

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

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### Vicar's Message

#### Praise God, Schools are Open!

Thank God we can send our children to school this year without much fear. COVID-19 is still around. We have to navigate through the situation with continued vigilance and use of masks and sanitizers. At least there is some consolation. This pandemic had affected all people of all walks. Thank God we are in a much better condition now. Almost all schools are now fully open.

Our children lost a lot of opportunities for their fellowship and social edification. They could not even get the full educational privileges. In addition, they lost their social connectivity with other friends and relatives. But we are now slowly limping back to normalcy. We still must be vigilant and wise in handling our surroundings. Make sure we are vaccinated, and we do use masks when going into a crowd and use sanitizer when touching unfamiliar surfaces.



Once again, the tolerance we need to inculcate has no limits. Tolerance won't hurt anyone. I am sure all our children will get the boost from all of us. Give the children the best opportunity to be loved and cared for rather than nagging and insult. They need encouragement and inspiration. At the same time, they should be under prayerful surveillance just to make sure that they are in the right condition and atmosphere. Influences of various kinds are around them. Most of them are incapable of making decisions about what is good and what is bad. Often all bad habits begin in a simple way. All addictions are a process and not sudden incidents, which we subscribe to unknowingly. Parents and

teachers must check on their behavior just to make sure that they are in the right path.

Education is an ocean. Opportunities are so many. One should be able to judge one's own capacity and taste instead of copying someone else's area of education. Once we make up our mind, we should put our heart and soul into it. It is always a tendency to jump from course to course wasting time and money. Always remember one thing: if A could do something, B can also do the same unless there is a serious intellectual disability. That does not mean that one cannot switch the major due to some conditions. Often the condition is related to sloth and fear of the challenges. Always keep in mind: the harder the area to overcome the higher the reward! Hard work is always paid for!

Above all, education is always with a purpose. While it is a bread winner it is also a service to the society. It is an interaction

of incoming money and outgoing service. Therefore, education is a sacred path whereby human race is benefited. There is none greater than the other as no one part of the body is superior to another. Each profession is feeding into the total functionality of the community. This awareness makes us better people and better achievers who are people with clear goals. It is in this respect that religion comes into play. In Christianity, we call it "servanthood". Jesus taught the disciples to be servants to each other. "The Son of God came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for others."

I wish all the best to all students going back to school. Our prayers are with them!

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 August

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### Church Picnic

Church Picnic was held on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed the food, fun, and activities at the picnic, which was conducted after a two-year break due to COVID. Special thanks to Mr. Steve Kurian and his team who did a superb job in coordinating the picnic so well.

### MMVS Celebrates MMVS Month

The month of August was observed as MMVS month. All parishes observed August 21<sup>st</sup> as MMVS Day. During the month, the Philadelphia area hosted a food drive for the homeless.

## 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 also share 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

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### Apostolic Visit of HH The Catholicos Diocesan Reception on Sep. 25

His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, the Supreme Head and Catholicos of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church will be visiting the US in late September.

A grand reception for our Catholicose is scheduled for **Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 4pm** at St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church in Levittown, NY (110 Schoolhouse Rd, Levittown, NY 11756). The schedule for this

event includes procession, vespers, public meeting, and dinner.

All parish members are encouraged to attend this important event of our diocese.

### **Dress Code:**

Girls and Women: Maroon or dark red.

Boys and Men: Black pants and white shirt with a maroon/dark red tie.

**HH the Catholicos to Visit our Parish**

Bava Thirumeni will be leading Evening Prayer at our church on Thursday, Sept. 29. HG Zachariah Mar Nicholovos Metropolitan also will accompany the Catholicos during his visit. All parish members are requested to join to receive the Holy Fathers at 6:00 pm at our church.

**Consecration of St. Mary’s Cathedral, Huntingdon Valley & Reception for His Holiness**

HH the Catholicos will be the chief celebrant at the Consecration ceremony of our sister parish St. Mary’s Cathedral which is being held on September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>. A reception to His Holiness is being organized by the MOCF at the Cathedral at 4PM on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. All are encouraged to attend the festivities on both days.

**MMVS**

1. **MMVS 40th Year Celebration** will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2022 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.

2. **MMVS 40th Year Celebration Charity Fundraising Raffle** will be held on October 1, 2022.

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

**Honoring of Senior Parish Members**

All senior members of our parish who are the age of 70 and above will be honored in our church after the Holy Qurbana on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 in connection with Parish Day. All eligible members are requested to write their name on the form placed on the notice board. A sign-up sheet is also posted in the church's WhatsApp group. You are required to confirm your attendance in one of the two ways.

**Fasts & Feasts**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Wed, Sept. 14	Festival of the Holy Cross

**Parish Calendar**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Sun, Sept. 11	Sunday School Reopens
Sun, Sept. 25	Reception for HH the Catholicos (Diocesan Event) in NY
Thu, Sept. 29	HH Visits our parish – 6PM
Fri, Sept. 30	Reception to HH at St. Mary’s Cathedral
Sat, Oct 1	MMVS 40 <sup>th</sup> year celebration at our church
Sat, Oct 9	Harvest Festival

## Member Announcements

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### 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. TM Abraham** (92) father of Mrs. Mini Koshy (Membership # 104) passed away in Kerala, India. Funeral took place on August 18 in his home parish.
- ❖ **Mr. CC Varghese Panayil** brother-in-law of Mr. Vakkayil Joseph and Thomas (Membership # 176 & 171) passed away in Kerala, India. Funeral took place on August 22 in his home parish.
- ❖ **Mr. Cheria Varki** (95) father of Mr. George T. Cherian and grandfather of Anoop George (Membership # 275) passed away in Kerala, India. Funeral took place on August 26 in his home parish.

*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.

## SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. & Mrs. Job John	1-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Saju Paul	14-Sep
Mr. & Mrs. Rajesh Geevarghese	3-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob K. Thekekkuttu	14-Sep
Mr. & Mrs. Binoy Varghese	7-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Mathew Varghese	15-Sep
Mr. & Mrs. Varughese John	7-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Jiju George	16-Sep
Mr. & Mrs. Thankachan K Mathai	10-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Jino Jacob	19-Sep
Mr. & Mrs. Anoop George	10-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Anoop John	20-Sep
Mr. & Mrs. Babu M Kunjandy	12-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. George Varghese	27-Sep
Mr. & Mrs. Abhilash John	13-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Anu Thomas	28-Sep
Mr. & Mrs. Thomaskutty Varghese	13-Sep	Mr. & Mrs. Yohannan Mathew	30-Sep
Mr. & Mrs. Joy Jacob	13-Sep		



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Alvin Anil	1-Sep	Nivedh Philip	11-Sep	Ajin John Abraham	22-Sep
Susmitha Thomas	2-Sep	Brown Varghese	13-Sep	Smitha Jacob	23-Sep
Vivek K Paulose	2-Sep	Zariah Geevarghese	14-Sep	Alissa Jose	23-Sep
Panickal Y Mathaikutty	3-Sep	Sosamma E. Chacko	15-Sep	Viji P Koshy	23-Sep
Carolyn Miriam Cherian	3-Sep	Jonathan B Varghese	15-Sep	Sarah M Samuel	23-Sep
Jacob Kuruvilla	3-Sep	Elsa Thomas	16-Sep	Shinu Augustin	25-Sep
Joshua J Mathew	4-Sep	Kunjamma Thomas	16-Sep	Gitty George Abraham	25-Sep
Angelina Susan Zachariah	4-Sep	Saramma Varughese	17-Sep	Varghese Panicker	26-Sep
Jacob Chacko	4-Sep	Annamma Geevarghese	17-Sep	Nicole Samuel	26-Sep
Elizabeth Thomas	4-Sep	Suja Mary Mathew	18-Sep	Adam Mavelly Paul	26-Sep
Alex T Raju	5-Sep			Smitha Thomas	27-Sep
Simon Daniel Jaison	5-Sep			Shaji Thomas	28-Sep
Liya Sara Aji	5-Sep	Sneha Jose	19-Sep	Christiana Rachel Shibu	28-Sep
Niju Mathew Cheriyan	6-Sep	Joy Panicker Jr.	20-Sep	Anoop Joseph George	28-Sep
Shinu P Thankachan	7-Sep	Jensil Varghese	20-Sep	Smitha J Mathew	28-Sep
Raji George	7-Sep	Seraphina Mary George	20-Sep	Linda Elsa Aji	28-Sep
Varghese P Abraham	8-Sep	Jacob Zachariah	20-Sep	Jibin Vaidian	29-Sep
Samkutty John	8-Sep	Nimitha Thomas	21-Sep	Julee P Saji	29-Sep
Anoop George	8-Sep	Sheril Susan Varghese	21-Sep	Achamma Kurian	29-Sep
Isaac Varghese	9-Sep	Ruth Hana Philipose	21-Sep	Binish George	30-Sep
Hanah M. Mathew	9-Sep	Anu Pulickal Varughese	22-Sep		
Priya Mariam Saji	11-Sep	Eben P Mathai	22-Sep		
Jennifer Mariam Philip	11-Sep				

# Sunday School News

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

- Sunday school will resume in-person classes on September 11<sup>th</sup> after the Holy Qurbana. All parents are requested to ensure their children are able to attend Sunday school each Sunday. Mask mandate will be the same as we presently follow at the church. General sessions will be held from 11.45- 12.14 pm and SS classes from 12.15 - 1.00 pm.
- All Sunday school teachers and volunteers, past and present, are invited to a Sunday School retreat at our church on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, followed by evening prayer and dinner. Please sign up using the Google form shared, in the Email sent to the teachers / WhatsApp group, for the attendees count.
- Starting this year Sunday schools in both American (Northeast and Southwest) dioceses will have a common curriculum.
- New curriculum training will be offered online to all who are interested on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up using the Google form shared, in the Email sent to the teachers / SS WhatsApp group.

## One Year Bible Reading Schedule – September

Date	I	II	III
<b>September 1</b>	2 Kings 6	Lam. 2	1 Cor. 15
<b>September 2</b>	2 Kings 7	Lam. 3	1 Cor. 16
<b>September 3</b>	2 Kings 8	Lam. 4	2 Cor. 1-2
<b>September 4</b>	2 Kings 9	Lam. 5	2 Cor. 3-4
<b>September 5</b>	2 Kings 10	Ezekiel 1	2 Cor. 5-7
<b>September 6</b>	2 Kings 11-12	Ezekiel 2	2 Cor. 8-9
<b>September 7</b>	2 Kings 13	Ezekiel 3	2 Cor. 10-11
<b>September 8</b>	2 Kings 14	Ezekiel 4	2 Cor. 12-13
<b>September 9</b>	2 Kings 15	Ezekiel 5	Luke 1
<b>September 10</b>	2 Kings 16	Ezekiel 6	Luke 2
<b>September 11</b>	2 Kings 17	Ezekiel 7	Luke 3
<b>September 12</b>	2 Kings 18	Ezekiel 8	Luke 4
<b>September 13</b>	2 Kings 19	Ezekiel 9	Luke 5
<b>September 14</b>	2 Kings 20	Ezekiel 10	Luke 6
<b>September 15</b>	2 Kings 21	Ezekiel 11	Luke 7

Date	I	II	III
<b>September 16</b>	2 Kings 22-23	Ezekiel 12	Luke 8
<b>September 17</b>	2 Kings 24-25	Ezekiel 13	Luke 9
<b>September 18</b>	1 Chron. 1	Ezekiel 14	Luke 10
<b>September 19</b>	1 Chron. 2	Ezekiel 15	Luke 11
<b>September 20</b>	1 Chron. 3	Ezekiel 16	Luke 12
<b>September 21</b>	1 Chron. 4	Ezekiel 17	Luke 13-14
<b>September 22</b>	1 Chron. 5	Ezekiel 18	Luke 15
<b>September 23</b>	1 Chron. 6	Ezekiel 19	Luke 16
<b>September 24</b>	1 Chron. 7	Ezekiel 20	Luke 17
<b>September 25</b>	1 Chron. 8	Ezekiel 21	Luke 18
<b>September 26</b>	1 Chron. 9	Ezekiel 22	Luke 19
<b>September 27</b>	1 Chron. 10	Ezekiel 23	Luke 20
<b>September 28</b>	1 Chron. 11	Ezekiel 24	Luke 21
<b>September 29</b>	1 Chron. 12	Ezekiel 25	Luke 22
<b>September 30</b>	1 Chron. 13-14	Ezekiel 26	Luke 23

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