

ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

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Vicar's Message

Happy New Year!

We were all inundated with words of greeting around New Year's Day. Truly a season of joy that came through Christmas. Many people take this season seriously and purposely make contacts with dear and near ones, pouring out greetings of the season. Even though New Year's Day is just like another day, it can make a difference in the life of people who want to make some change in their life. Therefore, New Year's resolutions are a common factor for many. We, the Christian Church, remember the circumcision of our Lord and the life of Sts. Mar Baselios and Mar Gregorios, the Cappadocian Fathers on that day. In the Protestant world, the New Year begins with very special worship during midnight and nowadays that has crept into other denominations also. Many secular people have their own way of celebrating the New Year. It is a time of festivity that is replete with fellowship, prayer, food, fireworks etc. That creates a lot of excitement in the minds of many. I would like to reflect three thoughts on this occasion:



1. The New Year indicates how the Christian era has been ruling over the common man's life all over the world. Even though there are several regional or ethnic New Year's days, January 1st stands as the universal New Year's Day. That happened because of Christ and his followers. We Christians should not ignore how important a name and status we have for the world. The entire world is revolving around Christ. But we are not aware of that. This indicates our responsibility as Christians to the rest of the world. We must take seriously what Jesus Christ is for us and the rest of the world. Jesus said, "I am

the light of the world.” “I am the vine and you are the branches.” “I am the shepherd and you are the sheep.” “I am The Way, the Truth, and the Life.” St. Paul taught, “The Church is the Body of Christ” (1 Cor. 12:27, Ephesians 4:12; 5:23 and so on). Therefore, we have the responsibility to convey to the world that through us the world has the true light for life. In today’s world of violence, greed, power struggles, and enmity, we should show the way of love as a sanctified community (1 Peter 2:9). If we stick together in proclaiming the love of Christ, there is a chance for the world to redeem itself from destruction.

2. Every New Year is an opportunity for us to reflect on the blessings we receive from the Lord. We have nothing to claim on our own. Everything is a gift of God. No matter what happened in the past year adversely, that is not proof that God ignored us. We were under His surveillance and protection. It is our tendency to highlight our sufferings and blame God. We ignore what we received from God. When we compare the blessings against the sufferings, we will know how much we owe to God. Our suffering was just a training for us to stick to God and not to estrange ourselves from God.
3. Every New Year is an opportunity to revamp ourselves with new decision and hope. Again, whatsoever happened in the previous year does not matter. We cannot change the past, but we can change the future. We are aware of our shortcomings that keep repeating in our lives. It is up to us to make changes in our life. It is like a shower we take every day. When we know we are dirty, we take a shower in order to maintain our health and hygiene. In the same way, when we change our dirty ways, we are safe and the people around us will also be safe. Our determination with the hope in the power of the Lord who can make ‘everything new’ will make a difference. All that we need is to sit with the Lord reading the scriptures, meditate on that, and look for the best way to have a life of peace and love. Thus, our witness will become a catalyst for the rest of the world to improve itself.

Happy New Year to you all!

Lovingly, Fr. M. K. Kuriakose, Vicar

Parish News:

Wish you all a Blessed, Happy, and Prosperous Year 2019.

Thanking our Kuriakose Achen, Sujit Achen, all Office Bearers, Board of Trustees, and Managing Committee Members of 2018 for an outstanding, selfless, and sacrificial service to our parish and our community. May our Good Lord reward them and their family for their selfless sacrificial service to our parish.

At the same time wishing our Achens, Office Bearers, Board of Trustees, and Managing Committee Members of 2019 all the very best for a smooth running of our parish. Encouraging all parish members to uphold our parish, our Achens and our office bearers in your prayers. Let us all trust in the Lord for His mercy, compassion, and guidance. May the intercession of St. Mary, St. Thomas, St. Gregorios and all Saints of our Church be a refuge to us.

2018 Office Bearers Alongside the Vicar and Assistant Vicar



Men’s Forum Updates:

New Office Bearers for 2019:

Abraham K. Varghese	Secretary
Vakkayil Varghese Joseph	Treasurer

Winners for Completing Bible Reading within One Year.

Mrs. Mercy Panicker

Mr. Binny Cherian

Miss. Crisia and Cristia. Prizes will be distributed on Sunday after Church Service at the Men’s Forum hall.

2019 Office Bearers Alongside the Vicar and Assistant Vicar



Fr. M. K. Kuriakose	Vicar
Fr. Sujit Thomas	Assistant Vicar
David Philip	Treasurer
Rajesh Geevarghese	Assistant Treasurer – Accounts Receivable
Anoop George	Assistant Treasurer – Accounts Payable
Santhosh M. Baby	Secretary
Kripaya Varghese	Assistant Secretary
Steven Kurian	Assistant Secretary
Varghese P. Abraham	Office Manager
G. M. Panicker	BT (2018-2019) Picnic Committee Coordinator
Philip Raju Markose	BT (2018-2020) Library Committee Coordinator
Philip Varghese	BT (2019-2021) Program Committee Coordinator
Sathees Easow	Food & Refreshment Committee Coordinator – MOCF Representative
Samkutty John	Food & Refreshment Committee Coordinator – Ecumenical Representative
Paul John	Building Maintenance Committee Coordinator – IT Committee Coordinator
Anooj Thomas	Building Maintenance Committee Coordinator
John Panicker	Building Upkeeping Committee Coordinator – MOCF Representative review
Oommen Kappil	Spiritual Affairs Committee Coordinator
Joel Panicker	Sports Committee Coordinator
Elias Issac	Ecumenical Representative

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Shibu Varghese	Jan 1	Mr. & Mrs. Binu Thankachan	Jan 11
Mr. & Mrs. Rajan T Samuel	Jan 1	Mr. & Mrs. Elias K Issac	Jan 12
Mr. & Mrs. Finney M Philip	Jan 2	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Koshy	Jan 12
Mr. & Mrs. Eapen V Kalathil	Jan 3	Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Varghese	Jan 13
Mr. & Mrs. Lynnson Mathews Rajan	Jan 3	Mr. & Mrs. Moni Thomas	Jan 13
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Jacob Kurisinmoottil	Jan 4	Mr. & Mrs. George G Mampallil	Jan 14
Mr. & Mrs. Jaison Daniel	Jan 5	Mr. & Mrs. Varghese K Issac	Jan 16
Mr. & Mrs. Varghese Jacob	Jan 5	Mr. & Mrs. James C Peter	Jan 17
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Samuel	Jan 5	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Varghese	Jan 18
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew V Thomas	Jan 6	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Thomas	Jan 19
Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Thankachan	Jan 6	Mr. & Mrs. Lukose V. Mathew	Jan 23
Mr. & Mrs. Sunil Raj Poovannal	Jan 7	Mr. & Mrs. Rebu Roy	Jan 26
Mr. & Mrs. Anu Mathew	Jan 9	Mr. & Mrs. Babu Varghese	Jan 29
Mr. & Mrs. Ninan Mathai	Jan 9	Mr. & Mrs. James Jacob	Jan 31
Mr. & Mrs. Geevarghese K John	Jan 9		
Mr. & Mrs. Prasad George	Jan 10		
Mr. & Mrs. Rinu John	Jan 11		
Mr. & Mrs. Saly Thomas	Jan 11		
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Varghese	Jan 11		
Mr. & Mrs. Oommen George	Jan 11		



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jestin K. Abraham	Jan 1	Mathew Varghese	Jan 8	Allen Abraham	Jan 16
Abraham Thomas	Jan 2	Marshel Varghese	Jan 9	Binsy E Mathew	Jan 17
Ruth John	Jan 2	Mini Ninan	Jan 9	Maliyil M Philip	Jan 18
Aleena Robin	Jan 2	Andrew Cherian	Jan 9	Deepthy Panicker	Jan 19
Suja Abraham	Jan 3	Sosamma Antony	Jan 9	Sanju John	Jan 19
Roy Philip Chacko	Jan 4	Sandeep K Thomson	Jan 10	Wincy B Joseph	Jan 20
Smitha Robin	Jan 5			Anu Lajy	Jan 21
Chrislin H Thomas	Jan 5			John Polayil Abraham	Jan 21
Renju Ann Joy	Jan 5			Shannon Ann George	Jan 23
Ron Philip	Jan 5			Alwin T Raju	Jan 23
Deepu Mathew Daji	Jan 5			Anu Mathew	Jan 23
Taina I Daniel	Jan 5			Sunil Thomas	Jan 23
Jobin Varghese	Jan 5			Jelitta James	Jan 24
Jijo Jacob	Jan 6			Linju Jacob John	Jan 25
Diya Sara Thomas	Jan 6			Kasen Samuel Lajy	Jan 27
Lydiya Elsa Jaison	Jan 6			Saramma Thomas	Jan 27
Madeline John	Jan 7			John Thomas	Jan 27
Wilson Panicker	Jan 7			Mathew Thankachan	Jan 28
Amelia J Mathew	Jan 7			Susan Mathew	Jan 28
Anila Thomas	Jan 8			Mathew Philip	Jan 30
Fiji C Philip	Jan 8			Thomas Abraham	Jan 31
Joyel Manoj	Jan 8			Christin Thomas	Jan 31



Sunday School News

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

One Year Bible Reading Schedule

<i>January</i>			
<i>Date</i>	I	II	III
<i>January 1</i>	Genesis 1-2	Psalms 1-2	St.Matthew 1-2
<i>January 2</i>	Genesis 3-4	Psalms 3-5	St.Matthew 3-4
<i>January 3</i>	Genesis 5-6	Psalms 6-8	St.Matthew 5
<i>January 4</i>	Genesis 7-8	Psalms 9-10	St.Matthew 6
<i>January 5</i>	Genesis 9-10	Psalms 11-13	St.Matthew 7
<i>January 6</i>	Genesis 11-12	Psalms 14-16	St.Matthew 8
<i>January 7</i>	Genesis 13-14	Psalms 17	St.Matthew 9
<i>January 8</i>	Genesis 15-16	Psalms 18	St.Matthew 10
<i>January 9</i>	Genesis 17-18	Psalms 19-21	St.Matthew 11
<i>January 10</i>	Genesis 19	Psalms 22	St.Matthew 12
<i>January 11</i>	Genesis 20-21	Psalms 23-25	St.Matthew 13
<i>January 12</i>	Genesis 22-23	Psalms 26-28	St.Matthew 14
<i>January 13</i>	Genesis 24	Psalms 29-30	St.Matthew 15
<i>January 14</i>	Genesis 25-26	Psalms 31	St.Matthew 16
<i>January 15</i>	Genesis 27	Psalms 32	St.Matthew 17
<i>January 16</i>	Genesis 28-29	Psalms 33	St.Matthew 18
<i>January 17</i>	Genesis 30	Psalms 34	St.Matthew 19
<i>January 18</i>	Genesis 31	Psalms 35	St.Matthew 20
<i>January 19</i>	Genesis 32-33	Psalms 36	St.Matthew 21
<i>January 20</i>	Genesis 34-35	Psalms 37	St.Matthew 22
<i>January 21</i>	Genesis 36	Psalms 38	St.Matthew 23
<i>January 22</i>	Genesis 37	Psalms 39-40	St.Matthew 24
<i>January 23</i>	Genesis 38	Psalms 41-43	St.Matthew 25
<i>January 24</i>	Genesis 39-40	Psalms 44	St.Matthew 26
<i>January 25</i>	Genesis 41	Psalms 45	St.Matthew 27
<i>January 26</i>	Genesis 42-43	Psalms 46-48	St.Matthew 28
<i>January 27</i>	Genesis 44-45	Psalms 49	Romans 1-2
<i>January 28</i>	Genesis 46-47	Psalms 50	Romans 3-4
<i>January 29</i>	Genesis 48-50	Psalms 51-52	Romans 5-6
<i>January 30</i>	Exodus 1-2	Psalms 53-55	Romans 7-8
<i>January 31</i>	Exodus 3-4	Psalms 56-57	Romans 9

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