

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



**NEWSLETTER**

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## VICAR'S MESSAGE

### Come Holy Spirit, Come!



The Christian Church has considered certain events in the Church as the most important. One of which is the Pentecost the coming of the Holy Spirit to the 120 persons waiting upon the Holy Spirit in the upper room of the residence of evangelist John Mark. It is presumed that including St. Mary and the eleven apostles the first "Church" had assembled there. Even though Jesus told the Apostles about the coming of the Holy Spirit who will give them the power to for out and proclaim the Gospel to the rest of the world, the disciples were not sure of the power of the Holy Spirit. Much beyond their expectation the power of the Holy Spirit hovered over the first Church. There were clear visible signs like loud noise of strong wind, tongues of fire and speaking in tongues. These visible signs were just indications to the faithful that they will have the experience of Holy Spirit in a real world. All of them were inspired thoroughly to get out to preach the good news to the rest of the world. Thereafter the Apostles passed on the power of the Holy Spirit to others and till now it is continued through the holy order of ordination.

The Church never experienced the same visible signs later but we are seeing the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the Church. St. Paul taught the Galatians (5:22, 23) of the fruit of the spirit "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control". The Christian Church thrived when the Church started practicing these virtues that Holy Spirit bestowed. St. Paul continues in the same passage, "Against such (virtues) there is no law". It is clear that the Law of Moses given to the Israelites are all seen in these virtues.

St. Paul talks in detail of the gift of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12 & 13. It was very clearly taught to the Early Church that different gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to different people but those are from the same Spirit and therefore one particular gift is not superior to another gift. Unfortunately it is not the way we understand the Holy Spirit today. Those who have healing power are considered more holy persons than someone who can love. We must understand one thing: the entire Church contains the entire gifts of the Spirit through different person and thus the entire Church becomes the depiction of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

If we look at the Early Church, we can see clearly that the faithful maintained unity in all respects. The faithful with various gifts used those gifts for the edification of the Church. The way they loved and lived in harmony was a clear indication that the Early Church experienced the power of the Holy Spirit.

Today the power of the Holy Spirit is urgently needed. We all must pray regularly, "Come Holy Spirit, come! Holy Spirit is the only answer to the world where dissensions, divisions, terrorism and hatred are so rampant. Even inside the Church the experience of Holy Spirit is very faint as we see the behavior of the people. Therefore, we should continuous pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit in full power that we can bear witness to the love of Christ.

Lovingly, Fr. M. K. Kuriakose, Vicar

## Parish News

### Guest Clergy

April 3 - Rev Fr Mathai Cor Episcopa conducted Holy Qurbana

April 10 - Rev Fr Renju P Koshy conducted Holy Qurbana

April 17 - Diocesan Bishop HG Dr. Zachariah Mar Nicholas conducted Holy Qurbana. There was a short session of open forum with the Metropolitan after the Holy Qurbana.

April 24 - Very Rev. K. MATHAI Cor Episcopa conducted Holy Qurbana. Rev Dr. John Samuel Raj, Pricipal of United Theological College, Bangalore gave the sermon on Sunday. Mrs. Bissi Samuel wife of Dr. John Samuel Raj spoke at the MMVS meeting. Dr. John Samuel Raj also spoke at the Men's Forum.

### New Born

Mrs. Rebu Roy and Mrs. Mable Rebu were blessed with a baby girl Sarah Roy on March 19th.

Mr. Anooj Thomas and Mrs. Sheeba Anooj were blessed with a baby girl Anna Maria Thomas on April 27th

### Obituary

Dr Shibu Kuncheria (42) son of Mr. and Mrs. Kuncheria passed away at Austin, Texas on Tuesday, April 5th. A few members and Vicar Fr. M. K. Kuriakose attended the funeral in San Antonio. Dr. Shibu was an active member of the MGOCSM and other spiritual organization while he was in Philadelphia. He was active in many Diocesan programs as well. On behalf of the parish we express our condolence and offer our prayers for the departed soul and bereaving families.

### Prayer Meeting

On April 3 – At the residence of Mr. Mathew Varghese.

Family Conference Kick Off – Held on 17th Sunday after the service. Several members of the Family Conference Committee came to this event.

Church Directory – Updating the Directory with new members and with new information's from the existing families. A folder is kept outside the office for your correction and once done, please initial the page.

### Forthcoming Events

Following Guest Bishop and Priests expected to conduct Holy Qurbana in our church

HG Dr. Mathews Mar Severios – May 15 Pentecost Sunday

Very Rev Fr C. J. Johnson Cor-Episcopa, vicar of the St. Mary's Cathedral . – May 1 Sunday

Rev Fr Dr TI Varghese, the professor at the Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam – May 8 Sunday

Diocesan Assembly will take place at St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Suffern, NY on May 14 Saturday

Rev Fr Panackamattom – May 22 Sunday

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Anu S Thomas	May 1	Mary Joseph	May 15	Varughese Pulickal Chacko	
Mini Renji	May 1	George Mathew	May 15		May 25
Karina Vattasseril	May 2	Prenin P. George	May 16	Santhosh M Baby	May 25
Sharath M Ninan	May 3	Rekha M Philip	May 16	Saramma Thankachan	May 25
Angel A Ninan	May 3	Lincy Ann Philip	May 16	Jobin Jacob	May 26
Aneeta Sara Sam	May 3	Aleyamma Daniel	May 17	Laila Mariam Raju	May 26
Mathukutty M. George	May 3	Jibu Vergis	May 17	Jeena Elsa Abraham	May 26
Mammen Varghese	May 3	Rajan C Padiyara	May 18	Lizy Sam Kurisinmoottil	
Annamma Jacob	May 4	Thomas Skariah	May 18		May 26
Mony Babu	May 5	Tinju S Jose	May 18	Anna Varghese	May 27
Anu Susan Koshy	May 5	Reni Philip	May 19	Paul John	May 27
Geo Vaidian	May 5	John P Mathai	May 20	Sara Daniel	May 27
Rachel Curian Koshy	May 5	Sunil George	May 20	Joshua Ajo Raju	May 27
Mathew V Thomas	May 5	Liziamma Geevarghese	May 20	Micah V Panicker	May 27
Anila Jose	May 5	Reena Mathai	May 20	Robin Philip	May 27
Anoop T George	May 6	Abraham Koodathinalil		Babu M Kunjandy	May 28
Liz Pothen	May 6	Varughese	May 20	George Thadathil	May 28
Avieva Varghese	May 7	Sosamma Benny	May 21	Varghese Philip	May 28
Ashley E Philip	May 7	Annamma Mathew	May 21	Boby George	May 28
Mini Jose	May 8	Ann Yohan George	May 21	Sanju Varghese John	May 28
Jane Sara Oommen	May 8	Sathees Easow	May 22	Rini P Joseph	May 28
Jessy R Padiyara	May 8	Laly James	May 22	Chacko P Chacko	May 28
Jasmin Ann Philip	May 8	Jayce J Philip	May 22	Aiden George	May 30
Sibi Varghese	May 9	Prince John Puliprath	May 22	Mathew Jacob	May 30
Jino Jacob	May 9	Daisymol Babu	May 22	Beena Sabu	May 30
Jaison Thomas	May 9	Molly Mathai	May 22	Achamma Vaidian	May 30
Gigi Thomas	May 10	Anish Thomas	May 23	Thomas Vakkayil	May 30
Joel Chacko	May 10	Suja Thomas	May 23	Nathan Philip	May 30
John Abraham	May 10	Joy G. Vaidian	May 23	Alan T Ninan	May 30
Renji Varghese	May 10	Renjusha Rajan	May 23	George G Mampallil	May 30
Rajan Koshy	May 10	Shawn Jacob	May 23	Rachel Varghese	May 30
Ancy Jins	May 10	Ninan Chacko	May 24	Annamma Vaidian	May 30
Nirmala Thomas	May 11	Rajan Varughese	May 24	Isac P. George	May 30
Divya Panicker	May 11	Mary Rajan	May 24	Ponnamma Baby	May 30
Mathew Koshy	May 11	Linda Varghese	May 24	Biji Joseph	May 30
Libin J. Jacob	May 11	Baby Varghese	May 24	Ajan Achamma Thomas	
Chandini P. George	May 12	Susamma Mathew	May 24		May 30
Mini George	May 12	Anto G Panicker	May 25	Aleyamma Thomas	May 30
Anil George Panicker	May 12	Philip Varghese	May 25	Sheena Vaidian	May 30
Diya Daji	May 12	Bindhu Alex	May 25	Mariamamma Skaria	May 30
Annamma Mathew	May 12	Susamma Thomas	May 25	Kunjumole Thankachan	
Jose V Abraham	May 12	Rinu John	May 25		May 30
Usha Jacob	May 13	Joji Thomas	May 25	Shibu M Baby	May 31
David Philip	May 13	Daniel Varghese	May 25	Bini Thankachan	May 31
Shane Varughese Thomas		David Thomas	May 25	Suja Koshy	May 31
	May 13	Annamma Thomson	May 25	Philip John	May 31
Dhanya Anto Panicker	May 14	Job John	May 25	Sijo P Mathai	May 31
Christy Joy	May 15	Sobha P. Biju	May 25	Liza Oommen	May 31
Kristin Ann Julice	May 15	Manju Shibu	May 25	Susan John	May 31
Jeremiah Jerin	May 15	Shibu Varghese	May 25	Jonathan Jerin	May 31
Jordan Mathew Philip	May 15			Reny Varughese	May 31

## MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. George Varughese	May 4	Mr. & Mrs. Jeff George	May 16
Mr. & Mrs. George T Charia	May 4	Mr. & Mrs. Roy Philip	May 16
Mr. & Mrs. Rev Dn. Daniel Yohannan	May 5	Mr. & Mrs. Kuncheriah P V.	May 19
Mr. & Mrs. Johnkutty V. K.	May 5	Mr. & Mrs. Aju Jacob	May 20
Mr. & Mrs. Rev. Fr M K Kuriakose	May 5	Mr. & Mrs. Joy G. Vaidian	May 21
Mr. & Mrs. David Thomas	May 6	Mr. & Mrs. Geo Vaidian	May 23
Mr. & Mrs. Dony Davy	May 12	Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Panicker	May 24
Mr. & Mrs. Raju Markose	May 14	Mr. & Mrs. Saji Abraham	May 25
Mr. & Mrs. Kunjappu Koshy	May 14	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Philip	May 26
Mr. & Mrs. Oommen Mathai	May 14	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M C.	May 26
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Jacob	May 15	Mr. & Mrs. Jobin Varghese	May 27
Mr. & Mrs. Jerin G Juby	May 16	Mr. & Mrs. Saji V Mathew	May 27
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Varghese	May 16	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Skariah	May 28

### Sunday School News

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

#### **Event Report: Sunday School students visit Adult Home-Care facility: April 24th**

On April 24th, our children visited the Holy Redeemer St. Joseph Manor Care long-term care facility. Respected Kuriakose achen and Gheevarghese achen led the prayers, and introduced our children and our church to the residents. Our students sang songs, and performed Bollywood in front of around residents and staff. The residents received the children with excitement and affection. The children spoke with the elderly, and it was a heartwarming experience for everyone. In addition to snacks, the children presented the residents with a poster card with well wishes and a group photo of our children with the Supreme Head of our Church, His Holiness, Baselius Mar Thomas Paulose II, the Catholicos. Betsy George did an outstanding job as Coordinator of this program.

#### **Newsletter Supplement on Feasts and Fasts**

Sunday School published its first edition of its newsletter supplement on April 10, 2016. The purpose is to provide information to our children and adults on Holy Fathers, Fasts and Feasts of our church. A crossword puzzle and a picture for coloring were included in the first edition. Students may win a prize by submitting the colored picture to the Editor. A naming contest for the newsletter is still open for everyone. Please submit your entries to Anu Jacob, Editor.

### Upcoming Events

#### Area-Level Trip to Washington, DC. Saturday, May 14th.

This is an opportunity for our children and parents to join with other children and parents in the Philadelphia Area, and enjoy a trip to the popular destinations in Washington, DC. This trip to the nation's capital includes stops at the White House, US Capitol, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land. Cost is \$35 per person, which includes transportation and food.

#### Field Trip to Camden Aquarium, Saturday, May 28th.

Sunday School is planning a trip to the Adventure Aquarium, Camden, NJ.

About the Adventure Aquarium: Attractions: KidZone, enchanting playground “under the sea,” and experience seven different touch exhibits to get up close and personal with sharks, stingrays and more. Adventure Aquarium is the only aquarium in the world where you can see hippos nose-to-nose, and the only aquarium in the country to feature a Great Hammerhead Shark – among the largest and rarest of sharks!

Add two million gallons of fun, a 40-foot suspended Shark Tunnel, a 4D Theater (sponsored by PSE&G) and free live shows and up-close animal experiences daily, and it’s clear to see why a trip to Adventure Aquarium promises to deliver family memories that will last a lifetime.”

Cost: \$30, includes transportation and food.

### Assigned Competitions -2016

Group	Grades	Event	Topics
1	Pre-K & KG	Drawing	Moses at the burning bush
2	1 & 2	Drawing with a short sentence	Priest baptizing a baby
3	3 & 4	Drawing with a short paragraph	Jesus feeds the 5000
4	5 & 6	Essay	The power of a prayerful life
5	7 & 8	Essay	1Corinthians 13:4 “Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful.”
6	9 & 10	Essay	Mathew 6:33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.” How can we seek His kingdom?
7	11 & 12	Essay	Ecclesiastes 3:7 “A time to keep silence and a time to speak.” What is the value of silence and quiet in a time when we are always “plugged in”?

### Talent Competitions -2016

#### Elocution Topics

Group	Grades	Topics
4	5 & 6	James 4:10 “Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.”
5	7 & 8	Jeremiah 29:13 “You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart.”
6	9 & 10	Matthew 25:35 “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”
7	11 & 12	Proverbs 19:21 “Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will be established.”

*Note: All Grades are based on Secular School Grades as of Jan. 1, 2016*

**Bible Quiz-Books**

Judges

1 Corinthians

*Revised Standard Version (RSV) only***2016 Sunday School Calendar**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
Assigned Competition-parish level	Sunday, May 1	Our parish	Liz Pothen
Area-level Trip to Washington, DC	Saturday, May 14	Washington, DC	Santhosh Baby
Assigned Competition-Area level	Sunday, May 22	St. George Church	Liz Pothen
Field Trip-Camden Aquarium	Saturday, May 28	Camden, NJ	Jacob Kuruvilla
Bible Quiz-parish level	Sunday, May 29	Our parish	Bishel Baby
Centralized Exam-Grade 12	Sunday, June 5	St. Thomas, Mascher St.	Santhosh Baby
Centralized Exam-Grade 5, 8, 10, TTC	Sunday, June 26	St. Mary's Cathedral	Santhosh Baby
OVBS	Thu-Sat, Jul 28-30	Our parish	Anu Jacob
Talent Competition-Parish level	Sunday, Sep. 18	Our parish	Bishel Baby
Talent Competition-Area level	Saturday, Oct 8	St. Johns Church	Bishel Baby
Talent Show/Competition-Diocesan level	Saturday, Oct 29	Our parish	Betsy George/ Bishel Baby