

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022

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### Vicar's Message

#### The experience of Transfiguration and St. Mary

August 6<sup>th</sup> is known to the world as the day America dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki defeating Japan in World War II. It was in 1945 that the nuclear bomb killed hundreds of thousands. The ill-fated day is condoned by the entire world today. It was another proof of human cruelty and vengeance on one another and mindless killing of other humans. Later on nuclear disarmament became the goal of all super powers of the world. Also, the world is now trying to avoid development of nuclear weapons by smaller countries. It is sad that many developed countries have already amassed nuclear weapons which can destroy this earth many times. Let us hope and pray that the world will become a place of peace and harmony.

August 6<sup>th</sup> is known to the Christian Church as the day of transfiguration of Jesus in the presence of the disciples Sts. Peter, John, and James. It is presumed that the transfiguration took place on Mount Tabor. Even though the



Bible does not identify the mount of transfiguration it was from 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD that Mount Tabor was identified as the mount of transfiguration.

This festival is also known as the “feast of the Booths” or “feast of tabernacles” because St. Peter asked Jesus if he could make three booths for Jesus and the two Old Testament prophets Elijah and Moses who appeared there. The Jewish community had the festival of booths as the Lord commanded as seen in Leviticus 23. This is called Sukoth the festival of the harvest which was observed 7 days during which Israelites were asked to leave their homes and live in small booths to remember how the Lord protected them by making them live in booths during the 40

years of journey to the land of Canaan. Jewish people from diaspora (those who lived in many foreign countries beginning from the Babylonian exile) used to come back to Jerusalem during this festival and lived in small booths around the Temple.

The utmost importance to Christians is the simple fact that the real glory of Jesus was revealed at that time and two prophets, Moses and Elijah, appeared to Him and talked to Him about His death in Jerusalem. The three disciples who witnessed the event were rather puzzled as to what this message is all about. It revealed three things: 1. The glory of heaven is a reality and that those who enter into that glory will share that glory. 2. The departed souls are continuing to live. They are not inactive and dormant. But they will not appear unless it is necessary. 3. The message from heaven is that there will be suffering for those who share the glory of God.

### St. Mary's Assumption

The lent in honor of St. Mary the Mother of God is from August 1-15. One of the five lents the Church has prescribed for its believers is called the Shoonoyo lent in memory of St. Mary. The passing on of St. Mary was especially observed in the Orthodox Church because the Church believes that St. Mary was taken to heaven with her body after her resurrection. Her body was sanctified because the Lord lived in her and she kept her purity and sanctity. Many appearances of St. Mary to believers had enhanced Christian experience for Catholic and Orthodox believers. She continues to touch the life of many faithful. St. Mary's intercession and miraculous intervention in the life of believers is commonly upheld by many who are able to achieve a life of holy living. She is the perfect example for us to follow in this earthly life. May her prayers be a stronghold to all of us!

Lovingly,

Fr. M. K. Kuriakose, Vicar

### COVID-19 and Support System

#### Financial Assistance to Members

If any of our members need any assistance with food, medicine, transportation, shopping, or any other needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they may contact our Achens or the Secretary. They will coordinate help. Our MC members, along with other volunteers will be available to provide any possible help.

*We are all in this together.*

#### Contact:

- Rev. Fr. M. K. Kuriakose: 201.681.1078
- Rev. Fr. Sujit Thomas: 516.754.0743
- Binu Mathew: 267.893.9571



## Parish Highlights from July

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### General Body Meeting:

Half-Yearly general body meeting was held on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> after Holy Qurbana. Half-Yearly accounts were presented.

### Graduation Felicitation:

New graduates Felicitation was held on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> after Holy Qurbana. Mrs. Yasmin George was the guest speaker. She spoke based on her experience traveling around the globe, helping fortune 500 companies succeed, and also touched upon her work with nonprofits. She implored graduates to develop a habit of giving to support those in need, and urged them to seek guidance from counselors, parents, and clergy. Graduates from Middle School, High School, and College undergraduates and post graduates were felicitated. Rev. Fr MK Kuriakose also spoke to the graduates. The graduates were later honored with a

lunch hosted by Rev Fr MK Kuriakose and Rev Fr Sujit Thomas.

### OVBS Held:

OVBS 2022 was held virtually from July 29 to 31.

### MGOCSM Hadootho:

MGOCSM Hadootho was held on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Karuna Blood Drive:

The semi-annual blood drive under Karuna was held on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

### MOC Ordains Seven New Bishops:

Seven new bishops were consecrated to the Malankara Orthodox Church at a ceremony held at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral, Pazhanji, near Kunamkulam, on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Spiritual Organization Updates

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### Men's Forum

Men's Forum meets every Sunday. The meetings will be held in person immediately after the HQ at our church. Christian songs, Bible reading, prayer, and preaching the word of God are included in the meeting. Our achen are also sharing valuable messages at their convenient timings. For anyone who wants to join the meeting, please contact Lukose Mathew, Secretary (267.467.4993), Vakkayil Joseph, Treasurer

(267.205.7986), or Thomas Daniel, Prayer Coordinator (267.303.1898).

### OCYM

OCYM meets every Sunday after Holy Qurbana. Our achen answer various questions from our members regarding Faith, theology, and other general topics. Please contact Joel Manoj for more information.

## Upcoming Events

### Church Picnic:

Our church picnic is scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> Saturday at Wilson Park, 500 Lee Rd, Wayne, PA 19087. Tickets are available. For family \$40 and individual \$10.

Tickets must be purchased in advance; there will be no tickets sold on the day of the picnic.

If you need more information, contact: Steve Kurian: 267-450-6815 or [Stevekurian@yahoo.com](mailto:Stevekurian@yahoo.com)

### MMVS:

#### 1. MMVS Day August 21<sup>st</sup>:

The month of August will be observed as MMVS month, and all parishes shall observe August 21<sup>st</sup> as MMVS Day. Philadelphia area will be

hosting a food drive for the homeless until the month of August. There is a box kept in front of the Sanctuary to collect the food items. Please support this initiative.

2. **MMVS 40th Year Celebration** will be held on October 1, 2022, Saturday at our church. MMVS members who have been members since or before 1982 will be honored at the celebration. Please give your name to MMVS Secretary before May 15, 2022.
3. **MMVS 40th Year Celebration Charity Fundraising Raffle** will be held on October 1, 2022.

- **First Prize** – IPHONE
- **Second Prize** - APPLE WATCH
- Tickets are \$40

## Fast & Feasts

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Aug 1-15	Shoonoyo Fast Remembering St. Mary
Aug. 6	Feast of Transfiguration

## Parish Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
July 1-3	St. Thomas Day Celebration
July 10	Blood Donation Drive by Karuna Charities
July 29-31	OVBS-Virtual
Aug. 20	Church picnic
Aug. 21	MMVS Day
Sept. 25	Reception to HH The Catholicos (Diocesan Event)
Oct 1	MMVS 40 <sup>th</sup> year celebration at our church

## Wedding Announcements

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- ❖ **Jobin Regi and Melissa Elizabeth Thomas got married on July 16<sup>th</sup>.** Jobin Regi is the son of Regi Mathai and Annamma Regi who are members of this parish. Melissa Elizabeth Thomas is the daughter of Thomas George and Ajan Achamma Thomas who also are members of this church.

We congratulate the new couple and their proud families.

### Life Events Announcements

Do you have a special day that you would like to announce, like a milestone wedding anniversary (25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> etc.) or a birthday (50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup> etc.)? If you would like to, please inform the Secretary in advance. Please remember that even though our parish database includes birthday and wedding day, it doesn't include the year of birth or marriage. Unless you notify the Secretary or Clergy, they wouldn't know milestone events.

## Death Announcements

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- ❖ **Mr. Varghese M. Varghese (74)** brother-in-law of Mr. Chacko P. Chacko passed away in Thiruvalla, India. Funeral took place on July 22<sup>nd</sup> in his home parish. His family was very active in our church until they moved back to India. Please pray for the departed soul and bereaving family. On behalf of our Parish, I express our condolences and prayers.

*On behalf of the parish, we express our deepest condolences to the bereaving families. Let us pray for the departed souls and for the bereaving families. May our heavenly Father grant peace and comfort that surpasses human wisdom and understanding.*

### Memorial Prayer List

As you know, members can submit names of departed loved ones that needs to be included on the Memorial Prayer List. You probably have given the names of your departed ones in the past. However, please note that our church doesn't have a system to save such names with dates or automatically track and decide on which Sunday the name should be included on the prayer list. You need to enter the name on the Memorial Prayer list kept in the church office. Note: We do have a master list of departed faithful that we keep for remembering them on the Sunday of the departed faithful, which is a week before the Holy Lent begins. This list has names only no dates.

## AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Zeena Jacob	1-Aug	Joel G Panicker	13-Aug	Mariamamma Mathew	21-Aug
Chinnamma M Varghese	2-Aug	Liana John	14-Aug	Aben G Panicker	21-Aug
Cherian Philipose	2-Aug	Jojoy Varghese	14-Aug	Amelia E George	21-Aug
Jijo George Varghese	2-Aug	Alexandra Geevarghese	14-Aug	Flamy Philip	21-Aug
Joel Jacob	2-Aug	John Thomas	14-Aug	Isabel J Mathew	22-Aug
Merly Mary Mathews	3-Aug	Johan Anto Panicker	14-Aug	Joel Joe Zachariah	22-Aug
Saya Alina Thomas	4-Aug	Achamma Cherian	15-Aug	Shyni Anu	22-Aug
Dony Davy	4-Aug	Nadukemuriyil V Thomas	15-Aug	Varghese Varghese	22-Aug
Jonathan Matthew Cherian	5-Aug	Rachel A Varghese	16-Aug	Sajan Thomas	23-Aug
Abraham John	5-Aug	Tincy Raju	16-Aug	Bindu Job	23-Aug
Jaison Daniel	5-Aug	Abel T Anooj	16-Aug	Anoj Thomas	23-Aug
Aleyamma George	6-Aug			Kochupurackal Thomas	24-Aug
Siny Varghese	7-Aug			Jonah Thomas	25-Aug
Lambert Thomas	7-Aug			Shawn Stephen	25-Aug
Mathews T Varghese	8-Aug			Riny Saju Mathew	25-Aug
Leelamma O Panicker	8-Aug			Annamma Mathew	26-Aug
Crisia Maria Shibu	9-Aug			Philip Raju Markos	26-Aug
Rebecca Susan Philipose	9-Aug			Judy Philip	27-Aug
Josh Job	9-Aug			Agin G. Thomas	27-Aug
Blessy George	10-Aug			Nallumalayil Joseph George	27-Aug
Ashok Paulose	10-Aug			George Varghese	27-Aug
Sheena Jose	10-Aug			Luke Lynnson	28-Aug
Varghese Mammen	10-Aug			Sharon Jacob	29-Aug
Eliza Leela Panicker	12-Aug			Cijo Joseph	30-Aug
Augustin Babu	13-Aug			Anugraha Thankam John	30-Aug
Sneha Reynold	13-Aug			Bibin George	30-Aug
Emersyn Grace Jacob	13-Aug			Betsy George	30-Aug
Jibin Verghese Jacob	13-Aug				



Mikayla Maria Cherian	17-Aug
Shelby Alisha Thomas	18-Aug
Alex Mathew	18-Aug
George Abraham	18-Aug
Christina S Thomas	18-Aug
Thomas Abraham	18-Aug
Ninan Mathai	19-Aug
Paul P Mavelly	19-Aug
Aaron John	19-Aug
Hannah Mary Thomas	19-Aug
Sherin Sara Anish	20-Aug
Stephan Kalthil	20-Aug
Aaron George	21-Aug

# Sunday School News

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

- OVBS 2022 was successfully held virtually on July 29, 30, and 31 with around 180 students who took part in the event. A heartfelt thank you to all the Parents, Teachers, and Volunteers who worked under the leadership of the OVBS coordinators, Deepa Thomas Kochamma, Princy Mathai, and Mercy Cherian.
- Sunday school classes in the new academic year are currently being planned to be conducted at church after the Holy Qurbana every Sunday. Classes will resume on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Any changes to this will be notified to the parents before the school year begins.

Students are requested to drop off their Sunday school text books in the book collection bin near the Sunday school office.

## One Year Bible Reading Schedule – August

Date	I	II	III
August 1	2 Samuel 18	Jer. 22	Romans 9
August 2	2 Samuel 19	Jer. 23	Romans 10-11
August 3	2 Samuel 20-21	Jer. 24	Romans 12
August 4	2 Samuel 22	Jer. 25	Romans 13-14
August 5	2 Samuel 23	Jer. 26	Romans 15-16
August 6	2 Samuel 24	Jer. 27	Mark 1
August 7	1 Kings 1	Jer. 28	Mark 2
August 8	1 Kings 2	Jer. 29	Mark 3
August 9	1 Kings 3	Jer. 30	Mark 4
August 10	1 Kings 4-5	Jer. 31	Mark 5
August 11	1 Kings 6	Jer. 32	Mark 6
August 12	1 Kings 7	Jer. 33	Mark 7
August 13	1 Kings 8	Jer. 34	Mark 8
August 14	1 Kings 9	Jer. 35	Mark 9
August 15	1 Kings 10	Jer. 36	Mark 10
August 16	1 Kings 11	Jer. 37	Mark 11

Date	I	II	III
August 17	1 Kings 12	Jer. 38	Mark 12
August 18	1 Kings 13	Jer. 39	Mark 13
August 19	1 Kings 14	Jer. 40	Mark 14
August 20	1 Kings 15	Jer. 41	Mark 15
August 21	1 Kings 16	Jer. 42	Mark 16
August 22	1 Kings 17	Jer. 43	1 Cor. 1-2
August 23	1 Kings 18	Jer. 44	1 Cor. 3
August 24	1 Kings 19	Jer. 45-46	1 Cor. 4-5
August 25	1 Kings 20	Jer. 47	1 Cor. 6
August 26	1 Kings 21	Jer. 48	1 Cor. 7
August 27	1 Kings 22	Jer. 49	1 Cor. 8-9
August 28	2 Kings 1-2	Jer. 50	1 Cor. 10
August 29	2 Kings 3	Jer. 51	1 Cor. 11
August 30	2 Kings 4	Jer. 52	1 Cor. 12-13
August 31	2 Kings 5	Lam. 1	1 Cor. 14

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