

ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018

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Vicar's Message

STIOC ANNIVERSARY FROM 1976

Looking through the history of our parish that started in 1976 October with Rev. Fr. K. Mathai (currently Very Rev. K Mathai Cor Episcopa) as its Vicar with the name St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church, we are standing at the gate of October 2018 with 42 years of history. Even though there is some lack of clarity in the metamorphosis of the Malankara Orthodox community in Philadelphia, one thing we know as members of the STIOC is that October seems to be the month of remembrance for us. We bought the present church complex in October and the church was consecrated in October as well. It was in the year 2004 that we had to change our name to St. Thomas IOC because of another parish with the same name existed giving some confusion at the State capital regarding the name.



When I began my service in 1996 in our parish 22 years ago, I had no idea where we were going! We were a small community of 28 families worshipping in a rented chapel of the Cardinal Dougherty High School. Because I had a job as librarian in North Jersey, I had to travel to Philadelphia to conduct worship for five years. Later I moved to Trenton, New Jersey and finally to Philadelphia. The parish was so kind to me in helping during my several moves from place to place. I could see the love and cooperation of ALL members in the parish matters. That love and cooperation

were very clear when the church building was purchased. When we purchased the property we were only 76 families which was a huge growth from 28 within 8 years. Now we are more than 220 families from 76 to 220 in 13 years. These are all indications of physical growth of our parish through Divine Providence. In addition, two other reasons for our growth are:

1. The welcoming nature of all the members who came from time to time.
2. The unconditional acceptance given to each family that came to the parish.

I have always taught my people to love one another without any conditions because God loves us without any conditions. I still believe, it is the right policy even though at least some people have taken advantage of it. However, the bulk of our members have taken a very caring attitude.

We have now built a spiritual culture of our own and a style of activity for our parish. Very strongly rooted in the great values and traditions of the Orthodox Church, we grew to a much better witness. I am not interested in comparing us with other parishes but I thank God for His divine providence as reward to our unity and understanding for the successful

functioning. Perhaps some of our members have seen the positive side of smoothly functioning spiritual organizations, the Managing Committee and Board of Trustees and several subcommittees engaging in multifarious tasks. We have not ignored anyone but those people who just wanted to stay at the periphery all the time, may not have come into the main current like others. Again, compulsion was not our way! I have seen God blessing all those who took the parish seriously and worked with others. Indeed, when we grow bigger and bigger several changes will take place. It will not be like a small parish where everyone knows everyone. It is the homework that the Lord gives us to get in touch with more people as time goes on.

The pillars of our Church are the members and the clergy that worked harmoniously with them. I cannot thank them all enough. All of these I deem as great blessings from God. I am reminded of the priceless grace poured out on us. Let us stay in that positive power of the Lord to keep our parish in the right path of the Word of God. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift." 2 Corinthians 9:15.

Lovingly, Fr. M. K. Kuriakose, Vicar

PARISH NEWS – OCTOBER 2018

Episcopal Jubilee Banquet

The Episcopal Jubilee Banquet has been rescheduled for Saturday Nov. 17th (11 am to 3pm). The banquet will be held at Greentree Country Club (538 Davenport Ave, New Rochelle, NY 10805). His Holiness Baselios Mar Thoma Paulose II, will bless the occasion. It will also be attended by dignitaries from our sister churches.

This is an occasion to showcase our support for Thirumeni as well as for our Diocese.

Tickets for the banquet are \$100. To purchase ticket please contact Mr. Sajan Mathew, Diocesan Council Member at 914-772-4043 or Dr. Philip George, Diocesan Council Member (Jubilee Convener) at 646-361-9509. For those who received tickets earlier and cannot attend on Nov. 17th, please contact Mr. Sajan or Dr. Philip.

September News:

Kerala Flood Collections- Our Parish has collected over \$24,000.00 for the support of the victims of the Kerala floods. This money will be given to the Diocese for

distribution to the many victims under the care of the Church.

2018 & 2019 Building Projects- Our Vicar has sent out a letter requesting funds to support the Parish parking lot project in 2018 and roof renovation in 2019. Each member is requested to donate at least \$500 for each. Please see the Secretary or Trustee for more information.

October Events:

October 6th- Parish Harvest Festival:

Our parish celebrated her annual Harvest Festival and Anniversary of Consecration on October 6th. Many vegetable and fruits were auctioned off and the spiritual organizations raised money through sales of clothes and baked goods. Breakfast and lunch were also sold by our food committee. The day culminated with the auction of an Apple Watch.

October 13th- Annual Marthamariam Samajam Conference will be hosted by our Parish

October 27th- Diocesan Sunday School Talent Competition and Show will be hosted by our Parish

OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. George Eapen	1-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Varghese	25-Oct
Mr. & Mrs. Daji Mathew	1-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham T George	27-Oct
Mr. & Mrs. Mathukutty M. George	2-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. John Abraham	28-Oct
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese P Abraham	2-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Paul P Mavely	28-Oct
Mr. & Mrs. Anil T. Babu	7-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Varughese	
Mr. & Mrs. Divya Panicker	8-Oct	Pulickal Chacko	29-Oct
Mr. & Mrs. Prince John Puliprath	8-Oct	Mr. & Mrs. Binish George	31-Oct
Mr. & Mrs. Binny Cherian	12-Oct		
Mr. & Mrs. Ajish Kutty	12-Oct		
Mr. & Mrs. Niju Mathew Cheriyan	21-Oct		
Mr. & Mrs. Saju Mathew	21-Oct		
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Panicker	23-Oct		
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kurian	24-Oct		



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Anish Mathew	1-Oct	James Jacob	8-Oct
Prince Sam Jacob	1-Oct	Rinku Raju Geno	8-Oct
Bincy Stephen	1-Oct	Jacob K. Thekekkuttu	8-Oct
Moni Thomas	2-Oct	Esther Mariam Niju	9-Oct
Jacob P Sam	3-Oct	Finney M Philip	9-Oct
Alaina Mathew	3-Oct	Susan John Varghese	9-Oct
Olivia A. Alex	4-Oct	Ponnamma Thomas	10-Oct
Abbey M Mathew	4-Oct	Christina M Thomas	10-Oct
Eleena Suja John	4-Oct	Isabel Vattasseril	10-Oct
Reuben B Varghese	4-Oct	Oommen Mathai	10-Oct
Evan Luke Thomas	4-Oct	John Varghese	10-Oct
Abraham Mathew	4-Oct	Saji Philip	11-Oct
George T Charia	5-Oct	Aji Panicker	11-Oct
Varghese K Issac	5-Oct	Alen Shibu Varghese	11-Oct
Shania M. Alex	5-Oct	Gabriella Sofia Cherian	13-Oct
Reynold Educulla	5-Oct	Biju Varghese	13-Oct
Thomas T Varghese	8-Oct	Tom P. Biju	14-Oct
Jacob Peediyakkal Abraham	8-Oct	Salikutty John	15-Oct

Shaju Varghese	15-Oct	Neha Joseph	23-Oct
Bishel B Baby	15-Oct	Mariamamma T Raju	23-Oct
Sosamma Juby	15-Oct	Biju Mathews	23-Oct
Subha Baby	15-Oct	Ammini Thomas	24-Oct
Aaron T Mathew	15-Oct	George G Panicker	24-Oct
Georgie Abraham George	17-Oct	Ashley Varghese	24-Oct
Saramma Raju	17-Oct	Sharon Cherian	25-Oct
Risha A. Binu	17-Oct	Thara E. Jaison	25-Oct
Oommen V Kappil	17-Oct	Oommen George	25-Oct
Dinah Jubee	18-Oct	Alexander J Daniel	26-Oct
Mathew Samuel	18-Oct	Susan Shibu Varghese	26-Oct
Varghese Jacob	18-Oct	Kondoor Educula Chacko	26-Oct
Annamma G Panicker	18-Oct	Elizabeth A Kappil	26-Oct
Cibu Joseph	19-Oct	Jeena Joseph	26-Oct
Mercy Cherian	19-Oct	Marilyn Sarah Cherian	26-Oct
Abiel B Mathew	20-Oct	Jeney Joseph	26-Oct
Kunjukunjamma Abraham	20-Oct	Christian Joseph George	27-Oct
Smitha Mathew	20-Oct	Joseph Philip	27-Oct
Justina Pothen	21-Oct	Kripaya Varghese	27-Oct
Jensina Pothen	21-Oct	Johan Jins	28-Oct
Nebu Daniel	21-Oct	Libu K Geevarghese	28-Oct
Sanji George	22-Oct	Thankamma Varghese	28-Oct
Lisa Mariam John	22-Oct	Annamma Varghese	29-Oct
Nebu Joseph	22-Oct	Tania Jossy	29-Oct
Delwin Thomas	22-Oct	Alex Babu	30-Oct
Emily Ann Varghese	22-Oct	Nishamma George	31-Oct
Elizebeth Ann Varghese	22-Oct	Elizabeth Abraham	31-Oct
Geena Chacko	22-Oct	Varghese V Pulivelil	31-Oct
Abia R. Mathew	22-Oct		
Abraham Varghese	31-Oct		



Sunday School News

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

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church (STIOC) Sunday School Calendar for 2018					
1	Diocesan Talent Competitions (incl. Bible Quiz)	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	Oct. 27th Sat.	Mr. Mathew Joseph	Reg. Deadline is Oct.13
2	Area Teachers Fellowship	St. Gregorios MOC, Bensalem	Nov 10th Sat. Time TBD	Annie Varghese Susan David	
3	Craft fair and Movie night	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	Nov 17th Sat.	Susan Mathews	
4	Ecumenical Christmas Program	George Washington HS	TBD	Milly Philip	
5	Church, Christmas Social	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	TBD		
6	Sunday school Anniversary	St. Thomas IOC, Unruh Ave.,	TBD		

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