



MALKTO D'

SHAINO

QUEEN OF PEACE

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE EPARCHY

مَحَلَّةٌ وَمَسِينَا



VOLUME 5: ISSUE 5

THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC EPARCHY IN THE USA AND CANADA

HAPPY FEAST OF DENHO



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

BY VERROCHIO AND LEONARDO



QUEEN OF PEACE

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE EPARCHY

Vol. 5

December 2017

No.5



St. Mary, Queen of Peace
Syro-Malankara Catholic
Eparchy in USA and Canada
www.syromalankarausa.org



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

First Pastoral Letter from the Bishop

"THY KINGDOM COME"



Dear Rev. Fathers and Rev. Sisters and Faithful in Jesus Christ,

Cordial greetings and prayerful blessings to you all. It is with profound joy that I, as the newly installed bishop of the Eparchy of St. Mary Queen of Peace, of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in USA and Canada, write this first letter to you.

By the Grace of God, based on the recommendation of the Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, Holy Father Pope Francis appointed me on July 27, 2017 and I was formally installed on October 28, 2017. I am grateful to the Provident God and to the Holy Mother Church, especially to the Head and Father of our Church, Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos who presided over my installation.

On this occasion, I thank the entire laity, religious, and the priests who participated in one way or other in my installation function on October 28, 2017. I also thank the pastoral council members and all other groups and individuals who took so much of sacrifice to make the installation day a memorable one. Those who travelled from near and far, inland and abroad are to be specially and gratefully remembered. May God reward all people of good will.

I consider my assignment here in US and Canada as a call and mission from God as that of the call of Abraham our Father in Faith. The Lord said to Abraham: "Get out of your country and

from your kindred, and from the father's house, to a land that I will show you" (Gen. 12:1). Hence, here I am in the lands of immigrants, freedom and democracy. God has placed me in a post-modern scenario and multicultural context. On this occasion I submit myself to the will of God and dedicate myself to fulfill God's plan and mission in the Church and society.


As I assume the office as the second bishop, I am overwhelmed with joy to express my sincere gratitude to all the pioneer pastors, lay leaders, and faithful whose prayers and sacrifices brought us to this stage of growth in the journey of faith in the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church. The space constraints do not permit me to mention the names of all the people who planted and nurtured the Malankara Community in US and Canada. Nevertheless, I recall with gratitude Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios and Most Rev. Benedict Mar Gregorios of blessed memory who are remembered as great pioneer-shepherds in this part of the world. The first Apostolic Visitor, Most Rev. Isaac Mar Cleemis and his successor Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas are to be acknowledged with sincere appreciation.

I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to my predecessor and the first Eparch of our Eparchy, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, for his exceptional and dedicated episcopal leadership. His Excellency has served our Diocese with divine wisdom and genuine devotion. His contributions in organizing our ecclesial communities; in fostering coherency and integration among our laity, religious, and clergy; in creating basic facilities and infrastructures essential for the pastoral needs; in translating and making available our liturgical and catechetical texts; in establishing the new Eparchy, Cathedral, Chancery, and new parish churches; in creating basic legal foundations and by-laws; in bringing about economic stability; in promoting vocations to religious life and priesthood; and many more contributions are to be acknowl-

edged with sincere gratitude. Besides, his personal qualities of episcopal integrity, nobility, erudition, clarity, and brevity in communications are indeed exemplary. May God reward His Excellency for his manifold services and bless him in his new ministry in the new diocese of Parassala in India.

As I assume the Episcopal Office and ministry, I wish to communicate a few important appointments, decisions, information, and proposals to you all.

1. The current Eparchial Curia members will continue to serve in our eparchy, namely; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery, Vicar General; Very Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangalath, Chancellor and Finance Officer; Very Rev. Fr. Thomas Ayyaneth, Vicar of the Cathedral parish and Secretary to the Bishop and Rev. Fr. Jerry Mathew, Secretary to the Curia.
2. The existing Pastoral Council will continue its term of service until 2018. This decision is taken because this team has been planning and preparing for the forthcoming Malankara Convention to be held in August 2-5, 2018. For the effectiveness and smoothness of the Convention, it is better that the same Council continue to function. If needed, this Council could be empowered with new personnel.
3. It is proposed that theme of the forth-coming Convention shall be the same theme of the next Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome in October 2018: “Young people, the Faith, and Vocational discernment”. You are welcome to suggest any other theme, if more relevant. But it shall be submitted to me with detailed explanations before Christmas 2017.
4. Suggestions are welcome to prepare an annual pastoral plan for our Eparchy. They should reach the Eparchial Chancery before Christmas 2017.
5. Next Pastoral Council will be conducted on Saturday,

- 
- January 13, 2018 in our Chancery, New York.
6. The Rev. Directors and other office bearers of the various apostolates, commissions, departments, organizations, and movements shall continue and make active and effective their ministries.
 7. I intend to make pastoral visits to all our parishes, families, and hostels or residences of the members of our parishes. Rev. Parish priests are requested to intimate your convenient dates to Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery who will coordinate my pastoral visit. The purpose of the visit is to have a direct experience of our parishes, missions, and families.
 8. Sincere congratulations to the parishioners of our St. Thomas Syro-Malankara Church at New Jersey for their dedicated participation in buying a former Byzantine Catholic Church and renovating it beautifully. I was privileged to rededicate this church on November 11, 2017. Special congratulations to Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery for his marvelous leadership in this dream project.
 9. Our DM Sisters are blessed with a new convent house in Yonkers and it was dedicated on November 19, 2017. Prayerful felicitations to the DM sisters.
 10. I attended the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) held from 12-16th November in Baltimore. About three hundred Bishops participated. It was a special experience and the deliberations were excellent. The Conference affirmed the need to renew the country in the power of Christian message. It resolved that the Catholic church commit itself to promote a culture of life, and to campaign against racism and anti-immigration policies.
 11. On this occasion, I am convinced that our Syro-Malankara Church need to awaken as individuals, families, and parishes. It is our mission to accompany our

children in their faith and character formation through Malankara Catholic Children League (MCCL). Prime importance is to be given to Catechism. Our youth need to be shaped by authentic Catholic values. Malankara Catholic Youth Movement (MCYM) could be very significant forum for youth fellowship, animation, and development. Our senior adults through Malankara Catholic Association (MCA) can do wonders to empower our families. They can engage themselves in very significant social and cultural apostolate. Evangelization in the church and society should be a passion of our women and men. Our liturgical and spiritual patrimony and traditions are to be handed over to our future generations in a creative and meaningful manner. We need to engage in a holistic way in the pastoral and spiritual mission of the church in the same spirit of the early church. I solicit your fervent prayers and actions to promote vocations to priestly and religious life.

12. We are in the threshold of the Season of Advent. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to be purified and blessed by the Love of God the Father, the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Let us remain united in love and prayer,

In Jesus Christ,



Bishop Philipos Mar Stephanos,
November 23, 2017.

EPARCHY NEWS

Southwest Regional Family Conference 2017



The 2017 Southwest Regional Family Conference was held this year at St. Peter's Malankara Catholic Church in Houston from November 24 to 26. The main celebrant was the new Bishop of our Eparchy, His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos. The main speakers for the conference were Fr. Dr. Roy Palatty and Sr. Dr. Jocelyn Edathil.



The first day of the conference began with evening prayer and introductions. The sessions were divided into three groups with different speakers for each. The adults were led by Fr. Palatty on discussions about family life and how parents should interact with their children. A panel discussion was held in which parishioners asked various questions and Fr. Mathai Mannoor-vadakkethil, from the Dallas church, led as the moderator.

The youth enjoyed a Malankara Boot Camp session with Sr. Jocelyn. Her powerful presentations allowed our youth to become more interested in our Malankara history as well as educated about their faith. Sr. Grace led our young children through various activities and taught them songs as well. At the end of all the sessions, everyone enjoyed a cultural program which included little children, youth and adults.

A Pontifical Qurbono was celebrated on November 26, 2017 by Bishop Philipos Mar Stephanos. After Qurbono, a public meeting was held in which a few individuals gave reflections about the conference. Over 90 families participated in this wonderful event.

Blessing of the new Daughters of Mary Convent in Yonkers

The new Daughters of Mary Convent of the Marthandom Province in Yonkers was blessed on November 19, 2017. The convent was blessed by Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos and was attended by priests and Rev. Sisters including Msgr. Peter Kochery, Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangalath, Mother Provincial Rose Francis, Rev. Fr. George Ooonnoony, Rev. Fr. Noby Ayyaneth, Rev Fr. Jos Kandathikudy, Rev. Fr. Deny Pulivelil, Rev. Fr. Jerry Mathew, Sr. Ancillin, Sr. Divya, Sr. Arphitha, and Sr. Kanchana. During the blessing, Bishop Stephanos emphasized the light and hope that is brought by the sisters to the



new area and he thanked the Sisters for their dedicated and devoted service, even at the expense of their health. The blessing was followed by a short meeting in which the benefactors were thanked by giving souvenirs by the Mother Provincial. The new convent, situated at 15 Trinity Pl., Yonkers, NY, was acquired by the sisters on October 19, 2017. Several parishioners and benefactors attended this blessed event.

PARISH NEWS

The Cathedral Parish

Thanksgiving Day

A thanksgiving Holy Mass was celebrated on Thursday, November 23rd by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Stephanos, for the immense blessings that we received from God Almighty for the past year.

Christmas Carol



Cathedral parish Christmas caroling was held on December 9, 10, 16, 17 & 23.

The active participation of the members of MCYM & Sunday school made the carol rounds more attractive. His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos also joined in the carol group for the last day of the carol rounds.

Christmas Celebration



Christmas service was held on December 24th Sunday (Christmas Eve) at 6:00 PM. Procession with lighted candles and *Theeyurul Shusroosha* were held at the main entrance of the church. His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos was the main celebrant for the Christmas service. Christmas cake was cut by

Bishop Stephanos after the Holy Mass followed by Christmas dinner

New Altar Servers



Nine new altar servers were specially blessed by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos during the Christmas Eve service on December 24th, to enter into the altar for the first time. His Excellency congratulated and extended prayerful

wishes to the following new altar servers; Mathew Jacob, Tom Kuriakose, Luke Abraham, Noha Abraham, Sanju George, Jake Cherian, Benjamin Scariah, Albin Scariah, Adam Anto.

Cardamom Garland Auction

The cardamom garland presented to Bishop Stephanos by a visiting family on the Installation day was auctioned after the Christmas service.

Parish Council Election

Parish council election was held at the General Body meeting on December 3, Sunday. The following members were elected as new office bearers through secret ballot for the year 2018; Secretary: Mr. Geevarughese Mathews, Treasurer: Mr. Rajan Mathew. Parish council Members: Mr. George Kutty, Mr. Johnykutty Ettikkalayail, Mr. Babukutty Thundiayath, Mr. Sunil Chacko, Mr. Zachariah Zachariah, Mrs. Salamma Zachariah, Mrs. Letty Johnson, and Sayuj Zachariah

MCYM



* A potluck / hangout was held by MCYM members on Thanksgiving day.

* *Malankgiving* charity food drive, which raised 1744 cans

for the needy, was completed by November 19, 2017

* A *Secret Santa* gift exchange was conducted by MCYM members after the Charismas Eve service.

MCYM election for 2018 was conducted on Sunday, December 17 and the following members were selected as the new office bearers; President: Sayuj Zachariah, Vice President: Cynthia Johnson, Secretary: Steffy Thomas, Joint Secretary: Joana Thomas, Treasurer: Maria Paul, Joint. Treasurer: Jithin Thomas, PR: Jane Thomas, Parish Council Rep. Justin Thomas, Sunday School Rep: Anooja John.

Sunday School

* All Saints Day celebration was conducted by Sunday school on November 5th with the display of Saints life along with quiz and games.

* A potluck / hangout was held by Sunday school students on Christmas day.

* A very special Christmas tree and a unique nativity scene were prepared by Sunday school students during the advent.

Calgary

The Mission in Calgary is progressing and have gained few new families, totaling 15 families, The Liturgy is celebrated every weekend and we gather for family prayer meeting monthly. It is encouraging that new families are coming to the mission occasionally, as we are getting established as a Parish Community.

Address: Fr. Daiju Kuriakose, 640 19 Ave, NW, Calgary, AB, Canada, T2M 0Y8

Los Angeles

Christmas Celebration and Gathering



St. Mary's Malankara catholic community of Southern California is dispersed across 3 counties, from cities as north as Sylmar & Glendale in northern Los Angeles County, to Anaheim & Irvine of Orange County area, as well as participants from as far south as San Diego County, a very long distance of 180 miles from the church.



To fortify the engagement of this widespread community, a gathering was organized on Christmas day soon after Christmas Mass and many families from all areas meeting at St. Mary's Chapel at North Hollywood. On this occasion, the members

from three counties assembled together to improve the bond of

unity with God and with one another. Each and every member of the community put in their best effort to make the gathering a success.

This year we celebrated New Years Qurbano at The Queen of Life Catholic Chapel at the Busch Group Offices in Irvine, CA. located on Dupont Dr. between Jamboree and Von Karman in Irvine, CA. On December 31 evening. This is almost a center location between San Diego and Los Angeles.

New Jersey

New Jersey Ecumenical Christian Fellowship Christmas Program



On December 30, 2017 New Jersey Ecumenical Christian Fellowship conducted the 18th annual Christmas Program at Liberty Middle School, West Orange, NJ. His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos was the Chief Guest of this year's event. His Excellency gave the keynote address which was attended by the Honorable Mayor Robert Parisi of West Orange, nearly dozen other pastors of Kerala descent and nu-

merous parishioners. St. Thomas Malankara Catholic Church choir, led by Mr. Cecil Thomas sang Christmas hymns that were warmly received by all. Kudos to the entire choir for a job well done!

Yaldo and Annual Christmas Carol Services

Parish conducted the solemn "Yaldo" service on Christmas Eve. Before the service commenced the Pastor, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery blessed items (crosses, candles holders, candles, "*arulika*", censor, bells, fire pit, etc.) donated by parishioners as Christmas gift the church and its donors. During the solemn service the traditional procession around the church and lighting of palm leaves was done to commemorate the great event to welcome Jesus to all our hearts and homes. After the high Holy Qurbono the choir sang traditional hymns and the congregation joined in the hall for a tasty dinner arranged by the Parish Council. The entire parish was proud and thankful the Yaldo service was conducted in our church for the first time.



The NJ Parish conducted the annual Christmas Carol Service on second and third weekends of December. The turnout for this year was the highest ever. The solemn but "fun" event was enjoyed by young and old as they visited three dozen homes across New Jersey and Staten Island, NY. Very special thanks to Mr. Saji Varughese, lead singer and the entire parish for a wonderful and enjoyable service. See additional photos at: <https://stthomascatholic.church/gallery/>

Visitation of His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Koorilos



St. Thomas Malankara Catholic Church was blessed by the visit of His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Koorilos, Archbishop of Tiruvalla on November 12, the day after the rededication of the sanctuary of the newly-acquired church. His Grace was accorded a liturgical reception, followed by Sunday Morning Prayers, Pontifical Holy Qurbano and a sumptuous agape. During the Divine Liturgy Ms. Shreya Thomas, daughter of Mr. Thomas John and Mrs. Suma Thomas received the First Holy Communion from His Grace. Rev. Sr. Jocelyn Edathil prepared Shreya to receive Jesus' Body and Blood for the first time. Congratulations and blessings to Shreya.

Annual Family Night Program

Once again the New Jersey family showcased their hidden talents during the annual parish annual family night programs. The programs included songs, dances, instrumental pieces and acting - some worthy of Oscar nomination. The programs and



the semi formal dinner was enjoyed by all, including special guest Rt. Rev. Msgr. James Hayer, Vicar General of Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic and St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church Pastor. Also, during the program Sunday School teachers and students were recognized for their hard work and eagerness to learn about our faith and traditions. See additional pictures at: <https://stthomascatholic.church/gallery/>

Holy Baptism

Evania Therese Thomas, daughter of Mr. John Zachariah Thomas and Mrs. Mini Mavara-Antony and grand-daughter of parishioners Drs. T.J. and Thresia Thomas was baptized on Saturday, November 25. Baby Evania's baptism was the first one conducted at St. Thomas Malankara Catholic Church after the rededication ceremony. May God bless Evania, parents and proud grandparents always.

New Addition to the Parish Family

Neetha and John Cheru was blessed to have a new addition to their family with the birth of their son, Dominic Sebastian

Cheru. Congratulations to the happy parents, brother and grandparents. May God bless Dominic always!

Philadelphia

Parish Council Elections

Annual elections for the year 2018 took place on Dec 3rd 2017.

The following people were elected to serve the parish during the year 2018.

Secretary – John Samuel

Treasurer – Raju P. George

Committee Members

Thomas Varughese (Kochumon) – Liturgy Coordinator

Jacob Abraham – Facility Coordinator

Sabu Kuriakose – Ecumenical Representative

John Edathil – PCMR Representative

Philip John – Catholic Association Representative

Anie Jacob – Women’s Representative

Silvy Cherian – Youth Representative

Auditors – Joseph Ghevarghese & Dr. Joly Jacob

The term for the pastoral council members have been extended to one more year as per the letter from the Diocesan Bishop.

Pastoral Council members: Shaji Simon, Alex John & Shine D Thomas

Ex-officio members: Biju Kuruvilla & Mathew Thomas

Ecumenical Christmas Celebration

Our parish participated in the Annual Ecumenical Christmas celebrations held on Dec 9th 2017 at George Washington High School in Philadelphia, PA. 21 parishes from the Philadelphia area participated this year and our Vicar Saji Mukkoot is the chairman of the Ecumenical Federation of Indian Churches.



Our Sunday school children did a skit about the 7 capital sins and how knowing Jesus helped overcome the sins. The main characters were Abigail, Jerrick, Christina, Hannah, Johnly, Isabel, Gabby, Seth.

Toy Drive

On December 17, 2017, the Sunday school students contributed to the annual Toy Drive, where they offered their toys as offering gifts in a procession to Achan. It was a great opportunity for the kids to learn to give to a less fortunate child as demonstration of their offering to the baby Jesus during the Christmas season.

Advent/Christmas celebrations



House caroling was held during the month of December under the coordination of Sanju John & John Edathil. We received a very warm welcome from all our families. Our children and youths thoroughly enjoyed the caroling and urged to keep this practice going in the coming years. An average of 35 people participated in the

Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy

caroling and on the final day, almost 75 people were in attendance. Our Christmas service was held on Dec 24th at 5:00PM. It concluded by around 9:00 PM when dinner was served. About 265 people were in attendance during the Christmas Service. Our Vicar Saji Mukkoot and Fr. Jacob John were celebrating their Ordination anniversary during the Christmas week and both of them joined in cutting the cake immediately after the mass.

Rockland

St. Peter's Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in Rockland, NY has continued to grow in faith and communal love through celebration of the Holy Q'urbono, Catechism, Novenas, and Prayer.



Our Beloved Bishop Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos, celebrated the Holy Mass on December 3rd Sunday. Vicar Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangalath, and reverend Sisters were pre-

sent. The church community heartily welcomed our new Bishop.



As in the past years we joyously and expectantly visited the homes of all families this year ringing in the joy of our Lord's Birth in the carol service during this season of Yaldo. The Parish community, from infants to elders actively participated in the carol, which was led by our Vicar Fr. Augustine Mangalath.



A Christmas show about Nativity was performed by our Kids on December 24h Sunday. It was organized by Sunday school and Malayalam class.



Furthermore, almost all of our youth joined the Christmas Mass Celebrations and the Christmas Dinner after the Mass. We look with great hope to the future and remain in love and faith.

San Jose



November prayer meeting was held at George & Anitha Abraham's house on the 18th. Parish council meeting was held on December 3rd after the Holy Mass.

Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Kuttilyil OIC, Bethany Navajeevan Provincial Superior visited Bay area and celebrated Holy Qurbana for the St. Jude Malankara Mission on November 5th.



Christmas carol service was held on December 16th – 17th and was a big success. Many families participated in the carol service and open heartedly welcomed the carol singers.



On December 24th, we celebrated Christmas with “Thee Uzhalycha Susrusha” and Holy Qurbana, followed by Unnikuri gift exchange and Nombu Murickal Feast.



On December 30th several adults along with our youth members cooked and served food for the poor at a family shelter in San Jose. Our youth members also organized a Second Harvest Can Food drive in December.

Washington

Sunday School Competitions

We had our Annual Parish Sunday School Competitions on the weekend of November 4th and 5th. Our judges were Sr. Divya, D.M. from the D.C. Parish, along with Tessy and Sona, MCYM members from Philadelphia. The parishioners and teachers did a fantastic job organizing the competition and the parish students had a lot of fun and learned many things about their Catholic Faith. Tessy and Sona showed and shared with our young generation their love for the Malankara Catholic Church after Sunday Holy Qurbano (Mass) on November 5th.

Ecumenical Gathering and Parish Song

Our parish sang at the ECKC (Ecumenical) gathering of Christians on December 2nd. This yearly gathering is a reminder to all of us that we are all brothers and sisters and that Baby Jesus

is Prince of Peace and the Lord of our Lives. Thanks to Mrs. Susan Sunny, the prayer team and parishioners (including youngsters) for their hard work and heavenly music. Our parish also received a monetary gift from the ECKC to give to a charitable cause of our choosing.

Christmas Caroling



We had a wonderful time Christmas caroling on Saturday, December 9th and Saturday, December 16th. The first Saturday we braved the elements (snow) as we visited the families in the District of Columbia (Washington) and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The second Saturday we visited the families in the State of Maryland. The parishioners had a wonderful time singing, dancing, eating and adoring God. The children and youth showed up in large numbers. Thanks to Mr. Jacob Thomas (Binu), the 2017 Christmas Caroling coordinator, to all the families that provided food and to all the parishioners who participated.

Sunday School Anniversary and Sr. Anceline, D.M.



We had the Sunday School (Catechism) Anniversary for the 2016-2017 Academic Year on Sunday, December 24th. The formal principal, Mrs. Elizabeth Kalampanayil and the current principal, Mrs. Tresa Daniel gave some inspiring words to our students. The students received prizes for attendance and grades along with prizes from the local parish Sunday School competition held in the previous month. Fr. Jeffery Samaha, a resident of Holy Spirit Parish and a local hospital chaplain, helped distribute the prizes.

Before the competition, Sr. Anceline, D.M. was thanked and received a token of thanksgiving in honor of her upcoming 25th Jubilee of her First Profession from the parish MCA (Malankara Catholic Association). Sister will be in India for her spiritual retreat and will return to the community in a few months.

Christmas and New Year

The feast of our Savior's birth, Christmas was celebrated on Monday, December 25th at 10:50am. A Christmas carol was song after Qurbono (Mass). Fr. Michael thanked the community in general for all the hard work by the parishioners in pre-



paring for Christmas and for all they do for the community. Mr. Matt, an admirer of the Eastern Catholic Churches, visited our parish community to participate in the Christmas Service and Divine Liturgy (Mass). He loved the experience and was amazed and touched that afterwards practically everyone stayed for food and fellowship like a family.

We had a New Year's Eve (December 31st) special Sunday Qurbono (Mass) and Adoration at the Daughters of Mary (D.M.) Bowie Convent. Sr. Rose Francis, who is here while Sr. Anceline, D.M. is in India, led the community in prayer while Fr. Michael led the Adoration and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Malankara-rite.

Yonkers

Visitation by Bishop Stephanos and Convent Blessing
On November 19, 2017, our beloved bishop Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos visited the Yonkers parish and celebrated the Holy Qurbono. The parish welcomed him to the Eparchy and expressed their love and loyalty to him.



On the same day, at 5:30 pm, the new Convent acquired by the Daughters of Mary sisters of the Marthandom province was blessed by Bishop Philipos Mar Stephanos.



The event was blessed by the presence of many priests, Rev. Sisters, and several parishioners including Msgr. Peter Kochery, Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangalath, Mother Provincial Rose Francis, Rev. Fr. George Oonnoony, Rev. Fr. Noby Ayaneth, Rev. Fr. Jos Kandathikudy, Rev. Fr. Deny Pulivelil, Rev. Fr. Jerry Mathew, Sr. Ancillin, Sr. Divya, and Bro. Jobin

Thomas. During the blessing, Bishop Stephanos emphasized the light and hope that is brought by the sisters to the new area and he thanked the Sisters for their dedicated and devoted service, even at the expense of their health. The blessing was followed by a short meeting in which the benefactors were thanked by giving souvenirs by the Mother Provincial. The new convent, situated at 15 Trinity Pl., Yonkers, NY, was acquired by the sisters on October 19, 2017 and is located across the Yonkers parish. Several parishioners and benefactors attended this blessed event.

The elections were conducted on November 19 and the following people were elected into offices: Thomas Mathai (Secretary), Jose Mathew (Treasurer), Bryant Gheevarghese, Jacob Mammen, Siby Kuriakose, Mike Thomas, Thomas John (Pastoral Council), Annamma Thomas (Mother's Forum), and George Kurian (MCA)

On November 25, the Yonkers MCYM unit held their Thanksgiving potluck in the parish rectory. 25 youth came to the potluck, many bringing homemade dishes and desserts. It was a wonderful gathering that showed the strength and vitality of the Yonkers youth.



The Christmas caroling was conducted on December 3, 9, 10, 16, and 17. The caroling participants included adults, youth, children, and infants. It was a very blessed event and was well

participated despite the bad weather.

The Yonkers youth also won first place the annual Malangiving Canned Food Collection held at the Eparchy level. They collected 2136 cans and donated it to a Soup kitchen nearby. The parish is very proud of our youth for their volunteer initiative and providing to the less fortunate. On December 9, the MCYM also led the decoration of the church and outside for Christmas. They were helped by the Sunday school children and adults of the Yonkers parish.



The Christmas Vigil Mass was celebrated on December 14 at 10 pm with Thee Uzhalicha Sushroosha and Holy Qurbono. The celebrant was Fr. Jerry Mathew and there was cake cutting after Mass. Almost all the parishioners were present for the Christmas service despite the inclement weather.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OCCASIONS

**Holy Qurbono for Feast of Bishop Philipos Mar
Stephanos - January 13, 2018 8:30 am.**

Pastoral Council - January 13, 2018 10 am

Three Day (Nineveh) Lent - January 22-25, 2018

Great Lent begins - February 12, 2018

