter season. Isn't it? Yea, because it's the time for cakes, candy's, new dresses, delicious foods, carols, excitements, vacations, fellowships, coming together, celebrations, etc. This is because God became one among us. And it is due to the submission of individuals to God's will, thus the participation of Virgin Mary, Joseph and others into the divine plan of Salvation lead to First Christmas. But many a time Christmas is as two beautiful ladies who went to the restaurant of a five – star hotel. They gave order for a grand dinner. As the meals were being served, one of their close friends arrived there. She asked them whether it was any special occasion that brought them to the restaurant. One of the ladies said excitedly: "Yes, it's my son's birthday. He completes two today".

The friend stood stunned and asked: "But, where is the boy?" "Oh, I left him with my mother. He is very naughty. And my mother offered to take care of him till I return. Had he been here, he would have messed the things and wouldn't let us eat in peace".

I know your response to the above incident. Yea, the same was that friend's response: "How shameful! Celebrating the boy's birthday without bringing him!". Our minds will also boil with anger and contempt. And we will write her off as a disgrace to motherhood.

Why becoming unrest? Isn't it just happening today? We celebrate with pomp and splendor the birthday of the Son of God born as the son of man. But this Jesus has no share in the Christmas celebrations today. Millions are spent on Christmas celebrations in sending cards, gifts, gatherings, etc. nothing need to be said about the flow of liquor. The highest numbers of accidents are during this time of year.

In these celebrations where is the place for Jesus who was born in a manger? He who came with the message of peace and love, which finds least place nowadays. Today there are only those like the mother who enjoyed the dinner in the five – star hotel, "If he is with us, he will not let us enjoy all this". The celebrations are carried on a grand scale in Jesus' name but without him because he will be an obstacle to them. It is just like a ghee-sweet without ghee! A silver rod without silver! Celebrating Christmas without Christ! When it was time for him to be born, he got a place only in a manger; he didn't get a place even in a wayside inn. History repeats itself. The people those days didn't recognize him. And what happens today? Those who have recognized him and have understood his mission and vision are those who reject him. All these extravagances & celebrations are in the name of Jesus who had nothing of his own not even a place to lay his head.

Let this Christmas be a Christmas with a difference. Because each Christmas reminds us of God's grace shown to us in the gift of Jesus Christ, His Son. The carols should reflect the difference. We all rhyme Isaac Watts' song:

"Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing. . ."

Yea, the song is the poetical expression of Psalms 98. And the evidence of God's salvation should be seen in our faces, heard in our voices, and reflected by the works of our hands. "You'll have no joy at Christmas if Christ is not in your heart". Let our celebrations, carols, rituals, etc., be such that they ensure the real presence of Christ, and everyone should experience peace and joy of Christmas.

May the joy of redemption shine through us this Christmas, and throughout the rest of the year.

With prayerful regards,

John Oommen Achen

2016 December Lectionary

WORSHIP SCHEDULE & LECTIONARY					
Dec	Time	Service	Lessons	Epistle/ Gospel	Theme
4	6:00 pm	Holy Qurbana Malayalam	1 King. 19:1-21 Rev. 10:1-11	Gal. 1:11-17 St. Luke.1:57-66	Birth of John the Baptist Bible Sunday
11	5:30 pm	Holy Qurbana English	Isa. 7:10-17 1 Pet. 3:8-16	Titus 2:1-15 St. Mat. 1:18-23	Annunciation to Joseph
18	6:00 pm	Divine Service Malayalam	Isa. 11:1-10 1 John. 4:7-21	Rom. 1:8-17 St. John. 1:1-14	Sunday before Christmas
25	5:00 pm	Holy Qurbana English	Isa. 9:1-7 Hebrews 1:1-14	2 Tim. 2:8-13 St. Luke 2:1-20	Yaldo - Feast of Nativity
2017 Jan 1	6:00 am	Holy Qurbana Malayalam	Gen 9:8-17 Heb. 9:11-18	Gal. 5:1-11 St. Luke 2:15-21	New Year Service

For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to you. *Many Happy Returns of the Day!!!*
Dec 14 Jason V. Mathew
Dec 15 Georgie Sam
Dec 24 Anitha K. Varghese
Dec 28 Manoj Varghese

Happy Anniversary!
Dec 15 Simy & Thomas John
Dec 15 Bincy & Abey Varghese
Dec 26 Rajee & Georgie Sam

2016 OFFICE BEARERS

Vicar	Rev. John Oommen	626-963-0432
Vice President	Mr. Biju K. Varghese	818-701-6404
Secretary	Mr. Edwin Rajan	818-345-9986
Treasurer	Mr. Rajan Mathai	818-439-6197
Accountant	Mr. Abraham P. Mathew	818-222-6489

Event Calendar

Sunday 12/4 @ 4.30 pm	Sevika Sangham Meeting At Church
Sunday 12/4	Choir Meeting At Church after Worship Service
2016 Dec 9, 10, 16 & 17	Carol Rounds
Sunday 11/13 @ 5.30 pm At Church	English Holy Communion & Episcopal Visit Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa
Wednesday 12/14 @ 8.30 pm	Western Regional -MTVEA Tele Prayer Conference Conference No: (712) - 432 - 1500 Access Code No: 638599#
Sunday 12/25 @ 5.00 pm	Christmas Service, Holy Communion (English) & Carol Service
Sunday 2017 Jan 1 @ 6.00 am	New Year service & Holy Communion (Malayalam)
Sunday 2017 Jan 1 @ 4.00 pm	Ecumenical Christmas Celebration North Hollywood School



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Ecumenical Christmas Celebration

4:00 PM
Sunday
January 1

NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
 5231 Colfax Avenue, North Hollywood, CA 91601
 (Parking entrance from Magnolia Blvd.)

2017

KERALA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA