

ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1009 UNRUH AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111

Phone: (215) 342 1500 Fax: (215) 342 2700 www.stthomasphiladelphia.org

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

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Vicar's Message

Shoonoyo Lent (August 1-15)

“For He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed.”
Luke 1:48

This is an excerpt from the song of St. Mary which is named the “Magnificat”. This prayer confesses the magnanimity of God in the life of St. Mary. Two important thoughts are carved out of this excerpt:

1. God minds the humility of His Servant: St. Mary is known for her humility and unconditional submission to the will of God. All through her life, which was filled with unexpected suffering, she remained a humble person. She could have been proud as she gave birth to the Messiah the Savior but she did not take any pride



in that. Jesus also underlined ‘humility’ in the mission of his life. He taught this to the apostles more clearly than anything else even though initially they were unable to grasp it. We read the discussion among the apostles as to who is greatest among them. Mother of James and John even requested the seat on the left and right of Jesus in His kingdom. At the Last Supper the Lord showed the disciples the example of humility through washing the feet of them. And

commanded them to do it between them. When St. Paul quotes the humility of the Lord in Philippians Chapter 2 he is underlining the utmost importance of the example of the Lord Himself. The end result of humility is not death but crown of glory. Cross or suffering and death may precede it. But humility will reap the fruit wherever it is exhibited. Therefore, what the Lord taught us in his life will be valued in His sight.

2. St. Mary predicts her names as 'Blessed': At the time of St. Mary's time or even in the first century no one knew this truth. St. Mary's prediction that she will be called the 'Blessed' for the rest of the generations did happen. Now we know that the entire world calls her 'Blessed Virgin Mary'. If we take the history of St. Mary's influence in the world, it is simply indescribable. The millions of miracles attached to her and the influence of her example in the life of millions of Christians and

non-Christians is great. It was unfortunate that the Protestant world somehow missed this part. The Bible is very vocal and strong in confessing Mary as the 'Blessed' whether some people like it or not. We are reminded of Elizabeth's statement at the meeting with St. Mary, "how blessed I am that the Mother of God to came to me" Luke 1:43. It is not a matter of argument at all whether St. Mary deserves the appreciation of the coming generations, but it is a simple fact. That is why the Apostolic Churches follow this biblical trail to exalt St. Mary as the most blessed. I am sure the Lord will honor those who honor His mother.

During the Shoonoyo Lent, between August 1 and 15, we will have a very meaningful time of meditation on St. Mary's virtue of humility. Hope such Lenten observance will enrich us.

Lovingly,

Fr. M. K. Kuriakose, Vicar

PARISH NEWS – AUGUST 2018

Last Month's Updates:

July 4th- Hadootho: The Annual MGOCSM Summer camp was held from July 4th- 7th at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center. The special guest speaker was Rev. Fr. Mat Alexander from Dallas, TX. The camp featured spiritual talks, bonfire, fellowships, and will end with Holy Qurbana.

July 8th- Graduate Felicitation: Our Church recognized all graduates from middle school, high school, college, as well as professional and advanced degree programs.

July 10th- OCYM Trip to Sight and Sound: The OCYM conducted a trip to see the show “Jesus, the Heart of the Story” at Sight and Sound in Lancaster, PA.

July 14th- Men's Forum Trip to Ocean City, Maryland: The Men's Forum conducted a very fun trip to Ocean City, Maryland.

July 18th- Family and Youth Conference- The Annual Diocesan Family & Youth

Conference was held at the Kalahari Resort in Pocono Summit, PA from July 18th through 21st. The guest speakers were Rev. Fr. Dr. Jacob Kurian, Principal of the Orthodox Theological Seminary, and Fr. Jake Kurian, Vicar of the St. Stephen's Orthodox Church in Houston, TX. Twelve families from our Parish attended.

July 26th- OVBS- The Orthodox Vacation Bible School was held at our Church from July 26th through 28th. The theme for this year was “God Molds Us” taken from Isaiah 64:8.

Charity Projects:

Salvar and Jubas Drive- Ongoing; Gently used Indian clothes will be collected and donated to the underprivileged in India. Donations will be collected in a box placed in the Church foyer.

School Supply Drive- Ongoing; All supplies collected will be given to the underprivileged kids in the area. Please bring any school supplies for donation including books, pencils, pens, markers, school bags etc. Donations will be

collected in a box placed in the Church foyer.

August Events:

August 1st- 14th: Holy Dormition Fast; Holy Qurbana for the Feast of the Dormition of St. Mary will begin at 6:30pm on Tuesday, August 14th.

August 5th: Karuna Yard Sale; All proceeds will be donated to cancer patients in need

August 10th-14th: AGNI: Middle School Summer Camp; Our Diocese has taken a new initiative to shape the spiritual growth of children ages 10-14. This year the first AGNI Summer camp will take place at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center with the theme “Ablaze for the Lord.”

August 15th-18th: Talmeedo Men's Retreat at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center

August 18th- Annual Church Picnic; Beginning at 9 am at Tamanend Park

(1255 2nd St Pike, Southampton, PA 18966). Tickets should be purchased in advanced from Mr. Thomas George and Mr. G.M. Panicker: \$40 for a family or \$10 for an individual.

August 24th- FOCUS Fellowship Game Night at our Church beginning at 6:30pm

Parish Sports

Our Parish Volleyball team competed in Ecumenical tournaments on July 15th and August 4th. They are representing our Church with the champions' spirit! Please contact Mr. Rijon Simon if you'd like to join and support our team

Our Parish is also forming a basketball team to compete in inter-parish and Ecumenical tournaments. Please contact our Assistant Vicar, Rev. Fr. Sujit Thomas to join.

AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Rajan	Aug 2	Mr. & Mrs. Ajo Raju	Aug 21
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Abraham	Aug 2	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Vakkayil	Aug 22
Mr. & Mrs. Diboo A Daniel	Aug 11	Mr. & Mrs. Anoop Joseph George	Aug 22
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham K Varughese	Aug 14	Mr. & Mrs. Shibu Thomas	Aug 22
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Baby	Aug 15	Mr. & Mrs. Vinod Jacob	Aug 24
Mr. & Mrs. Renji Varghese	Aug 15	Mr. & Mrs. Jiju Mathew	Aug 26
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew P Cherian	Aug 15	Mr. & Mrs. Kochupurackal Thomas	Aug 27
Mr. & Mrs. Georgeyo Oommen	Aug 16	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C Thomas	Aug 28
Mr. & Mrs. Ashok Mathew Koshy	Aug 17	Mr. & Mrs. Alex P Symon	Aug 29
Mr. & Mrs. Rajan Koshy	Aug 17	Mr. & Mrs. Suresh Cherian	Aug 29
Mr. & Mrs. Gibson Thomas George	Aug 18		
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Mathew	Aug 18		
Mr. & Mrs. Manoj Thomas	Aug 19		
Mr. & Mrs. Cibu Joseph	Aug 19		
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Kuruvilla	Aug 20		
Mr. & Mrs. David Philip	Aug 21		
Mr. & Mrs. Nadukemuriyil V Thomas	Aug 21		



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Zeena Jacob	Aug 1		Amelia E George	Aug 21	
Joel Jacob	Aug 2		Aaron George	Aug 21	
Chinnamma M Varghese	Aug 2		Aben G Panicker	Aug 21	
Cherian Philipose	Aug 2		Shyni Anu	Aug 22	
Jijo George Varghese	Aug 2	Augustin Babu	Aug 13	Isabel J Mathew	Aug 22
Saya Alina Thomas	Aug 4	Johan Anto Panicker	Aug 14	Varghese Varghese	Aug 22
Dony Davy	Aug 4	Jojoy Varghese	Aug 14	Sajan Thomas	Aug 23
Jaison Daniel	Aug 5	Alexandra Geevarghese	Aug 14	Bindu Job	Aug 23
Jonathan Matthew Cherian	Aug 5	Liana John	Aug 14	Anooj Thomas	Aug 23
Abraham John	Aug 5	Achamma Cherian	Aug 15	Kochupurackal Thomas	Aug 24
Tibin John Prince	Aug 6	Nadukemuriyil V Thomas	Aug 15	Riny Saju Mathew	Aug 25
Aleyamma George	Aug 6	Rachel A Varghese	Aug 16	Jonah Thomas	Aug 25
Lambert Thomas	Aug 7	Abel T Anooj	Aug 16	Shawn Stephen	Aug 25
Leelamma O Panicker	Aug 8	Tincy Raju	Aug 16	Philip Raju Markos	Aug 26
Mathews T Varghese	Aug 8	Reena Rose Antony	Aug 17	Annamma Mathew	Aug 26
Rebecca Susan Philipose	Aug 9	Christina S Thomas	Aug 18	Judy Philip	Aug 27
Josh Job	Aug 9	Shelby Alisha Thomas	Aug 18	George Varghese	Aug 27
Crisia Maria Shibu	Aug 9	Thomas Abraham	Aug 18	Agin G. Thomas	Aug 27
Sheena Jose	Aug 10	Alex Mathew	Aug 18	Nallumalayil Joseph George	Aug 27
Varghese Mammen	Aug 10	George Abraham	Aug 18	Molly Prince	Aug 28
Blessy George	Aug 10	Hannah Mary Thomas	Aug 19	Sharon Jacob	Aug 29
Ashok Paulose	Aug 10	Ninan Mathai	Aug 19	Anugraha Thankam John	Aug 30
Eliza Leela Panicker	Aug 12	Paul P Mavelly	Aug 19	Betsy George	Aug 30
Jibin Verghese Jacob	Aug 13	Stephan Kalthil	Aug 20	Cijo Joseph	Aug 30
Sneha Reynold	Aug 13	Sherin Sara Anish	Aug 20	Bibin George	Aug 30
Joel G Panicker	Aug 13	Flamy Philip	Aug 21		



Sunday School News

*Submitted by Binny Cherian, Principal
(Tel.: 914.708.7981, Email: cbinny@gmail.com)*

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church (STIOC) Sunday School Calendar for 2018					
S.No.	Event	Venue	Date and Time	Coordinator/s	Registration Fee / Deadline
1	Sunday School Break		June 25 th – Sep 1st		
2	Summer class for Sunday school teachers	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	Aug. 5 th	Rev. Sujit Thomas	
3	Agni Middle School Camp	HTRC	Aug 9 - 11	Rev. Sujit Thomas	
4	Sunday school teachers Meeting	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	Aug. 12 th	Rev. MK Kuriakose	
5	Karuna 2018 - Cancer Awareness Fundraising Performance	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	Sep. 1st (Sat.) 3.00-6.00 pm	Jessly Alex	
6	Teachers Meeting (led by Rev. M.K. Kuriakose)	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	Sep. 2 nd (Sun.) 12.30-1.30 pm	Rev. M.K. Kuriakose	Lunch will be provided
7	Sunday School Re-opens after the summer break	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	Sep. 2 nd (Sun.)	Binny Cherian	
8	First Alphabet Writing	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	Sep. 2 nd (Sun.)	Renu Samuel	
9	Alternate Date for Centralized Exam (Grades - 5,8,10 & TTC)	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	September 2 nd (Sun.)	Binny Cherian	
10	Church Level Talent Competitions (incl. Bible Quiz)	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	Sep 9th Sun.	Susan David, Bishel Baby	

S.No.	Event	Venue	Date and Time	Coordinator/s	Registration Fee / Deadline
11	Area level Talent Competitions	St. Mary's Cathedral Church, Huntingdon Valley	Sep 29th Sat. 9am - 4 pm	Reny Philip, Biju, Rekha	Sep. 16th, \$10 per participant (fully subsidized by STIOC)
12	Diocesan Talent Competitions (incl. Bible Quiz)	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	Oct. 27th Sat.	Mr. Mathew Joseph	Reg. Deadline is Oct.13
13	Area Teachers Fellowship	St. Gregorios MOC, Bensalem	Nov 10th Sat. Time TBD	Annie Varghese, Susan David	
14	Craft fair and Movie night	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	Nov 17th Sat.	Susan Mathews	
15	Ecumenical Christmas Program (SS Event)	George Washington HS	TBD	Milly Philip	
16	Church, Christmas Social	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	TBD		
17	Sunday school Anniversary	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	TBD		

Please remember to pray for the Sunday school Children and Staff in your daily prayers.