

**ST. THOMAS
INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
1009 UNRUH AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111**



NEWSLETTER

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VICAR'S MESSAGE

ON OUR PARISH ANNIVERSARY

October 1st marks the anniversary of our parish. 1976 October the parish came into existence, 2004 October we bought the present church complex and 2005 October the sanctuary and chapel were consecrated. My memories go back to 2004 when our members worked hard on bringing the building up to the code, cleaning up the campus, and constructing the altar. Several members worked day and night to complete the work. There was no calculation as to how many hours our people worked for the church. Amazing! Amazing!

Now when I look back 12 years ago, some of us who became 'slightly' old now were with youthful look and zeal for the parish. A few passed away, some of them unexpectedly, and some became a little sick and so on. In the mean time many of our youth got married, many children were born, and many new initiatives have come into our parish. So many changes happened from time to time! The very fact that the spiritual organizations that we could organize is a great witness to our continued work. It was not easy for a parish to run more than 8 spiritual organizations such as: The Sunday School, The MMVS, MGOCSM, FOCUS, GROW, Middle School Fellowship, Men's Forum, Couples Forum and Youth League. In addition we joined the MOCF and Ecumenical Fellowship volunteering our time



for its activities. Above all we cooperated with the Diocese in various efforts and initiatives.

In our history we have clearly written in bold letters that divine providence and inspiration was behind all our hard work. It has been our proud heritage that our people pitched in all our projects and helped sustain the congregation in a meticulous way. As a pastor and priest lived and worked with such a great group of people, what else can make one feel thankful and happy? Our membership continued to increase year after year.

All because those new members felt the divine touch at the hands of our parishioners. Our respect, affection and care for others and one another were always at the fore-front. I thank God that we could make a difference. Let us continue our love for God and humanity. May the Lord bless you all on this anniversary!

Lovingly,
Fr. M. K. Kuriakose, Vicar

Parish News

Ordination Anniversary: Our Vicar's Ordination (August 31) anniversary was celebrated on 9/4/2016. We arranged a cake cutting ceremony on the occasion. Fr. M. K. Kuriakose completed 41 years of service to the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and 21 years in our parish. Please continue to pray for our Achens.

Guest Priests Visit

9/11/2016- Rev Fr Zachariah Ninan conducted the Holy Qurbana. Rev. Fr. Zachariah Ninan is a well known author and speaker. He spoke at the MOCF convention held at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Bensalem.

9/18/2016- Rev Fr Mathews John conducted the Holy Qurbana

MOCF Convention: This year the Annual MOCF Convention was held at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Bensalem, PA on September 10th and 11th. Several members of our parish attended the Convention. The MOCF Choir which included our members and led by Mr. Nebu Daniel and Reji George led the singing for the Convention. Mr. John Panicker, our member, is the Treasurer of the MOCF.

Ecumenical 5K Run and 1K Walk: The 5K Run and 1K walk was held in aid of the homeless in Philadelphia. Several members of our parish took part in the event. Including our Achens, there were several leaders in the organization of the Run such as Mathew Samuel (EFICP Secretary), Milly Philip, Smitha Jacob, Sathees Easow, Jiju Mathew, Susan Samuel and so on. It was a great event with our parish's cooperation. Our parish was one of the Sponsors. Thanks to all who took part in this humanitarian event.

Wedding: The wedding of our member Voity George with Roshan Varghese was on Saturday, September 24th.

Clergy Conference of the Diocese: Both our Achens attended the Annual Clergy Conference held at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Washington DC from September 23 to 25.

Prayer Meeting: on 9/24/2016 – Conducted at the Residence of Mr. and Mrs. James Jacob

New Born: Anoop George and Sheril Anoop are blessed with a Baby Girl Seraphina on September 20th. Congratulations to the parents and grandparents.

Building Fund Collection for Parking Lot: We are progressing in our Building Fund Collection specifically targeting towards the parking lot construction. Each family is expected to donate a minimum of \$500.00 this year. Those who can give more, please give more so that we can do this work in this year itself.

Forthcoming Events

Harvest Festival/ Church Consecration Anniversary: Our Harvest Festival is planned to be held on Saturday, October 1st. This is also our church consecration anniversary. We completed 12 years in this building.

October 15th – MMS Conference: The annual MMVS Conference will be held at our church on Saturday, October 15, 2016. Preparation is going on for the event. Our ladies are singing group songs on the occasion and will take part in the Quiz competition. We are expecting a minimum of 500 people from different parishes in the Diocese to attend. We will need the help of many volunteers for the day to help in registration, food serving, and other physical arrangements. Please help all of you.

October 29th - Sunday School Diocesan level Talent Competition: The Sunday School Talent Competition will be held at our church complex on Saturday, October 29th. This will be another important event that would need help from many volunteers. Please come and help.

Ecumenical Convention: The Ecumenical Convention will be held at our Church on Sunday, October 16th from 5 p.m. Please attend this Convention.

Bible Kalolsavam of EFICP: The Bible Kalolsavam for this year will be held at St. Thomas Syro Malabar Catholic Church on Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. Our children are getting ready to take part in the event.

October Wedding Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. George Eapen	Oct 1	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Panicker	Oct 23
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese P Abraham	Oct 2	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kurian	Oct 24
Mr. & Mrs. Mathukutty M. George	Oct 2	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Varghese	Oct 25
Mr. & Mrs. Prince John Puliprath	Oct 8	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham T George	Oct 27
Mr. & Mrs. Daji Mathew	Oct 10	Mr. & Mrs. Paul P Mavelly	Oct 28
Mr. & Mrs. Binny Cherian	Oct 12	Mr. & Mrs. John Abraham	Oct 28
Mr. & Mrs. Renny Varghese	Oct 18	Mr. & Mrs. Varughese P. Chacko	Oct 29
Mr. & Mrs. Saji Mathew	Oct 21	Mr. & Mrs. Binish George	Oct 31

October Birthdays

Bincy Stephen	Oct 1	Gabriella Sofia Cherian	Oct 13	Abia R. Mathew	Oct 22
Prince S. Kurisinmoottil	Oct 1	Achu Susan George	Oct 13	Neha Joseph	Oct 23
Anish Mathew	Oct 1	Biju Varghese	Oct 13	Mariamamma T Raju	Oct 23
Moni Thomas	Oct 2	Tom P. Biju	Oct 14	Biju Mathews	Oct 23
Jacob P Sam	Oct 3	Shaju Varghese	Oct 15	George G Panicker	Oct 24
Alaina Mathew	Oct 3	Subha Baby	Oct 15	Ammini Thomas	Oct 24
Abbey M Mathew	Oct 4	Aaron T Mathew	Oct 15	Ashley Varghese	Oct 24
Evan Luke Thomas	Oct 4	Bishel B Baby	Oct 15	Sharon Cherian	Oct 25
Eleena Suja John	Oct 4	Salikutty John	Oct 15	Thara E. Jaison	Oct 25
Abraham Mathew	Oct 4	Sosamma Juby	Oct 15	Oommen George	Oct 25
Reuben B Varghese	Oct 4	Saramma Raju	Oct 17	Elizabeth A Kappil	Oct 26
Olivia A. Alex	Oct 4	Oommen V Kappil	Oct 17	Marilyn Sarah Cherian	Oct 26
Varghese K Issac	Oct 5	Georgie A. George	Oct 17	Susan Shibu Varghese	Oct 26
George T Charia	Oct 5	Risha A. Binu	Oct 17	Jeena Joseph	Oct 26
Shania M. Alex	Oct 5	Varghese Jacob	Oct 18	Alexander J Daniel	Oct 26
Reynold Educula	Oct 5	Annamma G Panicker	Oct 18	Jeney Joseph	Oct 26
Jacob K. Thekekkuttu	Oct 8	Dinah Jubee	Oct 18	Kondoor E Chacko	Oct 26
Jacob P. Abraham	Oct 8	Mathew Samuel	Oct 18	Christian J. George	Oct 27
Rinku Hana Raju	Oct 8	Mercy Cherian	Oct 19	Sibil Mathew	Oct 27
Jacob Daniel	Oct 8	Cibu Joseph	Oct 19	Joe Philip	Oct 27
Thomas T Varghese	Oct 8	Smitha Mathew	Oct 20	Kripaya Varghese	Oct 27
James Jacob	Oct 8	Abiel B Mathew	Oct 20	Thankamma Varghese	Oct 28
Susan John Varghese	Oct 9	Kunjukunjamma Abraham	Oct 20	Johan Jins	Oct 28
Finney M Philip	Oct 9	Jensina Pothen	Oct 21	Libu K Geevarghese	Oct 28
Renny Varghese	Oct 10	Justina Pothen	Oct 21	Tania Jossy	Oct 29
John Varghese	Oct 10	Nebu Daniel	Oct 21	Annamma Varghese	Oct 29
Oommen Mathai	Oct 10	Delwin Thomas	Oct 22	Alex Babu	Oct 30
Isabel Vattasseril	Oct 10	Geena Chacko	Oct 22	Abraham Varghese	Oct 31
Christina M Thomas	Oct 10	Nebu Joseph	Oct 22	Nishamma Prasad	Oct 31
Ponnamma Thomas	Oct 10	Sanji George	Oct 22	Varghese V Pulivelil	Oct 31
Aji Panicker	Oct 11	Elizebeth Ann Varghese	Oct 22	Elizabeth Abraham	Oct 31
Alen Shibu Varghese	Oct 11	Emily Ann Varghese	Oct 22		
Saji Philip	Oct 11				

Sunday School News

*Submitted by Oommen Kappil, Principal
(Tel.: 267.902.8500, email: kappilr@yahoo.com)*

Principal's Message

September 4th marked the first day of School year for our Sunday School. We had a busy month, with additional events including School supplies campaign to help the under-privileged students, Assigned Competition Trophy Awards on Sep. 11, and the Parish-level Talent Competition. October brings Area-level Talent Competition and then Diocesan-level Talent Competitions and Talent Show. Let's work together to make together that these events help our children towards using their God-given talents and glorify the Lord.

Upcoming events

Area-Level Talent Competitions

Philadelphia Area Sunday school Talent competitions will be conducted on Saturday, **Oct 8th at St. John's Orthodox Church**, 4400 State Road, Drexel Hill, PA. Competitions will begin promptly at **9 AM**.

Breakfast will be served from **8 AM till 9AM**

Lunch will be provided to everyone. **The cost for lunch is \$5**. Lunch coupons will be available for purchase at the venue. Contestants need not purchase lunch coupons.

Diocesan-Level Talent Competitions & Talent Show returning to our Church!

Our Church will host the Diocesan level Talent Competitions this year on Saturday, Oct 29th. About 500 guests including children are expected at this largest scheduled event of the Diocese.

Breakfast and Registration will start at 8 am. Competitions will end around 4 pm. Talent Show which includes performances of students from various parishes in the Diocese is expected to be the highlight of the day. All parish members are welcome to attend.

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided to everyone. Cost for lunch coupons is \$5.00. To cover the cost of conducting the event, including cost of Trophies, the Diocese sells admission tickets for \$10 per family. The tickets will be available for purchase in our church starting on Oct. 2nd. The participation and cooperation of all parish members are requested.

Fund-raising to benefit Parumala Cancer Center

Planning to prepare and sell snacks at the Talent Show on Oct 29th. The proceeds will benefit Parumala Cancer Center.

Event Reports

School Supplies for under-privileged students

This year we initiated our first back to school supply drive to help the kids who are underprivileged in our community. All the donations went to an organization called "cradle to crayon" that helps children living in homeless or low-income situations. We received so many donations which we were able to fill 10 backpacks with the necessary school supplies. Thank you to the many amazing supporters who generously donated school supplies and cash donations. If it weren't for people like all of you, these kids wouldn't have the necessary things to start the school year. We have had a great participation this year and we will continue to do this again in the coming years. Thank you again for your gracious help with this community outreach drive.

Click here for a few pictures: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/146047088824481/>

-Submitted by Jessly Alex & Jessy Jacob

News and Use of Social Media

Sunday School uses Facebook as one of the mediums to disseminate news and information to parish members.

Please visit the Facebook account, St. Thomas Sunday School, Philadelphia

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/146047088824481/>

This is a restricted group, with Membership available to our parish members only. Posts are moderated. To join, please visit the above site, or send an email to Oommen Kappil (email id: kappil1@yahoo.com)

2016 Sunday School Calendar

Event	Date	Venue	Coordinator
Talent Competition-Area level	Saturday, Oct. 8	St. Johns Church	Bishel Baby
Ecumenical Talent Competition	Saturday, Oct. 22	St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Church	Susan Mathew
Talent Competition/Talent Show-Diocesan level	Saturday, Oct 29	Our Church	Milly Philip/ Bishel Baby
Class Exam Trophy distribution	Sunday, Oct.30	Our Church	Santhosh Baby