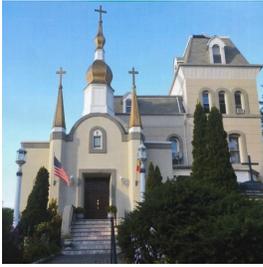


## History of the Saint Mary of Zion Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church New York - Yonkers



The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC) is an indigenous and integral Church of Africa and it is one of the oldest churches in the world. EOTC is also one of the founding members of both the World Council of Churches and the Association of the Oriental Orthodox Churches.

The EOTC hails from Biblical times, and became the established church of Ethiopia in the 4th century, when Christianity was adopted there. In the 19th century the Bible was translated into Amharic, Ethiopia's national language. The EOTC faith believes in the Trinity, with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. However, the church has similarities to Orthodox Judaism based on the focus of the Bible's Old Testament, and an additional strong focus on the Virgin Mary.

Based on the EOTC faith, the **Saint Mary of Zion Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church** was originally established in New York City on December 18, 1990 by His Eminence Arch Bishop Abune Yishaq, Primate of the Western Hemisphere, and the followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church. The exclusive purpose was to provide religious service to all Ethiopian Orthodox religion followers in the tri-state area. After several years of handwork and unified effort, our first church building was purchased in November 2009 in Yonkers. The main sanctuary has now the capacity of about 350 people and we have several rooms available to accommodate various church related services. Since November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 the first liturgy is conducted in the new church building and the city of Yonkers and Westchester County became our home. The Church provides its services both in Geez and Amharic languages. Along with the purchase of the new facility, the scope of the church has also expanded. Regular Sunday worship, bible study, children religious and cultural education are some of the main services we provide. Currently, the church services are lead by Meleake Genet Kirstos and two priests assisted by deacons who regularly provide sacramental and other services to the community.

The congregation has continued to grow during the past 20 years, and currently has over 250 members. The church is administered by Board of Trustees - currently chaired by Mr. Yilma Kassaye - who are elected for three-years and serve for not more than two consecutive terms. In accordance with the bylaws of the church, the general assembly of members elects the Board of Trustees and entrust them with the overall management of the Church.

Currently, the congregation and the community are taking a series of measures to expand and develop various services to enable the church to serve both as a place of worship and a center of culture for all Ethiopians in the area. We are praying that our wish be realized with the help of God and continued support of the community.

In addition to the weekly services, there are several religious holidays, which include the worship services with singing, dancing, prayer, and feasts. Our church mainly teaches love and compassion among all human race and we strictly follow the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ who gave his life on the cross. By doing that, he showed how much he loves us and he insisted to love one another. We are open to all and we strive to meet group and individual needs.

Please consider supporting us in every way you can to bring our dream true. For additional information, please feel free to contact us at: (914) 338-7514 and/or email [st.mary.ny@gmail.com](mailto:st.mary.ny@gmail.com). Or visit us at [www.stmaryofzion.org](http://www.stmaryofzion.org).

God Bless

St. Mary of Zion Ethiopian Orthodox Church-NY