

## PRAYER MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	MORNING SESSION @ 10:30 AM	EVENING SESSION @ 7:30 PM
DEC 21, MONDAY	Rev. Samuel John 19 Fairfield Lane, New Hyde Park, NY 11040	Rev. Samuel John 19 Fairfield Lane, New Hyde Park, NY 11041
DEC 22, TUESDAY	At ICA	Mathew Ponnolil 114 N 7th Street, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
DEC 23, WEDNESDAY	Jacob Alexander 722 Foch Blvd, Williston Park, NY 11596	K. A. Thomas 92 Norman St., New Hyde Park, NY 11040
DEC 24, THURSDAY	Rev. Kunju Raju 8623 260 Street, Floral Park, NY 11000	Rev. Kunju Raju 8623 260 Street, Floral Park, NY 11001
DEC 25, FRIDAY	NO MEETING	NO MEETING
DEC 26, SATURDAY	Christmas Breakfast - @ ICA for Youth	Elson Philip 6 Mehan Lane, Dix Hills, NY 11746
DEC 27, SUNDAY	CHURCH SERVICE	George Yohannan 27 Ingram Dr, Hicksville, NY 11801
DEC 28, MONDAY	John Mathew (Biju & Reena) 1429 Hillside Ave, New Hyde Park, NY 11040	Saji Pathalil 181 Moore St., New Hyde Park, NY 11040
DEC 29, TUESDAY	At ICA	Rev. Michael Johnson 650 S 9th Street, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
DEC 30, WEDNESDAY	Sam Thomas 519 Ingraham Lane, New Hyde Park, NY 11040	C. V. Varughese 47 Parkview Dr., Searingtown, NY 11507
DEC 31, THURSDAY	NO MEETING	WATCH NIGHT SERVICE @ CHURCH @9:00PM

### INDIA CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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# WELCOME TO ICA SUNDAY SERVICE

Date : December 20, 2015



## WEEKLY ICA VOICE

### THIS WEEK'S MEETING

#### SPECIAL MEETINGS

DECEMBER 21—DECEMBER 31

(SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILED SCHEDULE)

## The Unsung Heroes of Christmas

Another season of Christmas festivities and celebrations has arrived. As usual, for many this will be a season of merrymaking. Many Christians will complain about the meaningless celebration of Christmas. Yet others will talk about the commercialization of every celebration or fight about the date and time of Jesus' birth.

No matter what, it is a fact that Jesus was born in this fallen world as human being. Along with Jesus there are a few other characters who deserve our attention around the Christmas story, but are mostly forgotten. And their stories are not really very pleasant either. I wonder how I (and maybe you too) would relate to them as a Christian.

Mary – a young virgin betrothed to be the bride of a young man in a few months. She is told that she would have a child, a boy, before the wedding. As soon as the world finds out about her pregnancy the Mosaic Law would stone her to death. Fully aware of this she says: "May your word to me be fulfilled."

Joseph – a young man looking forward to his wedding in a few months and starting a family following the customs and traditions of his people. Suddenly the news reaches his ears that his fiancé is pregnant. All eyes and ears are on him to see his reaction and hear his decision. Would he do what the law says? He has faith in Mary, but still....? With full understanding that the world would not believe anything Mary and he would tell them, he chose to accept God's word and take on the shame of the world and protect his bride.

Simeon – a very old man, very devout and righteous, waiting for the consolation of Israel, to see the Messiah. Until the very old age he held on to the promise given long time ago, 'you will not die before you see the Messiah'. In his youth he could not accept and believe what the prophet Isaiah said – the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son – but he waited in anticipation to see the fulfillment of this word when he received the promise of seeing the Messiah in his lifetime even though he questioned the prophecy of Isaiah.

Anna - an old widow who decided not to leave the temple seeking the pleasures and happiness of this world. She had a life totally dedicated to the service of the Lord and to be a blessing to those around her. May be she was a prophetess. Along with Simeon 'she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.' She also had the revelation about the Messiah in her simple, sacrificial life of service.

Jesus himself is on the center stage and he is the one who sacrificed the most. Rather than using my own words let me quote Paul through whom the Holy Spirit spoke: ***Who (Jesus), being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!***

Would I accept the word of God like Mary and Joseph did despite the ridicule of the world? Would I wait faithfully and hopefully for the fulfillment of God's promises like Simeon and Anna? Most importantly would I take on the heart and character of Jesus?

Two women who were having lunch in an elegant hotel were approached by a mutual friend who asked the occasion for the meal. One lady replied, "We are celebrating the birth of my baby boy." "But where is he?" inquired the friend. "Oh," said the mother, "you didn't think I'd bring him, did you?" What a picture of the way the world treats Jesus at Christmas.

*Source Unknown.*

The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding.

*Martin Luther, Table Talk.*

**Congratulations to Bro. George P Mathew & Annamma Mathew on the birth of their grand daughter  
AUDREY OLIVIA MATHEW  
Congratulations Jason & Bharti**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR  
REV. JACOB OOMMEN & SIS. JOLLY JACOB**

**"I am the LORD who heals you"**

**Please pray for:**

**Mrs. Marykutty Thomas (Sist. Suja's Mom),  
Pr. Mathew Samuel, Bro. Babu Thannickal, Sist. Shiny Chacko,  
Sam Mathew, Ammini George, Mariamma Johny (Kunjumol),  
Usha Danielkutty Kiran (Dr. Jolly Mathew's granddaughter),  
Nirmala (Friend of Snehalatha Nair)  
Baby Anaya & all who are sick among us.**